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Oconto County

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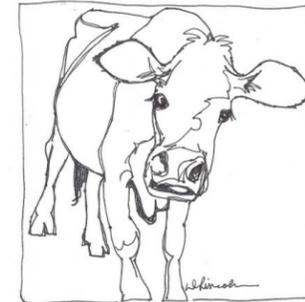
Oconto & Marinette County

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Agriculture Newsletter

December 2014



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Decisions are all around us, and this year is no exception to the rule. This year we have had the most significant changes in regards to the legislation for Implements of Animal Husbandry (Act 377) and the Farm Bill. As you will tell from reading through this newsletter, we have many upcoming meetings which mean more decisions for you to make in regards to how you will spend your time.

Some of the most significant decisions you will need to make for your farm operation are in regards to the Farm Bill. Elections for the Dairy Margin Protection Plan (DMPP) and the crop programs (ARC or PLC) may send your mind reeling; however, an upcoming meeting on December 12th in Lena may help you make informed decisions about crop coverage. If you are unable to commit to the December 12th meeting, more informational sessions about crop coverage will be hosted at the beginning of next year. If you have unanswered questions about DMPP, please feel free to call me as I would be happy to provide you with information.

As we approach the beginning of a new year, you may be re-evaluating your current operation in regards to expansion or employee training. Two noteworthy programs to draw your attention to in this newsletter would be the Dairy Modernization Meeting held in Green Bay on January 8th and Managing Dairy Employees Effectively, a bilingual two-day dairy manager training held in three different locations. Please note the deadlines for these events are quickly approaching, so take a minute to send in your completed registration.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Sarah Mills-Lloyd
Agriculture Agent—Specializing in Dairy and Livestock
Oconto County UW-Extension

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

Implements of Husbandry Producer Informational Session

What do the new Implements of Husbandry laws really mean for you as a producer, custom operator or anyone else driving agricultural machinery on public roadways?

Join UW-Extension of Marinette and Oconto Counties on Monday, December 8 at the Gillett Public Library starting at 7 pm to help you get answers to all the questions about Act 377. We will discuss weight limits, permits, lighting, marking and a few other nuances related to the new law.

There is no fee for attending this event, nor is pre-registration required. If you are unable to attend this meeting, we would be happy to send you information. Contact either Sarah or Scott for more information. We will also have additional meetings before cropping starts again next year.

Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meeting

The annual Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management Meeting will be held December 10th in Cecil at the Main Event. Current soil science research will be highlighted along with other topics of interest to agronomists, agriculture retailers, conservation professionals, and farmers. See Insert C for registration information.

Farm Service Agency Crop Program Information Meeting

December 12, 2014, 1:00PM

Lena Village Hall, 117 E Main St Lena, WI

The December 12th meeting will review acre and yield updating procedures, but will also include the decision-making process that all crop producers need to make regarding which program to sign their acres into—PLC or ARC. If you are unable to attend the December session, more informational sessions will be hosted in January and February of 2015.

Please call the Oconto-Marinette Farm Service Agency Office three days in advance to Pre-Register for the meeting 920-834-2366 Ext 2. This will allow FSA to have information for your farm operation available for you.

Farmland Rental Options Workshop

This annual workshop is recommended for owners of rented land. The focus is on land rent realities and options that can make land rental situations better for all parties involved with the emphasis on crop production economics.

The session is free and will be held on Tuesday, December 16, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Oconto Falls Community Library, located at 251 N. Main St. (Hwy. 22). Discussion will focus on the details that you should consider when negotiating a farm rental contract. Such details certainly include price, but other factors such as length of lease, any limitations you may place on the property, and many other aspects can all be negotiated into the contract. There are also many different leasing options available and Reuss will detail some of the advantages and disadvantages of different types of annual or multi-year leasing contracts.

Contract templates of multiple types will be available as handouts, ranging from extremely simple to more complex arrangements. The discussion will focus on basic cropland rental situations, but can expand to building leases, grazing land, and other situations which attendees are interested in discussing.

There is no fee for attending this program, nor is pre-registration required. If you have questions about these topics, contact Scott Reuss in the Marinette County office at 715-732-7510 or via e-mail at scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu or contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd in the Oconto office at 920-834-6845. Another good source of farmland leasing information is found at <http://www.aglease101.org/>

Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Training

All youth exhibiting market **beef, sheep, swine, poultry or meat goats** at the fair must attend a MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training every year. If you are not MAQA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2015 Oconto County Fair.

The MAQA trainings scheduled for this year:

Saturday, January 3 – Washington Middle School, Oconto Falls, 8:00-9:30 am

Tuesday, March 24 – Pound Town Hall, 7:00-8:30 pm

Saturday, April 25 – Washington Middle School, Oconto Falls, 2:30-4:00 pm

Registration for these trainings is requested at least two weeks prior to the event date. You can register online at: <http://goo.gl/PXQ45H> or by calling 920-834-6845.

The Pulaski FFA Chapter is also hosting one MAQA training on **Tuesday, May 19** – Pulaski High School Ag Room 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Registration for this training is requested two weeks prior to the event date. You can register via email at kmsanty@pulaskischools.org.

Exhibitors must attend the entire training to be certified. Please choose the date and location that works best for you! Please call Sarah Mills-Lloyd with any questions, 920-834-6845.

Dairy Modernization Meeting “Building Our Dairy Future”

Thirty years ago, what was considered “dairy modernization” typically was adding stall at the end of the barn. Today, it describes major capital investments involving not just construction and cows, but permits, licenses and finances.

Dairy modernization is a long-term commitment, both personally and financially. Join us as we navigate through the water for a dairy modernization project that will help build your dairy future and set you on the road to success.

This meeting will take place on January 8th at The Ravine in Green Bay, and will host Dr. Nigel Cook, Professor of Medical Sciences and Food Animal Production Medicine from the University of Wisconsin—School of Veterinary Medicine. He will be speaking on ‘Transitions for Fresh Cows’ and ‘How to Milk 100 Pounds Per Cow Per Day’. Registration for this event is \$30 per person and the deadline to register for this event is December 29th. Please see Insert D for more information about this program or contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd with any questions, 920-834-6845.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Scott Reuss, Marinette County Agriculture Extension Agent, will be hosting training and testing sessions for the private pesticide applicator training program starting on January 16th. The training sessions will begin at 10 am with an optional half-hour discussion of Farm Bill and Crop Insurance Programs starting at 9:30 am. Please see Insert H for information on how to register for this training.

Managing Dairy Employees Effectively

Effective employee management is a critical aspect of any successful agribusiness. The challenge of training good managers is important to the profitability of any business. In this two day workshop, attendees will have an opportunity to learn their own personality style and various ways to increase effective communication. All of which are important to managing employees and dealing with conflict.

This two-day bilingual dairy manager training on employee management will be hosted at 3 locations. Please see Insert E/F for more information and registration.

Midwest Manure Summit

UW-Extension invites you to join producers and professionals from across the country at the Midwest Manure Summit on February 24 & 25, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Midwest Manure Summit is a two-day conference for farmers and agri-business professionals focusing on the processing and handling of manure.

As we know, managing manure can be a challenge for many farming operations. New technologies are being developed and employed to effectively and productively use manure in both agricultural and energy production systems. During the two-day summit, experts from across the country will discuss the latest techniques and methods for handling manure on farms of all sizes.

Please mark your calendar and join us for this great event! For more information or to register, please visit: www.midwestmanure.com.

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>.

December 4	Ripon Area	Soybean Conference
December 8	Gillett Public Library	Implements of Husbandry Meeting
December 10	Cecil	Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meetings
December 12	Lena	FSA Program Workshop
December 16	Oconto Falls	Land Renting Workshop
January 3	Oconto Falls	MAQA Training
January 7	Kimberly	Agronomy Update
January 8	Green Bay	Dairy Modernization Meeting ‘Building Our Dairy Future’
January 14	Kelly Lake	Farm Bureau Meeting: Farm Succession
January 16	Coleman	Private Pesticide Applicator Training
February 3	Oconto Falls	Private Pesticide Applicator Training
February 24-25	Green Bay	Midwest Manure Summit
February 25	Coleman	Private Pesticide Applicator Training
March 12	Oconto Falls	Private Pesticide Applicator Training
March 24	Coleman	MAQA Training

Weekly Hay Price Report as of November 21, 2014

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

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	230.00	230.00	230.00
	Large Square	232.15	130.00	305.00
	Large Round	161.71	80.00	180.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	156.88	120.00	210.00
	Large Round	125.31	100.00	160.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	113.13	100.00	132.50
	Large Round	91.87	75.00	100.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	105.00	90.00	110.00
	Large Round	No reported sales		