



**WAUKESHA COUNTY UW-EXTENSION
ADMINISTRATION CENTER - RM G22
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NEWS RELEASE DATE: April 2, 2007

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DAIRY MODERNIZATION AND GRAZING DAIRY SYSTEMS

Dairy Modernization is a continuous process. In attempt to explore new ways of dairy modernization, grazing dairy systems may embrace promise for small dairy operations and beginner dairy farmers as well.

Building a low cost parlor in a tie stall barn and providing a winter housing facility while grazing the cows could provide a new avenue for small producers in Wisconsin to modernize their dairy operations. The hazards involved in overwintering dairy cows make it unpopular practice among dairy farmers in Wisconsin. It is not difficult to add shelters or even conventional barns to accommodate the cows in winter.

The high levels of satisfaction of dairy graziers and large confinement dairy operators – highest level of satisfaction with herd health among dairy graziers - with family time, time with spouse, farming system, ability to change their farming system and relationship with their animals, showed in UW-CIAS survey, support the notion among small confinement dairy producers to convert to a grazing system.

Grow Wisconsin Dairy Team is offering grants for those who are willing to convert their confinement operation to a grazing system.

Dairy Farm Organic/Grazing Transition or Farmer Entry Pilot Grant Program

Grants of up to \$7,500 may be awarded to help dairy farmers get started in business or for existing dairy farmers to transition to or enhance organic or intensively managed grazing operations. Cow, goat or sheep operations may apply.

Dairy Farm Modernization Pilot Grant Program

Grants of up to \$7,500 may be awarded for professional services related to risk management, financial management and labor management; financial management software and training in conjunction with modernization, expansion or efficiency projects. Also eligible are professional service costs related to siting, engineering, design, layout and diagrams of new barns, parlors and other farm structures related to new modernization and expansion projects. Funding must be connected to new modernization projects (within one year of business plan completion).

For more information and assistance with dairy modernization and grant applications, please contact me at (920) 674-7442 or via e-mail
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