



Manitowoc County UW-Extension Agricultural Programs

Information provided by: Scott Gunderson, Dairy Agent

The Manitowoc County UW-Extension Dairy Agent brings the research of the University to families where they live and work throughout the County. All programs respond to community needs.

Partners

Many partners are needed to develop and enhance agricultural outreach. Some partnerships in the past few years include:

- Dairy Promotion Committee
- Discovery Farms Project
- Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Association
- Emergency Government Department
- Farm Bureau
- Farm Service Agency
- Holstein Association
- Lakeshore Area Network for Dairy (LAND)
- Lakeshore Technical College
- Manitowoc County Forage Council
- Manitowoc County 4-H Dairy Committee
- Midwest Forage Association
- Natural Resource and Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation Department
- The Chamber of Manitowoc County
- UW Agriculture Alumni Association

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Grants/Donations 2004 - Present

Following is a partial listing of grants and donations secured for the agricultural program in Manitowoc County:

- \$25,000 from Altria Agricultural Solutions
- \$15,000 from the Agricultural Watershed Improvement Network
- \$52,000 for the Manitowoc County Discovery Farms Project

All of the grant funding listed above is utilized for research and outreach efforts to protect surface and groundwater.

- \$11,000 - Kohl Dairy Industry Revitalization Grant
- Over \$5,000 of financial support for seminars, workshops and field days.
- \$1,500 - Lakeshore Technical College Farm Business and Production Grant

All UW-Extension Educators are 40% county funded and 60% state funded.

Manitowoc County UW-Extension Dairy/Agricultural Program Estimated Volunteer Hours for Calendar Year 2008

<u>Event(s)</u>	<u>Estimated Hours</u>
Discovery Farms Advisory Committee	150
UW-Agriculture Alumni Board	50
4-H Dairy Project Committee	750
Manitowoc County Holstein Association	300
Manitowoc County Dairy Promotion Committee	1,500
Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.	100
Manitowoc County Forage Council	125
Lakeshore Area Network for Dairy	50
Livestock Facility Siting Advisory Committee	50
Glacial Lakes Conservancy	50
The Chamber of Manitowoc County Ag events	100
Master Gardener Program	2,500
Farm Tour Hosts/Presenters at UW-EX meetings	200
Total Estimated Volunteer Hours	5,925

\$92,608 worth of contributed time

Source: "Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour"

http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Agricultural Programs

- Dairy Modernization Seminars - Farmers are taught about various aspects of dairy farm modernization, including farmstead layout, business planning, manure storage and management and dairy housing. Over 200 dairy farmers and consultants attended seminars and workshops in 2008.
- Crop Advisor/Custom Manure Applicator Workshops - Crop advisors conduct nutrient management plans for hundreds of county farmers while custom manure applicators transport, apply and incorporate millions of gallons of manure for Manitowoc County farmers each year. These workshops, held in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation Department, are designed to provide updates on new regulations, including the Animal Waste Ordinances and the Livestock Facility Licensing Ordinance. The dialogue between these service providers/consultants has helped to identify methods to prevent manure spills and field run-off events.
- Dairy Employee Workshops - Five different topics are addressed each year through hands-on workshops. The topics include milking procedures; diagnosing sick animals; dairy reproduction; fresh cow management; and calf management. The information is delivered in English and Spanish. In 2008, 112 individuals completed the training workshops.
- Field Days/Barn Meetings - Numerous sessions are conducted on host farms throughout the year. These sessions are designed to showcase practices that have been implemented on local farms. Over 250 farmers, consultants and service providers attended five on-farm sessions in 2008.
- Forage Council - Provides farmers, consultants and service providers with cutting-edge information on forage management, harvesting techniques, dairy nutrition and nutrient management.
- Lakeshore Area Network for Dairy - This program is designed to link farmers who want to exit farming with those who want to start a dairy farming career. To date, 10 linkages have been made, keeping nearly 1,000 cows in Manitowoc County. Each dairy cow has an estimated economic benefit of \$17,000 per year based on Dr. Steve Deller, UW-Madison Economist.
- Livestock Facility Licensing - A team approach is used with “large” dairy farm owners, the Soil and Water Conservation Department, Natural Resource and Conservation Service, and UW-Extension. Farmers learn about county, state and federal regulations. Consultants hired by the farmers are also encouraged to attend these workshops. To date over a dozen dairy farm owners have participated.
- Manure Management Workshops - A series of workshops are offered each year with the goal of informing farmers about proper manure application and incorporation. Emphasis is placed on identifying critical sites, including sinkholes, wells and surface water.
- Master Gardener Program - Trained volunteers aid UW-Extension staff in helping communities better understand horticulture. Their goal is to educate and assist the public regarding horticulture issues. Master Gardeners volunteered over 2,500 hours in 2008 saving tax payers an estimated \$39,000.
- Pesticide Applicator Training - Farmers who plan to apply restricted chemicals must complete PAT, which is a joint effort between UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. In 2008, 30 farmers and orchard/tree farm owners were certified.
- Team Meetings - Dozens of dairy farm team meetings are conducted each year. These meetings are held at local farms and consist of the farm owner and his/her group of professionals. The goal is to troubleshoot various areas and develop an action plan for the farm. In addition, over 125 individual farm visits are conducted each year in an effort to improve labor efficiency, animal comfort, nutrition, herd health, and milk quality. These farm visits are held throughout Manitowoc County.