

NEWS RELEASE

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION**

December 27, 2005

Dairy Road Show offers farmers a competitive edge

It's not too late to make plans to attend one of the presentations of the 2006 University of Wisconsin-Extension Dairy Team Road Show in January and learn more about changes in Wisconsin's competitive dairy business.

The topics discussed will be of interest to both dairy producers and industry representatives. The program includes up-to-date information on reproductive management, dairy cattle nutrition, biosecurity and crossbreeding. In addition, the Transition Cow Index (TCI), a new benchmarking tool for fresh cows, will be explained.

This year's Road Show, "Gaining the Competitive Edge - A Dairy Seminar Series," pulls out from UW-Madison for seven dates in January in locations around the state.

Seminars will be Jan. 10, Westby and Melrose; Jan. 11, Rice Lake and Menomonie; Jan. 12, Curtiss and Plover; Jan. 13, Mineral Point; Jan. 17, Kiel and Lomira; Jan. 18, Slovan and De Pere; and Jan. 19, New London and Kelly Lake.

The program for the Kiel location is as follows:

- "Reproductive Management Programs to Improve Conception Rates"...Paul Fricke, UW-Extension dairy reproduction specialist
- "Dairy Cattle Nutrition Update,"...Randy Shaver, UW-Extension dairy nutritionist
- "Where Does Biosecurity Fit on Your Farm,"...Pam Ruegg, D.V.M., UW-Extension milk quality specialist
- "What We've Learned from Research about Crossbreeding"...Kent Weigel, UW-Extension geneticist
- "Transition Cow Index (TCI),"...Scott Gunderson, Manitowoc County UW-Extension Dairy Agent

The meeting will run from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee for the program, which includes lunch and materials, is \$20 per person. Registrations for the meeting at Kiel are due by January 10th.

For additional information, please contact Scott Gunderson at 920-683-4168.

Conference to Explore the Profit Potential of Cow Manure

If you are a dairy farmer, a member of a dairy cooperative or a representative of a local community, plan to attend the state's first-ever conference looking at an old problem in a new light: cow manure as a resource for economic development.

The First Annual Manure Bio=Conversion Technology Conference will be held Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

"Technology now enables us to view manure as a raw material to be used to make other products, including alternative fuel," said Rod Nilsestuen, secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "Ingenuity will enable us to solve pollution problems, promote economic growth and reduce our dependence on fossil fuel."

The conference will look at:

- tested strategies on “how to make money from manure”
- the latest in manure bio-conversion technologies (composting, separation, digestion)
- case book stories of bio-conversion technology in action
- the business planning side of manure bio-conversion
- companies who are “making it happen”

Conference participants will be “part of the future of bio-energy in the Upper Midwest,” said Nilsestuen.

Participants will take away:

- know how about converting manure to value-added products
- ideas for bio-conversion applications for their own operations
- an interactive CD-ROM tool kit containing:
 - latest information on manure processing technologies
 - check lists to evaluate and implement on-farm technologies
 - vendor and exhibitor contact information
 - a comprehensive list of manure bio-conversion resources

The full-day conference, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., costs \$65 and includes lunch, a reception and materials. The Mona Terrace Convention Center is on John Nolen Drive.

For more information, visit www.datcp.state.wi.us or call Timm Johnson at 608-224-4653. To register on-line, visit www.cals.wisc.edu/ccs by **January 25**, 2006.

January 1st Premises Registration Reminder for Livestock Owners

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) are issuing a reminder to livestock owners not currently licensed by the DATCP who keep, house or co-mingle livestock to register their premises by January 1, 2006. Those premises currently licensed by DATCP must register by their annual license renewal dates.

“January 1st is the date when livestock premises not licensed by the DATCP need to be registered in the state, those premises currently licensed by DATCP need to register their premises by their license renewal date in 2006,” states Dr. Paul McGraw, Assistant State Veterinarian, regarding the deadlines.

The purpose of premises registration is to provide basic information to animal health officials in the event of an animal disease outbreak. Premises registration applies not only to large farms but also to any rural or city residence housing any type of livestock species, regardless of number.

Serving as DATCP’s agent, WLIC maintains and administers all registrations, confirmations and communications regarding premises registrations. Current premises cards bearing either a WLIC or DATCP logo are valid through 2006. Renewals for non-licensed entities will be contacted in the fall of 2006 to verify accuracy.

Premises are defined as: farms and hobby farms; veterinary clinics; stables, livestock markets; livestock trucker and dealer premises where animals are kept; slaughter and rendering facilities; livestock exhibitions; and any other location where livestock are kept.

There are four ways to register premises: computer registration at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/premises/index.jsp> or www.wiid.org is available by clicking on the link for

Premises Registration; a premises registration form can be mailed directly in response to anyone who calls 1-888-808-1910; on-line registration or paper forms can be completed at the Manitowoc Farm Service Agency (FSA) office (683-5119); and premises may be registered through a WLIC agent listed at www.wiid.org.

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