



### Oconto County

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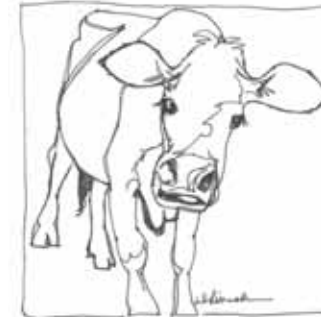
### Oconto & Marinette County

Volume 2015, Issue 8

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# Agriculture Newsletter

## August 2015



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### Oconto County

**We're on the web!**  
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The 'dog days of summer' are here. I never stopped to realize the meaning of this saying, but we have certainly had experiential learning in the meaning. It is the hot and humid portion of summer lasting from July 3rd to August 11th. All I can really tell you is the corn is liking this weather!

After you read Bob Cropp's Dairy Situation Outlook in this newsletter, you may get the notion to look into the Dairy Margin Protection Plan as the forecast for milk prices are changing. The sign-up for this program has already begun, but will end on September 30th. If you want to know more about this program you will have a variety of opportunities. On August 13th, Dr. Mark Stephenson from the Center for Dairy Profitability will be talking about the program and coverage level selection tools at the Angelica Town Hall (N3285 County Rd C, Pulaski) at 7 pm. Scott Reuss, Marinette County Agriculture Agent, will also be hosting local meetings on this topic throughout September. The September edition of the newsletter will have more information about these meetings.

We have a variety of local meetings which may be of interest to you. On August 6th, join us for a Cow/Calf Meeting at the Roy and JoAnn Wilcox farm (8077 County Road S, Pulaski) for a farm tour and discussions of calf weaning, body condition scores, and parasite management. Registration information is located in this newsletter. The cost is \$15. Please let me know if you are interested in attending by phone as we have plenty of room for everyone!

On September 9th, UW-Extension is hosting a Start 'Em Right, Raise 'Em Right calf management workshop at Birling Bovines (N8128 Town Hall Road, Black Creek). Interactive sessions include: ultrasound respiratory scoring, manual respiratory scoring, calf sanitation audit and farm tours. Register with Brown County UW-Extension, 920-391-4610.

The first of the corn in the area has started to tassel. The next installment of the UW-Extension Ag newsletter will be timed to be ahead of corn silage sampling days—typically 45 days after tasseling. Oconto and Marinette County Fairs are approaching quickly. Please make sure to take time out of your busy schedule and encourage our youth by attending the fair. You can find the dates of the fairs listed on the calendar of events.

See you at the fair!

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

## 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/>.

## Summer Beef Cow/Calf Meeting

A UW-Extension Beef Cow/Calf producer meeting is being offered to producers of all sizes and the agriculture professionals who service their operations. The agenda will include a farm tour, meal, and speakers. Speaker topics will include preventing and managing parasites, body condition scoring, and weaning. Attendees of the meeting will qualify for one continuing education credit for Beef Quality Assurance recertification. The meeting will be held August 6 starting at 9:30 a.m. at Roy and JoAnn Wilcox Farm, located at 8077 County Road S, Pulaski. To register for this event, please contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd at the Oconto County UW-Extension office or complete the registration form found at the Oconto County UW-Extension website (<http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/>). Registration fee is \$15.

This beef cow/calf meeting is sponsored by the UW-Extension Beef and Livestock Teams. For more information please contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd, Oconto County Agriculture Agent at 920-834-6845.

## Farm Bill Dairy Margin Protection Program

Mark Stephenson, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis at UW-Madison will be our speaker. He will cover the details of the program and how it relates to northeast Wisconsin dairy producers. The program will be held at 7:00 pm on August 13<sup>th</sup> at Angelica Town Hall, N3285 County Rd C, Pulaski.

Additional local meetings will be hosted by Scott Reuss in September. More detailed information about these meetings will be included in the September edition of the UW-Extension Ag newsletter.

## Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

If you have not already heard, Wisconsin Farm Tech Days will be held August 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> at Statz Bros. Inc, Sun Prairie. County agents have been working

hard on educational display plots and farm tours. Make sure and stop by and see UW-Extension's educational information at the 'Education Station' in Tent City.

## Spooner Sheep Day

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spooner Sheep Day will be held at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station on Saturday, August 22, 2015. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. at the Station Headquarters (W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner, WI 54801). The educational program will start at 9:15 a.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The program will be a mix of reports of sheep research results and timely topics for the sheep industry. Featured speakers this year will be Cody Hiemke, B.S. and M.S. in Animal Sciences from UW-Madison and current Lamb Program Manager, Niman Ranch (a natural meats company) and Dr. Kay Nelson, D.V.M from UW-Madison and current veterinarian for the herds and flocks of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Cody will lead a discussion on the production of a quality market lamb and the benefits to both the producer and the sheep industry of producing such lambs. Dr. Nelson will discuss some of the more common sheep health issues she has seen at the UW-Madison sheep units at both the Arlington and Spooner Stations with recommended preventive measures and treatments. Two graduate students working with the sheep program at Spooner (Tom Murphy and Vera Ferreira) and the 2015 summer student intern at Spooner (Emily Petzel) will present results of several projects they have been working on including the Use of Estimated Breeding Values in Predicting Future Performance of Sheep, the Effect of Breed and Hybrid Vigor on Lamb Survival, and a Novel Approach to Controlling Internal Parasites in Lambs. The program will conclude with an open house at the sheep farm in the afternoon that will focus on a discussion among participants on sheep facilities and handling innovations.

A lamb lunch will be served at noon at a cost of \$8.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children ages 5 to 11, and free for children under 5. Advanced reservations are not required.

Spooner Sheep Day has a long tradition of providing useful information to the state's sheep producers and is the longest-running agricultural field day of the many held each year by the University of Wisconsin-Madison,

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. For more information, contact Lorraine Toman at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station (715-635-3735, [lltoman@wisc.edu](mailto:lltoman@wisc.edu)) or Dave Thomas ([dlthomas@wisc.edu](mailto:dlthomas@wisc.edu), 608-263-4306). The complete schedule can be seen at the UW-Madison Sheep and Goat Extension Web Site: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/>.

## Start Them Right, Raise Them Right Calf Management Meeting

More and more farms are investing in newer facilities and technologies to raise pre-weaned calves. With new technologies come new management practices.

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, UW-Extension Dairy Team will be hosting "Start Them Right...Raise Them Right" Calf Management Seminar to help producers enhance their calf management program. The meeting will be held on-farm at Birlings Bovines, N8128 Town Hall Road, Black Creek, WI. Featured presenters include UW-Extension Animal Well-being Specialist Amy Stanton on "Management of Group Housing", UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, on "Your Mother Was Right! Cleanliness is Important to Calves", Vitaplus Dairy Youngstock Technical Specialist Noah Litherland on "Five Steps Towards a Proactive Approach to Achieving Greater Transition Calf Success" and UW School of Veterinary Medicine Theresa Ollivett, DVM on "Thoracic Ultrasound and Bovine Respiratory Disease". Included in the meeting will be interactive sessions on manual and ultrasound calf respiratory scoring, calf sanitation audits and farm tours. The program is open to any individuals with interest regarding calf management. The fee for the program is \$35 per person which includes materials and lunch. Detailed agenda and registration information can be found on the UW-Extension Dairy Team Calendar at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/> or within this newsletter. For more information regarding the program and/or to register please contact UW-Extension Brown County at 920.391.4612.

## UW-Extension's Dairy Partner/El Compañero Newsletter: Continues to Help Dairies with Employee Communication

The University of Wisconsin-Extension continues to help

dairies with employee communication by providing timely, relevant information via the popular bilingual Dairy Partner/El Compañero Newsletter. At this time, the UW-Extension is conducting an evaluation of the Newsletter, which it produces for dairy farms and their employees. In the current edition of the Newsletter, readers will find a survey to be completed and returned in either English or Spanish. The objective of the survey is to gain insight on how readers are using the newsletter now, and how it can continue to effectively meet the needs of readers. The effort will help UW-Extension continue to ensure the most relevant information is being provided to dairy farm employees and owners in the most convenient way possible.

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.

To complete the online survey please visit the Newsletter website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairypartnerelcompanero/>. The survey is offered in both English and Spanish to fit the needs of both language speaking employees.

Recipients of the bi-monthly Dairy Partner/El Compañero Newsletter indicated they use the Dairy Partner to help train employees to be better milkers, reinforce training with printed articles, and post pages from the newsletter for employee information. It has been described by its users as the first informative newsletter supplied to Spanish speaking employees. The newsletter is available in printed form or available at the newsletter website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairypartnerelcompanero/>.

There is no cost to receive the Dairy Partner/El Compañero newsletter in part due to generous financial support from Zoetis and Animart Inc. To receive a copy, contact your local county UW-Extension office: <http://counties.uwex.edu/>.

## Weekly Hay Price Report as of July 13, 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 | \$182.00          | \$160.00 | \$204.00 |
|                              | Large Square | \$190.00          | \$140.00 | \$250.00 |
|                              | Large Round  | \$139.00          | \$137.00 | \$140.00 |
| Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | \$185.00          | \$150.00 | \$240.00 |
|                              | Large Square | \$137.00          | \$100.00 | \$200.00 |
|                              | Large Round  | \$120.00          | \$75.00  | \$140.00 |
| Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales |          |          |
|                              | Large Square | \$124.00          | \$72.00  | \$140.00 |
|                              | Large Round  | \$84.00           | \$50.00  | \$120.00 |
| Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)  | Small Square | \$55.00           | \$20.00  | \$100.00 |
|                              | Large Square | \$73.00           | \$55.00  | \$100.00 |
|                              | Large Round  | \$66.00           | \$40.00  | \$94.00  |

## 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>.

|              |                   |  |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| August 4     | Harmony Arboretum | Fruits as Ornaments  |
| August 6     | Pulaski           | Oconto County Summer Beef Cow/Calf Meeting                 |
| August 13    | Pulaski           | Dairy Margin Protection Plan Meeting                       |
| August 15    | Gillett           | Oconto County Youth Fair—Small Animal and Horse Show       |
| August 22    | Wausaukee         | Marinette County Fair—Dog and Cat Show                     |
| August 22    | Spooner           | Spooner Sheep Day  |
| August 20-23 | Gillett           | Oconto County Fair   |
| August 25-27 | Sun Prairie       | Wisconsin Farm Technology Days—Dane County                 |
| August 27-30 | Wausaukee         | Marinette County Fair                                      |
| September 9  | Black Creek       | Start Them Right..Raise Them Right—Calf Management Meeting |
| September 11 | Kimberly          | Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals                |