

NEWS RELEASE

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What's That Corn Worth Anyway?

The Manitowoc County UW-Extension office has received numerous calls about the value of this year's corn silage and high moisture shelled corn (HMSC) crops. This year's difficult growing conditions make questions like these quite challenging.

In a "normal" year, "standing corn" (corn that has not been harvested) may be worth \$15-20 per ton of wet silage. A common formula used to determine this price is to assume that each ton of wet corn silage contains 6 to 8 bushels of dry corn. Let's look at an example. 7 bushels of dry corn per ton of wet silage x \$2.25/bushel of dry corn = \$15.75/ton of silage. This formula does not provide for the value of the stover or fibrous portion of the plant. Therefore, I generally add \$2.00 - \$3.00 per wet ton to account for this portion. The net result in this example is a value of approximately \$17.75 to \$18.75 per wet ton of standing corn destined for silage.

As we all know, this year is far from normal and therefore standing corn silage values will not be normal either. Values for standing corn to be harvested for silage may range from \$10 to \$20 per ton depending upon stage of maturity, disease, planting date, first frost, etc.

Those interested in buying or selling corn for silage or corn for HMSC are encouraged to call the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office and request the following:

- Buying and Selling Corn Silage: What's a Fair Price?
- Estimating the Value of Standing Corn for Corn Silage
- Equivalent Price/Ton of High Moisture Shelled Corn (At Various Moisture Levels).

A Farmer to Farmer Corn and Forage List, developed by UW-Extension, is also available at the following website: <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>. This web based Internet list puts Wisconsin farmers in touch with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage. The farmer to farmer list is free of charge for both buyers and sellers. Users can list or search for high moisture corn, corn grain, corn silage, alfalfa haylage, sorghum sudangrass silage, soybean silage, or hay. Search just one county or several counties at the same time. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

For additional information, please contact us at 683-4168 or refer to our website at www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc.

Practice Safe Animal Handling Procedures

Agriculture is a dangerous occupation. In fact, agriculture, mining and commercial fishing are viewed by many as being the most dangerous of occupations. Cheryl Skjolaas, UW-Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, recently indicated that bull mauling accounted for 5 farm fatalities on Wisconsin farms in 2003.

Just recently, a 39 year old man from northwest Wisconsin died from injuries sustained when attacked by a bull.

Farmers, their family members, employees, service providers and consultants need to practice extreme caution when working with animals, especially if a bull is on the premises. One question I always ask a dairy farmer prior to walking in a pen of cows is: "Is there a bull on the farm?" If the answer is yes, determine how many bulls there are and in what pens they reside. Be very cautious when walking in a pen if a bull is present. In fact, I would recommend avoiding being in the same pen as a bull unless the animal is separated from you by a gate. It's just not worth the risk.

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