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**May/June
2008**

Winnebago County Agriculture Activities & Advice



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Hello Winnebago County Producers,

As I am putting the final touches on this newsletter, it is sunny and warm. Almost nice enough for planting. We all know how quickly weather has been changing. A few pages have been dedicated to sharing recommendations when planting is delayed. Hopefully you won't need them, but if you find you're waiting out another storm, they may be worth a look.

A couple of weeks ago the Winnebago County Agriculture Education webpage was drastically updated. The website will be used to post the most recent research summaries, and routine pest population, crop condition, and weather updates. For those of you who do not use the internet, please call me with your information requests. Through this newsletter I will let you know what is new on the website. Just call and I will send or fax it to you.

In an effort to bring more consistency to you by government services, you will see postings from FSA, NRCS, and Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation in addition to UW-Extension. We hope you will use this newsletter as a clearinghouse of information.

Wishing you the best,

Nick Schneider
Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-----------|------------|--|
| May | | |
| 1st | | CRP SAFE Enrollment Begins |
| 31st | 9:00 a.m. | Shoreline Expo, Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh |
| June | | |
| 10th | 10:30 a.m. | Organic Dairy Pasture Walk Winkel Farm, Waupun |
| 24th | 1:00 p.m. | Crop Management Software Training, JP Coughlin Center, Oshkosh |
| July | | |
| 15th | | Deadline to Report Planted Acres to FSA |
| 15th-17th | | Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Greenleaf |
| 22nd | 8:00 a.m. | Wisconsin Grazing School, Fond Du Lac County |
| 22nd | 8:30 a.m. | Crop & Pest Management Workshop, Arlington |

Do you want to receive the most current University of Wisconsin research information by e-mail? Most files will be sent as WORD, EXCEL, or PDF files with updates coming one or two times per month. If you would like to be included on the Winnebago County 'Crops', 'Dairy' or 'Ag Business' list, please send an e-mail to nick.schneider@ces.uwex.edu.

Winnebago County UW-Extension

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Agriculture/Horticulture | 920-232-1971 |
| Community Development | 920-232-1972 |
| Family Living | 920-232-1973 |
| 4-H Youth Development | 920-232-1974 |
| Water Basin Educator | 920-232-1972 |

Website: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/winnebago/>

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Nutrient Management Goals for Winnebago County

If you take the time to read through all the issues of this newsletter, you will see nutrient management will be a reoccurring theme. In March, Cooperative Extension and the Land and Water Conservation office teamed-up to present training designed to empower farmers to write their own nutrient management plan. While the class was small, it was also lively with a lot of great exchanges of ideas. Winnebago County will continue to host this training with another class next winter. When I was the agent in Clark County, 57 farmers participated in the class over three years. While not all farmers decided to write their own plan, they did learn a lot.

One of the primary goals of my education programs here is to establish nutrient management on as many farms and fields that you all are willing. Set aside the reasons like “nutrient management is good for the environment” or “regulations say we should”. The biggest motivator for using nutrient management could be money. Many of you are paying \$100 or more per acre to fertilize your crops. USDA Economic Research Service states fertilizers account for 10 to 13% of expenses for wheat, corn, or soybean producers with another 6 to 9% spent on fuel. Nutrient management is a great way to closely examine nutrient use and determine if adjustments can be made.

The foundation of nutrient management is soil sampling. Soil samples should be collected every four years. When averaged across four years and five acres per samples, this cost less than \$1 per acre per year. Frankly, soil sampling is one of the best deals in agriculture. If you think you may be interested in preparing a nutrient management plan on your farm, please make sure your soil samples are current. It is not possible to write a nutrient management plan without them.

Please consider participating in the nutrient management planning next fall. We have already begun a short list of producers who have expressed interest. If you think you may be interested, don't hesitate to call me and ask whatever you may have. By the way, the Land and Water Conservation office offers cost sharing if that helps spark your interest.

Financial Impact of Milk Quality Consider Forming a Milk Money Team

Milk Money is an education program that strives to produce high quality milk. The purpose is to set up an advisory team to help your dairy meet milk quality goals. A good starting place to determine if participating in Milk Money is right for your dairy is to estimate the financial impact of milk quality. Financial impact of milk quality is estimated based on these three factors:

1. Production Losses Due to Subclinical Mastitis

A. Calculate pounds lost for 1st lactation cows

No. Head ___ X [(____) Avg. Linear Score-2.0] X 200 lb= ___lbs milk lost

B. Calculate pounds lost for 2nd lactation+ cows

No. Head ___ X [(____) Avg. Linear Score-2.5] X 400 lb= ___lbs milk lost

A + B = annual ___ total lbs milk lost X Milk Price/lb= \$ ___ Loss

2. Opportunity From Milk Quality Premiums: Your SCC Goal _____

Calculate potential premium difference

Max. SCC premium @ goal _____\$/cwt.

Current SCC premium _____\$/cwt.

Potential premium difference _____\$/cwt

Avg. cwt shipped X _____

Premium opportunity = _____

3. Estimated Losses from Clinical Mastitis

A. Cost of drugs and culturing per clinical case \$ _____

B. Cost of discarded milk \$ _____

C. Average veterinarian and labor costs per case \$ _____

A+B+C = \$ _____ Cost per case

Number of clinical cases X Avg. Cost per clinical case = \$ _____ Loss

If you would like assistance estimating the financial impact of milk quality on your farm or would like to start a Milk Money Team, please contact Nick Schneider at Winnebago County Cooperative Extension.

UW Dairy Team Blog

<http://dairyteam.uwex.edu/>

The UW Dairy Team has assembled in my opinion about the best dairy resource webpage available. It uses the blog format. I might be a young guy but I'm already too old to know what "Blog" stands for. From what I can tell, dairy specialist and agents post the absolute latest research information there. Blogs typically have 150 to 200 views with some having more than 1000 views. That tells me the Blog has some pretty good information. Subjects covered in the Blog include: Animal Health/Biosecurity, Calves/Heifers, Dairy Herd Management, Energy, Farm Management/Ag Law, Feeding/Nutrition, Forages/Pastures, Manure/Nutrient Management, Markets/Policy, Milk Quality, Milking Equipment, Milking Management, and Reproduction/Genetics.

Soil Quality and No-Till Field Day

Keep posted for date and directions

As of the printing of this newsletter, the final details were not set; however, watch for the date, time, and location in the next newsletter. Soil quality field days have been very popular the past couple of seasons.

This field day is designed to help you understand some of the characteristics of your soils, such as water infiltration, bulk density, aggregate stability and biological activity. We'll discuss how organic matter, tillage, and cropping systems affect soil characteristics important to good crop yields and environmental quality.

Soil quality field days begin with a "classroom" session to cover background information, then we move to soil pits to take a closer look at the soil profile, texture, structure, and infiltration.

We will be partnering with a local successful no-till farm who has shown that no-till can work in the eastern red clay soils.

More details to come. The anticipated date will be late July or late August.

Conditions That Cause Foliar Wheat Disease Problems Continued...

Conditions Favoring Wheat Disease Infection

| Disease | Temperature | Rainfall/Humidity |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Wheat Leaf Rust | 60 to 80 F | 6-8 hours dew |
| Wheat Stripe Rust | 50 to 60 F | 4-6 hours moisture |
| Fusarium Head Scab | 65 to 85 F | Prolonged rain or dew, high relative humidity |
| Septoria Leaf Blotch | 59 to 68 F | 6 hours leaf wetness |
| Glume Blotch | 68 to 81 F | 6-16 hours leaf wetness |
| Powdery Mildew | 50 to 71 F | High relative humidity |
| Tan Spot | Cool | Humid with frequent rain |

Foliar Fungicides, Arlington and West Madison 2006-2007.

| Variety | Fungicide/Timing | Yield (bu/a) |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Kaskaskia | Nontreated Control | 87.3 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 7 | 100.7 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 7 and 8 | 100.6 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 8 | 100.6 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 10.5 | 97.6 |
| Pioneer 25R78 | Proline at Feekes 10.5.1 | 94.9 |
| | Nontreated Control | 107.7 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 7 | 111.6 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 7 and 8 | 111.6 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 8 | 107.1 |
| | Quilt at Feekes 10.5 | 110 |
| | Proline at Feekes 10.5.1 | 102.8 |
| | P-Value | 0.018 |
| | LSD | 2.4 |

Conley, Grau, Jensen, and Gaska. 2007

Tables from Paul Esker, UW Plant Pathology.

Learn more about fungicide options in wheat from UW publication A3646.

If you are interested in on-farm wheat fungicide research, please call the Cooperative Extension Office.

Delayed Planting?

Continued... Soybeans

How Much Do I Lose By Delaying My Soybean Planting Date?

By Shawn P. Conley, State Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist
John Gaska, Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Andrew Robinson, Graduate Student, Purdue University

Planting date is one of the most important and least expensive cultural considerations that impacts soybean yield. As adverse weather delays corn and soybean planting, it is important to know the yield cost of these delays for both marketing and management considerations. Research conducted at the University of Wisconsin, Arlington Research Station has shown an average yield loss of 0.4 bu per acre per day when soybean planting is delayed past the first week in May. Yield loss in delayed plantings can be attributed to decreased pod number per acre (Robinson, 2008). Robinson (2008) found that pod number was the most important yield component in March, April, and early May planting dates. In late May and early June plantings, seed mass played an equally important role in determining yield. This indicates that delayed plantings of soybean can partially compensate for reduced pod number per acre through increased seed size.

Conditions That Cause Foliar Wheat Disease Problems

At 14,700 acres of winter wheat in 2007, Winnebago County is one of the leading wheat growing counties in Wisconsin. With the exception of low, wet spots, wheat looks pretty good. Since conditions continue to be damp and cool, it is worthwhile to have a discussion on foliar leaf diseases.

Protecting the flag leaf of wheat is of utmost importance. Fungicide applications in wheat have generated the greatest yield response when applications are timed around Feekes growth stage 7 or 8, when the flag leaf is exposed.

Crop Management Software Training

James P. Coughlin Center

625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh

June 24th, 1:00 to 3:30

Free. Register by June 22nd

Call 920-232-1971

We will examine four core crop production software and decision aids. This class will provide a quick snapshot of each of these tools.

SNAP Plus Nutrient Management Software is the primary software program both farmers and agribusiness are using to write nutrient management plans. Snap Plus is free to download off of the internet. This program is much more advanced than the previous SNAP program in that soil erosion, phosphorus index, crop nutrient needs, crop history, and livestock manure output are all calculated and recorded.

The Iowa State N-Rate calculator also is free and available on the internet. While this decision aid is housed on the Iowa State web site, it will provide recommendations specific to Wisconsin soils.

Crop Budgets using Excel. Calculating enterprise budgets is an often overlooked aspect of production agriculture. With record high input costs, crop enterprise budgets are a great way to scrutinize your costs. While most producers know their direct costs for items such as seed and fertilizer, crop enterprise budgets help capture the indirect costs also.

WeedSoft is a handy weed control program. Unlike the other software programs presented this day, WeedSoft can not be provided for free. WeedSoft traditionally was used for guiding weed herbicide selection decisions, however, it is very useful at exploring yield loss related to different herbicide application timings.

Advancing Agriculture in Winnebago County Through On-Farm Research

By Nick Schneider, Agriculture Agent

More farm participants are sought for local and state-wide research projects.

Thank you to the farmers who were willing to participate in the **Phosphorus Stratification study**. Samples from fields with no-till and conventional tillage were collect in the Kewaunee, Hortonville, Manawa, McHenry, Kidder, and Korobago soil series. These six soil series are present on the majority of land in the county.

Alfalfa Yield and Persistence Monitoring Program: Thank you to the farm willing to participate. Additional farms are sought. The objectives of this research are to 1. Verify the yield and quality of alfalfa harvested from production fields over the life of the stand beginning with the first full production year. 2. To quantify decreases in stand productivity of alfalfa fields as they age. Participating forage producers need to be willing to weigh each forage harvest. On-farm scales are needed. Considering the value of alfalfa to a dairy producer, this research will generate extremely valuable information for the participating farms.

Fungicides on Corn and Wheat: Are they profitable?: During the past two years, a number of farms from around the state have participated in field trials examining the response to fungicides in corn and soybeans. In 2008 Cooperative Extension is looking for farm participants willing to spray fungicides on replicated strips in corn, silage, and wheat. We will need 3 strips of treated and untreated crop for harvest. Participants will be supplied with their choice of fungicide.

What is the Most Profitable Nitrogen Rate? During the past two summers, 36 farmers from around Wisconsin have participated in research designed to check current nitrogen recommendations. Data from the eastern red clay soils is lacking. A couple of farms have agreed to participate so far. From the growers perspective, this is a pretty simple study. I am looking for a couple more corners of fields 150 ft by 200 ft in size that nitrogen, excluding starter has not yet been applied.

Delayed Planting?

Continued...

Corn Starter

Former conventional wisdom believed when corn was planted early, starter was more important to encourage the seedling in cool conditions. However, research in the 1990's actually showed the greatest benefit of using corn starter is in late planting and longer relative maturity hybrids. Starter helps hasten the maturity of the corn even when soil test nutrient levels are high. UW Publication A2809 states "Corn Response to 2 X 2 inch side-placed starter on high P testing soil was maximized with an application of about 10-20-20 (N-P2O5-K20)." Pop-up seed placed fertilizer also works well but rates must be limited to avoid seedling damage.

The probability of obtaining a positive economic return from starter fertilizer for several corn relative maturity ratings at various planting dates on soils with excessively high P and K levels is in this table.

| Relative Maturity | Planting Date | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 4/25 | 5/1 | 5/5 | 5/10 | 5/15 | 5/20 | 5/25 | 5/30 |
| | Probability % of a yield reponse using starter on high fertility soil | | | | | | | |
| 90 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 |
| 95 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 |
| 100 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 |
| 105 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 |
| 110 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 65 |

Corn Nitrogen

If your planting was delayed it may also be safe to assume that your nitrogen may not have gone on as initially planned. Saturated conditions with warm soil contributes to rapid denitrification. This is a good time to consider pulling a pre-sidedress soil nitrate test. The pre-sidedress soil nitrate test should be collected from fields when corn is 6 to 12 inches tall. Samples are collected to a one-foot depth. This is a sound way to check nitrogen credits and works well on silt, loam and clay based soils. Analysis can be submitted to UW soil labs for around \$10. If you would like help collecting pre-sidedress soil nitrate tests, please do not hesitate to call me.

Delayed Planting?

If you actually are taking the time to read this newsletter in early May, it likely is safe to assume the conditions are too wet outside to do fieldwork....or you needed something that will put you to sleep. If you would like the full research summary for any publication referenced in this segment, please contact me and I will e-mail, fax, or send it.

Corn Issues Planting Date

The crop of concern for most people is corn of course. With the slow dry-down and typically greater yields with longer maturing hybrids, producers understandably would like to be planted by now. The "optimum" planting date for southern Wisconsin is around May 1st while it is around May 5th in northern Wisconsin. A new article by Joe Lauer, UW Corn Agronomist, explores planting date patterns for the past 30 years. Since 1997, the yearly Wisconsin corn crop planting reached 50% completion sometime between May 5th and May 17th. Prior to 1997, 50% yearly planting completion was between May 10th and May 23rd. Since farmers have been planting earlier for the past decade, this frustration with a slow start is understandable.

Fortunately, with the size of equipment, a large number of acres can be planted quickly. In 2000, over a 9 day period 1/2 of the Wisconsin corn crop (1.75 million acres) was planted. If you would like a copy of Joe Lauer's article, it can be found on-line at <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/> Or call me at 232-1971.

Switching Hybrids

The question that will likely arise is "Should I switch to a shorter maturity hybrid? UW Publication A3353 "Corn replant/late-plant decisions in Wisconsin" indicates you should consider planting to an earlier maturing hybrid if planting is delayed after May 20th. It should also be noted that a research intensive seed provider is using May 27th as their recommended switch date based on a considerable data pool. With all the special traits, gene stacks, and seed treatments, seed availability of the product you want may be an over-riding factor in the decision to switch maturities to a hybrid 7-10 days shorter. In southern Wisconsin, the latest corn should be planted for grain is June 10th, for silage then June 20th. Corn planted after this date will likely be stover.

Advancing Agriculture in Winnebago County Through On-Farm Research

Continued...

Assessing Soil Quality of CRP and Grassland

Grasslands are often touted as a means to sequester carbon which has the potential to diminish atmospheric CO₂. Soil quality is significantly improved when carbon is held in the soil as organic matter. This study will be designed to measure changes in soil quality and in fertility of grassland and CRP. Graziers and landowners of CRP lands are sought for this research. In the fall, an education event sharing the results will be presented.

A Note from the FSA Office

All owners and operators that have made changes to their business operations or land changes please contact the office as soon as possible to report them. This will save you time and speed up your visit to the office in any future or ongoing sign up.

JULY 15, 2008 - REMEMBER TO REPORT YOUR PLANTED ACRES TO FSA

Tractor & Machinery Certification Course for Youth ages 12-15

June 23-27, 2008

Fox Valley Technical College

Call to register 920-735-5672

Wisconsin Grazing School

Fond du Lac County UW-EX Office

July 22nd, 2008

The Wisconsin Grazing Schools are designed to teach producers, educators, and agency staff the basics of management intensive grazing with a hands-on approach. The Fond du Lac Grazing School will be a condensed version of the two-day school and will include in-depth discussions, on-farm exercises, reference materials that cover both livestock and agronomic topics related to grazing, and an evening panel of experienced grazing farmers.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30-8:00 | Registration |
| 8:00-8:15 | Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Dennis Cosgrove, UWRF/UWEX |
| 8:15-9:15 | Layout and Design of Pastures – Larry Brummund, NRCS |
| 9:15-10:15 | Economic Considerations in Grazing Systems – Tom Wrchota, Cattleana Ranch |
| 10:15-12:00 | Agronomics: Plant Growth, Forage Quality, Species Selection, Fertilization, Soil Fertility, and Management in Pasture Systems Extending the Season – Dennis Cosgrove |
| Noon-1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00-2:00 | Livestock Nutrition on Pastures: Matching Forage Supply and Animal Requirements – Dr. Dennis Cooper, UWRF/UWEX |
| 2:00-3:00 | Animal Health Concerns on Pasture – Dr. Larry Baumann, UWRF/UWEX |
| 3:00-4:00 | Basics of Fencing and Water Systems – Dennis Cosgrove |
| 4:00 | Drive to Gerald Jaeger heifer grazing farm |
| 4:30-6:00 | Pasture Allocation, Yield Determination, Species ID, and Pasture Monitoring |
| 6:00-7:00 | Supper |
| 7:00-8:00 | Experienced Farmer Panel (Q & A) |

Registration Fee: \$35 per person. Includes meals. Check payable to: UW River Falls by July 14th
Address: Dennis Cosgrove, UW-RF 410 S. 3rd St. River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 715-425-33450

Access the Winnebago County Agriculture Extension Webpage for Timely Information

Continued...

Dairy and Livestock

PDF Files

- ✓ Cost of Raising Heifers-2007
- ✓ Remodeled Parlors
- ✓ Remodeling A Tie Stall Barn for an Interim Milking Parlor
- ✓ How Producers Responded to the Lower Prices of 2006
- ✓ Impact of Changing Milk & Input Prices
- ✓ What Research Shows About Use of Rubber Floors for Cows
- ✓ Got Moo-ia: Agricultural Financial Assistance

Excel Spreadsheets

- ✓ Cost Analysis of Installing Rubber Floors
- ✓ Cost of Mastitis
- ✓ Parlor Planner

Direct Market Agriculture

- ✓ SavorWisconsin
- ✓ Starting a Value Added Farm-Food Business

Winnebago County Farmers and Local Foods Exchange

Free local classified adds for farmers. Would you like to buy or sell farm goods from feed to livestock to equipment and more? This service is designed to be a networking outlet. Postings will be updated through PDF as requests are submitted. Please call (920) 232-1971 or e-mail nick.schneider@ces.uwex.edu with the following information:

Your name, address, phone number, product and volume to buy or sell, and posting removal date.

Access the Winnebago County Agriculture Extension Webpage for Timely Information

website reconstructed

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/winnebago/ag/index.html>

For those of you that use the internet as a resource for production decisions, the Winnebago County Agriculture Extension will feature timely relevant articles. I will post new UW research recommendations as quickly as possible. If you do not have internet access, but would like one of the articles listed, please call Cooperative Extension at 920-232-1971 and you will be mailed a copy.

Crops and Soils

PDF Files

- ✓ Emergency Forage Research Summary
- ✓ Alfalfa Winterkill Advice
- ✓ The Long and Short of Alfalfa Cutting Height
- ✓ Fertilizer Management Considerations for 2008
- ✓ N Rate for Maximum Profit
- ✓ Using SNAP Plus Software
- ✓ Influence of Fertility on Pasture Species Diversity, Yield, and Quality
- ✓ Winter Wheat Rotations
- ✓ Corn Fungicide Research Results
- ✓ No-Till Alfalfa with Italian Ryegrass
- ✓ 2007 Wisconsin Custom Rate Guide

Excel Spreadsheets

- ✓ Small Scale Biodiesel Cost Estimate
- ✓ Grazing Nutrient Balance Sheet
- ✓ Production Budgets for: Alfalfa Hay, Alfalfa Haylage, Continuous Corn, Corn after Soybeans, Corn Silage Soybeans, and Winter Wheat

Organic Dairy Pasture Walk

Robert and Jeanette Winkel Farm

N4651 State Hwy 26, Waupun

June 10th, 2008

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Have you ever attended a pasture walk? Pasture walks are a comfortable, easygoing time where producers and often general public talk about agriculture. If you are considering a different direction for your farm or simply are just curious about grazing or organic dairying, this will be a beneficial event to attend.

- 10:30 Welcome by Bob and Jeanette Winkel
- 10:45 Wendy Fulwider, Animal Husbandry Specialist, Organic Valley
- 11:30 Lunch Sponsored by Organic Valley Coop and Fox River Graziers
- 12:15 Dr. Guy Jodarski, Holistic Veterinarian, Organic Valley Coop
- 1:30 Pasture walk with tours of the farm and natural wooded area
- 3:30 End of the day

Farmers and general public are invited.

Reservations requested by May 20th, 2008.

Reservations and Questions: call Glacierland RC&D at 920-465-3006 or 920-418-2718.

Sponsored by : Organic Valley Coop, Glacierland RC&D, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative and Fox River Grazers

**New CRP Enrollment Opportunity Benefits
Wildlife Habitat in Winnebago County, for land
in the following townships: Poygan, Rushford,
Nepeuskun, Winneconne, Omro, and Utica
Sign-Up Begins May 1**

Winnebago County landowners in environmentally sensitive areas have the opportunity to enroll in a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice called SAFE, which stands for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement.

Participating landowners will receive rental and incentive payments in return for improving habitat for important species including ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds. There is no competition for enrollment, and land need not meet any erodibility criteria. Land is eligible to be enrolled if it meets crop history requirements and can support the type of habitat needed for the species of concern.

Land entering the CRP for the first time will be eligible for a signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre and a practice incentive payment of 40 percent of the cost of practice installation, on top of the normal CRP annual rental payment and 50 percent cost-sharing for practice installation.

The one of five approved project areas that includes Winnebago County is the Glacial Habitat Restoration SAFE. It includes 2,250 acres in parts of Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Dodge, and Columbia counties. The project seeks to restore habitat for important grassland birds such as bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, Henslow's sparrows, and ring-necked pheasants. The practices being offered include wetland restorations, shallow water areas for wildlife, cool season grasses, warm season grasses, tall grass prairies, and oak savanna. Some existing hay land may also be eligible.

New CRP Enrollment continued...

In all SAFE projects, the sponsoring agency is required to do long-term monitoring to report the success in increasing the numbers of targeted species. Contracts offered will range from 10 to 15 (your choice) years in duration. Maintenance and required management practices at certain points during the life of the contract are included and must be performed by the participant.

Please call for an appointment for the SAFE program at: (920) 424-0329 Ext. 2

Natural Shoreline Expo Planned for May 31

On May 31, 2008 the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department is hosting the 2nd Annual Natural Shoreline Expo at the Sunnyview Exposition Center in Oshkosh. The Expo will bring together in one place a broad range of information about native gardens for habitat, vegetative buffers, yard care, and shoreline restorations for waterfront property owners and others. Assisting in promoting the event is the Winnebago Lakes Council.

Featured will be an exhibition hall where individuals can meet with native plant experts, Wisconsin nurseries, shoreland restoration specialists, yard care experts, and a variety of conservation organizations and lake groups. Information will also be available on composting, yard care, and sources of phosphorous-free fertilizer for homeowners.

Speakers are scheduled throughout the day: Jennifer Baker, Prairie Nursery, on native Wisconsin plant species; Dan Deick, of Backyard Organics on yard care; Chad Cook, UWEX Basin Educator on the recent shoreland survey conducted with the Winnebago Lakes Council; and Holly Tews-Bodway, shoreline property owner, on shoreland restorations and plantings. In addition, Eric Jacobsen, of formecology will be speaking on building rain gardens and landscaping for habitat.

The Expo will be held indoors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sunnyview Exposition Center/Winnebago County Fairgrounds, 500 County Road Y, Oshkosh. All events, including parking, are free. Call 920-232-1950 for more information. – Keith Marquardt