Greetings Producers,

We just had a great rain and things greened up fast. Hopefully that will fill the bean pods and increase yield. Inside you will find corn silage dry down days and the hosts. This year with uneven fields it may be more important to check moisture and maturity. The uneven fields may provide challenges in selecting an accurate sampling of stalks. With a new farm bill, the Dairy Margin Protection program will become part of every dairy farmer’s vocabulary. We are hosting meetings throughout northeastern Wisconsin to give everyone a chance to learn firsthand how this program will work for you and others. We have included some internet sites to go to and retrieve information on hay and milk prices. Also a reminder if you have corn that will not make maturity, you can post it on Farmer to Farmer to be sold for forage. If you have late planted or slow maturing corn, some agronomy advice can help you figure out the time your corn might be ready for corn silage, high moisture corn and maturity. The corn pictures and symptoms and causes may be best viewed on line; the URL is listed at the bottom of the page. Best wishes for a happy and successful harvest. Please play it safe, take breaks, let people know where you are, and when you expect to be back or done with that job. Take a snack and when you get too tired stop and wait for another day. Happy Harvest!
The Outagamie County Forage Council/Midwest Forage Association in partnership with Outagamie County UW-Extension and Fox Valley Technical College will once again sponsor four 2014 Corn Silage Dry Down events. Farmers, agronomists and professional consultants should bring 4-5 stalks from each field for testing. Dates and locations are listed below. Times for all Dry Down events are 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Samples will be tested on a first come, first served basis. Samples that cannot be finished on site will be taken to Dairyland Laboratories in De Pere for testing.

Thursday, September 4 - 12:00 noon
Sugar Creek Farms, N6848 Cty Rd D, New London

Thursday, September 11 - 12:00 noon
Larsen Cooperative Company, W5394 Center Valley Rd, Black Creek

Thursday, September 18 - 12:00 noon
Wichman Farms, N4735 Cty Rd EE, Appleton

Thursday, September 25 - 12:00 noon
Van Wychen Farms, W656 Golden Glow Rd, Kaukauna

To access all results, please visit: [www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/silagedrydown](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/silagedrydown)

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

**Sara Maass-Pate**  
Farm Business Mgmt Instructor  
FVTC  
715-823-1547

**Jeremy Hanson**  
Farm Business Mgmt Instructor  
FVTC  
920-735-2597 (K.J)

University of Wisconsin – United States Department of Agriculture – Outagamie County Cooperating  
“UW-Extension Provides Equal Opportunities in Employment and Programming – Including Title IX Requirements.”
The New DAIRY MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM

The new farm bill announced earlier this year offers a “safety-net” for dairy farms called the Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP). This voluntary program is designed to pay participating dairy farms when their income over feed costs falls below a certain (insured) level. However, you have to sign-up to be covered, and the cost will vary depending on the amount of milk and the margin each farm wants to protect.

To learn more about this new dairy program, including the latest on enrollment plans and procedures, contact one of the following UW-Extension host sites in Northeast/Central WI to reserve a seat. Dr. Mark Stephenson, Extension Dairy Policy Specialist from UW-Madison will be the featured speaker at all locations (some sites may require a small fee to help cover costs, so be sure to ask if there is any cost when you call to register).

Don’t wait, call today and reserve your seat for this important dairy meeting!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Abbotsford City Hall/Library</td>
<td>Heather Schlesser Dairy Agent UWEX – Marathon County 715-261-1239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>203 N. First Street Abbotsford, WI 54405</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>Birnamwood Matsche Center/Village Hall</td>
<td>Jamie Patton Agriculture Agent UWEX – Shawano County 715-526-4871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>362 Railroad Street Birnamwood, WI 54414</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Cecil Cecil Village Hall</td>
<td>Jamie Patton Agriculture Agent UWEX – Shawano County 715-526-4871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>111 E. Hofman Street Cecil, WI 54111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>New London Crystal Falls</td>
<td>Greg Blonde Agriculture Agent UWEX – Waupaca County 715-258-6231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1500 Handschke Drive New London, WI 54961</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Kiel Miller Supper Club</td>
<td>Scott Gunderson Dairy Agent UWEX – Manitowoc County 920-683-4175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16524 Lax Chapel Road Kiel, WI 53042</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>Green Bay Brown Co Extension Office</td>
<td>Liz Binversie Agriculture Agent UWEX – Brown County 920-391-4612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1150 Bellevue Street Green Bay, WI 54302</td>
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USDA Sending Acreage History and Yield Reports to Help Producers Prepare for New Farm Bill Programs

Data will Help Farmers and Ranchers to Select the Coverage Options that Their Fit Needs

MADISON Aug. 1, 2014 — U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced today that farmers should start receiving notices updating them on their current base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history. The written updates are an important part of preparing agricultural producers for the new safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill.

“We’re sending these reports to make sure that farmers and ranchers have key information as they make critical decisions about programs that impact their livelihood,” said Garcia. “It’s important that producers take a few minutes to cross check the information they receive with their own farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time. But if our letter is incomplete or incorrect, producers need to contact their local FSA county office as soon as possible.”

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm’s acreage history is an important step for producers enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Later this summer, farmers and ranchers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

“We’re working hard to prepare and educate farmers on the new programs created by the 2014 Farm Bill,” added Garcia. “I encourage producers to bring their USDA notice to any scheduled appointments with the local FSA county office. This will help ensure they have the information they need with them to discuss the available program options.”

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in early 2015.

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 (includes short grain rice and temperate japonica rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 2014</th>
<th>Late Summer 2014</th>
<th>Winter 2014</th>
<th>Early 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producers receive letters notifying them of current bases and yields and 2009 to 2012 planting history.</td>
<td>ARC and PLC online tools become available. Owners have opportunity to update yields and reallocate bases for ARC/PLC purposes.</td>
<td>ARC/PLC one-time elections occur.</td>
<td>ARC/PLC sign-up for 2014 and 2015 starts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visit www.fsa.usda.gov or the local FSA office for information about FSA and the 2014 Farm Bill programs.

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.

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**Do you know the resources Extension provides on the Internet?**

**Farmer to Farmer**

Farmer to Farmer website, an electronic neighborhood bulletin board allows local farmers to get in touch with one another to facilitate the marketing of feed commodities.

The site developed and supported by UW-Extension; it can be found at http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu. This site is only designed to facilitate the farmer-to-farmer connection and initial communication.

The Farmer-to-Farmer list is free of charge to both buyers and sellers. UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension assumes no responsibility in the transaction of buying or selling the items listed on this web site. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

**Hay Market Prices**

Mr. Ken Barnett, statewide UW-Extension Agriculture Educator, authors a weekly hay market and price report for the upper Midwest. The report can be found at http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/.

Information in the report is compiled from public and private sales and reports in the Midwest. Past reports are archived for comparison.
OVERVIEW

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) Program and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program, which are administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). ARC/PLC provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

Producers who participate in ARC/PLC are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits, vegetables and wild rice (FAV/Wild Rice) are planted on the base acres of a farm.

APPLICABLE CROPS

FAV/Wild Rice planting provisions apply to the following commodities:

• Fruits (including nuts);
• Vegetables, other than mung beans and pulse crops (dry peas, lentils and chickpeas) and;
• Wild rice

FAV/WILD RICE PLANTING PROVISIONS ON BASE ACREAGE

In general, planting and harvesting FAV/Wild Rice on ARC/PLC payment acreage is subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when more than 15 percent of the base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using the county coverage or PLC are planted to FAV/Wild Rice; or when more than 35 percent of base acres of a farm enrolled in ARC using individual coverage are planted to FAV/Wild Rice.

DOUBLE-CROPPING EXCEPTION

ARC/PLC payment acres are not reduced for FAV/Wild Rice planted under the double-cropping exception.

FAV/Wild Rice may be double-cropped with a covered commodity. The farm must be in a county that is included as a region approved for double-cropping covered commodities with FAV/Wild Rice. These regions are established by FSA state committees and will be published in the Federal Register.

FAV/WILD RICE PLANTING PROVISIONS ON NON-BASE ACREAGE

Planting FAV/Wild Rice on acres that are not considered base acres will not result in payment reductions.

FAV/WILD RICE PLANTING PROVISIONS FOR NON ARC/PLC FARMS

If a farm is eligible to participate in ARC/PLC, but is not enrolled in ARC/PLC for a particular year, then:

• Unlimited FAV/Wild Rice can be planted and harvested for that year;
• The farm will not receive any ARC/PLC payments for the applicable year;
• The farm may be enrolled in ARC/PLC in succeeding years and be eligible for ARC/PLC benefits and;
• Production of loan commodities from the farm is eligible for marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

For additional information on FAV/Wild Rice rules or other ARC/PLC program matters, please contact your local FSA county office or USDA Service Center, or visit FSA’s website at: www.fsa.usda.gov
When looking for information on dairy prices, the following URL contained within the UW Understanding Dairy Markets website [http://future.aae.wisc.edu](http://future.aae.wisc.edu) will give you volumes of data. The above sheet is an example of what you can find there.
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During cool growing seasons, especially when planting is delayed due to wet spring conditions, growers are concerned about whether their corn is vulnerable and will reach maturity before normal frost dates. Often the range in planting dates have implications at harvest time, especially for silage because grain and dairy producers often negotiate the sale of corn in fields that are borderline for development (Figure 1).

![Graph showing corn planting progress in Wisconsin, 2013, 2014, and 5-Year Average.]

**Figure 1. Wisconsin corn planting progress (Data source: USDA-NASS).**

Most hybrids require about 55 to 60 days to develop from the silk stage to physiological maturity. Hybrid maturity differences in development time occur primarily from emergence to silking, not from silking to maturity (Figure 3). Growers are concerned when corn does not reach the silk stage (R1—Figure 2) until early August or later. Killing frosts can easily occur by late September, so corn silking in early August would not be safe from major yield reductions due to frost until October.

![Figure 3. Typical time span of vegetative and reproductive stages during the life cycle of corn.]

**Figure 3.** Typical time span of vegetative and reproductive stages during the life cycle of corn.

Figures 4 and 5 describe typical development of corn silage yield and quality and of a corn kernel. At the dent stage (R5), corn has accumulated 75-85% of silage yield and
60-75% of grain yield and needs about 27-32 days to avoid significant yield reductions due to frost (Table 1). In order to avoid yield reductions caused by frost, corn intended for silage should be silking by late August, while corn intended for dry grain should reach the dent stage by September 1.

Figure 6 describes the typical pattern of forage and grain development during the growing season. A “double-peak” for forage quality (Milk per Ton) is observed at flowering (R1) and R5.5 (50% kernel milkline). After R5, forage moisture decreases at a more rapid rate. Forage yield (Milk per Acre) is greatest around R5.5. Grain yield increases until R6 (Black layer = Physiological maturity). Grain moisture drops at a more rapid rate than forage moisture after R5. (Dent stage). Optimum moisture when cutting corn can be achieved by raising or lowering the cutter bar. The moisture swing is about 3-4%. The wettest part of the plant is the lower stalk, while the driest is the grain.

To predict whether corn will mature before frost note the hybrid maturity, planting date and tasseling.

**Table 1. The relationship between kernel growth stage and development of corn for normal planting dates.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Calendar days to maturity</th>
<th>GDU’s to maturity</th>
<th>Percent of max yield</th>
<th>Moisture content (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R1: Silking</td>
<td>55-60</td>
<td>1100-1200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2: Blister</td>
<td>45-50</td>
<td>875-975</td>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>55-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R3: Milk</td>
<td>35-40</td>
<td>750-850</td>
<td>10-30</td>
<td>60-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R4: Dough</td>
<td>30-35</td>
<td>650-750</td>
<td>30-60</td>
<td>65-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R5: Dent</td>
<td>27-32</td>
<td>425-525</td>
<td>60-75</td>
<td>60-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R5.5: 50% Kernel milk</td>
<td>13-18</td>
<td>200-300</td>
<td>90-95</td>
<td>75-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6: Black layer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>80-85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 5. Typical corn kernel development in Wisconsin.**

(silking) date of the field. For silage planted early, add 42-47 days on to this date to predict 50% kernel milk, while for grain, add 55-60 days to predict maturity. These dates are guidelines which will require further in-season decisions as the season unfolds.

**Figure 6. Normal pattern of corn forage and grain development in Wisconsin.**
Unique Opportunities through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, pasture improvement for grazing, and enhanced or created wildlife habitat. In 2014 the EQIP program provided interested producers the opportunity to sign up for several different Initiatives outside of the conventional signup.

A signup this spring focused exclusively on the Honey Bee. Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided close to $3 million in technical and financial assistance for interested landowners to help improve the health and habitat for bees, which play an important role in crop production and are vitally important to our rural ecosystem.

A special sign-up was also held to encourage farmers to plant cover crops. Statewide over 500 applications were taken, which added up to about $4 million when all the eligible applications were processed. Cover crops are effective in building healthy soil, increasing organic matter, reducing soil erosion and suppressing weeds. Cover crops in Wisconsin include rye, oats, millet, wheat, red clover, turnips, canola, radishes, and many other species. Signup opportunities are currently available for 2015.

EQIP also provides unique technical and financial assistance to landowners and producers in Eastern Wisconsin through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). NRCS is one of 11 Federal agencies supporting the GLRI effort nationwide. This is the 5th year of the Initiative, with funding available for 2015. This is a great opportunity for Outagamie County farmers to improve their operations with specific conservation practices, and reduce phosphorus runoff. Farmers located within the Lower Fox River Watershed may be eligible for these funds to help clean up the Great Lakes.

Cover crops, pollinator habitat, and many other conservation related practices such as prescribed grazing, manure storage, barnyard improvement, and nutrient and pest management are available through the General EQIP signup. Applications for the general signup need to be completed and submitted to NRCS by October 3rd to be considered for 2015 funding. The application deadline for the 2015 GLRI has not yet been announced.

Interested producers are encouraged to stop at the USDA Service Center, 3369 W. Brewster Street, in Appleton, and discuss conservation options through EQIP. Or give us a call at (920) 733-1575 ext. 3.

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