



FARM BUSINESS NEWS

Outagamie County Agriculture – 832-5119

September-October, 2009

Calendar of Events

September

- 9 Noon **Corn Silage Dry Down**, Dave & Lisa Loos, Appleton (info inside) KJ
- 11 10 am **Farm Management Update Seminar**, Liberty Hall, (call 832-5119 for brochure) ZM
- 12-14 8 am **NE Youth Livestock Show**, Outagamie County Fairgrounds, Seymour ZM
- 16 Noon **Corn Silage Dry Down**, Scenic Valley Co-op, Seymour (info inside) KJ
- 17 10 a.m **Start Them Right...Raise Them Right** calf meeting, Kewaunee (info inside) ZM
- 23 Noon **Corn Silage Dry Down**, Larsen Co-op, Center Valley (info inside) KJ
- 25-Oct 3 **World Dairy Expo**, Madison ZM
- 30 Noon **Corn Silage Dry Down**, UW-Extension, Appleton (info inside) KJ

October

- 20 10-Noon **Ag Clean Sweep**, Outagamie County Fairgrounds, Seymour KJ & ZM

November

- TBA **Two Barn Meetings** – To be announced
- 17 **Milking System Seminar**, Liberty Hall

Greetings Producers,

July 28, 29, and 30 were the dates, 1981 was the year...If you have lived and worked your life here in Outagamie County you may remember this as the last time that Outagamie County hosted Wisconsin Farm Technology Days (formerly Wisconsin Farm Progress Days). While a lot has changed in the three decades that have past, some things have not. The fact that Agriculture was the backbone of this county back then and remains so today suggests our producers have adapted to the changing conditions under which they farm. While it is true we have lost some farmland since Farm Technology Days was last here, we also now have a more highly developed urbanized infrastructure to support the hotel, restaurant, and transportation needs associated with all of the people who will make their way to Outagamie County in 2012 to be a part of this event.

When you hear people talk about the good old days, one must wonder if they are referring to the prices advertised in the Farm Progress Days Souvenir Edition of the Kaukauna Times dated July 23, 1981. Thursday night Tenderloin and Crab would have set you back \$6.95 while Friday Fish was a catch at \$3.95, Hamburgers were \$0.40 each. However, not all in the past is worth yearning for (depending on what side of the coin you are on)...interest rates were openly advertised at 16-18%! One thing we do hope is that whether you are interested in applying as a potential host farm or simply looking to be involved in a smaller role, that you take pride in the fact that the premier state agricultural farm show will be once again calling Outagamie County home in 2012.

Enclosed you will find information about the farm selection process. It is important to note our host family farm(s) will without a doubt have a huge impact on the success of the overall show, but more importantly it will be the volunteers in partnership with our host(s) that will ensure a successful event. All interested farms must have their applications postmarked by **September 23rd** if they would like to be considered as a possible host site. (KJ)



Going Green, Saving Money, Newsletter Format

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days 2012 Seeking Host Farms in Outagamie County

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days (WFTD) will once again be returning to Outagamie County in 2012 and the Outagamie County WFTD 2012 Executive Committee is seeking host farm(s) for the largest in-state farm show. Kevin Jarek, Executive Secretary of the event, indicates the show will take place on July 17-19 and will attract more than 80,000 visitors to the county. It has been 31 years since Outagamie County last hosted the event in July of 1981.

All farms are eligible to host the event as long as they meet the criteria outlined by the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Executive committee. Some of these requirements include 450 total tillable acres to accommodate tent city, field demonstrations, and traffic as a result of the tens of thousands expected to attend the show each day. The rest of the requirements are outlined in the Site Selection Criteria document located at www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/outagamie

All interested farms must have their applications postmarked on or before **Wednesday, September 23, 2009**. There are three groups which will evaluate the applications – a committee of representatives from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at UW-Madison, the State WFTD Executive Committee, and the Outagamie County WFTD 2012 Executive Committee. All eligible farms are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants can view and print an application from the Outagamie County UW-Extension website www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/outagamie or contact the UWEX office to have an application sent to them.

There is a strong agricultural industry here in Outagamie County and the WFTD Executive Committee would like to showcase the high quality dairy and crop operations that call this county home. If you feel your farm operation would represent the county well, we would encourage you to apply.

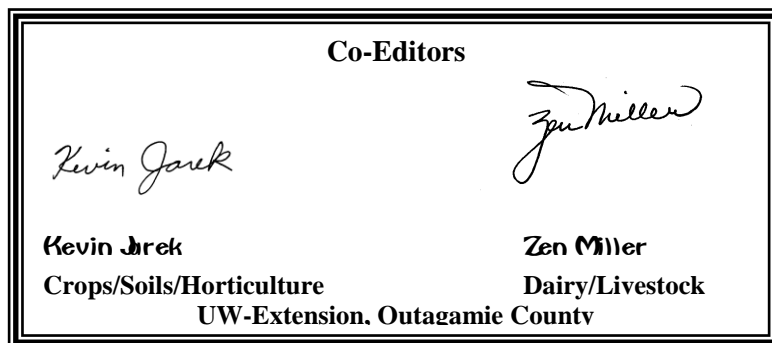
There will also be a need for volunteers to assist with the planning of the event, so even if you are not interested in hosting the show, there will be opportunities for individuals and families to become involved in other parts of the process.

If you have any questions about potentially hosting Farm Technology Days 2012 or would simply like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, you may contact Kevin at the UW-Extension office at 920-832-5119 or via e-mail at kevin.jarek@ces.uwex.edu (KJ)

In an effort to improve service, speed, accessibility, and reduce cost, I am writing about receiving the UW Extension Farm Business News electronically, or going to the UW-Extension/Outagamie County website to get our newsletter. We would like to improve readership yet deliver the contents in the best possible way for each producer. So here are the current options that are available:

1. Continue to receive the newsletter by mail. You do nothing and it comes by mail 4-5 times per year. Because of new mail regulations the newsletter will not be stapled and in a slightly different format.
2. Receive the newsletter electronically. To do this you contact me at zen.miller@ces.uwex.edu and tell me you want it sent electronically. I will send you an email with a link to our newsletter as it is finished. Upside, it comes quick, no paper or mailing cost, you can store it in your computer for future reference. Downside, you have to print if you want a hard copy, formatting may not be the same with different computers and software, if you have dial-up service this might take a while, your inbox may need to have a certain size to receive the newsletter.

Of course you can always go to our website at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/outagamie> and look at all the program areas and the information listed there. You will find a wide variety of information, calendars, links to other information and tools to help you make decisions that affect your business and family. Thanks for working with us on this optional newsletter delivery. We hope to provide helpful timely information in a convenient, quick format that fits your operation and lifestyle. (ZM)



Some Thoughts on Winter Wheat Planting for Fall 2009...

- 1. Stay Off of Wheat on Wheat Acreage if Possible.** There was more disease out in the wheat fields this year than some of the recent past growing seasons. However, the greatest percentage of calls I took from producers about Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) (also simply known as scab) was tied to acreage where they chose to grow wheat on wheat. I understand that some of this happened because producers were waiting on their soybeans to mature last year and instead of planting after beans were off, producers simply went back into their wheat fields. Crop rotation is still a very cheap form of integrated pest management that will reduce the chances that your crop will be affected severely by any given pest or disease.
- 2. Planting Bin Run Seed in 2008 was Not a Good Idea, nor is it a Good Idea in 2009.** Last year I know there was a relatively short seed supply from the major brand companies and everybody was after wheat seed in any shape or form. Due to the drop in price of wheat, the demand has cooled off and producers should not have any trouble being able to get certified seed to plant in 2009. Bin run seed is also more susceptible to FHB or scab due to reduced vigor and disease resistance. The worst case scenarios were bin run seed on wheat on wheat acreage which resulted in some less than 50 bu. yields. You should only be planting wheat that has a high germination %....85% or higher.
- 3. Planting Date Does Matter.** This one is always tricky because if you want to plant early in September, you are likely going to increase your exposure to Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYD). Generally, we do not recommend that you plant before **September 20th** here in Northeast Wisconsin. However, once you get past the first week of October we begin to become concerned about whether or not there will be enough growing degree days to get the crop established before freeze up. Anyone who plants wheat has probably seen BYD virus. The crop looks yellow green (almost nitrogen deficient) and usually has a lot of top growth because of the early date at which it was planted. Forget about the top growth, all studies

have shown that once infected you are going to be giving up grain yield next summer at harvest. There have been years where producers have gotten away with planting in November and done o.k. Last year, the lack of rain and cold weather combined with a late planting date led to many producers taking a 30 bu. or more hit on yield if they were stuck waiting for their beans to come off.

- 4. Nitrogen Management is Important.** Nitrogen can be applied in a split application. This spring some producers never had a window to apply supplemental N. In cases where there were 70 tillers per square foot the crop still did o.k. Unfortunately some of the fields I checked before harvest did not have 50 tillers/sq. ft. If you are working with a sandy soil it is difficult to put a significant amount of N out in the fall knowing there is a high potential for leaching/volatilization (which isn't an environmentally sound), however, for those with heavier textured soils you may want to consider what happens if we have another year where you never get that N applied because of weather/field conditions. The total amount of nitrogen is tied to the % of Organic Matter (OM) in your soil. If your soil is less than 2% OM, you should be looking at approximately 90 units; 2%-9.9% OM would suggest 70 units should be adequate. ¼ lb. of sulfur per bushel is also recommended on our lighter/sandy textured soils. (KJ)

Where Can I find Information about Winter-Wheat Varieties for Planting?

Although our growing season did not allow producers to obtain the yields they have experienced over the last few years, many will be making decisions about what variety of wheat to be planting shortly. Each year the University of Wisconsin publishes performance data on multiple varieties from participating companies. The unbiased information is usually available far enough in advance so serious growers can evaluate what particular company and variety gives them the best opportunity to maximize their yields. The guide can be downloaded from the UW Soybean and Small Grains Research website at <http://soybean.uwex.edu> or picked up at the UWEX office when it becomes available. (KJ)



The Outagamie County Forage Council,
Outagamie County UW-Extension and
Fox Valley Technical College will once again jointly sponsor
four **2009 Corn Silage Dry Down** events.
Dates and locations are listed below, time for all Dry Down
events are 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. or when samples are finished.

Wednesday, September 9 - 12:00 noon

Dave & Lisa Loos, N2836 Greenwood Road, Appleton

Wednesday, September 16- 12:00 noon

Scenic Valley Cooperative, 354 Morrow Street, Seymour

Wednesday, September 23 – 12:00 noon

Larsen Cooperative Company, W5394 Center Valley Road, Black Creek

Wednesday, September 30 -12:00 noon

UW-Extension Office, 3365 W Brewster Street, Appleton

For more information contact:

Kevin Jarek

Crops/Soils/Horticulture
UW-Extension, Outagamie Cty
920-832-5119

Zen Miller

Dairy/Livestock
UW-Extension, Outagamie Cty
920-832-5119

Nile Beck

Farm Training Instructor
FVTC
920-734-7454

Larry Dieck

Farm Training Instructor
FVTC
715-823-8326

Jeremy Hanson

Farm Training Instructor
FVTC
920-735-2597

University of Wisconsin – United State Department of Agriculture – Outagamie County Cooperating
“UW-Extension Provides Equal Opportunities in Employment and Programming – Including Title IX Requirements.”

Forage Council to Conduct Corn Silage Dry-downs

The Outagamie County Forage Council will once again be partnering with Fox Valley Technical College to sponsor four corn silage dry-down events. Producers are encouraged to bring 4-6 representative stalks (not taken from the headlands and cut at the height you intend to chop) from each field they wish to have tested. Each dry-down will begin at 12:00 p.m. and conclude around 3:00 p.m. or when samples are finished. Koster testers will be used to determine moistures and usually take about 15-20 minutes or so for each sample. Because of our wide range of planting dates and maturities due to spring planting delays, we strongly suggest that producers monitor whole plant moistures, as this will prove to be the best indicator as to when harvest should begin. Producers hosting dry-downs this year are included on the attached schedule.

We will have a **meal and short meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd** at Larsen Co-op (Center Valley) where Zen Miller, UW-Extension Dairy and Livestock agent will discuss feeding strategies for some of the forages we may have to work with this winter and we will also share information about **tillage radishes** which can be used as a crop to alleviate compaction.

Results from each of these dry-downs will be shared with Mike Austin, WTAQ/WFRV and posted on the Corn Silage Dry-down website no later than 1 day after the event. Producers can access the silage dry-down website at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/silagedrydown/> (KJ)

Staph aureus Found on Nearly 50% of U.S. Operations

Source: 2008 NMC Annual Meeting Proceedings, p.170-171 (Lombard et al)

During 2007, the USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducted the "Dairy 2007" study in 17 of the top US dairy producing states. These states were divided into two regions: West (California, Idaho, New Mexico, Texas and Washington) and East (Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia & Wisconsin). Herds were categorized by number of milk cows on hand: small herds (30-99 cows), medium herds (100-499 cows) and large herds (500+ cows).

The primary component of the study survey was the administration of multiple questionnaires used to determine dairy cattle health and management practices. An additional component of the study included sampling and culturing bulk tank milk for three contagious mastitis pathogens – *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Mycoplasma*.

Staph. Aureus was found on 43% of operations and was the most prevalent of the three contagious mastitis pathogens. There were no significant prevalence differences by herd size or region. *Strep agalactiae* was isolated from 2.6% of operations with no significant differences in prevalence by herd size or region. *Mycoplasma* was isolated from 3.2% of operations. Prevalence did not differ by region but did differ by herd size, increasing as herd size increased (bulk tank milk on 1.8% of small operations and 14.4% of large operations test positive for *Mycoplasma*). (ZM)

Udder Topics – The NMC Newsletter – May-June, 2009

Sampling Corn Silage Fields To Accurately Determine Moisture By Joe Lauer, University of Wisconsin Corn Agronomist

Corn must be ensiled at the proper moisture to get fermentation for preservation. But, determining when to harvest corn at the right whole plant moisture is difficult. Each storage structure properly ensiles at slightly different moisture optimums. Harvesting corn too wet for the storage structure will result in reduced yield, souring and seepage of the ensilage, and low intake by dairy cows. Harvesting too dry reduces yield, can cause mold to develop, and lowers digestibility, protein and vitamins A and E.

The first step is to note the order in which you planted your fields. Next note silking dates of the field to project calendar days to when a field will mature. Once corn silks, approximately 55 to 60 days is required to achieve maturity at R6 or the "black layer" stage (Ritchie et al., 1993). Development during grain filling is influenced by temperature, but not as much as during the vegetative leaf emergence stages. Instead the number of days between pollination and a killing frost influence the time to maturity. So if an average killing frost occurs October 1, then subtracting 55 to 60 days means that the crop must be silking by August 2-7. Silage harvest usually begins around 50% kernel milk which is 42 to 47 days after silking, so silking must occur by August 15-20; but remember that the timing of silage harvest is dependent upon achieving the proper moisture for the storage structure. By noting the order that fields silk it will help plan the harvest queue of your fields and scheduling of custom choppers.

The next plant indicator that determines the order of fields to harvest is movement of the kernel milkline. Once kernel milkline begins to move, measure moisture of fields intended to be harvested for silage. When you begin testing you will likely be too wet, but you will have an indication of how quickly drydown is occurring when the next sampling date takes place.

START THEM RIGHT...RAISE THEM RIGHT

Calf Management Seminar for Calf Growers and Dairy Producers

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Pagel's Ponderosa (Clyde Hill Farm) - E5318 County E, Kewaunee, WI 54216

- 9:30 a.m. Registration (milk, coffee and rolls available)
- 10:00 a.m. Calf Health Management
Sheila McGuirk, DVM, University of Wisconsin
School of Veterinary Medicine
- 11:00 a.m. Solving Calf Respiratory Problems with Improved Ventilation
Brian Holmes, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 11:45 a.m. LUNCH
- 12:30 p.m. Troubleshooting Calf Operations
Ann Hoskins, Calf Management Specialist
Vita Plus Corporation, Madison
- 1:00 p.m. Dairy Quality Assurance
Aerica Opatik, University of Wisconsin-Extension
Kewaunee County Agriculture Agent
- 1:30 p.m. Facility Tour with Learning Stations
Sheila McGuirk—Calf Health SOPs
Brian Holmes—Ventilation Demonstration
Ann Hoskins—Troubleshooting Calf/Pen Issues



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Start Them Right...Raise Them Right - Registration September 17, 2009

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration fee: \$25.00 per person (Includes materials, meal and speaker fees)

Make check payable to: UW-Extension

Registration deadline: September 4, 2008

Mail to: Kewaunee County UW-Extension
Aerica Opatik
810 Lincoln Street
Kewaunee WI 54216

Or call: 920-388-7141

Please check one:

- Custom calf grower
 Dairy producer
 Dairy Worker/employee
 Agri-business professional
 Educator