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WI DAIRY & BEEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE

MARCH 4, 2011
AMERICAN LEGION HALL, NEILLSVILLE WI

“The care and wellbeing of cattle in the state of Wisconsin is important to consumers and farmers alike. This conference will help producers to improve the care of their cattle and better understand the consumers point of view.”



Program Agenda

- 8:00 AM Registration**
 - 8:30 AM Welcome and Introduction**
 - 9:00 AM Animal Handling and Production Based Outcomes, Naomi Botheras, Animal Welfare Extension Specialist, The Ohio State University**
- We often talk about ways to improve profitability of our herds and what the return on investment will be for any particular management strategy or innovation — the return on investment of training stockpeople to improve animal handling can be pretty high. Naomi will talk about strategies to improve both animal stress levels and production.
- 10:00 AM Utilizing Knowledge of Dairy Cow Behavior to Improve Cow Comfort, Trevor DeVries, Dept of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph**

Producers invest significant amounts of money in constructing housing for dairy cattle, with the aim of providing a comfortable environment for their animals; this environment should ensure adequate rest and free access to an appropriate, well-balanced diet. This presentation will review empirical work focused on the feeding, standing and lying areas we provide to dairy cows, and show how these can be better designed and managed to prevent some of these problems and improve cow comfort.

- 11:30 AM Live Dairy Cattle Handling Demonstration, Curt Pate, National Cattlemen’s Association**
- 12:30 PM Live Beef Cattle Handling Demonstration, Curt Pate, National Cattlemen’s Association**

Curt brings great value to the livestock industry. In addition to devoting his time conducting stockmanship presentations,

(continued on page 4)

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

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

DAIRY HERD HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 21, 2011, 10 AM—3 PM
 ALLISON'S SUPPER CLUB, ABBOTSFORD

The performance of your cows depends on their health status in many different areas. Without good reproductive health cows don't milk as well and replacements are in short supply. Without good udder health cows loose production and you lose quality premiums and spend money on treatment. Transition cow care and management are a big key to getting both reproduction and udder health right. The reality is that even with good management some cows will need antibiotic therapy. Managing decisions about the use of antibiotics and culling decisions are a challenge on Wisconsin dairy farms. This program was designed to help producers achieve better herd health and maintain a profitable health status.

Program Topics

- **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Reproductive Management Programs**, Paul Fricke, Dairy Cattle Reproduction Specialist

Reproduction is an ever present concern on dairy farms. Getting cows pregnant in a timely manner is a key to running a profitable farm. Paul will share the strategies that are used by successful farms to deal with the reproduction issues.



- **Treatment of Mastitis to Maximize Quality and Reduce Residues**, Pam Ruegg, DVM, Milk Quality Specialist

Treating mastitis is risky business. Will the treatment cure the cow? Will the milk from a treated cow end up in the tank? How much should be spent on treatment? Pam will help you answer these questions for your farm and help you reduce the risks of mastitis and treatment of the disease.

- **Transition Cow Feeding Management**, Randy Shaver, Dairy Nutrition Specialist

Transition cows are the most vulnerable cows on the farm. How cows are managed during this time can help determine not only their performance at the time of calving but also the rest of the lactation. Randy will outline some best management practices for transition cows.

- **Hot Cows! Antibiotic Residues in Dairy Cattle**, Jim Campbell American Foods Group

Antibiotic residues in meat from dairy cattle is an increasing concern. Having an animal go to slaughter with residues can ruin both the market for the farm that ships her, as well as the reputation of the dairy industry. Jim will discuss the problem and some solutions.

Cost for this workshop is \$20 per person. Pre-registration is required. Registrations received after deadline will be \$25.00. Make checks payable to **UW-Extension**.

Registration deadline: February 16th

For more information contact the Clark County UWEX at 715-743-5121.

*Veterinary Medical Association will offer 2 CEU credits.



Registration Form Dairy Herd Health Symposium

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Email address _____
 Phone _____
 # attending _____

Mail to:
 Maria Bendixen,
 Dairy & Livestock Agent
 Clark County UW-Extension
 517 Court St Rm 104
 Neillsville, WI 54456

BEGINNING FARMER AND FARM ASSET OWNER TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection encourages individuals to

take advantage of the Beginning Farmer and Farm Asset Owner Tax Credits. These refundable credits are available against state income taxes, for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010.

"I look forward to assisting individuals interested in starting farming through the Beginning Farmer and Farm Asset Owner Tax Credits," said DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel. "These credits offer an incentive for established farmers to lease their assets and an opportunity for beginning farmers to complete a financial management program."

The tax credits are based on a three-year written cash lease arrangement between a beginning and established farmer. An established farmer has engaged in farming for a total of at least 10 years and owns agricultural assets. A beginning farmer has a net worth of less than \$200,000, has farmed



for fewer than 10 years out of the preceding 15 years, and uses the leased agricultural assets for farming.

The farm asset owner tax credit equals 15% of the lease amount received by the established farmer from a beginning farmer in the claim year. The tax credit goes against depreciable agricultural assets, which includes machinery, equipment, facilities, or livestock. Some examples may be irrigation tools, greenhouse space, a milking barn, or tractors.

The credit may only be claimed the first three years of any lease of the established farmer's assets to a beginning farmer. No part-time residents or nonresidents may claim this credit.

The beginning farmer tax credit equals the amount paid by the beginning farmer to enroll in a financial management program in the claim year. Beginning farmers may take classes through the Wisconsin Technical College System, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or other approved institution. This credit can be claimed on a one-time basis and the maximum credit allowed is

\$500.

To receive the credit, both a beginning farmer and an established farmer would have to apply to be certified by DATCP after review of an application. An application would include a business plan, description of the beginning farmer's education or training, and a copy of the written lease.

"Because the Beginning Farmer and Farm Asset Tax Credits are refundable, if the allowable amount of the claim exceeds the tax liability due by the beginning or established farmer, he or she will receive payment back," explains Paul Dietmann, Director of DATCP's Farm Center. "I recommend farmers contact DATCP today for assistance in writing leases and business plans to capitalize on this tax credit."

For more information about these tax credits or questions on completing lease agreements and business plans, contact DATCP's Wisconsin Farm Center at 1-800-942-2474 or farmcenter@wisconsin.gov.

2011 WINTER WHEAT WORKSHOPS

The 2011 Winter Wheat Workshop will take place Thursday, March 31st at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, 2615 East 29th Street, Marshfield, WI.

The theme for the 2011 workshop is, "The Timeline of Decisions for Wheat Management".

Topics include wheat growth staging, disease and insect diagnostics, nitrogen and weed management, and post-harvest management issues including

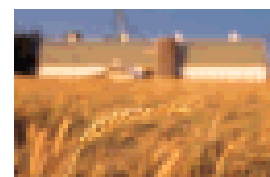
cover crops, nutrient implications of straw harvest and manure applications. Participants will be able to work "hands-on" with plant material to improve their knowledge of growth staging in relation to management decisions.

Speakers for the 2011 workshops include: Shawn Conley (State Soybean and Small Grains Specialist), Paul Esker (Field Crops Extension Plant Pathologist), and Jim Stute (UWEX Rock County). Registration will begin at 10:30 AM

with the program to start at 11 AM and be finished by 3 PM. Lunch will be provided.

The cost for the workshop is \$10. Continuing education credits will be requested.

For more information, contact Richard Halopka, UW-Extension Clark County, (715) 743-5121.



WI DAIRY & BEEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)

he manages his own ranch operation in Montana. With his ability to think outside the box, his ability to challenge others to do the same, and a willingness to share his skills, Curt has set himself apart in conducting stockmanship clinics. His lifelong experience in ranching adds credibility and enables him to communicate his methods effectively to cattle ranchers throughout the country.

1:30 PM Measuring Animal Welfare
Kurt Vogel, UW-River Falls Professor of Animal Science

Producers are constantly looking for ways to improve animal comfort and productivity. The industry is looking to

quantify animal welfare and comfort so that it can be communicated to the consumer in a clearer way. Kurt's presentation will outline how to measure animal welfare on farms.

2:45 PM Producer/Consumer Panel
What You Can do to Boost Consumer Confidence

3:30 PM Adjourn

Register online at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/>

Registration Form
WI Dairy & Beef Animal Husbandry Conference

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip _____</p> <p>Email address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p># attending _____</p> <p>Check which breakout session you would attend:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle Handling <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle Handling</p> <p>Six veterinary CEU credits will be available for a registration fee of \$65.</p> <p>I would like CEU Credits: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Cost of this workshop is \$40 per person. Pre-registration is required. Registrations received after deadline will be \$45. Make check payable to: UW-Extension. Registration deadline: February 21st.</p> <p>Mail to: Clark County UW-Extension 517 Court Street, Room 104 Neillsville WI 54456</p>
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DAIRY MODERNIZATION ESSENTIALS

MARCH 8, 2011, 10 AM—3 PM
THORP FIRE HALL

Program Agenda

- ⇒ **Farmstead Planning and Animal Housing**, Dave Kammel, UW-Madison Agricultural Engineer
- ⇒ **Out Wintering as an Option**, Kevin Mahalko, River Country RC&D
- ⇒ **Manure Handling and Storage**, Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservation
- ⇒ **Low Cost Parlors**, Vance Haugen, Crawford County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent
- ⇒ **Making Modernization Pay**, Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent

For more information call 715-743-5121.

Cost of this workshop is \$10 per person. Pre-registration is required. Registrations received after deadline will be \$15. Make check payable to UW-Extension. **Registration deadline:** March 1st.

Mail to:
Clark County UWEX
517 Court St Rm 104
Neillsville WI 54456

DAPHNE HOLTERMAN,
2009 DAIRY FARM WOMAN OF THE YEAR TO SPEAK
AT 9TH WESTERN WI HEART OF THE FARM

The 9th Western Wisconsin Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture Conference will be held at the Heyde Center for the Arts, 3 South High Street, Chippewa Falls, Thursday, March 3rd, 2011. The conference will begin at 9:15 with registration and end at 3:15 pm. This program provides farm women with the opportunity to network with other farm women and learn about balancing farm, family, and personal priorities, organizational skills, social media, how to have a voice in agriculture and LGM-Dairy. A musical duet by two local musicians will be played during lunch and the conference will end with a Beer and Cheese tasting by Leinenkugel's Brewery.

Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture conference series is a University of Wisconsin-Extension program that is committed to addressing the needs of farm women by providing education on farm business topics, connecting them with agricultural resources and creating support networks.

Topics for the Chippewa Fall Conference include:

- ⇒ **Balancing Act— Or Is It a Three-Ring Circus.** *Randy Knapp, Agricultural Agent, UW-Extension Chippewa County and Jenny Vanderlin, Asst. Director, UW-Extension's Center for Dairy Profitability.* This will be a fun, facilitated discussion on balancing farm, family, and personal priorities. Learn how others "do it all" or how they avoid feeling guilty if they don't!
- ⇒ **I Want to Be More Organized— But Where Do I Begin?** *Sally Hayden, Owner, Hayden's Bookkeeping Solutions.* For many of us, it can be extremely difficult to become organized. Come and hear Sally discuss the beginning steps to become more organized and less overwhelmed

and/or stressed.

- ⇒ **Thank You, Michael Pollan OR Never Underestimate the Power of a Farm Tour.** *Daphne Holterman, Dairy Farmer and World Dairy Expo Woman of the Year, 2009.* Do you feel you make a difference in the World of Agriculture? — You Do! Daphne will discuss how you, as farm women, are set up perfectly to answer Pollan's "call to action" and talk about what you do and why you do it every day.
- ⇒ **How Much is Your Dairy Farm Willing to Spend to Avoid the Next Financial Disaster?** *Mark Stephenson, Dir. of Dairy Policy and Analysis and UW-Extension's Center for Dairy Profitability.* Most dairy farm managers agree it would be impossible to survive another financial hit like the last one. Fortunately, dairy farmers can now insure their margin through a USDA "revenue insurance" program called LGM Dairy. Dr. Stephenson will review the structure of LGM-Dairy and some of its advantages.
- ⇒ **Social Media Universe.** *Laurie Boettcher Speaks, Eau Claire, WI.* Whether we use it, or our kids use it, social media is all around us. Much of the fear and frustration comes from not knowing or understanding. Attend this session to open the dialogue and educate yourself. Learn what social media is about, why people use it, how to protect yourself and your family, and how to use it, if you decide to.

Special Sessions: Leinenkugel Beer and Cheese Tasting. A culinary tasting event featuring locally brewed Leinenkugel's beer and Artisanal Cheeses from the area. Started in 1867, Leinenkugel's is the seventh oldest brewery in the US and the oldest business in Chippewa Falls!

"Music to Lunch By" Becky Splett and Jeanne Rowe, Bloomer, WI (*Kindred Spirits*, Piano and Violin Duets) will provide music during lunch. Becky and



Jeanne discovered their shared love of music and became kindred spirits—like the two best friends in the century old story, *Anne of Green Gables*. They enjoy playing violin/piano duets at community and church events. Becky Splett is a retired 3rd grade teacher, and Jeanne Rowe works for the Eau Claire School District.

Lunch will be catered by Ralph's Red Apple Grill and Connell's Orchard and will feature Local Foods.

There is a \$25 registration fee for the conference. Registration deadline is February 25, 2011. To register, send payment to Chippewa County—Extension Office, c/o HOF-Chippewa, Rm 13 Courthouse, 711 North Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, 54729-1876. Make checks payable to UW-Extension. For more information contact: Randy Knapp, randy.knapp@ces.uwex.edu, 715.726.7950, Jenny Vanderlin, jmvander@wisc.edu, 608.263.7795 or visit the Heart of the Farm website.

Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture is sponsored by UW-Extension Chippewa County, UW Center for Dairy Profitability and UW-Extension's Farm and Risk Management Team. It is partially funded by a USDA Risk Management Agency grant and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Hear what previous Heart of the Farm workshop participants have to say about the program at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjDesYfafoY>.

SOIL TILLAGE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 29
ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL
10 AM—3 PM

Program Agenda

- **FDG Gypsum**, *Dick Wolkowski, UW Soil Scientist*
- **Tillage and Organic Matter**, *Richard Halopka, Clark County UW-Extension Crops & Soils Agent*
- **Vertical Tillage**, *Dick Wolkowski, UW Soils Scientist & Jim Leverich, On-Farm Research Coordinator*
- **Adapting Equipment for Reduced Tillage and Precision Ag**, *Jim Leverich, On-Farm Research Coordinator*

For more information contact the Clark County UW-Extension at 715-743-5121.

Cost of this workshop is \$5.00 per person (includes lunch and handouts). Pre-registration is required by March 22nd. Make check payable to UW-Extension office

Mail to:
 Clark County UW-Extension
 517 Court Street, Rm 104
 Neillsville WI 54456

UNDERSTANDING & IMPLEMENTING YOUR
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 10 AM—3 PM
ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

Tentative Topics: To weigh or not to weigh — calibration is a key; who is liable — farmer, manure applicator, consultant?; county LCD requirements in the plan (checklist); field verification; public concerns & NMP.

CEU credits have been applied for.

For more information contact the Clark County UW-Extension at 715-743-5121.

Cost of this workshop is \$15.00 per person (includes lunch and handouts). Pre-registration is required by March 11th. Make check payable to UW-Extension office

Mail to:
 Clark County UW-Extension
 517 Court Street, Rm 104
 Neillsville WI 54456

PROFESSIONAL NUTRIENT APPLICATOR ASSOCIATION OF WI
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 12:30-3:30 PM
ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

Level 1 Training Scheduled for Thursday, March 24, Abbotsford City Hall

PNAAW and UW-Extension have scheduled a number of Level 1 training sessions this spring. Every employee must complete Level 1 every 12 months to remain certified. Level 1 training and exams can also be done in-house if you have a Level 2 certified individual on staff, however, test scores must be forwarded to the Association immediately after the test and training are completed.

1. Advance reservations are needed for these sessions,

as seating is limited at some locations.

2. The fee for training is \$5 per person with advance reservations (made at least 3 business days prior) or \$10/person at the door.

3. Employees should bring their current Level 1 manuals to the training. A limited number may be available for purchase @ \$20 each.

4. Each session is 3 hours long. A refresher Level 2 - Regulations will be offered at this location.

Contact Richard Halopka, Clark County Crops & Soils Agent if interested in attending at 715-743-5121.

FORAGE OPTIONS FOR 2011

MARCH 1, 2011

ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

11 AM—2:30 PM

The 2010 growing season has presented a number of challenges for the 2011 season. Excessive moisture resulted in decreased or dead plants in many alfalfa stands. What are your options for 2011? Can I replant the stand, should I interseed grasses and clover into the stand? What about my older alfalfa stands? Do I have other options?

Program is sponsored by:

UW-Extension Clark County, Central Wisconsin Forage Council and Midwest Forage Association

Topics to be discussed:

- ⇒ Comparing BMR Corn with Conventional Hybrids, *Joe Lauer, UW-Extension Corn Specialist*
- ⇒ Evaluating Alfalfa Stands, *Richard Halopka, Clark County UW-Extension Crops & Soils Agent*
- ⇒ Poor Alfalfa Stand Options, *Dan Undersander*
- ⇒ Weed Control: alfalfa and grass mix seedings, *Dan Undersander, UW-Extension Forage Agronomist*

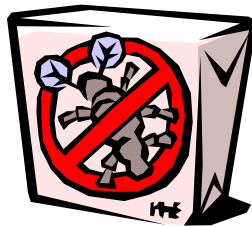
Please pre-register by calling the Clark County UW-Extension office by Feb. 25th.
Cost of the meeting is \$8 to cover meal and materials.

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 2**
Colby VFW
Hwy 13, Colby
- **Tuesday, March 8**
Neillsville Courthouse
Auditorium, 517 Court St
Neillsville
- **Thursday, March 10**
Thorp Fire Hall
101 So Wilson St, Thorp



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.

Lunch is on your own — bring a sack lunch.

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.

FRESH MARKET COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

MARCH 23, 2011, 10:00—3:00 PM

TIMBERS RESTAURANT, STANLEY

Topics to be discussed:

- ⇒ Disease Identification and Integrated Pest Management of Vegetable Crops, *Amanda Gevens, UW-Extension Plant Pathologist in Potatoes and Vegetables*
- ⇒ Insect Pest Management in Vegetable Crops, *Russ Groves, UW-Extension Vegetable Specialist and Applied Insect Ecologist*
- ⇒ The Basics of Nutrient Management for Vegetable Crops, *Matt Ruark, UW-Extension Soil Scientist*
- ⇒ Extending the Growing Season with High Tunnels
- ⇒ NRCS Programs available for Vegetable Production, *Tammy Lindsay, NRCS Chippewa Co District Conservationist*

Cost of the workshop is \$15. Pre-registration is required by March 4th. To register make check payable to UW-Extension and mail to the Clark Co UWEX, 517 Court St., Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456.

For more information or to register contact Richard Halopka, Clark Co UWEX 715-743-5121 or Jerry Clark, Chippewa Co UWEX 715-726-7950 or Erin LaFaive, Eau Claire Co UWEX 715-839-4712.

*Program is sponsored by:
Clark, Chippewa, and Eau Claire UW-Extension offices*

CORN FOLIAR FUNGICIDE TRIALS IN CLARK COUNTY

BY RICHARD HALOPKA, CLARK COUNTY CROPS & SOILS AGENT

Two corn foliar fungicide large farm strip trials were conducted in Clark County during the 2010 growing season. The strip trial plots were randomized and sized to fit the grower's field and replicated three times. Fungicide was applied at the R1 stage of maturity in both trials and a disease rating was recorded prior to fungicide application on both trials. A second disease rating was recorded on September 14, 2011 prior to corn silage harvest. The corn silage plot results are in the table below.

Clark County Silage Results 2010

Treatment	% DM ^a	DM Yield (T/A) ^a	CP ^a	NDF (% DM) _a	NDFd (% DM) ^a	Starch _a (% DM)	Fat (% DM) ^a	Milk/T ^a	Milk/A ^a
Stratego YLD (5.0 oz/A)	35.31 ^a	7.60 ^a	8.34 ^a	41.90 ^a	32.07 ^a	32.07 ^a	2.71 ^a	3745 ^a	28439 ^a
UTC	33.18 ^a	6.77 ^b	8.35 ^a	43.83 ^a	30.57 ^a	30.57 ^a	2.64 ^a	3731 ^a	25171 ^b

^a means with a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P=0.0, Duncan's New Multiple Range Test)

Clark County Silage Results 2010

Treatment	Pre Application Disease Severity (%) ^a	Post Application Disease Severity (%) ^a	Tassel Dieback (#/30 plants) ^a	Stalk Nudge (%) ^a	Ave. Stalk Health ^a
Stratego YLD (5.0 oz/A)	3.0 ^a	11.7 ^a	4.0 ^a	9.0 ^a	1.2 ^a
UTC	3.0 ^a	20.0 ^a	5.7 ^a	19.0 ^a	0.5 ^b

^a means with a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P=0.0, Duncan's New Multiple Range Test)

A second disease rating was recorded on September 22, 2011 for the corn grain plot. The results of the corn grain plot are in the table below.

Treatment (rate fl oz/A)	Yield ^a	Grain Moisture % ^a	Test weight #/Bu. ^a	% Lodged Stalk/30 ^a	Ave. % diseased foliage pre-application	Ave. % diseased foliage-September	Top die-back/30 stalks	Ave. stalk health rating ^a
Untreated Check	176.7 ^a	18.1	56.3	0 ^a	< 1	5.7 ^a	0 ^a	0.06 ^a
Stratego YLD (5.0)	182.4 ^a	18.2	56.4	2.3 ^a		10.7 ^a	0.7 ^a	0.20 ^a

^a means within a column for a location that are followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P=0.10, Duncan's New Multiple Range Test)

Some observations from the fungicide trial plots: There was a visual difference in the color of the corn silage plots. The fungicide treated plants appeared to have a greener color, but did not translate into a significant yield increase. Corn variety resistance to disease was evident in these trials. The BMR variety had a higher disease incidence compared to the corn grain variety. Fungicide application at the R1 stage will result in corn being run down. The fungicide treated plots had a positive yield response and a reduced disease rating compared to the untreated plots, but the difference was not significant.

Recommendations:

1. Select corn varieties with specific disease resistance.
2. Manage the crop rotation and residue to reduce disease pressure.
3. Use integrated pest management (IPM), scout for disease pressure in the field and understand the importance of temperature, relative humidity, and leaf wetness to determine if a fungicide application is required.
4. Economics: fungicide cost, application cost, and crop loss (run down corn) may require a 5-6 bushel yield increase to cover cost of the fungicide application.

EGG SAFETY AND THE BACKYARD FLOCK

Barbara Ingham, Food Science Specialist and Ron Kean, Poultry Specialist
University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Extension



With more and more municipalities allowing individuals to have a

backyard chicken coop, consumers are asking questions about the care and safety of eggs gathered from their own flock or from a local farmer.

Eggs are among the most nutritious foods on earth and can be part of a healthy diet. However, they are perishable just like raw meat, poultry, and fish. Poultry may carry bacteria such as *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* that can cause illness to you and your family. Infected birds do not usually appear sick and even unbroken, clean, fresh shell eggs may contain harmful bacteria.

Because of nationwide recalls of shell eggs due to *Salmonella* contamination, we now understand that the ways in which shell-eggs can become contaminated vary widely. *Salmonella* can be introduced to shell eggs not only through the laying process, but also via contaminated poultry feed or bedding and from baby chicks (pullets) that may have become contaminated in a hatchery. None of these routes of contamination are unique to large operations.

Fortunately, there are several steps that you can take to help ensure safe, home-produced chicken eggs.

Caring for the Flock

- Eggs will stay cleaner if the shelter area is kept clean and dry. Maintain floor litter in good condition. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the shed **at least once a year**. Obtain an approved disinfectant from your feed store and apply according to

directions.

- Allow one nest for every three to four chickens and make sure nests are large enough for your hens. To protect eggs, pad nests with straw or wood chips. Clean out nest boxes **once a week** to remove dirty litter and manure and replace with clean nesting material.
- Allow adequate nest space and plenty of clean nesting material to help to ensure clean eggs and limit egg breakage.
- Provide a perch above the floor over a dropping box away from the nests. Chickens will roost on the perch to sleep and defecate into the wire-mesh covered dropping box. Do not let hens roost in the nest boxes.

Caring for the Eggs

- **Collect the eggs often.** Eggs that spend more time in the nest have an increased chance of becoming dirty, broken, or lower in quality. Collecting eggs **at least twice daily** is recommended, preferably before noon. Discard eggs with broken or cracked shells.
- **Cleaning.** Dirty eggs can be a health hazard. Eggs with dirt and debris can be **cleaned** with fine sandpaper, a brush, or emery cloth. If eggs need to be washed, the temperature of the water should be **at least 20°F warmer** than the egg. This will prevent the egg contents from contracting and producing a vacuum. It will also prevent microscopic bacteria from being pulled by vacuum through the pores of the egg. A mild, non-foaming, unscented detergent approved for washing eggs can be used. A dishwashing liquid that is free of scents and dyes is acceptable. Eggs can be sanitized by dipping in a solution of 1 tablespoon household bleach to 1 gallon of water before storage. **Dry eggs** before storing because moisture may enter the shell pores as eggs cool on refrigeration.
- **Storage.** Store eggs in the **main**

section of the refrigerator at 35° F to 40°F; the shelves in the door tend to be warmer than interior shelves. If collected properly and stored in the refrigerator, eggs should have a **shelf life of 6 to 8 weeks**. Date the storage carton or container and use older eggs first. Older eggs will have flatter yolks and thinner whites, so they won't make a nice looking fried egg, and the whites won't whip up as nice. If you have more eggs than you can use, you can break them out of their shells and freeze them. Only freeze fresh eggs. Beat until just blended, pour into freezer containers, seal tightly, label with the number of eggs and the date. Add a small amount of salt, sugar, or corn syrup to prevent gelling and improve the keeping quality of the eggs. It's a good idea to note any additional ingredients on the freezer container. The whites and yolks may also be frozen separately.

- **Preparation.** Never eat eggs raw or undercooked. Undercooked egg whites and yolks have been associated with outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis* infections. To prevent illness from bacteria, cook eggs until yolks are firm and whites are set, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly to 160°F. Use a food thermometer to be sure. Do not keep cooked or raw eggs at room temperature for more than two hours.

Caring for Manure

Compost chicken manure to proper temperatures to kill harmful bacteria before being used to fertilize garden plots that are used for growing fruits and vegetables. Un-composted



UW-EXTENSION TO OFFER FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR WISCONSIN'S FOOD PROCESSORS

More and more Wisconsin residents are seeking fresh, locally produced foods with the goals of eating a healthier diet and supporting the local economy. With the increased emphasis on buying local, the University of Wisconsin–Extension is offering two training programs this spring to help growers and small businesses bring their products to market. The two programs are “Wisconsin Acidified Canned Foods Training for Licensed Processors” and “Farm to Market: Food Safety Training for ‘Pickle Bill’ Processors.”

According to University of Wisconsin-Extension food science specialist Barbara Ingham, it may be an opportune time for growers and small businesses to take advantage of the strong statewide interest in local foods. “Legislation signed into law in spring of 2010 (the ‘Pickle Bill’) allows individuals to can pickles or salsa and naturally acid products like jam in their home kitchens for sale at farm markets in Wisconsin,” says Ingham. To help individuals do this safely and to help explain these new regulations, the University of Wisconsin-Extension is offering “Farm to Market: Food Safety for Pickle Bill Processors” workshops in Green Bay on March 16;

Eau Claire on April 13; Madison on May 4; and Wausau on May 18. “Some food processors wish to market their canned products to a wider market through grocery stores or to customers in other states,” notes Ingham. These processors now also have easy access to the training that they need. Processors wishing to can a wider variety of products not covered under the “Pickle Bill,” or those wishing to sell at locations other than farm markets, must obtain a food processing license. As part of licensing, processors who make and can acidified foods such as pickles, salad dressing or sauces must obtain special food safety training. The “Wisconsin Acidified Canned Foods” training for licensed food processors was developed to assist these processors in providing safe, high quality foods for Wisconsin consumers. The “Wisconsin Acidified Canned Foods” training is also offered at four locations around the state this spring: Green Bay on March 15; Eau Claire on April 14; Madison on May 5; and Wausau on May 19. “Canned foods may be potentially hazardous if proper procedures are not followed,” says Julie Simek-

Heggebo, Clark County Family Living Agent. “It’s important to follow tested recipes that will produce safe, high quality products for sale.” These trainings are designed to assist both licensed and unlicensed processors produce safe food for local and statewide markets.

More information and registration for both trainings is available at www.foodsafety.wisc.edu and through the Clark County Extension office.

The University of Wisconsin-Extension is dedicated to providing support to food processors across the state. Web resources that explain the rules for exempt (Pickle Bill) processors and information to help licensed canned foods processors meet state regulations can be found online at: www.foodsafety.wisc.edu. Consumers will also find information on canning, approved recipes, and links to training registration forms on this site.

Individuals with questions about either should contact Barbara Ingham at the University of Wisconsin, phone 608-263-7383 or email bhingham@wisc.edu.

EGG SAFETY AND THE BACKYARD FLOCK (CONTINUED)

manure can be a source of bacterial contamination for produce grown in the garden. Chicken manure can also be high in nitrates and may damage plants if applied directly. The best option often is to use chicken manure in flower gardens, shrub borders, and other nonfood gardens.

Caring for Yourself

- Always wash your hands with soap and water after handling eggs, chickens, or anything in their environment.
- Do not wash feed and water dishes

from the chicken shed in the kitchen sink.

Sharing or Selling Eggs Collected on Your Farm

If you choose to share eggs from your flock with friends and neighbors it is important to follow the safety recommendations outlined in this fact sheet. Use generic egg cartons that do not display a store or brand name and provide the date eggs were collected. Plastic egg holders sold for camping or plastic egg trays available from farm supply stores

are good options for distributing eggs because they can be washed and reused.

No license is needed if eggs are sold at the producer’s farm. Clean, pack and keep eggs stored at 41°F or below.

A license is required to sell eggs off the farm. For information or to obtain a license, contact the Division of Food Safety of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at 608-224-4682.

NOW IS THE HIGH RISK PERIOD FOR MANURE RUNOFF

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

DENNIS FRAME, U. W. – DISCOVERY FARMS

Livestock producers who apply manure to agricultural fields need to be aware that spreading manure from now until the ground thaws have an extremely high risk of runoff. Studies from farms cooperating in the UW - Discovery Farms Program indicate that manure applied to snow covered and/or frozen soils during conditions of snow melt or rain on frozen soils can contribute the majority of the annual nutrient losses.

Forecasted air temperatures are predicted to become milder starting the week of February 13 throughout much of Wisconsin, with daytime highs expected to occasionally climb into the 40's. Daily high temperatures are predicted to be above freezing for at least a week in southern Wisconsin. This relatively prolonged period of warmth is expected to be accompanied with chances for rain. The combination of warm air temperatures and increasingly stronger sunshine could lead to snow ripening and starting to melt next week. Rainfall additions could contribute to additional snowmelt and increase the potential for surface runoff from farm fields.

Snowmelt runoff has the potential to be big this year

Snow depths are generally 1 - 2 feet throughout much of Wisconsin, which is much higher than normal, especially in Southern Wisconsin. In Madison, for example, there is typically about 5 inches of snow on the ground in early February. As of February 3, there was nearly 20 inches. If all of this snow were melted, the liquid equivalent would be approximately 2 - 4 inches, with as much as 6 inches or more in some areas of the state.

Frost depths are generally ranging from 8 inches to over 2 feet. Although the snow is deep – which tends to insulate soil and limit frost depth – the brief warm up near the end of December reduced the snow pack and allowed the cold air to penetrate deeper into the soil. The brief warm - up also consolidated some of the heavy December snows, and in many places there are icy layers within the snowpack and on top of the soils. In addition to frozen soils, these ice layers may further reduce infiltration and increase the

potential for surface runoff.

As the temperatures moderate, producers need to listen to the weather forecast. Avoid spreading manure when there is a high probability of rain on frozen soils. What can producers do to reduce the risk of manure run off?

- √ During the period of active snow melt or when rain is predicted on frozen soils, producers who must haul manure from their barns should stack it in an area where the potential for runoff or groundwater infiltration is low,
- √ Farmers who daily haul manure should work with their local conservation departments to identify safe stacking sites that have minimal potential to runoff into either surface or groundwater,
- √ Producers who have lots or facilities with bedded pack systems need to be cautious about spreading this manure during this high risk period. Cleaning lots and getting the manure on the fields before the frost goes out can greatly increase the potential for nutrient losses,
- √ Producers who must haul manure during this high risk period should identify fields that are away from streams or lakes and have minimal risk of manure running to surface or groundwater.

We are saying that there is a high potential for manure runoff this year based on the current field conditions and typical weather patterns. This doesn't mean it will happen! If temperatures rise slowly, cloudy days or the lack of rain can greatly reduce the chance of runoff. Producers need to listen to the weather forecast and make good management decisions. Good decisions can reduce the risk of runoff events and continue to protect our farms and our water.

WI DAIRY & BEEF CATTLE HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE

MARCH 4, 2011
NEILLSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION HALL
8:00 AM—3:30 PM

Cost of this workshop is \$40 per person. Pre-registration is required. Make check payable to UW-Extension. Registration deadline: February 21st. For more information regarding the Wisconsin Dairy & Beef Cattle Husbandry Conference see page 1 and/or a registration form see page 4.

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.

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