Greetings Producers,
As you can see from the list above, it’s meeting time for northeastern Wisconsin farmers and ag professionals. Kevin is speaking on the new farm bill for grain, and dairy farmers have many opportunities to gain valuable information. More details inside! With lower commodities prices I have a list of 12 things to stay positive from Jon Gordon. 1. Stay positive; trust that with faith and an optimistic attitude all things are possible. 2. Take a morning walk and be grateful and thankful; prepare for the day. 3. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and supper like you are out of money. 4. Zoom Focus. What are the three most important things today? Make sure you do them. 5. Think about where you are going, not where you are now. 6. Get 8 hours of sleep. 7. Don’t waste time on gossip, energy vampires, past issues, negative thoughts, or things you can’t control. 8. There is no substitute for hard work. 9. Read more books. 10. Life is a gift, not an obligation; focus on what you “get to” do today. 11. Smile and laugh more. 12. Enjoy the ride. Best wishes as margins tighten.

Co-Editors
Kevin Jarek  Zen Miller
Crops/Soils/Horticulture  Dairy/Livestock
University of Wisconsin Extension - Outagamie County
All farmers need to make decisions about the new Farm Bill crop programs by Feb. 27. As a result, UW-Extension, in partnership with FSA and Fox Valley Technical College, will explain the options available in the new ARC/PLC farm bill provisions to farmers and other agricultural professionals later this month at several locations listed below.

Each workshop is approximately 2 hrs long. Registrations will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis. No fees or cost to attend...however, advance registration is required at least one week in advance (see registration on back side of this form).

Friday, January 23rd (1:00 PM) – Greg Blonde
Waupaca County Courthouse, 811 Harding Street Waupaca, WI 54981

Tuesday, January 27th (10:00 AM ...free meal 12 Noon) – Jamie Patton
North Winds Banquet Hall 1103 North Main Street, Marion, WI 54950
(Noon meal sponsored by Greenstone Farm Credit Services)

Tuesday, January 27th (1:00 PM ...free meal 12 noon) – Greg Blonde
Crystal Falls Hall, 1500 Handschke Drive, New London, WI 54961
(Noon meal sponsored by First State Bank)

Tuesday, January 27th (7:00 PM) – Kevin Jarek
Doxbee’s, N6744 County Road C, Seymour, WI 54165

Wednesday, January 28th (1:00 PM) – Kevin Jarek
Outagamie Co. FSA, 3369 West Brewster Street, Appleton, WI 54914

Wednesday, January 28th (7:00 PM) – Sara Maass-Pate
FVTC Center, 525 S. Main Street Clintonville, WI 54929

Don’t show-up in the FSA Offices later this winter not prepared to update your base acres, your payment yields, or to make your program selections. Once cropland is enrolled in ARC or PLC, it will remain enrolled in that program through 2018 or longer. So plan to attend one of these important educational sessions to learn more!
Registration Form - ARC/PLC Farm Bill Meetings:

Number of People Attending: ________________________________

Name(s): ________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________

Email Address: ___________________________________________

Phone # _________________________________________________

Circle One of the Following Locations You Plan to Attend:

Waupaca Co. Courthouse - Greg Blonde
Northwinds, Marion - Jamie Patton

Crystal Falls, New London - Greg Blonde
Doxbee’s, Seymour - Kevin Jarek

Outagamie Co. FSA – Kevin Jarek
FVTC, Clintonville – Sara Mass-Pate

To register, return this form or call the host county office listed below:

Kevin Jarek
Crops/Soils/Horticulture Agent
UW-Extension, Outagamie County
3365 W Brewster St., Appleton WI 54914
920-832-5119

Greg Blonde
Agriculture Agent
UW-Extension, Waupaca County
811 Harding Street, Waupaca WI 54981
715-258-6230

Sara Maass-Pate
Farm Business/Production Mgt. Inst.
FVTC-Clintonville Regional Center
525 S Main Street, Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-1547 Office
715-8563-9226 Mobile

Jamie Patton
Agriculture Agent
UW-Extension, Shawano County
Room 101 Courthouse
311 N Main Street, Shawano WI 54166
715-526-6136

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

9:30 A.M.  Registration

10:00 A.M.  Welcome by President Kyle Much & MFA Representative - Chelsea Russell

10:10 A.M.  Water Quality, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), & Agriculture’s Challenge Ahead
            Kevin Fermanich, UW-Green Bay, Professor, GeoScience & Environmental Science

10:55 A.M.  Understanding the Farm Bill Choices - ARC or PLC – Which One is Right for Me?
            2014 Wisconsin Alfalfa Yield and Persistence Project Results
            Kevin Jarek, UW-Extension-Outagamie County, Crops, Soils, & Horticulture Agent

11:50 A.M.  Lunch – Outagamie County Forage Council Youth Scholarship Presentation

12:10 P.M.  Maximizing Returns from Your Dairy and Crop Marketing Decisions in 2015
            Robin Schmahl, Dairy and Grain Consultant - AgDairy, LLC. Elkhart Lake, WI

1:40 P.M.  2014 Outagamie Forage Council Activities - Year in Review
            Annual Business Meeting & MFA Awards
            Adjourn

2:00 P.M.  Auction Fundraiser w/refreshments…

3:30 P.M.  Director’s Reorganization Meeting

2015 Outagamie County Forage Council Executive Board

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2015 Outagamie County Forage Council Registration Form

Name:_____________________________________________________ Phone Number:__________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________ City:_________________________ Zip:__________________________
E-mail address______________________________________________________________

Registration & Membership Payment Choices-Please Read Carefully

____ Midwest Forage Assn. & Outagamie County Forage Council Membership & Lunch @ $60.00=$____
____ Outagamie County Forage Council Membership & Lunch @ $30.00=$____
____ Midwest Forage Assn. & Outagamie County Forage Council Membership (Not Attending) @ $45.00=$____
____ Outagamie County Forage Council Membership (Not Attending) @ $15.00=$____
____ MFA members who renewed in December ($45 already paid to MFA) only need to buy lunch @ $15.00=$____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $____

CHECK PAYABLE TO: OUTAGAMIE COUNTY FORAGE COUNCIL
PLEASE RETURN BY WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28TH TO: UW-Extension – Forage Council
3365 W Brewster Street
Appleton, WI 54914
2015 Annual CAFO Meeting Update & Registration
An update meeting for WPDES permitted CAFO owners & managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers.

Green Bay, WI
February 3, 2015
Tundra Lodge Conference Center
865 Lombardi Avenue
$45 after January 26th

New London, WI
February 4, 2015
Crystal Falls
1500 Handschke Dr.
$45 after January 26th

Fond du Lac, WI
February 10, 2015
UW Fond du Lac
400 University Dr.
$45 after February 2nd

Session goals: Improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and WDNR; and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.

Registration: 8:30AM
Meeting topics (session times: 9:00AM to 3:30PM)

- Why Every Heifer Should be Raised on Pasture/Heifers on Pasture & Permit Impact – (Adam Abel; NRCS)/(Jones, Block, Uvaas; WDNR)
- Understanding Citizen Concerns – (Sarah Williams; Midwest Environmental Advocates)
- Implements of Husbandry Update – (Liz Binverse, Green Bay; Tina Kohlman, Fond du Lac; Greg Blonde, New London UWEX)
- Karst Reminders: Recognizing Features, Preventing Problems - (Baeten; WDNR)
- EPA Update – (Cheryl Burdett; Fond du Lac Only)
- Fall/Winter Spreading Panel - (Agronomists, Farmers, & Haulers)
- New Fields Submittals using SharePoint – (Baeten; WDNR)
- Updating and Reviewing Emergency Response Plans – (Jones; WDNR)
- Ask DNR Panel – (Jones, Baeten; WDNR staff)

$30 in Advance; $45 after registration deadline and walk-ins (at the door)
Lunch included
Make check(s) payable to: BCT (Brown County Treasurer) or cash only; NO Credit/Debit Cards

To register mail, fax, or email the following information to:
Brown County UW-Extension, Attn: Joan, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI 54302
Fax: 920-391-4617
Email: laehn_jm@co.brown.wi.us

Name(s) of Attendee(s)______________________________

Firm/Farm Name ____________________________ Phone__________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

Email ____________________________________________

circle location attending: Green Bay New London Fond du Lac

Before date: Number of people __________ x $30.00 = $_________

After date: Number of people __________ x $45.00 = $_________

Topic you are most interested in (circle one or write in): Public Notice New Land Manure Irrigation Spreading setbacks/monitoring Recordkeeping Enforcement Other: ________________

Office use: Date received: __________ ; Payment Enclosed: Check □ #_________ Cash □ No Payment □; Initials ____________

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements. Contact Kevin Erb at 920-391-4652 for more information on this program.
**Grain Crops Production Clinic**

**February 18, 2015**

**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Registration begins at 9:30 am

4 CCA credits have been applied for

**Two Locations:**

- **Cobblestone Creek Dining and Banquet**
  740 West Ryan Street, Brillion, WI

- **Doxbee’s Banquet and Buffet**
  N6744 County Highway C, Seymour, WI

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**Presentations**

**Wet Corn Mitigation: How Do We Keep Drying Costs Down?**

- Joe Lauer, UW-Extension Corn Specialist

**Systematic Optimization of Yield-enhancing Applications in Soybean:**

  A Regional and National Overview

- David Marburger, Soybean PhD Candidate

**Managing N, P, and K in a Low Grain Price Environment**

- Carrie Laboski, UW-Extension Soil Fertility Specialist

**Opportunities for Improved Crop Management Using Remote Sensing**

- Brian Luck, UW-Extension Precision Agriculture Specialist

**Agricultural Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage – Which is Right for Me?**

- Kevin Jarek, UW-Extension Crops, Soil and Horticulture Agent

- Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Crops, Soils and Horticulture Agent

*Presentation times will vary by location

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**Grain Crops Production Clinic Registration Form - Please register by Wednesday, February 13, 2015**

Name: __________________________________________ Phone: _______________________

Address: __________________________________________ City: __________ Zip: ________

Where do you plan to attend?

_____ Cobblestone Creek, Brillion

_____ Doxbees’s Banquet & Buffet, Seymour

_____ person(s) x $25/person = $_______

Return registration to:

For Brillion:

Grain Crops Clinic
Calumet Co. UWEX
206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014
920-849-1450 x5

For Seymour:

Grain Crops Clinic
Outagamie Co. UWEX
3365 W. Brewster Street
Appleton, WI 54914
920-832-5121

Make check payable to:

UW-Extension

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**WAPAC**

University of Wisconsin-Extension
UW Extension Dairy Team
How Prepared Are You?
Managing Dairy Employees Effectively
A Bilingual Middle Manager Training on Employee Management

The transition from employee to manager can be a tough road to navigate. In this two day workshop, UW-Extension agents will share “people skills” with participants to help them be successful in their jobs: communication, conflict management, trust and respect, and leadership. This program is geared toward middle managers who have an interest in learning more about effective employee management. Provided in English and Spanish.

Pricing for one: 3 or more individuals from the same farm:
1 day: $60 per person $50 per person
2 days: $100 per person $90 per person

Dates and Locations:
January 21 and 27
UW Extension Marathon County
Suite #5
212 River Drive
Wausau WI 54403

February 4 and 11
UW – Extension Fond du Lac County
400 University Drive
Fond du lac WI 54935

February 10 and 17
The Ravine
2633 Manitowoc Road
Green Bay WI 54311

For more information please contact:
Heather Schlesser, Dairy Agent
UWEX Marathon County
715-261-1230
Heather.schlesser@uwex.edu

Tina Kohlman, Dairy and Livestock Agent
UWEX Fond du Lac County
920-929-3180
Tina.kohlman@uwex.edu

Aerica Bjurstrom, Agriculture Agent
UWEX Kewaunee County
920-388-7138
Aerica.bjurstrom@uwex.edu
Waupaca/Outagamie Counties, Nov. 13, 2014 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds farm owners and producers that the opportunity to choose between the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), begins Nov. 17, 2014, and continues through March 31, 2015. The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

“USDA is committed to keeping farm owners and producers well informed on all steps in this process to ensure that they have all of the information that they need before making their coverage choice,” said Farm Service Agency Administrator Val Dolcini. “The new ARC and PLC programs provide a more rational approach to helping farmers manage risk by ensuring families don’t lose the farm because of events beyond their control.”

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

“In addition to the new online tools, USDA has done extensive outreach, including partnering with State Cooperative Extension Services to hold meetings and meet with farm owners and producers,” said Dolcini. “USDA leaders will continue visiting with farm owners and producers to share information and answer questions the new programs. We want to help producers boil the information down, understand their options and make the best decision on which program – ARC or PLC – is right for them.”

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:
- Now through Feb. 27, 2015: Farm owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election between ARC and PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments issued for 2014 crop year, if needed.

To learn more about which safety net options are most appropriate for specific farming operations, farmers can use new Web tools at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc, which can be accessed from the convenience of a home computer or a mobile device at any time. To learn more about upcoming educational meetings, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office at http://go.usa.gov/pYV3.

Today's announcement was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.
MICROLOAN CAP GROWS TO $50,000
Larger Loan Amount Offers Beginning Farmers Expanded Opportunities

Waupaca/Outagamie Counties, Nov. 13, 2014 – Outagamie/Waupaca County Farm Service Agency Executive Director, David Heideman, reminds farmers that the FSA borrowing limit for microloans increased on November 7, 2014 from $35,000 to $50,000. Microloans offer borrowers simplified lending with less paperwork. Heideman said it makes borrowing from FSA a “first opportunity” to farm or quickly expand existing operations.

“This will help more people because of new flexibilities created by the 2014 Farm Bill,” Heideman said. “We’re especially excited in Wisconsin, because we want to encourage more beginners and young people, especially those from historically underserved communities, to consider farming as a way to become independent businessmen and women. It’s a rewarding way to build or expand a family operation.”

The microloan change allows beginning, small and mid-sized farmers to access an additional $15,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay. Microloans are part of USDA’s continued commitment to small and midsized farming operations.

To complement the microloan program additional changes to FSA eligibility requirements will enhance beginning farmers to access to land, a key barrier to entry level producers. FSA policies related to farm experience have changed so that other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm ownership loan eligibility. Operation or management of non-farm businesses, leadership positions while serving in the military or advanced education in an agricultural field will now count towards the experience applicants need to show when applying for farm ownership loans.

Outagamie County
recyc!e

NEWLY ACCEPTED ITEMS:

**Cartons:**
- Milk
- Soy Milk
- Juice
- Cream
- Egg Substitutes
- Broth
- Soup
- Wine
- Etc.

**Dairy Containers:**
- Yogurt
- Margarine
- Cottage Cheese
- Sour Cream
- Etc.

**Produce, Bakery and Deli Containers:**
- Berry
- Donut
- Potato Salad
- Dips
- Etc.

MANAGING STARLING CONFLICTS AT DAIRIES & FEEDLOTS IN WISCONSIN

European starlings often congregate in feedlots and dairies during winter in Wisconsin and cause damage by consuming and contaminating feed and potentially transmitting harmful diseases to livestock. USDA-Wildlife Services has developed a program to reduce the damage caused by starlings at dairies and feedlots.

If requested, Wildlife Services can visit the producer’s operation to make a number of recommendations that can be used by the producer to reduce damage caused by the starlings. In addition, Wildlife Services can use the toxicant DRC-1339 (which is registered for use in these situations) to expeditiously reduce the number of starlings on the farm. DRC-1339 acts by destroying kidney function. Starlings that consume it begin to show signs of lethargy in about 6 to 8 hours and die within 24 hours. By that time, virtually all of the toxicant in their body has been metabolized and excreted, effectively eliminating the possibility of secondary poisoning. Starlings are quite sensitive to DRC-1339 while mammals and hawks are generally resistant. Therefore, hazards to non-target animals are extremely low.

The process entails making an attractive bait available to the starlings for several days to establish a feeding pattern. This practice is called “pre-baiting” and generally takes 3 to 7 days. The pre-bait is placed in or near barns where the starlings are accustomed to feeding such as an alley between the feed bunks. After the starlings are consistently feeding on the pre-bait, a limited amount of bait that has been treated with DRC-1339 is placed in the same location where the untreated pre-bait had been placed. Wildlife Services will provide the producer with the necessary pre-bait, we will apply the DRC-1339 treated bait, we will be on-site to monitor the project and we will remove treated bait at the end of the day. Because there are several hours between the time the toxicant is consumed and when the starlings die, it is very possible that many of the starlings will die off-site. We strongly recommend that the producer advise their neighbors that the dead starlings pose no hazard to people or pets because the toxicant has been metabolized and excreted prior to death of the starlings.

The key to a successful control project is to establish good pre-bait acceptance. To minimize project costs, it is the producer’s responsibility to conduct this part of the project. Where satisfactory pre-bait acceptance has been established, reductions of 75% to 95% of the starlings have been achieved in most cases. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee results.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact us at by phone at 920-324-4514 or by writing to USDA-APHIS-WS 1201 Storbeck Dr. Waupun, WI 53963.
Making Responsible Choices about Antibiotic Drug Usage in Dairy Cows

Reducing the Risk of Residues in Milk and Meat

Background

The occurrence of antibiotic residues found in milk and meat in the dairy industry is rare. For example, in 2012, less than 0.02 percent of milk tanker loads in the U.S., had detected levels of volatile residues, and this percentage continues to decrease annually. Though residues are rarely detected, mistakes still occasionally occur. Antibiotics and other products that have milk withholding times are used on most conventional dairy farms to maintain welfare of sick cows. Understanding the different types of allowable drug usage and correctly following treatment protocols ensure that animals receive appropriate care and food produced from these animals will be safe for human consumption. Poor treatment records, missing identification of treated animals, lack of communication between those treating the cows and those handling the cows, and inadequate training of personnel who will be administering these medications are reasons why antibiotic residues show up in our food supply. Human error is the foremost cause of residues in milk and meat. This factsheet reviews the practical aspects that will help reduce the risk.

Reducing the Risk of Residues

There are six principles that can reduce the risk of residues in milk and dairy beef.

Have a strong relationship with your veterinarian

Your veterinarian should be involved enough in your dairy that he or she can be involved in helping with animal health decisions. Have discussions with your veterinarian, your farm workers and yourself to agree upon treatment protocols for the variety of diseases that can occur on your dairy. Ideally, these treatment protocols should be written to provide an extra layer of safety so that the people administering the treatment will have written instructions to follow.

Understand differences in allowable types of drug usage

Read the labels on every product used on your dairy herd and follow those labels exactly. If the labels are not to be followed exactly, then the rules for extra-label drug usage are applied. All extra-label drug usage must be supervised by your Veterinarian of Record.

Provide good animal health care

Providing good animal health care is the most important principal to reduce the risk of residues. Overall good animal husbandry will help prevent disease and reduce the need to use antibiotic drugs for treatment. Providing healthy diets, appropriate housing, and routine veterinary visits creates a system in place that allow diseases, when they do occur, to be detected early. When an animal develops a disease, be sure to treat not based on symptoms, but that each ill animal receives an examination and a diagnosis before treatment is administered.

Decide and limit who is allowed to treat animals

Training animal health managers on the farm is essential. During training, health managers should work alongside the Veterinarian of Record for proper supervision to ensure that drugs are administered to the right cows in the right dosages and in the right routes of administration. After training, farm managers and veterinarians need to be able to monitor drug usage to ensure that the amounts of the drugs actually used on the farm match the expected amounts in the established treatment protocols of disease occurring on the dairy.

Identify all animals using permanent identification

It may be obvious to use permanent identification to identify individual animals in the herd, but nevertheless errors do occur. Being able to keep track of individually treated cows is necessary. Treatment records should be easily accessible to those treating and handling the cows, and need to be provided for every cow for every treatment. Two types of records should be kept: a temporary, cow-side record (like a chalkboard in the parlor or clipboard) that clearly indicates which cows have been treated with what drug, and a permanent record made up of all the filed temporary records to create a life history report for each cow.

Double check records and history of culled cows

A simple way to reduce the occurrence of residues in dairy beef is to create redundancy in recordkeeping and cul management. For example, having two people responsible for deciding whether a cow leaves the farm and into the dairy beef chain creates a system where decisions are double-checked and mistakes are limited.