

## NEWS RELEASE

**SCOTT GUNDERSON  
MANITOWOC COUNTY UW-EXTENSION DAIRY AGENT  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION**

**October 19, 2004**

---

### **Sesquicentennial and Century Farm and Home Program**

---

Applications are available from the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office for the following:

- Century Farm and Home Award
- Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award

In 2004, over 190 property owners were honored at the Wisconsin State Fair as part of this award program.

The deadline for the 2005 program is March 1, 2005.

For an application form, contact the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office at 683-4168.

---

### **Upcoming Dates of Interest**

---

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Milking Systems Seminar – Kaukauna

October 28<sup>th</sup> – Hispanic Dairy Labor Meeting – Schuh Homestead Farm, Brillion

November 10-11<sup>th</sup> – Midwest Dairy Herd Health Seminar – Eau Claire

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Manitowoc County Holstein Association Annual Meeting – Seven Lakes, Cato, 7:45 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, please contact the UW-Extension office at 683-4168.

---

### **Mandatory Livestock Premises Registration: Hearings Set In Five Wisconsin Cities**

---

Five public hearings are slated in November to gather comments on how to carry out Wisconsin's mandatory livestock premises registration.

The new law, signed by Governor Jim Doyle in April 2004, requires that any location where livestock congregates be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). That includes hobby farms, backyard poultry flocks, and veterinary clinics, as well as commercial farms; animal markets; animal dealers' and haulers' premises; slaughter, rendering and dead animal plants; and livestock exhibitions, including fairs. The purpose is to help officials trace cases of animal disease or animal-borne human disease.

"Wisconsin's livestock premises registration lays the foundation for rapid response in the event of an animal disease outbreak," said DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen. "Our mandatory premises registration system will become effective in November 2005, and now, we are looking for comments from citizens at these hearings on the specific rules we're proposing to govern Wisconsin's registration system."

"This is the first step in a system that we need to control disease outbreaks in livestock. It doesn't include individual animal identification, and the premises registration won't be required to sell or move livestock. That may come in the future," said State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt. "When it's up and running, this computerized system will be faster than the paper trail we rely on now. We can protect the state's and nation's ag economy, and in some cases, human health, much more effectively if we can find out right away where a sick animal has been."

Premises registration involves assigning unique numbers to each location where livestock are kept, and keeping the information in a confidential database accessible to animal health officials. Voluntary premises registration is already operating in Wisconsin, with more than 2,000 registered as of Oct. 8. That system was developed by the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, a public private partnership that includes the state agriculture department along with livestock organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has adopted WLIC's premises registration system as the model for national use. The USDA's ultimate goal is to be able to trace exposed animals within 48 hours of discovering a disease. To date, 26 states and one tribe have signed on to use the system, although Wisconsin is the only state so far to require registration.

There will be two sessions at each hearing location to accommodate attendees' needs. The schedule is:

- Eau Claire --Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection Regional Office, 3610 Oakwood Hills Parkway
- Beaver Dam -- Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., Calamus Town Hall, W9820 County Trunk D
- Dodgeville -- Monday, Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., Iowa County Courthouse Room 204, 222 N. Iowa St.
- Green Bay -- Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., Brown County Library, 515 Pine St.
- Elkhorn -- Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center, Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St.

The complete text of the proposed rules is available at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us> or by calling 608-224-4872.

Comments may also be submitted in writing by 4:30 p.m. Dec. 10 to email address [hearingcommentsAH@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:hearingcommentsAH@datcp.state.wi.us) or postal address Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health, PO Box 8911, Madison WI 53708-8911.

For additional information, contact Donna Gilson at 608-224-5130.

---

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

- END -