

Price County UW-Extension Agricultural Newsletter

September, 2007

Dear Price County farmers,

I hope you're enjoying the great fall colors and the nice working weather. This is one of my favorite times of year (but then, I say that as each new season appears). It's great to be able to live and work in an area like this where we can enjoy such a variety of weather and scenery.

It's been a while since I've sent out a newsletter, and there are a number of things coming up that I'd like to let you know about. Please take a look inside for more details.

Best wishes for the fall season,

Mark Kopecky

Mark Kopecky
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
Price County

MK:jh

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **Johne's Disease Control Program**
- **Preconditioning /Organizations: What & Why Program**
- **Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy Farmers**
 - **Planting Winter Rye after Corn Silage**
- **Nutrient Management Classes Coming this Winter**
- **Home Energy Conservation Program on October 27**

Johne's Disease Control Program

Dairy, beef and goat producers can learn about next year's Johne's Disease Control Program during an upcoming series of meetings around the state. Meantime, program director Dr. Beth Patton is reminding you to meet deadlines to submit invoices for their 2007 Johne's costs and apply for payments in 2008.

Producers can get partial reimbursement for the cost of a Johne's risk assessment by a certified veterinarian, testing, and vaccination. Those who applied for reimbursement for work done in 2007 have already been notified if they are eligible. "If you received an award letter, but haven't yet submitted your bills, please send them to us as soon as possible," Patton said. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2008.

Producers who want to receive reimbursement for work done in 2008 must first have their veterinarian do a risk assessment and management plan (RAMP) by Dec. 31 of this year and then submit an application by Feb. 1, 2008. They also have to renew their RAMP in 2008. An application form is available online at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/ah/agriculture/animals/disease/johnes/index.jsp> or by calling 608-224-4893.

The six meetings are directed at producers, veterinarians, and students, and will provide an overview of Wisconsin's Johne's disease control program and how producers can receive reimbursement for their 2008 expenses to control Johne's. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wausau – Tuesday, Oct. 30, Northcentral Technical College, 1000 W. Campus Drive, Room E101

- Eau Claire – Thursday, Nov. 1, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 620 W. Clairemont Ave., Room 100A
- Fennimore – Thursday, Nov. 8, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, 1800 Bronson Blvd., Room 493
- Appleton – Tuesday, Nov. 13, Fox Valley Technical College, 1825 N. Bluemound Drive, Room E130 A/B
- Madison – Thursday, Nov. 15, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 281 I Agriculture Drive, Room 106
- La Crosse – Tuesday, Nov. 27, Western Technical College, 304 Sixth St. N., Room R200

All meetings will be held from 1-2 p.m.

The Johne's disease reimbursement system has changed in the past several years. Producers can now receive reimbursement for testing without officially classifying their herds A, B, C or D according to the level of Johne's infection revealed by testing. Also, they can now receive partial reimbursement for vaccinating and any testing costs – veterinary fees, shipping or laboratory costs.

"Most important, they can get partly reimbursed when they have a certified veterinarian do a risk assessment and develop a herd plan," Patton said. "This is the single most important step producers can take to control or prevent Johne's disease, and that's why we require it in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement for your other costs."

For more information about the meetings, call Dr. Andrea Foley, 608-224-4352.

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers coming to Phillips, Wausau, and Spooner starting in November

If you or someone you know would like to own and operate a grass-based dairy or livestock farm, the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDLF) is a great place to get started. Since the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course-based School began in 1995, one third of its

approximately 200 graduates have gone on to start their own farms. Follow-up surveys have also found that even those students who haven't started their own businesses say that they've gone on to have highly successful careers in dairying, managed grazing, and other farm related industries.

In November of 2006 the WSBDLF took the next step in its development and was taught at the UW-Marathon County campus in Wausau and the Madison Area Technical College Campus in Reedsburg. The instructors included a combination



of local grazing specialists, graziers, nearby graduates of the school farming in the area, and speakers joining the students by

interactive video from the classroom in Madison. Not only did the students have access to the same high quality experience as those attending the course in Madison, all developed an outline of their first business plans and one student even enrolled in the Farm and Industry Short Course so they could earn credits toward a Short Course degree which can also qualify towards a degree at the UW-College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The one thing that all of the students who took the class in Wausau say they found the most valuable was

getting to meet others with their same passion for farming.

This year the class is also expanding its distance sites to include the UW-Extension Offices in Phillips and Spooner. The 16 week course will begin on Thursday, November 15, and will meet once a week on Thursdays from 11 AM until 1:15 PM (except for holiday breaks and field trips), finishing up on March 27, 2008. The curriculum covers a variety of topics from farm selection, design, and remodeling to animal and grass management to business planning and arrangements. Tuition and fees for the course will range from a \$240 base fee to \$700 (the higher fees apply if students take the class for UW Short Course credits). The deadline for applications for the distance sites is November 1, 2007 and spaces are limited so the sooner applications are in the better. For more information about the course or to get an application contact Mark Kopecky at 715-339-2555. You can also learn more about the School and its history by checking out their website at <http://www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html>.

Nutrient management classes coming this winter

Please be aware that we'll once again offer classes this coming winter for you to learn how to write your own nutrient management plans. The details on class dates and locations are still a little sketchy, but if you're interested in taking this class, you should be taking soil samples for testing now, before the ground freezes. We have two sampling probes available in the office that you can borrow to collect your samples, and I can give you

instructions on what you need to do in order to get good, representative samples for testing.

If you're interested in learning how to write your own nutrient management plan, please call me so I can help you get started. I'll be publishing more information on the class details as it becomes available.

Winter rye after corn silage: Forage crop, grain crop, or green manure

It wasn't that long ago when it seemed like no one would even think about harvesting corn silage until well into the fall, often when it seemed more like winter. With better varieties, warmer weather, and better information on the best time to chop silage according to whole plant moisture, the harvest window is often a lot earlier than it used to be.

Having bare ground on fields going into winter means that part of the growing season may be unused and leaves the ground susceptible to soil erosion in areas with sloping fields. Some colleagues of mine have just published a fact sheet on using cereal rye (winter rye) as a forage crop that can be planted after corn silage is harvested. The idea is to plant the rye as soon as the corn is off the field, as long as it's likely that there will be enough warm weather for the rye to germinate and

Price County UW-Extension Agricultural Newsletter

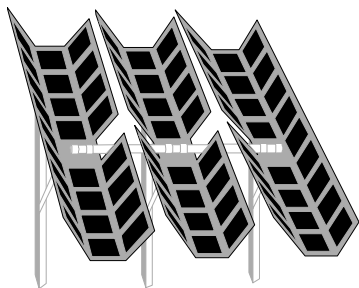
September, 2007

get established before freeze-up. In the spring, the rye will begin growing almost as soon as the ground thaws and will produce enough dry matter to make a respectable forage harvest in time to plant a perennial forage crop or a shorter season corn variety. Alternatively, the rye could be grazed, allowed to mature as a grain crop, or just plowed under as a green manure crop to enrich the soil.

I'm so impressed with this idea and the publication that I wanted you to have a copy of it, so we're enclosing it in the newsletter. For those of you with open ground right now, there's time to experiment with this idea this fall if you'd like. Those of you who have grown rye know that it is

very easy to establish, it's an aggressive grower, and the seed is fairly inexpensive. If you're interested in trying this, I'd like to hear from you. Perhaps we could have a field day next spring to show other farmers how well it works. You should also be aware the NRCS is including this practice in the list of items that are eligible for cost sharing assistance under the EQUIP program. Let me know if you'd like to find out more.

Home energy conservation program coming on October 27th



Everyone is aware of the rising cost of energy, whether it's for vehicles, farm machinery, home heating, or electricity. The Price and Taylor County UW-Extension Offices, Taylor County Land Conservation Department, and Pri-Ru-Ta Resource Conservation and Development Area will be hosting a workshop on home energy conservation on Saturday, October 27th at the Prentice High School. The program will cover conventional and alternative home heating systems, solar energy applications, energy saving ideas for existing homes, and home energy audits.

Speakers for the program will cover the costs and payback potential of the various types of systems and practices as well as tax credits and cash incentives for various energy saving applications. The focus will be on practical, feasible ways for

people with existing homes and those who are thinking about building to save money and energy. The program will include a lunch featuring locally grown foods from the Price and Taylor County areas and an optional tour of two nearby homes that have incorporated a number of energy-saving practices. The program is offered in partnership with Price Electric Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Xcel Energy, Wisconsin Focus on Energy, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

Registration for the program is \$10 per person (\$15 per couple) and includes the meal and all materials. Registrations must be received at the Price County UW-Extension Office no later than Friday, October 19th. For more information or a brochure, contact the Price County UW-Extension Office (339-2555).



Price County UW-Extension Agricultural Newsletter
September, 2007

Attention cow/calf managers & Holstein feeder producers: Please join us for a dinner program & tour on Nov. 1, 2007 in Westboro, WI:

Preconditioning/Organizations: What & Why

5:30pm Registration & Tour at Pat Tlusty's Beef Preconditioning Facility, 2nd St., Westboro

6:30pm Dinner & Presentations at Westboro VFW/Community Center, Business Hwy 13, downtown Westboro

- Jeff Lehmkuhler, Ph.D., Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ***Precondition Defined & Current Market Factors Affecting Feeder Prices***
- Jeff Swenson, Economic Development Consultant, DATCP: ***A Wisconsin Precondition Program: Are we ready?***

- Lynn Pitman, Associate Outreach Specialist, UW Center for Cooperatives: ***Organizing a Local Beef Association***

- Market representatives from Equity Livestock will be available to join in our discussion

9:00pm Adjourn

Directions to Tlusty's: while on State Hwy 13 toward Westboro, turn east on Hwy D to 2nd Street, turn south on 2nd St. (which is a dead end road) to the farm.

Co-sponsored with Pfizer Animal Health

.....
Cost: \$10.00 per person by October 18, 2007 (Meal & Materials) \$15.00 late registration

Make checks payable to: Taylor County UW-Extension

Number Attending _____

Enclosed remittance _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Mail to: UWEX-Taylor Co
Sandy Stuttgen
925 Donald St, Room 103
Medford, WI 54451