

NEWS RELEASE

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION**

December 21, 2004

Private Applicator Certification Training Classes Scheduled

Three dates have been reserved for Pesticide Applicator Training.

Thursday, January 6th

Tuesday, February 8th

Tuesday, March 15th

All sessions will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc.

Applicators in need of updating their certification should stop by the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office to register and pick up the manual at least one week before the training session you plan to attend.

Cost for the manual and certification process is \$30.00 and is payable at the time of registration. Please bring a valid Wisconsin driver's license or photo I.D. with you at time of registration.

Lunch will be on your own. Please call Dawn at 683-4168 if you have questions.

Variety Trails Available

UW Corn Hybrid and Soybean Variety Test Results are now available for growers and agribusiness use. Multi-year and multi-location data add to the value of these reports. It goes without saying that yield is clearly the primary driver in lowering cost of production per bushel. Care in hybrid and variety selection is one of the more important decisions that growers have to make.

The soybean report can be obtained on the web at <http://soybean.agronomy.wisc.edu>.

The corn report can also be obtained on the web at <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu>.

Forage Variety Update for Wisconsin, 2004 Trial Results is available at <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/A1525.PDF>

Evaluating Milking Systems; When and Why

According to the recently-revised National Mastitis Council publication "Procedures for Evaluating Vacuum Levels and Airflow in Milking Systems," a complete system evaluation should be performed for any new installation, as part of a scheduled maintenance program, after major modifications to the system, or if milking time tests indicate a potential problem.

After a complete evaluation has been performed and specific performance data recorded, subsequent spot checks of selected measurements (e.g. operating vacuum, effective reserve) can be compared to these benchmark data as an indication of a change of status of the milking machine.

There may be many reasons to suggest changes to a milking system, including:

- Improved milking performance (speed or completeness of milking).
- Improved mastitis control and milk quality.
- Decreased power or energy consumption.
- Decreased wear on pump components.
- Improved cleaning performance.
- Improved aesthetic or cosmetic appeal.

Reminder – Gaining the Competitive Edge Seminar Scheduled

Dairy producers and other interested dairy business representatives are encouraged to attend the Gaining the Competitive Edge Seminar scheduled for January 12th at Millhome Supper Club. This year's meeting will focus on cow comfort issues in both freestall and tiestall types of housing. Other topics include getting the most from our feed dollar, genetic differences as it relates to herd health and producing high quality milk.

Registration is due by January 7th. For more information, contact the Manitowoc County UW-Extension office at 920-683-4168, or visit our website at www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc.

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