

Extension Views

UW
Extension
Cooperative Extension



*Your county
extension office*

JANUARY 2010

Calendar of Events:

February

- 6 **Beekeeping Workshop,**
Menomonie, 8:15 am
- 10 **Cattle Feeder Workshop,**
Dorchester Memorial Hall,
Dorchester, 10 am
- 19 **Getting to Know Your Dairy**
Calves, Abbotsford Community
Room, 11 am
- 22 **Wheat Production in Central**
WI, Abbotsford Community
Room, 12:45 pm
- 24 **Cost Effective Milk Quality**
Seminary, Abbotsford
Community Room, 9:30 am

March

- 3 **Pesticide Applicator Trng,**
Colby VFW, 9:30 am
- 3 **Dairy Reproduction Seminar,**
Thorp Fire Hall, 10 am
- 5 **Statewide Dairy & Beef**
Conference, Liberty Hall,
Kimberly, 9 am
- 9 **Pesticide Applicator Trng,**
Thorp Fire Hall, 9:30 am
- 11 **Pesticide Applicator Trng.,**
Neillsville Courthouse, 9:30 am

Maria Bendixen,
Dairy & Livestock Agent
maria.bendixen@ces.uwex.edu

Richard Halopka,
Crops & Soils Agent
richard.halopka@ces.uwex.edu

CARING FOR THE FACES & SPACES OF CLARK COUNTY

Crop Decisions 2010: Seed Selection

Richard Halopka, Crops & Soils Agent

Seed selection for the upcoming growing season is always a good conversation this time of year. If your only selection criteria is least cost it would be a quick decision, purchase the least cost seed.

When selecting seed the genetic by environment interaction needs to be considered. If there was not a genetic by environment interaction one variety could be used with similar results in any field.

The selection of seed for your crops should be made after you collect information about your fields.

What should be considered?

1. Soil type- may be similar on smaller farms, but with increased acreage there could be differences.
2. Fertility- If you don't test soils, you are just guessing. Some varieties will respond positively or

negatively with fertility levels.

3. Pest issues- Weed, insect, disease. Depending on the field or rotation these could be different.

4. Management- Do you use conventional tillage, no-till, pesticides or organic production, what are your plant populations.

5. Environment- Weather, every year can be different so select cultivars for your region and the purpose of the crop. Weather will typically have more influence on final yield than management practices, but both will influence yield and are important.

You should be able to work with a seed sales person or company to select cultivars that will perform in your fields. They should be asking you the above questions and not just promote the hot cultivar, because it may not be suited for your farm or production management.

Today much of the seed being considered for corn or soybeans has a GMO trait linked to it. To consider if the cost of seed will be returned use a "Crop Seed Spreadsheet". It is available at <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Season/DSS.aspx>. This will allow you to compare different cultivars and help you make your management decisions involving seed selection. As an example, Joe Lauer's work with corn hybrids, above a \$50.00 per bag increase in the price of seed, will likely not net a positive return with \$3.50 per bushel corn price. By using the Crop Seed Spreadsheet, which will use seed cost per acre and your farm information, you will be able to determine the breakeven seed cost when comparing different hybrids.

When considering GMO traited seed:

(Continued on page 7)



Discussion
of robotic
calf feeders!

Getting to Know Your Dairy Calves

February 19 11:00-2:30 p.m.
Abbotsford Community Room

Topics of Interest:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 10:45 a.m. | Registration |
| 11-11:45 a.m. | “Linking Nutrition and Immunity”, Larry Baumann from UW-Extension Veterinarian from River Falls / Animal Health Specialist |
| 11:45– 12:30 p.m. | “You are the First Responder— Calf Health Scoring”, Sandy Stuttgen Taylor County Agriculture Agent or Sylvia Kehoe UW-River Falls |
| 12:30-1:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00– 1:45 p.m. | “What we know about automated calf feeders”, Jim Paulson from the University of Minnesota Extension Dairy Educator |
| 1:45– 2:30 p.m. | “How we get calves off to a good start”- Panel Discussion with local producers |



*Please register by February 15th by contacting the
Clark County Extension Office at (715) 743-5121*



COST EFFECTIVE MILK QUALITY MANAGEMENT

*Milk Quality Economics
Dairy Seminar 2010*

February 24, 2010

Abbotsford Community Room

9:30 am

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- **Making economically effective mastitis control decisions**

Dr. Pamela Ruegg, University of Wisconsin Dairy Science Department, Milk Quality Specialist

The most costly disease of dairy cattle is generally considered to be mastitis with an average of \$110/cow in overall production loss for US dairy farms (2005). How can cost of mastitis control be minimized while maintaining milk quality? We will look at return on investment of management for mastitis control and an economic assessment of 1,000 mastitis case outcomes.

- **Profit tips for milking equipment management**

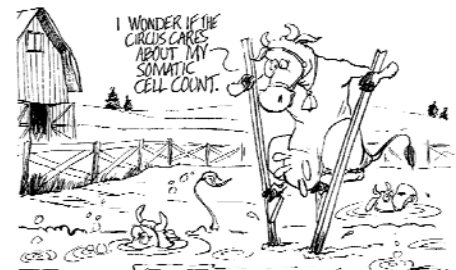
Dr. Douglas Reinemann, University of Wisconsin Center for Dairy Profitability, Milking Equipment/Electrical Specialist

The top ten milking machine issues: Things you should know to make sure your milking machine and/or milking parlor are working well.

- **Economic tools for managing milk quality**

County UW-Extension Agent presentation

Demonstration and explanation of spreadsheet based tools that can be used to evaluate decisions around milk quality on a dairy farm.



Milk Quality Economics Dairy Seminar **Registration Form**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 # Attending _____

Cost is \$25/per person,
covers lunch and materials.

Pre-registration is required by
February 19th.

Mail in registration to:
UW-Extension,
517 Court St Room 104,
Neillsville WI 54456

UW-EXTENSION CATTLE FEEDERS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY



University of Wisconsin-Extension will be conducting

the annual Cattle Feeders workshop on Wednesday, February 10th at the Dorchester Memorial Hall, Dorchester, 10 a.m. The program provides information regarding finishing and backgrounding cattle, which applies to both beef and Holstein feeders.

Speakers and topics include:

- Dr. Amy Radunz, UW-Extension beef cattle specialist, will present information on feeding strategies

for finishing cattle which can influence economics and efficiency. She will also present information regarding mycotoxins and other considerations concerning this year's feedstuffs in Wisconsin.

- Adam Hady, UW-Extension agriculture agent in Richland County will be addressing successful methods for efficient and safe composting of mortalities, and
- Bill Halfman, UW-Extension agent in Monroe County will present information on considerations for backgrounding calves in Wisconsin when the grass is not green.

The workshop also includes a

presentation about proper handling of vaccines and pharmaceuticals which can impact their effectiveness, as prepared by Dr. Sandy Stuttgen, veterinarian and Taylor County UW-Extension agriculture agent and presented by the local county extension host.

The workshops should last approximately three hours including time of the meal. There will be a registration fee of \$5.00 to cover meal and material costs.

Please pre-register by February 3rd. Contact the Clark County Extension office at 715-743-5121 if interested in attending.

WI DAIRY & BEEF INDUSTRY ANIMAL HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE – MARCH 5TH

UW-Extension will host a one-day statewide conference on Friday, March 5th to address one of the most important emerging issues in agriculture, animal handling and wellbeing. This conference is designed for dairy and beef producers, veterinarians, farm service providers, educators and even interested elected officials. The purpose of the conference is to expand awareness and understanding about the growing concern nationwide of how farm animals are cared for and what the implications could be for large animal agriculture in Wisconsin.

Dr. Pam Ruegg, DVM, Extension Milk Quality Specialist at UW-Madison will open the conference with results from recent National Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance System (NAHMS) farm survey data and what it suggests about the way we currently manage and handle dairy and beef cattle.

Then, participants will choose between dairy or beef break-out

sessions to learn practical tips and techniques for improved animal handling on the farm. Each session will feature nationally recognized presenters, including Dr. Paul Rapnicki, DVM, instructor of dairy production medicine and drug use in food animals at the University of Minnesota Vet School; or, Dr. Tom Noffsinger, DVM, an award winning Nebraska veterinarian and highly sought after beef cattle consultant who will share strategies to improve beef cattle handling practices.

Participants will then come back together for lunch and conference keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin, recognized around the world as a leading authority on animal behavior and handling practices. Dr. Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, will discuss her lifelong research and observations about working with cattle and what she thinks lies ahead for the dairy and beef cattle industry.

Wrapping up the conference will be Dr. Janice Swanson, Director of Animal Welfare at Michigan State University.

Dr. Swanson will review past and present policy initiatives around the country that have or could affect the way farm animals are cared for and managed.

The conference will be held on Friday, March 5th at Liberty Hall in Kimberly (located just off Hwy 441 on County Highway CE on the east side of Appleton). Registration begins at 9 am and the conference concludes at 3:30 pm followed by opportunity for informal discussion with the presenters.

For more details, visit the conference website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/>. The cost is (\$35/person)

Taylor County is offering a bus sponsored by Athens Veterinary Service. If interested call 715-257-7003 to reserve your ride. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Pick up locations:

- Heartland Cooperative Convenience Store, Dorchester, 6:00 a.m.
- Edgar Corner Restaurant, 6:30 a.m.

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS RE-CERTIFICATION CLASSES

The Clark County UW-Extension will be holding the following pesticide re-certification meetings from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on:

General Farming Training & Testing

- Wednesday, March 3
Colby VFW, Hwy 13
Colby
- Tuesday, March 9
Thorp Fire Hall
101 So Wilson St, Thorp

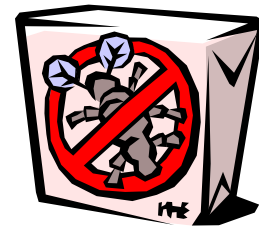
- Thursday, March 11
Neillsville Courthouse
Auditorium, 517 Court St
Neillsville

If you are interested in getting re-certified you can pick up material at the Clark County UW-Extension Office, 517 Court Street, Courthouse, Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456 or send in your check for \$35.00 made payable to the Clark County UW-Extension.

Self-study is another option that you might want to consider. If

interested in self-study you would need to make an appointment, at your convenience, and come to our office to take the test.

If you have any questions regarding pesticide re-certification contact Richard Halopka, Clark County Crops & Soils Agent at 715-743-5121.



2010 CENTURY FARM OR HOME APPLICATION

Farms or homes with 100 years of continuous ownership through the year 2010, will be recognized at a special breakfast program during the Wisconsin State Fair, August 5-15, 2010.

Continuous family ownership of property for 100 years: The farm or home (in whole or part) must have been in continuous family

ownership. Title of the Century property today must reside in a blood relative of the original owner, or a legally adopted child of a descendant. Continuous residence in the state or on the property is not required, the title to the property must be continuous. An abstract of title is the best evidence of continuous family ownership.

Contact the Clark County UW-Extension office to request an application form at 715-743-5121.

Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2010.

If you have any questions contact Century Farm program, Jull Albanese at 414-777-0580.

DAIRY PROMOTERS TO PRESENT AWARDS FOR LOW SOMATIC CELL COUNT



The Clark County Dairy Promotion committee is once again presenting awards to Clark County dairy producers with a somatic cell count (SCC) average of less than 125,000 for the year. Awards will be presented at the Dairy Promoters Annual Meeting in March at Chelsea's in Greenwood.

Producers with a 2009 SCC less than 125,000 need to contact the

Clark County Extension Office at 743-5121 by February 15th. Producers need to present proof of their 2009 SCC average.

If interested in attending the annual meeting contact Theresa, Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

SIGNUP FOR FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM JAN. 19- FEB. 19, 2010

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that the Wisconsin signup for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be Jan. 19 through Feb. 19 for 2010 funding. Jane Reigel, District Conservationist for NRCS in Neillsville said there are a number of new practices and priorities available this year. EQIP is the primary program available to provide assistance with farmland conservation practices.

“More than 70 conservation practices are available, depending upon the type of operation and resource need,” said Reigel. “EQIP offers flat-rate payments for each particular practice, so farmers know up-front what the payment will be.”

All eligible applications received by February 19, 2010, will be evaluated and ranked for funding. Farmers can sign up at the NRCS office in USDA Service Centers statewide. NRCS anticipates over \$14.6

million in funds for Wisconsin. Of that, about 60 percent will go toward livestock practices.

New Practices and Priorities for 2010

For the first time in EQIP in Wisconsin, financial assistance will be offered for high tunnels, or hoop houses, usually used to extend the growing season for fresh market vegetable producers. This practice is part of a pilot project to see if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields, and providing other benefits to growers.

Manure Storage: Prior to applying for manure storage, farmers should develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for their operations to aid in the major decisions that come along with building a manure storage system. Applicants for manure storage that

have completed a CNMP receive additional points when applications are ranked.

Field Borders for Bees: Pollinators are an area of emphasis this year in EQIP and a field border practice with special seeding mixes beneficial to pollinators will be available to eligible applicants.

Forestry: Good woodland management practices, including Tree and Shrub Establishment, Forest Stand Improvement and others, continue to be offered in EQIP. Private non-industrial forestland, though not commonly considered “agricultural land,” is eligible for EQIP if it has a forest management plan.

For more information, see www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov under Programs, or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center in Clark County at 715-743-3164.

3RD ANNUAL INTRODUCTION TO BEES AND BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

The Dunn County Beekeepers and the University of Wisconsin-Extension are sponsoring an “Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping” workshop. The workshop is designed to provide the basic information necessary to start beekeeping in Wisconsin.

Participants will be guided through their first year of beekeeping. The workshop is intended for those who have no experience with bees and beekeeping.

**Saturday, February 6, 2010
Disabled American Veterans
Building, Menomonie
8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

\$45 per person which includes meal, breaks, materials and course book. \$8.00 for each additional family member or \$25 for 4-H, FFA or Scout youth members.

Pre-registration is required. Late registration or registration at the

door is \$55.

To attend the workshop, send check to:

UW-Extension
800 Wilson Ave, Room 330
Menomonie WI 54751

Call the UW-Extension office at 715-232-1636 for more information.



WHEAT PRODUCTION IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL, COMMUNITY ROOM

Registration 12:45 p.m.

Program Schedule

- “Winter and spring, soft and hard wheat, what are the differences in general terms?” and “Selecting varieties of spring hard red wheat in Central Wisconsin”, *Shawn Conley, UW-Extension Soybean & Small Grain Specialist*
- “Fertility needs and timing of fertilizer applications to winter and spring wheat”, *Richard Halopka, Clark County Crops & Soils Agent*
- Wheat disease and fungicide efficacy, *Paul Esker, Field Crop Pathologist*



There is no charge for this workshop. Please pre-register by February 19th by contacting the Clark County UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5121.

CROP DECISIONS 2010: SEED SELECTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

1. Buy the traits you need for your management.
2. Remember traits do not add yield, they only protect yield.
3. Good management practices may reduce the need for GMO traits. (example: crop rotation). These crops have flexibility for herbicides and traits.

The test plot information gathered on cultivars is also an area to be considered. Understand independent trials are a source of unbiased information. Company side by side trials are a good source of their cultivar information. Your own farm trial would be information more related to your management. If possible unbiased trials at a number of locations, with

results from multiple years would be a very good source of cultivar yield information in your area. If there are inconsistent plot results for a cultivar it indicates buyer beware.

5 keys to seed selection success:

1. Be aware of the genetic and environment interaction.
2. Cultivar Selection Strategies based on plot information- Be wary of inconsistent results.
3. Pay attention to seed cost-Use the “Crop Seed Spreadsheet” as a selection tool using your farm information.
4. Every cultivar must stand on their own—information on genetic families is unreliable. Buy the traits you need for your management

practices—Remember traits protect yield, but do not improve yield.

If you have questions on seed selection, the use of the “Crop Seed Spreadsheet” or developing crop budgets please contact, Richard Halopka, Crops & Soils Agent Clark County at 715-743-5121.

Resources:

Lauer, Joe “Picking the Top Corn Hybrids: Five Keys to Success”



DAIRY REPRODUCTION SEMINAR MARCH 3, 2010 THORP FIRE HALL 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Program Topics:

Dr. Paul Fricke, UW-Professor of dairy cattle reproduction

- Timing of AI
- Modifications of presynchronization systems in lactating cows at first postpartum AI (including Double Ovsynch).
- Resynchronization for cows failing to conceive to previous AI

Dr. Kent Weigel, UW-Professor/Extension Genetics specialist

- Discussing the latest in genomics and crossbreeding

Presentation – new tool to evaluate economics of sexed semen

No charge for the workshop. Please pre-register by Wednesday, February 24th by calling the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.



WISCONSIN CHEESE ORIGINALS OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO EARN STATE CHEESEMAKER LICENSE

First-of-its-kind, annual \$2,500 award aims to grow Wisconsin's artisan cheesemaker community



Want to be a Wisconsin artisan cheesemaker? A new organization is offering the first-of-

its-kind, \$2,500 annual scholarship to help one aspiring cheesemaker earn his or her license and make farmstead, artisan or specialty cheeses.

Wisconsin Cheese Originals, a member-based organization dedicated to sharing information about Wisconsin original cheeses and the people who craft them, today announces a new Wisconsin Licensed Cheesemaker Scholarship Program. The annual scholarship aims to grow the state's artisan and specialty cheesemaking community, one new cheesemaker at a time.

Launched in 2009, Wisconsin Cheese Originals hosts educational seminars, tasting receptions, cheesemaking tours

and sponsors the annual Wisconsin Original Cheese Festival, scheduled this year on Nov. 5-7 at the Monona Terrace in Madison, Wis.

Organization founder and executive director Jeanne Carpenter said the goal of the scholarship fund compliments the goal of the organization, which celebrates Wisconsin's original cheeses and helps connect consumers to farmstead, artisan and specialty cheesemakers.

"In the last 10 years, Wisconsin has become home to more than 60 artisan and specialty cheesemakers, many of whom are choosing to start or move their operations to Wisconsin because of the dairy state's reputation for quality, innovation and infrastructure," Carpenter said. "At the same time, I know there are men and women with the talent and drive to become an artisan cheesemaker, who lack the

financial backing and support to take the required university classes and obtain a cheesemaker license. This scholarship aims to address that gap and hopes to help one new Wisconsin artisan cheesemaker earn his or her license every year."

Applicants must be a resident of the State of Wisconsin, a high school graduate as of June 15, 2010, and must demonstrate ambition to pursue and obtain a Wisconsin Cheesemaker License, a lengthy process that can take as long as 18 months, requires the attendance at five university courses, as well as 240 hours of apprenticeship with an existing licensed Wisconsin cheesemaker. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from www.wisconsincheeseoriginals.com/about.php and are due March 15, 2010. To learn more, contact Carpenter at 608-358-7837.

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL LAND PRICES 2001-2008 **A.J. BRANNSTROM, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CENTER FOR DAIRY PROFITABILITY**

Wisconsin land values have been increasing steadily for the past several years. The upward run in land prices is both a blessing and a curse for the Wisconsin dairy community. Increased equity from land appreciation provides security and potential borrowing power to the current owners, but high land prices also result in pressure for higher land rental rates and raise significant entry barriers for young farmers. Many factors combine to determine land values – earnings potential, financing costs and real estate taxes to name just a few. This article examines more than 9,400 Wisconsin large bare farmland sales between non-related parties between 2001 and 2008.

The data for this analysis comes from the Wisconsin Department of

Revenue's real estate transfer returns. The transfer return is a two-page document which is filed with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) for every real estate transaction in the State of Wisconsin. The transfer return document includes basic information about the transaction, including the names of the grantor and grantee, location, size of the parcel, predominant use and sales price.

This analysis includes transactions between non-related parties of parcels between 35 and 1000 acres. It excludes all reported sales less than \$300/acre and more than \$10,000/acre—assuming they are not used for agricultural purposes. Parcels with water frontage or retained property rights are also

excluded. The DOR transfer return documents indicate whether the property was bare land or improved property, but contain no information about the types of improvements. This analysis concentrates on bare land sales. The statewide price of large agricultural land parcels increased 54% between 2001 and 2007 and another 12% between 2007 and 2008.

Average agricultural land prices are reported by agricultural statistics districts.

Here is the average price paid for bare land in Clark and surrounding counties. For a full report contact the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

Weighted Average Bare Land Sales 2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NC District	943	1,164	1,345	1,317	1,546	1,693	1,835	2,033
Ashland	NA	740	1,081	1,269	891	992	3,651	906
Clark	947	1,153	1,026	1,183	1,458	1,652	1,786	1,911
Iron	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	908	950
Lincoln	1,033	1,434	1,302	1,347	1,632	1,688	1,525	2,282
Marathon	949	1,298	1,904	1,578	1,748	1,998	1,913	2,563
Oneida	1,196	1,125	1,302	2,012	NA	1,772	1,746	1,661
Price	481	NA	870	1,217	938	1,294	2,500	1,412
Taylor	808	893	818	864	1,278	1,272	1,466	1,156
Vilas	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,875	2,623

SUCCESS STORY- REGIONAL APPROACH TO NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Matt Zoschke, County Conservationist

In 2008, four counties in the Central Region of Wisconsin teamed up to standardize their approach to nutrient management training, planning, and implementation. Clark, Marathon, Lincoln, and Taylor counties (Quad-County Partnership) met throughout the course of the year and after many positive discussions, the team decided to regionalize their NMP approach by standardizing their NMP reporting requirements and by partnering up to deliver nutrient management farmer education workshops. Marathon and Lincoln counties began the process of working together to advance nutrient management planning several years ago. These counties worked closely with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) to provide farmer training in the two-county region. Since NTC's region also includes parts of Clark and Taylor counties, in 2008-2009, the Quad-County farmer training workshops included locations in Clark, Marathon, and Taylor counties.

In 2008-2009, more than 90 farmers from 63 farms covering more than 20,000 acres participated in the regional training, sponsored by County Conservation Departments in Clark, Marathon, Taylor, and Lincoln Counties; UWEX in Clark and Marathon counties; and Northcentral Technical College. The NMP farmer training workshops were held at five centralized locations with staff from the County Conservation Departments and the UWEX teaching the NMP curriculum and staff from NTC providing logistical assistance by providing an adjunct instructor, coordinating registrations, printing nutrient management maps from DATCP's Manure Management Advisory System website, and by providing "Snap-Plus ready" laptop

computers for all class participants. The goal of the training was to encourage all farmers to leave the training with a completed nutrient management plan that met the state requirements as established in the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard and required by ATCP-50 and NR-151. 95% of class attendees completed a NMP and became qualified to write their own plan. Furthermore, every farmer who completed a nutrient management plan had the full cost of tuition reimbursed through a Multi-Agency Land and Water Education Grant (MALWEG), now called Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant (NMFE). Staff at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provided Snap-Plus update training to all UWEX and County Conservation staff before the Quad-County Partnership conducted their regional training for farmers. Working together as a team provided a higher quality program and more teaching capacity than could have been achieved independently. Many ideas were shared between the counties that improved the farmer training program. In the future, the Quad-County Partnership could lead to offering even more types of training, beyond nutrient management, that better meet the needs of individual producers.

This partnership between counties, technical colleges, and state agencies has led to other nutrient management training successes. This past summer, the partnership hosted a regional CCA workshop for local agronomists and consultants where regional NMP reporting requirements were standardized and outlined for more than 30 participants. The feedback from the workshop was very positive, since the agronomists and consultants no

longer had to meet differing NMP reporting deadlines and NMP submittal requirements for each county they service. Other NMP educational opportunities arose from the initial Quad-County Partnership. For example, Taylor and Clark Counties partnered up with Chippewa Valley Technical College in 2009 to bring additional nutrient management training opportunities to local farmers. Furthermore, Clark County worked closely with MALWEG in 2008 to create an "On-the-Road Show" Nutrient Management Farmer Training program where instead of bringing the farmer to the class, the class was brought to the farm. This unique approach, now funded through a 2009 NMFE Grant, has increased the participation of Amish and Mennonite farmers in nutrient management planning. More than twenty farmers covering 3,255 acres participated in the "On-the-Road Show" training in 2008.

Many opportunities for conservation partnerships exist with neighboring counties. Clark, Marathon, Taylor, and Lincoln counties have created a successful relationship in regard to nutrient management farmer education. These counties have also partnered with state agencies for grant funding and technical assistance and local technical colleges for logistical support. Successful conservation partnerships must recognize that farms, consultants, and non-point sources of pollution do not respect geopolitical boundaries. By working together to protect shared resources, these four Central Wisconsin counties have proven that cooperation is a very efficient way to gain and maintain conservation compliance.

INVESTING FOR FARM FAMILIES COURSE HELPS FARMERS PLAN FOR A SECURE FUTURE

A secure future, a farm for future generations. It's everything a farm family wants.

"You can learn to secure your farm's future and protect your family's legacy by enrolling now in an online course just for farm families," said Barbara O'Neill, Extension specialist in Financial Resource Management at Rutgers Cooperative Extension. "Investing for Farm Families provides the information you need to make strategic decisions while weaving

together farm and personal investments."

The 8-lesson course helps farm families plan for a financially stable future that meets their long-term needs. Developed by a team of Extension educators from several states, farm families can work at their own pace while taking the course.

"You can learn to increase your future financial security, identify investment strategies, know asset allocation

basics, evaluate investment production alternatives to agriculture business risks, and invest for retirement and farm succession planning," said O'Neill.

For more information or to enroll in the course, go to www.extension.org/pages/



FARMERS SHOULD MAKE A SKIN CHECK A PRIORITY

Farming has plenty of challenges, but probably one of the hazards that farmers worry about the least are the dangers from working in the sun year-round. As the harvest concludes and winter sets in, farmers should pay attention to the condition of their skin.

"More than 11,000 Americans die each year from skin cancer," says Dr. David M. Pariser, a dermatologist and president of the American Academy of Dermatology. "But when detected early, skin cancer has a cure rate of 99 percent. Since research shows farmers are among the least likely workers to receive a skin examination by a physician, it's important that farmers perform regular skin self-examinations, which could mean the difference between life and death."

It's as easy as "ABC" to remember how you can identify a mole or lesion that needs the attention of a dermatologist:

- Asymmetry (one half is unlike the other)
- Border (irregular, scalloped or poorly defined)

- Color (varies from one area to another)
- Diameter (the size of a pencil eraser or larger)
- Evolving (changing in size, shape or color)

To help farmers minimize their risk of skin cancer, the American Academy of Dermatology recommends that everyone Be Sun Smart:

- Use water-resistant sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 on all exposed skin, before heading out to the field or pasture. Re-apply approximately every two-hours, even on cloudy days.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.
- Stay in the shade when possible, and make sure your tractor has a sun umbrella. The sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- If working near water, snow or sand, seek extra shade because these surfaces reflect the sun's rays and increase your chance of

sunburn.

- Look at your skin after each harvest. Ask a partner to help. If you notice any moles or spots changing, growing or bleeding, make an appointment to see a dermatologist.

The Academy offers a downloadable Body Mole Map with information on how to perform a skin exam and images of the ABCDEs of melanoma. The mole map is available at www.aad.org/checkspot. The site also has information on how to find a free cancer screening from a dermatologist in your area.

Performing a skin self-exam requires regularly looking over the entire body, including the back, scalp, soles of the feet and between the toes, and on the palms. It is important to use both a full-length mirror and a hand-held mirror to see the scalp, back and buttocks.

For more information about skin cancer, visit the SkinCancerNet section of www.SkinCarePhysicians.com.

*Your county
extension office*



**UW
Extension**
Cooperative Extension
Clark County

Extension Views

CLARK COUNTY

517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

Phone: 715-743-5121
Fax: 715-743-5129

Address Service
Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
NEILLSVILLE WI 54456
PERMIT #90



An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity, or service, please contact the program coordinator at 715-743-5121 as soon as possible (10 days is reasonable) preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion.

Inside this issue:

Getting to Know your Dairy Calves	2
Cost Effective Milk Quality Dairy Seminar	3
Cattle Feeder Workshop/Dairy & Beef Conference	4
Pesticide Re-certification/Century Farm or Home/Dairy Promoters Present Award for Low Somatic Cell Count	5
Sign up for Farmland Conservation/ Beekeeping Workshop	6
Wheat Production in WI/Crop Decisions 2010: Seed Selection	7
Dairy Reproduction Seminar/ Scholarship to earn State Cheesemaker License	8
Wisconsin Agricultural Land Prices	9
Success Story – Regional Approach to Nutrient Management Implementation	10
Investing for Farm Families/Farmers Should Make a Skin Check a Priority	11

WISCONSIN RURAL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE'S STATE WIDE GATHERING CIRCLE

February 6 & 7, 2010 is the date for the Wisconsin Rural Women's Initiative's State Wide Gathering Circle. This event is open to all women interested in taking a look back at the past year in Wisconsin Agriculture through the lens of personal thoughts feelings and how the on going farm crisis has affected their health, their families, and their communities. This weekend will also offer the tools to move forward to a healthy and personally productive year. Facilitators Barbara Murray, Women Gather Women Facilitator and Mary Bub, Executive Director of WRWI will lead participants in the Gathering Circle Process around the theme; My Many Colored Days. Input on mental stress relief, self-care and personal development will provide resources. Kathy Schmitt, Community

Services Specialist will share her personal story as a farm women, as well as, offer a multitude of resources available though the Wisconsin Farm Center. Time for relaxation, networking, re-connecting with old friends and making new ones, and lots of fun, makes this an all around wellness weekend.

Register by January 25, 2010, Wintergreen Resort at Lake Delton, (Wisconsin Dells) is the location. Cost is \$75 includes food, lodging and program. The Gathering Circle begins with registration at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 6th and ends with lunch on Sunday, February 7th.

For more information call Christy at 262-723-4156 or e-mail mmbub@juno.com.