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We are on the web!
<http://oconto.uwex.edu>

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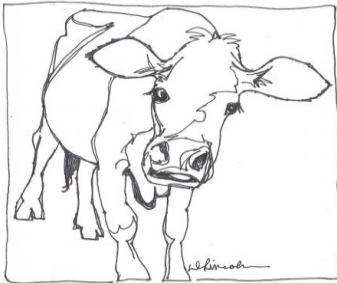
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Agriculture Newsletter

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From the Desk of Oconto County Agriculture Agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd

The high temperatures in combination with the humidity were something to reckon with at the end of July. It was certainly a display of the large variances in temperatures we can experience in Wisconsin in any given year.

The weather may not be the only thing causing frustrations to rise on Wisconsin dairy farms this year. The low milk price may also be affecting the temperament of farmers as it seems there is no end in sight as to when to expect the price to swing in a higher direction.

Resources are available to help farmers work through stressful times such as these. Scott Reuss, Marinette County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, and Nancy Swenty, Farm Service Agency, will be holding two sessions on the Dairy Margin Protection Program. These sessions will be hosted at the FSA offices in Lena and Shawano to help you make an informed decision about this program as the deadline for sign-up is September 30. For more information please see the event information on page 4 of this newsletter.

During these economic times, it can be challenging to keep a positive optimistic attitude. However know UW-Extension is here to help you become an informed, successful, sustainable farm for future generations. Please know information from one-on-one farm consultations is confidential and will not be shared.

If you have questions about how we may be able to assist you and your farm, please do not hesitate to call my office (920) 834-6845.

Sarah Mills-Lloyd

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

CALENDAR OF LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

August 1		Enrollment Deadline of ARCPLC
August 2	Gillett	Breeze into Learning
August 2	Arlington	Beef Grazing Field Day
August 2	Oconto Falls	Pasture Walk at Seifarms Organic Grassfed Beef, LLC
August 3	Gillett	Educational Point Goat Clinic for Youth
August 3	Harmony	Soil Health in the Garden
August 4-14	West Allis	Wisconsin State Fair
August 6	Harmony	Art in the Garden
August 9	Lena	Dairy Margin Protection Program
August 11	Harmony	Prairie Walk
August 16	Crivitz	Mid & Early Career Dairy Producer & Agribusiness Professionals Get-Together
August 16	Harmony	Insect Hotel
August 17-21	Gillett	Oconto County Youth Fair
August 19	Shawano	Dairy Margin Protection Program
August 25-28	Wausaukee	Marinette County Fair
August 30	Harmony	Cooking with Garlic & Onions
August 30	Lancaster	Wisconsin Cover Crops Conference
August 31	Arlington	Agronomy/Soils Field Day
September 8	Florence	Harvest Party & Harvesting/Storage of Vegetables
September 16	Kimberly	Farm Management Update for Agribusiness Professionals
September 30		Enrollment Deadline of MPP
October 1		Barn Quilts of Oconto County Road Rally

WEEKLY HAY PRICE REPORT AS OF JULY 12, 2016

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

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$212.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
	Large Square	\$168.00	\$130.00	\$205.00
	Large Round	\$158.00	\$150.00	\$165.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$156.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
	Large Square	\$124.00	\$63.00	\$150.00
	Large Round	\$72.00	\$50.00	\$90.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
	Large Square	\$96.00	\$50.00	\$160.00
	Large Round	\$55.00	\$40.00	\$83.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Large Round	\$38.00	\$30.00	\$58.00

Resources for Wisconsin Farmers

Wisconsin Farm Center

www.datcp.state.wi.us

Keyword search: Wisconsin Farmer Resource Guide or call (800) 942-2474 to visit with the knowledgeable staff who provide everything from financial consultation to animal health.

UW-Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources

<http://anre.uwex.edu>

Resources and links at your fingertips.

Farmer to Farmer

<http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>

Connects Wisconsin farmers with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage.

UW-Extension Dairy Resources

Dairy—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/>

Milk Quality—

<http://milkquality.wisc.edu>

Dairy Calf & Heifer Management—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/heifermgmt/>

UW-Extension Livestock

Livestock—

<http://anre.uwex.edu/teams/livestock/>

Beef—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/>

Horse—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/horse/>

Poultry—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/poultry/>

Sheep/Goats—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/>

Swine—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/swineextension/>

Small Farm Resources—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/smallfarms/>

Grazing—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/grazres/>

Youth Livestock—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/>

Assessing the Economic Value of a Cow

- Knowing the cow value is crucial for optimal dairy farm decision making.
- The value of a cow decreases when the cow:
 - Remains non-pregnant through lactation;
 - Suffers an abortion;
 - Gets older in successive lactations;
 - Gets sick or injured;
 - Is expected to produce less than the other cows in the herd.
- The value of a cow increases when the cow:
 - Becomes pregnant;
 - Is expected to produce more than the other cows in the herd;
 - Remains healthy.
- The most important factors in determining the economic value of a cow is the expectancy of the future performance of the evaluated cow and the potential replacement.
- Herd factors such as reproductive performance/turnover ratio, milk price or feed costs have only limited impact on the relative economic value of a dairy cow.
- A online user-friendly decision support tool is available to assess the value of a cow using farm specific information can be found at:

http://dev.ikimun.com/tools/cow_value_resp/newindex.php

Source: V.E. Cabrera, UW-Madison Dairy Science

Livestock Comfort at the Fair

Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist
University of Wisconsin—Madison

July 2012
UW
Extension

Hot, Hot, Hot...

This year's fair season seems to have started off not favorable for man or beast, with the high heat and humidity. A hot fair leaves fair exhibitors looking for coolness for both themselves and their fair animals. When temperatures reach above 80 degrees and the relative humidity is above 65 percent, comfort is certainly compromised. This kind of weather can be especially deadly for swine, as they have non-functioning sweat glands. Here are some suggestions to keep your animals cool.

Signs of heat stress:

Animals under stress will be uncomfortable, much like we are when enduring this heat. General signs of stress are: panting, open mouth breathing, excessive salivation, lack of coordination, trembling, inability to stand, and high rectal temperature. During a heat wave it is difficult for animals to maintain their normal body temperature. Research indicates as the heat and humidity increases during the heat of the day so does the body temperature of animals. If the heat and humidity continue during the evening hours and for many days, the animal can't recover to its normal body temperature.

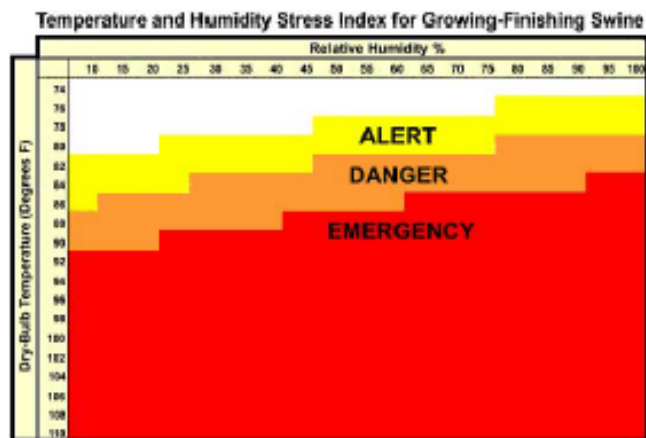


Chart courtesy of Iowa State University

(The stress chart was included for swine as they are the most sensitive to heat due to no sweat glands.)

Transportation of animals:

Before transportation make sure the animals have been hydrated and sprinkle animals with water. Use wet shavings for bedding, never use straw. Straw acts as an insulator. Transport animals during the coolest part of the day, such as early morning or late evening. Haul as few animals as possible, don't crowd animals in the trailer. In the trailer, unplug ventilation holes. Load and unload promptly. Fairs may need to adjust their schedule of arrival and departure of animals to accommodate the cooler part of the day.

Barns at the fair:

There should be ample ventilation within the barns at the fair. When heat and humidity can't be lowered, more air movement across people and animals can help remove heat, and lower heat stress. To run the amount of fans that would be needed to create air movement, more electrical use maybe

needed. Thus generators might be needed for supplemental electricity and located away from spectators as they are noisy and distracting. If animals are located on the outside edge of a barn where sunlight shows, use tarps to shade the morning or afternoon light. Make sure it isn't trapping heat, making the situation worse.



At the fair:

Check in is a situation where fair staff should consider an alternative time for weighing, ultrasounding, etc. of animals. Facilities should lend themselves to a low stress environment and the process should be quick and effortless. The show also might need to be conducted at an alternative time. Moving the show into the evening hours could be advantageous. Water animals and utilize electrolytes if needed to get animals to drink. Allow access to water at all times, without them making a mess of their pen. Rinse animals to keep cool. It might be easier and less stressful to rinse them in their pen rather than taking them to a wash rack numerous times throughout the day. Early release of animals from the fair may need to be considered. Loadout procedures should be followed as stated earlier. Animal grouping should be another consideration if possible. Don't put as many animals in a pen and leave some distance between tied animals in the barn. Your #1 responsibility at the fair are you and your animals, therefore it is crucial to be there early in the morning till late at night managing them. While the fair is time for fun and friends, these conditions could be life threatening for your animals. Pay attention and have a great fair experience.

References:

Trucker Quality Assurance, National Pork Board
Providing Livestock Comfort at the County Fair, Ohio State University Fact Sheet
Heat Stress, Fairs, and Achievement Days: Animal Considerations, South Dakota State University Extension Fact Sheet

Reviewed by: David Kammel, UW Madison Biological Systems Engineering

UW Extension Wisconsin Youth Livestock © 2012
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/>
An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin—Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

EVENTS, DEADLINES AND NOTES

Upcoming Horticulture Programs

All events are free, unless noted.

Harmony Arboretum Programs: The following programs are all held at the Harmony Arboretum, within the Demonstration Gardens. Programs are held rain or shine as there is a pavilion. The entrance to the demonstration garden is located ½ mile south of Hwy 64 on Marinette County Hwy E, which is 7 miles west of Marinette, or about 10 miles east of Hwy 141.

Soil Health in the Garden (August 3, 6:30pm)

Soil health is critical to optimum plant growth and health. Learn how to use cover crops and other soil management techniques effectively in the garden to maximize production potential.

Art in the Garden (August 6, 9am-Noon)

Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers lead various demonstrations and hands-on workshops focused on art and creativity in the garden. Fees may apply if you wish to participate in certain projects.

Prairie Walk (August 11, 6-8pm)

Stroll the 17-acre prairie at Harmony Arboretum with local native plant enthusiasts. Spend an evening learning what constitutes a prairie and why people are creating or restoring them.

Insect Hotel (August 16, 6-7:30pm)

A hands-on workshop for youth to build an insect hotel for their home, as well as for Harmony Arboretum. Learn why they can be so good for your landscape.

Cooking with Garlic & Onions (August 30, 6-8:00pm)

Experience the possibilities with garlic, onions, and their relatives as you taste test the dozens of different cultivars grown at Harmony in 2016 and learn more about cooking with them and preserving them.

Florence-Crossroads Community Garden Programs

Harvest Party & Harvesting/Storage of Vegetables (September 8, 4-7pm)

Pasture Walk

Seifarm Organic Grassfed Beef, LLC—Ken and Gayle Seidl
W455 Carlson Lane, Oconto Falls
August 2, 2016 10am -Noon

Ken and Gayle mob graze 55 head of organic, grass-fed beef during the growing season. The beef are overwintered outdoors on baled hay. In addition, the Seidls custom graze 30 head of Holstein heifers from May 1 to December 1.

(Continued page 4)

The Seidls will discuss their pasture and animal management strategies, as well their approach to direct marketing their products. We will also explore the impacts of mob grazing on soil health and forage quality.

This is an informal walk and talk, so wear your boots and come with questions!

Educational Goat Clinic for Youth Producers

Clinic is open to all youth. The clinic will be held at the Oconto County Fairgrounds in Gillett on August 3 at 4pm. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please contact Carol Nelson (920)855-2873.

Dairy Margin Protection Program

Making it work for your farm in 2016

Tuesday, August 9th @ 1 pm - Lena FSA/USDA offices
Tuesday, August 16th @ 10 am - Shawano FSA/USDA offices

Program: + FSA deadlines and other news & notes - Nancy Swenty, Farm Services Agency
+ Understanding the Dairy Margin Protection Program - Scott Reuss, UW-Extension
+ MPP as one part of your risk management protocol
+ 2017 economic projections and impacts on your farm's MPP decision

The MPP registration deadline for 2017 coverage is September 30. Whether you were one of the 6600 WI dairy farms enrolled in 2016 or are considering it first for 2017, either of these workshops will give you the information you need to make an informed decision on your coverage options for 2017.

Mid & Early Career Dairy Producer & Agribusiness Professionals

Mid & Early Career Dairy Producer & Agribusiness Professionals Get-Together Oconto, Shawano and Marinette Counties Wednesday, August 16 - 7:00pm Joe and Ashley Dudkiewicz Farms - 1325 2nd Ave - Crivitz. Enjoy a farm and pasture tour led by Joe and Ashley and discussion of parasite control as it relates to beef and dairy operations. Refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to attend and registration is not required. Questions? Contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd at (920)834-6845 or Jamie Patton at (715)526-6136

Corn Silage Harvest

Corn silage harvest usually starts about 50 days after tasseling, thus first maturing fields may be ready to go by about Labor Day, with the majority of fields probably being ready in the two week time period from September 7 to September 21. The next newsletter will be available prior to the start of corn silage testing, but the anticipated first day of corn silage dry down will be either August 31 or September 1. For more information, please call Scott Reuss.

Spoooner Sheep Day

The 64th Annual Spoooner Sheep Day will be held at the Spoooner Agricultural Research Station on **Saturday, August 27, 2016**. Registration will open at 8:30 am at the Station Headquarters (W6646 Hwy 70, Spoooner, WI 54801). The educational program will start at 9:15 am and end at approximately 3:30 pm.

It is very likely that the 2016 event will be the **last** Spoooner Sheep Day because the sheep are to be sold in October 2016 due to severe budget cuts to the UW System. The Spoooner Agricultural Research Station was established in 1908 and is the oldest of the several agricultural research stations operated throughout Wisconsin by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sheep were introduced to the Spoooner Station in 1936 and the first sheep field day was held in 1953. The Spoooner Sheep Day is thought to be the longest-running agricultural field day of the several held each year by CALs.

This year's program will be a look back and a celebration of the accomplishments and impact of the Spoooner sheep program. The program is not yet finalized, but confirmed speakers include:

Dr. Richard "Dick" Vatthauer - Emeritus Professor and former Beef and Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Madison

Dr. Sherwood "Woody" Lane - previous Beef and Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Madison and current grazing consultant, Roseburg, Oregon

Robert "Bob" Rand, former Superintendent, Spoooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Yves Berger, Emeritus Sheep Researcher and former Superintendent, Spoooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Philip "Phil" Holman, Current Superintendent, Spoooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Laurel Kieffer, Dairy Sheep Producer and President, Dairy Sheep Association of North America, Strum, WI

Duane Klindworth, Sheep Producer and Immediate Past President, Indianhead Sheep Breeders Association, Augusta, WI

Dr. Maristela Rovai, previous post-doctoral student at Spoooner Ag Research Station and current Dairy (Cattle) Extension Specialist, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Dr. Claire Sandrock, previous M.S. and Ph.D. graduate student at Spoooner Ag Research Station and current *Program Manager, Center for Special Children, Vernon Memorial Healthcare, LaFarge, WI*

Alexa Roscizewski, undergraduate student, Department of Animal Sciences, UW-Madison and current Summer Sheep Intern at Spoooner Ag Research Station

Dr. David "Dave" Thomas, Professor of Sheep Management and Genetics, UW-Madison

Check in the near future for a complete schedule at the UW-Madison Sheep and Goat Extension Web Site: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/> or the web site of the Spoooner Ag Research Station: <http://spoooner.ars.wisc.edu/>, or contact Lorraine Toman at the Spoooner Agricultural Research Station (spoooner@cals.wisc.edu, 715-635-3735) or Dave Thomas at UW-Madison (dlthomas@wisc.edu, 608-263-4306) for additional information.

IMPORTANT: Pre-Registration Required - Pre-registration for this event is **required** with a deadline of **August 19, 2016**. Contact Lorraine Toman at the Spoooner Agricultural Research Station at 715-635-3735 or spoooner@cals.wisc.edu to register. Space may be limited. Attendance at the educational sessions is free, but a nominal fee will be charged for a delicious lamb lunch.

Beef Grazing Field Day

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

1-5pm

Arlington Research Station

FREE to attend

Sponsored by: Harold and Lucille Volland Fund at the
UW-Foundation for Beef Cattle Outreach Programs

Speakers:

- Christine Nieman– Graduate Student, UW-Madison
Animal Sciences Department
- Dan Schaefer– Professor, UW-Madison Animal
Sciences Department
- Sandy Stuttgen– Taylor County UW-Extension
Agriculture Agent and Veterinarian
- Panel of area beef farmers

Please register so we know how many to plan for:

<http://bit.ly/29LWhAR> or call or email Jennifer Blazek at 608-224-3717 or
jennifer.blazek@ces.uwex.edu

*This field day will focus on showcasing research being done at
UW-Madison and how beef producers can use this information
in their own operations!*

Agenda

1-1:40pm: Introduction

1:40-1:50pm: Travel to Fields

2-3:20pm: Field Walk

3:20-3:30pm: Travel back to Public
Events Building

3:30pm-3:45pm: Break

3:45-4:15pm: Farmer Panel

4:15-4:50pm: Parasite Presentation

4:50-5pm: Wrap-Up and Adjourn



SCENIC ROAD RALLY

OCONTO COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

SATURDAY, OCT 1ST 2016



BLAZE YOUR OWN PATH
(in a car, motorcycle or ?) across our barn quilt trail on a historic and scenic tour of OCONTO COUNTY.

FREE FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY TO ENJOY THE FALL COLORS & BEAUTIFUL BARNs IN OCONTO COUNTY

9:00 AM...the map and rally info will be available at select Oconto County businesses

9:30 AM...the map and rally info will be made available on our website barnquiltsfocontocontyroadrally.weebly.com

PRIZES/REWARDS & REFRESHMENTS
for all participants...
rendezvous at New View Industries @ 2:00 PM

- Coordinated by:
- BARN QUILTS OF OCONTO COUNTY
 - NEW VIEW INDUSTRIES
 - OCONTO COUNTY TOURISM DEPARTMENT
 - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION - OCONTO COUNTY

