



Oconto County

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Oconto County

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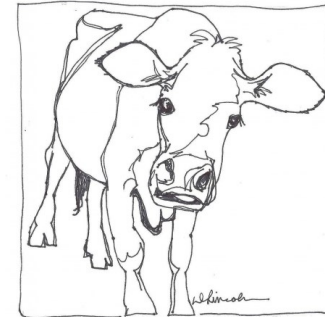
Oconto & Marinette County

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Agriculture Newsletter

June 2015



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Freshly worked fields, small signs of green shoots rising from the soil, rain showers and warmer weather can only mean one thing—Spring has arrived and summer is around the corner!

Despite the recent diagnosis of a local snowy owl with avian influenza, the disease seems to have stabilized in Wisconsin. On May 26th, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) released the farm quarantined in Chippewa County after exhaustive surveillance and testing. Juneau County's quarantine had been previously lifted, and now we will wait for the other two affected counties (Barron and Jefferson) quarantine to potentially be lifted in the next month.

Even though the threat of avian influenza has lessened, as we have not had any recently confirmed cases in commercial or backyard flock, it still remains essential to regularly monitor your flocks and practice good biosecurity protocols. Remember to report sick or dead birds to DATCP at 1-800-572-8981. Current information about avian influenza can be found on DATCP's website at: http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal\_Diseases/Avian\_Influenza/index.aspx, or feel free to contact me for more information.

With all the field equipment on the road, please remember Wisconsin Act 377 (Implements of Husbandry) is now being fully enforced. The Act established the maximum weight per single axle at 23,000 pounds. Total gross weight per vehicle or combination of vehicles is determined by the distance between the foremost and rearmost axle of a group, as well as the total number of axles. An easy to understand table of maximum gross weights can be found at http://www.dot.state.wi.us/business/ag/weight.htm.

If you are savvy with technology, a new app for Android devices was recently released by UW-Extension for pricing standing hay. This app was created by Greg Blonde, Waupaca County Agriculture Agent. For more information about this new technology and how to access the app, please see the information located in this newsletter.

If you would like to take part in a state-wide project to quantify your alfalfa stand after planting, please contact Scott Reuss (715.732.7510). Assessments of the stand will take place 30 days and five months after planting. The time commitment for this project is about one hour.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mills-Lloyd

Agriculture Agent—Specializing in Dairy and Livestock
Oconto County UW-Extension Office

If you will need any type of accommodation or assistance as you attend any UW-Extension sponsored event, please contact the host county office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

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# Events, Deadlines and Notes

## USDA Service Center New Contact Information

A reminder that effective Monday, June 1, 2015, the Oconto-Marquette County USDA Service Center will be located at 410 1/2 E. Main Street, Lena. The fax number will not change (855-758-1669); however, they will now have a new phone number in the Lena, WI location. Customers may contact them beginning June 1, in the new location by calling (920) 829-5406.

## Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Training

In order to align with the state standards, the Oconto County Fair Board has decided the following species exhibitors must attend MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training dairy, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry in addition to beef, sheep, swine and meat goats in order to be eligible to sell in the 2015 Sale of Champions.

If you are not MAQA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2015 Oconto County Fair. MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training must be renewed every year.

## The final MAQA training scheduled for this year:

The Oconto Falls FFA Chapter is hosting one MAQA training: Saturday, June 6 – Oconto Falls High School, Oconto Falls, 1:00-3:00 pm

Registration for this training is requested two weeks prior to the event date. You can register via email at

[amalietz@ocontofalls.k12.wi.us](mailto:amalietz@ocontofalls.k12.wi.us).

Exhibitors must attend the entire training to be certified.

Please call Sarah Mills-Lloyd with any questions, 920-834-6845.

## Looking for Oconto County Youth Fair Forms & Information for Your Livestock Project?

Are you looking for specific forms for your Livestock Project for the 2015 Oconto County Youth Fair? This information can be located at the following website: <http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>. In addition to species specific forms, you have access to a Calendar of Events which will list pertinent information such as weigh in and other deadlines. Please check this webpage for more information.

## Wisconsin State Fair Information for Livestock Exhibitors

Entry information, entry forms and links to enter online are available on: <http://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/>. Please read entry information carefully for arrival/release, show dates and times. Schedules have been updated for Junior Poultry and Junior Swine.

2015 Junior Show Entry Deadlines:

- June 3—Postmark for mailed entries (Submitting a paper entry and pay fees with a check/money order.)

## Calendar of Events

Remember you can find all this information and more detailed information on our websites—<http://oconto.uwex.edu> or <http://marinette.uwex.edu>.

June 4	Harmony Arboretum	Companion Planting for Pollinating Insects
June 14	Oconto Falls	Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm—Golden Corners Dairy
June 17	Marinette	Companion Planting in Vegetable Gardens
June 27	Arena	FAMaCHA Training
June 28	Porterfield	Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm—Anderson Family Farm
August 20-23	Gillett	Oconto County Fair
August 25-27	Sun Prairie	Wisconsin Farm Technology Days—Dane County

- June 17 at 7 PM—Online entries close at regular fees (Enter online and pay with a credit card.)
- Substitution reminders—substitutions within department are no charge until July 29th. A substitution fee will apply in all classes and divisions after July 30th. Junior exhibitors can register to stay in the Youth Center on their mailed paper entries or with their online entries.

Any questions? Please email [entryoffice@wistatefair.com](mailto:entryoffice@wistatefair.com) or call 414.266.7000 (M-F 8AM-4:30PM).

## Pricing Hay? Try the New UW-Extension App

It's that time of the year when fresh mowed hay fills the air across Wisconsin, which also means many farmers and rural neighbors will be negotiating the sale of standing hay. An estimated 2.5 million acres of dry hay and haylage are harvested each year in this state with baled hay alone accounting for \$80-\$100 million in market sales. Unfortunately, there is not an established commodity market for hay like there is for corn or soybeans. Finding reliable hay market information can be a challenge, and trying to value standing hay while it's still in the field can be even more difficult.

To help farmers and landowners identify the price of hay, and/or negotiate the sale or purchase of standing hay, a UW-Extension educator just published a free Smartphone app that can quickly find hay price information. Users of this app can also enter projected hay yield, cutting schedule and harvest costs to calculate a standing value per acre. The app is free and available for Android smart phones and tablets on the Google Play store by searching for "Hay Pricing" or go to: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmappsconsulting.haypricing>

According to Greg Blonde, a UW-Extension Agriculture Agent involved with developing the app, "this new mobile tool will help farmers and rural landowners access the latest hay market information on the go, plus give them a simple tool to help estimate field value when considering buying or selling standing hay." Blonde also noted the app is a very useful tool for Extension educators, feed and crop consultants, as well as lenders, rural appraisers and real estate professionals.

This is the second mobile app developed by Blonde through Smart mAPPS Consulting. Last fall they published a free app for pricing wet corn to help buyers and sellers better manage the immature corn crop. That app features a link to current local elevator bid prices, a comparative value for wet corn vs. the current dry shell corn price, as well as an adjustment for drying cost.

## The Dairy Partner/ El Compañero

The Dairy Partner / El Compañero is a bimonthly newsletter geared towards dairy farm employees. The newsletter articles are written by UW-Extension agriculture agents and state

specialists and are available in both English and Spanish. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information directly to farm employees to help them improve their dairy cattle knowledge, maintain farm safety, and improve their way of life.

We extend a sincere thank you to Animart, Inc. and Zoetis for their continued financial support of this newsletter in 2015!

All inquiries can be directed to:

Trisha Wagner, Agriculture Agent  
University of Wisconsin Extension, Jackson County  
[trisha.wagner@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:trisha.wagner@ces.uwex.edu)  
715-284-4257

## Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm for June 14, 2015

The Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Committee invites you to celebrate June Dairy Month by attending Breakfast on the Farm! The 2015 Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm will be held Sunday, June 14, at Golden Corners Dairy, LLC owned by the Wolf family—John & Bev, Bryan and Andy—located near Oconto Falls. A community service of thankfulness and blessing will begin at 7:30 am and breakfast will be served from 8 am until 1 pm. Entertainment will be available for all ages, including live music, a petting zoo, children's games and activities, and much more. Cost of the event is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 years old and under. The farm is located at 8551 Holtz Road, Oconto Falls. Tours of the farm will be available.

The Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm is coordinated by the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Committee and made possible with generous financial support provided by local businesses. For more information, please contact Jordan Rank, Committee Chairman, at (920) 598-0350 or see the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm information located on Insert A of this newsletter.

## FAMACHA Producer Workshop (Control of Internal Parasites in Sheep and Goats)

A workshop will be held in Arena, Wisconsin on Saturday, June 27, 2015 on Intensive Parasite Management and Grazing and Pasture Management for sheep and goat producers. Focus of the program will be use of the FAMACHA score card for assessing internal parasitism in sheep and goats.

FAMACHA is a diagnostic tool developed in South Africa to help farmers identify *Haemonchus contortus* (Barber Pole worm) infection in sheep and goats. The tool is a chart that matches eyelid color to anemia levels, an indicator of parasite infection. This type of diagnosis allows farmers to target

treatment only to infected animals, which in some systems has reduced use of deworming agents by 90 percent. Not only do farmers save money, they significantly reduce the likelihood of causing parasites to become resistant to dewormers. Identification of susceptible and more resistant animals enables producers to make more informed breeding and culling decision in managing their flocks and herds. Attending an approved training session, such as this FAMACHA Producer Workshop, is the only way that a producer can obtain a FAMACHA score card.

Jim Morgan, Operations Manager with Katahdin Hair Sheep International, Fayetteville, Arkansas will make presentations on intensive parasite management and use of the FAMACHA score card, and Gene Schriefer, Iowa County Agriculture Agent, Dodgeville, Wisconsin will make a presentation on grazing and pasture management. Vince and Nancy Pope will host the workshop participants at their Double Ewe Farm, Arena, Wisconsin in the afternoon for hands-on training in use of the FAMACHA score card using their Katahdin sheep.

The morning and early afternoon program will be held at Grandma Mary's Café, 216 Hwy 14, Arena, Wisconsin followed by hands-on use of the FAMACHA score card at Double Ewe Farm near Arena in mid-afternoon. Registration starts at 10:45 a.m., and the hands-on program at the farm should conclude by approximately 4:30 p.m. Advance registration is required (\$30 per person, \$20 per person for each additional family/farm member) and is limited to the first 65 people registering. Lunch and the FAMACHA score card are included.

Contact Gene Schriefer, Iowa County Extension Office, 303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608-930-9850, [gene.schriefer@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:gene.schriefer@ces.uwex.edu), <http://iowa.uwex.edu/>) for a brochure and registration form or for more information. The brochure and registration form also can be found at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Animal Sciences, Extension Sheep and Goat web site (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/>).

## Tractor & Farm Machinery Safety Course

A tractor safety course will be offered in the Coleman-Pound area in mid to late July. Information was not available at the time of print, but if you would like further information contact your county UW-Extension office. The approximate cost will be \$35.

## Weekly Hay Price Report as of May 22, 2015

Current hay demand and price reports can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Upper Midwest Hay Price Summary by Quality Grade

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$175.00
	Large Square	\$199.00	\$130.00	\$200.00
	Large Round	\$166.00	\$135.00	\$200.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$133.00	\$115.00	\$150.00
	Large Square	\$140.00	\$90.00	\$200.00
	Large Round	\$140.00	\$70.00	\$145.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$125.00
	Large Square	\$104.00	\$75.00	\$140.00
	Large Round	\$107.00	\$65.00	150.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	\$73.00	\$60.00	\$85.00
	Large Round	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$60.00