

# Price County UW-Extension Agricultural Newsletter

May, 2006

Dear Price County area farmers,

It's been a bit of a crazy spring with the early, warm weather first and now what feels like a return to winter. During this wet time, I wanted to give you a heads-up on a few events that are coming up that you should keep in mind:

~The Price County Dairy Breakfast is coming up just a little in advance of June Dairy Month this year. This year's breakfast will be held at United Pride Dairy Farm just southeast of Phillips on Saturday, 27 May.

~We'll be sponsoring a beef handling facilities and beef quality assurance certification program on Tuesday, 30 May at the Mike and Lauren Ball farm southwest of Phillips. This should be a great program, but if you'd like to attend I need your registration form and payment no later than Tuesday, 23 May.

~For those of you with teenagers in the family, or if you plan on hiring teenagers to work on your farm, please remember that Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety Certification programs will be held in Ladysmith and Medford during the first full week of June.

Please see the following information for more details on these programs.

Stay dry and have a great spring!

Best wishes,

Mark Kopecky  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent  
Price County

## **WHAT'S INSIDE?**

**Beef Handling Facilities and Quality Assurance  
Certification Program Coming on May 30**

**AND**

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### **Beef Handling Facilities and Quality Assurance Certification Program Coming on May 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Price County UW-Extension Office will sponsor a program on beef handling facilities and a beef quality assurance certification program on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the farm of Phillips area beef farmers Mike and Lauren Ball. The program starts at 6 pm with a presentation on beef handling facilities by UW-Extension agricultural engineer Dave Kammel. Following a catered beef supper, we'll conclude with the quality assurance certification program taught by UW-Extension beef specialist Jeff Lehmkuhler.

One of the biggest headaches a beef farmer can face is inadequate handling facilities. Whether it's for pregnancy checks, routine herd health treatments, or sorting cattle for shipping, efficient and economical handling facilities can really save on time, labor, and frustration. Dave Kammel has worked with many livestock farms in Wisconsin and will discuss some of the best ideas in livestock handling facilities that farmers can use without spending a fortune.

Beef Quality Assurance is a voluntary program covering both management and record keeping, designed to help farmers make sure that all beef produced is consumer-safe as it leaves the farm. Beef marketing programs in many states already require Quality Assurance certification, and it will likely become even more important in the future. Some of the topics Jeff Lehmkuhler will cover during the certification program include record keeping, Beef Quality Audit information, USDA grades, animal identification, handling, the proper way to handle and administer vaccines, and other related information.

The cost for the program is \$25, including the meal, materials, and the certification program. Registration forms and payment must be received at the Price County UW-Extension Office no later than Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information or to receive a registration form, please call the Price County UW-Extension Office at 715-339-2555.

### **Tractor & Farm Machinery Safety Training**

Wisconsin laws require youth under the age of 16 to have a training certificate if they operate a tractor or self-propelled farm implement on a public road, even if working for a parent or guardian. In addition, federal law prohibits hiring or even allowing any youth under the age of 16 to participate in any hazardous work activities, including operating tractors over 20 PTO horsepower, unless the youth has a training certificate or is working on a farm owned and operated by his or her parent or guardian.

Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety Certification programs will be offered in two nearby locations in June. Rusk County UW-Extension will offer the training on June 5-8 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Rusk County Fairgrounds in Ladysmith. Pre-registration is required by May 26<sup>th</sup>, and the course fee is \$10 per student. For more information, contact the Rusk County UW-Extension Office at 715-532-2151.

Medford High School will conduct the training from 8 am to 4 pm at the Medford High School, Room 115, on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 4 pm and June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to noon. Registration is the first day of class, and there is no fee to attend. For more information, contact Mr. Roger Poulter at 715-748-5951.

Youth participating in these courses will receive classroom instruction and supervised tractor driving experience. Students must attend all training sessions and complete written and driving examinations in order to be certified. Students should bring a lunch and dress for the weather each day. Parents: remember that students will need their Social Security numbers for the certification, and most classes require a signed permission form from a parent before students take the training.

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**REGISTRATION**  
**Beef Handling Facilities & Quality Assurance Certification Program**  
**May 30**

**Registration due:** May 23 to Price County UW-Extension Office, Normal Building, Room 240,  
Phillips, WI 54555

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$25 to cover the cost of a meal, materials and the certification program.

Make check payable to: Price County Treasurer