



Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, retain form formatting, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **noon on Friday, April 18, 2008**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2008, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. **Project Title:** Healthy Hooves: A Hoof Care Seminar for Dairy Producers

2. **Funding Requested:** \$500

3. **Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County):**
Abby Huibregtse, Oconto County Agriculture Agent

a) **Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable)**

4. **Signature:** _____
Grant Applicant/Lead

5. **Project Description**

a) *Situation Statement*

As a newer UW-Extension Agent, I conducted a Needs Assessment in 2007 of dairy producers in Oconto County. I thought the results of the survey gave me a fair representation of the ideas and concerns of our local dairy producers. The number one area that producers wanted more programming in was hoof care. Additional discussions with farmers showed their interest in maintaining good hoof health and treating problems when they arise. Conversations with local hoof trimmers echo the importance of farmer education when it comes to hoof health. Other concerns that topped the list focused on animal health as well, so one of my programs in my Plan of Work for 2008 is Dairy Herd Health. Throughout the year, I plan to incorporate herd health topics into barn meetings, presentations, and news articles. I will conclude the year with a seminar that focuses on their number one concern, which is hoof health. A connection through Brian Rieth, a local hoof trimmer and owner of Brian's Hoof Care business, led me to discussions with Karl Burgi, instructor for the Dairyland Hoof Care Institute. We have outlined a meeting agenda that would cover causes of hoof damage and preventative measures that can be taken by farmers. He will also bring in some sample hooves to better explain to farmers what exactly a hoof trimmer is doing when working on their cattle. This program will be an excellent way to fulfill a need in the county, provide some high quality dairy programming in a topic area that hasn't been touched in the recent past, and will hopefully introduce more producers to UW-Extension.

I will work with my neighboring agents, Scott Reuss from Marinette and Tom Anderson from Shawano, to get suggestions, to finalize meeting plans, and to encourage attendance from surrounding counties. I will continue to work with Brian Rieth to gather input from a hoof

trimmer's perspective, and I plan to involve other hoof trimmers as well. I will look for local sponsorship to help fund parts of this meeting to keep the registration fee low for attendees.

b) Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes

There are several objectives of this seminar. First and foremost, I want to provide an educational opportunity for dairy producers on an area that is of interest and concern. Hoof health is tied closely to cow longevity, and longevity of cows is related to their productive life. Poor hoof health can substantially decrease a cow's productive life and a herd's milk production, and that affects a farm's profitability. I want to hold this meeting at a local location, making this opportunity more accessible to my clientele. This seminar will also benefit local hoof trimmers and local veterinarians, who work with hoof issues on dairy farms. Their work can be made easier if farmers are educated and more knowledgeable on the topic and are able to establish more preventative practices. Additionally, I hope that this seminar will be of interest to a wide variety of dairy farmers in Oconto and neighboring counties, some that have not worked with UW-Extension before. I feel that putting on a quality program with a highly regarded speaker such as Karl will be an opportunity to reach out to some new clientele in my area.

I hope that this seminar results in improved hoof health on local dairy herds and improves relationships between dairy farmers and hoof trimmers. If my audience responds favorably about the seminar, I would share those results with my colleagues and this program could then potentially be replicated in other counties across the state.

c) Project Timeline (include planned responses/activities)

June- secure funding, speaker arrangements, and location

September- promotion of event through local newspapers, newsletters, and hoof trimmers

November- seminar and evaluation

d) Evaluation Plan

The seminar will be evaluated through a standard survey of participants directly following the meeting. I will also meet with local hoof trimmers later in 2009, conducting an informal assessment to see if they noticed any changes on the farms they were working with.

6. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):

Speaker Cost	\$500.00
Speaker Travel	\$150.00
Meal Costs: \$12/person (estimate 30 attendees)	\$360.00
<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>\$1010.00</u>

Projected Funding:

<i>Resource Management Grant for speaker costs</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Local sponsorships and registration fees for meals, travel</i>	<i>\$510.00</i>

7. If you have received Resource Management funds for a similar/related project, in the past, include the following information:

No previous grants in this area.