

## NEWS RELEASE

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

**December 14, 2004**

### **Gaining the Competitive Edge Dairy Seminar Scheduled for January 12th**

Sometimes the best intentions can backfire if the basics of herd management are not followed. In order to increase knowledge and adoption of methods to give the competitive edge in the dairy industry, University of Wisconsin-Extension presents, "Gaining the Competitive Edge" seminar series addressing issues related to management practices.

This year's meeting will focus on cow comfort issues in freestalls and tiestalls into modernization, getting the most out of your feed dollars, genetic differences as related to herd health issues, producing quality milk and managing your profits.

The agenda for the January 12th session, which will be held at Millhome Supper Club follows:

- 9:15 a.m.      Registration – Milk, coffee and donuts
- 10:30 a.m.      Quality Control Systems in Dairy Heifer Management...Bob Kaiser, Dodge County UW-Extension Dairy Agent  
New research on cost control diets and the importance of monitoring growth.
- 11:15 p.m.      Milk Quality Programs for transition cows and Heifers...Ken Bolton, Jefferson County UW-Extension Dairy Agent  
Cow/heifer mastitis during the transition period is a major contributing factor in herd mastitis. A mastitis surveillance program based on CMT/culture will help prevent and strategize treatment. New developments in on-farm culture will help with these decisions.
- 12 Noon          Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.        Premise and Individual Animal ID Systems...Tina Kohlman, Sheboygan UW-Extension Dairy & Livestock Agent  
The importance of premise ID and a dairy producer's experience with an individual cow ID system. What's on the horizon for individual animal ID?
- 1:30 p.m.        Genetic Differences Between Dairy sires in their Daughters' Susceptibility to Mastitis, Lameness, Reproductive Problems, and Metabolic Disorders...Kent Weigel, UW-Extension Dairy Genetic Specialist
- 2:15 p.m.        Cow Comfort Issues in Freestalls and Tie Stalls...Roger Palmer, UW-Extension Dairy Systems Specialist  
New developments in how freestalls and tie stalls have improved cow comfort and reduced lameness. Learn the proper stall sizes and what the cow prefers for stall surfaces.

\*Times and speakers are specific to the Kiel Site. Morning speakers at Kiel will speak in the afternoon at Lomira, and afternoon speakers at Kiel will speak in the morning at Lomira.

Registration, which includes lunch and materials, is \$20.00 per person and is due January 7th. Make checks payable to UW-Extension and mail to: Sheboygan County UW-Extension, Attn: Ronda, 650 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085, or call 920-467-5742.

For additional information, contact the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office at 683-4168 or visit our website at [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc).

## **Wisconsin Farm Couples Weekend Getaways**

Are you a farm couple looking for an enriching and upbeat learning experience? You might want to attend a Farm Couples Weekend Getaway. Five Farm Couples Weekend Getaways are scheduled across Wisconsin in February/March, 2005:

February 12-13, Camp 28 Resort, Rib Lake  
February 18-20, Cedar Valley Center, West Bend  
February 26-27, The Comfort Suites, Shawano  
March 5-6, House on the Rock Inn, Dodgeville  
March 12-13, Holiday Inn Express, Black River Falls

The Farm Couples Weekend Getaways are designed to help farm couples: deal more effectively with stress, communicate more effectively with spouses and children, make critical decisions and plan for the future, learn about helpful resources, and enjoy a much-needed mini-vacation from the farm and farm work.

Over 180 Wisconsin farm couples from across the state have participated in weekend getaways in past years. Couples have appreciated the chance to get away from the farm, the opportunity to learn new skills, the time to reflect and plan, and the chance to learn from other farm couples.

There is no cost to attend this program. The cost of meals and refreshments, lodging, materials and instruction are covered by grants from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and by private foundations and contributions.

The weekend getaways are sponsored by the Sowing The Seeds of Hope Project, a collaborative effort between 14 local and statewide organizations in Wisconsin.

For a brochure or further information, contact: Roger T. Williams, UW-Madison, 610 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53703-1195; Phone (608) 263-4432 or Email [rwilliams@dcs.wisc.edu](mailto:rwilliams@dcs.wisc.edu).

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