

Your county extension office



UW Extension
Cooperative Extension
Clark County

January 2011



Extension Views Newsletter

In this issue *Page*

Transferring the Farm in a High Stakes Era	2
Dairy Herd Health Symposium	3
Dairy & Beef Animal Husbandry Conference	4
Farm Employer Meeting	5
Dairy Modernization Essentials	6
LGM Dairy	6
North Central Farm Women's Network	7
Dairy Nutrition Meeting	8
Pesticide Applicator Classes	8
Central WI Commercial Vegetable Production	8
Beef Producers Meeting	9
Learn the ABCs of CSA's	9
Farmers Encouraged to Sign Up for Conservation Stewardship Payments	10
Dairy Promoters Awards For Low Somatic Cell Count	10
Winter Spreading Guidelines	11
Forage Update Meeting	12

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

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

GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOP SERIES

Marshfield Ag Research Station

February 2, 9, and 17

10:00 AM—3:00 PM

What is the AgVentures Grain Marketing Workshop Series?

With the volatility of commodity grain prices and tight profit margins, producing a good quality, high yielding crop no longer can insure a profitable harvest. Marketing has become an increasingly important aspect of farm business management. This workshop series provides grain producers with a comprehensive look into the steps of marketing a grain crop.



Curriculum on grain marketing was developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension personnel who are part of the Farm and Risk Management Team. Producers who will see the greatest benefit from this workshop are those who have yet to enter the arena of grain marketing yet rely on the sale of grains as a key component in their farming operation.

Over the course of three workshop sessions spread over as many weeks, participants will be exposed to a progression of themes that can be applied to grain marketing strategies on their own farm.

Workshop Outline

Workshop Week 1:

- What is risk?
- Risk Tolerance
- Determining Cost of Production

Workshop Week 2:

- What is Basis?
- Cash Forward Contracts
- Understanding Futures Markets—Hedging Options
- Minimum Price Contracts

Workshop Week 3:

- Crop Insurance
- Price forecasting
- Developing a Marketing Plan

There is a registration fee of \$40 which includes materials and meals for the 3-day program.

Registration Contacts:

Wood County UW-Extension
400 Market Street
PO Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
Phone: 715-421-8440

or

Clark County UW-Extension
Courthouse Room 104
517 Court Street
Neillsville WI 54456
Phone: 715-743-5121

Program Sponsored by:

Central Wisconsin Agriculture Specialization Team and UW-Extension Offices

TRANSFERRING THE FARM IN A HIGH STAKES ERA: A WORKSHOP FOR RETIRING AND BEGINNING FARMERS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
ABBOTSFORD COMMUNITY HALL

The UW-Extension in Clark, Lincoln, Langlade and Marathon Counties will host a workshop in Abbotsford on February 2, 2011 to explore issues and considerations for farm succession in today's high stakes climate. The workshop will be at the Abbotsford City Hall, 203 N. 1st St., Abbotsford.

A generation ago, passing on the family farm was a simple process. Profit margins were higher, land values were lower, farm size was smaller, and tax rates were not significant. More often than not, a farmer could draft a simple will to transfer ownership to his children. We are facing serious questions as to whether the family farm can, in fact, be passed down from today's owners to the next generation.

Transferring the farm business to the next generation is seldom an abrupt process. The transition generally takes place over a number of years, thus successful farm succession takes good planning and communication. The succeeding generation needs to establish a firm financial footing as well as learning to manage the business. The retiring generation has to be willing to turn over control of the business and trust that the successor will do well.

Developing a working plan will make the actual transition smoother and will make communicating the transfer details with on-farm and off-farm family members easier. Even if your transfer may happen a few years from now, starting early will help the process go more smoothly.

Transferring the Farm in a High Stakes Era will explore these issues and considerations for farm succession in today's high stakes climate.

Topics to be covered include:

- Financial considerations for retirement
- Farm business arrangements
- Dealing with the 5 D's: Death, Divorce, Disability, Disaster and Disagreement
- Tax considerations for farm transfers
- Beginning farmer business planning
- Importance of communication in farm transfers

The program begins with registration at 8:45 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. The workshop cost is \$20.00 per person and includes lunch, refreshments, speakers and workshop materials. Pre-registration is required by January 26th, 2011. To register, contact the Clark County UW-Extension Office at 715.743.5121.

REGISTRATION FORM
TRANSFERRING THE FARM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Attending _____

Cost is \$20 per person. Pre-registration is required by January 26th. To register send a check make payable to: Clark County UW-Extension.

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

**2011 MIDWEST FORAGE ASSN
SYMPOSIUM & ANNUAL
MEETING**

JANUARY 24-26, 2011

CHULA VISTA, WI DELLS

Register online at:
www.midwestforage.org/dellsmeeting.php

**FEBRUARY 15-16 MIDWEST
MANURE SUMMIT**

The Midwest Manure Summit will be held on February 15 & 16, 2011 in Green Bay, WI at Lambeau Field. This conference focuses on manure handling and processing. For more information including registration visit www.midwestmanure.com.

DAIRY HERD HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 21, 2011

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 lose 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 14th.

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



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, 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

Registration Form
WI Dairy & Beef Animal Husbandry Conference

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

attending _____

Check which breakout session you would attend:

Dairy Cattle Handling

Beef Cattle Handling

Six veterinary CEU credits will be available for a registration fee of \$65.

I would like CEU Credits: Yes No

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.

Mail to:

Clark County UW-Extension
517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

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

FARM EMPLOYER MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2011

Loyal American Legion Hall

11 AM—2 PM

Employee management on farms comes with a unique set of challenges. Hours of work can be unpredictable and many times farm workers work odd hours. Keeping employees happy and motivated in those kind of conditions in a time of tight agricultural margins can make or break of farming operation. This workshop is designed to help farm employers deal with some of the issues of employee management.



- **Employee Recruitment and Retention**, Gregg Hadley, Farm Financial Management Specialist, UW-Extension.

Finding the right kind of help for your farming operation can be tough. Management styles can make one farms best person another's worst. Matching your management style with the kind of employees you hire can really help in retention and motivation of employees. Gregg will help producers think about the best way to find the right person and how to keep and train the ones you have.

- **Creative Compensation**, Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent.

How much does it mean to your employees to have lunch brought to them on days that they work overtime because of crop season or hoof trimming day? There are things that you can do to keep employees happy that are not monetary. In times of tight cash flow using some creative ways to compensate employees for their efforts might be beneficial to you business. Maria will offer some ideas for creative compensation and share data about what is important to farm employees.

- **What you need to know about workman's compensation insurance and it's legal issues**, Department of Workforce Development.

- ⇒ At what point do you need to start carrying workman's compensation insurance?
- ⇒ What are the laws regarding employee's getting hurt while working for you?
- ⇒ A representative from the Wisconsin Department of workforce development will be on hand to answer your questions and offer advice on how to deal with this issue and protect your farm from this very real liability.

Registration Form Farm Employer Meeting

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Attending _____

Cost of this workshop is \$20.00 per person. Pre-registration is required one week in advance.
Mail to: Clark County UW-Extension, 517 Court St Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456.

Make check payable to: UW-Extension.

If you have any questions contact the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

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

LGM DAIRY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

M & I BANK, LOYAL

1:00—3:00 PM

Most dairy farm managers agree it would be impossible to survive another financial hit like the recent one.

Fortunately, dairy farmers can now insure their margin through a USDA — revenue insurance program called LGM-Dairy. Beginning in December, the contract is more attractive than ever.



The revamped program will now include:

- 18-50% premium subsidy
- Additional deductible choices
- Premiums are now due after coverage expires, not up front.

You can learn more about this marketing option that works no matter the amount of milk you ship at the LGM-Dairy informational session.

Introduction and discussion of LGM-Dairy

contacts begins at 1:00, with Extension Dairy specialist from UW-Madison, Brian Gould. At 2:00 Lynn Ebert, M & I Bank Insurance specialist will offer suggestions on how to best use this marketing tool with the high feed prices that we are facing in 2011. They will also present decision-making tools to help producers pick the contact that is best for your farm.

This meeting is designed for beginners and advanced users alike.

There is no cost to attend this meeting, but pre-registration is required. Please call to register by Monday, January 17th.

To register call the Clark County UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5121.

Sponsored by:
M & I Bank
UW-Extension Office



NORTH CENTRAL FARMWOMEN'S NETWORK

all sessions 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

**Allison's Steakhouse
Abbotsford
February 11 and March 11**

**Gilman Bowl
Gilman
February 22 and March 22**

You are invited to become part of the North Central WI Farmwomen's Network.

The recently published 2007 Census of Agriculture notes the increase of women farmers in WI. Since the last Agriculture census conducted in 2002, the 2007 Census counted nearly 30 percent more women as principal farm operators. The 2007 Census counted 14% of the self-described principle farm owners in Taylor County as women, an increase of 9% since the last census in 2002. The 2007 Census counted 6% of the self-described principle farm owners in Clark County, 7% in Marathon County; also an increase from the 2002 Census: 4% in Clark County and 5% in Marathon County. As an increasing yet minority population, these women are committed to their farming lifestyle.

Current research of the UW-Madison Environmental Resources Center shows farmwomen often feel isolated and 'put-down' in a male-oriented farming community. It can be difficult to enjoy social events when many farmwomen friends are not engaged in farming, not understanding the pressures of a farming lifestyle.

For the past three years, Taylor and Clark County UW-Extension have been offering *Annie's Project*, a series of classes concerning farm financial matters for farmwomen. Each year, the women attendees talk of the difficulties they face while farming in a male dominated, rural WI. The women have stated their willingness to attend peer group sessions where they would establish their own personal network.

To meet this request, UW-Extension Taylor County is partnering with the Taylor/Price County Farm Service Agency and UW-Extension Clark County to foster The North Central Farmwomen's Network (NCFN). NCFN will consist of three hour lunchtime sessions whereby you may discuss challenges you currently face on your farm. You are invited to register using the enclosed form, which asks you to choose or list a few key items they would like infor-

mation on. While prioritizing the responses indicated to start discussions, you will be encouraged to self-direct the sessions. The counties' UW-Extension educators (Sandy and Maria) as well as the area FSA director (Deb) will be present to facilitate these discussions and will work to provide follow-up information.

You are encouraged to register for either the Gilman or the Abbotsford site. The second session will follow-up on topics discussed at the first session, but attending both is not mandatory. There is no charge. Pre-registration is required and sessions are limited to 20 women, so sign up early!

Ladies: this is your network; a safe place for you to ask about whatever it is you need to know more about. The sessions are guaranteed to be fun, informal and information packed. I look forward to meeting with you.

Registration Form
North Central Farmwomen's Network
RSVP by February 1, 2011

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 County: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Will attend (check one or two locations):
 Feb. 11, Abbotsford Feb. 22, Gilman
 March 11, Abbotsford March 22, Gilman

Send registration form to:
 UWEX Taylor County
 925 Donald St, Room 103
 Medford WI 54451

*List three concerns you would like information about.

DAIRY NUTRITION MEETING

FEBRUARY 1, 2011, 10 AM—2 PM

GREENWOOD GALLEY & PUB

Topics to be discussed:

- **Benefits and Cost of Feeding Multiple Lactating Cow Rations** (*Matt Lippert, Wood County Agriculture Agent*)
- **Grass and Legume Forages** (*Dan Undersander, Forage Agronomist*)
- **All Corn is not Created Equal** (*Pat Hoffman, Dairy Herd Specialist*)

Make checks payable to: **UW-Extension**

Registration deadline: **January 24, 2011**

Mail to: Maria Bendixen
Clark Co UWEX
517 Court St, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

Cost for the workshop is \$15/person. Pre-registration is required. Registrations received after deadline will be \$20/person.

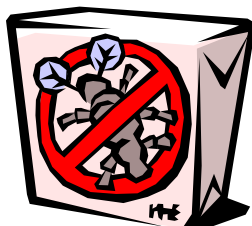
Call the Clark County UW-Extension office for more information 715-743-5121.

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.

CENTRAL WI COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

MARCH 9, 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*

BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING

Area beef producers, whether raising traditional cow/calf pairs or feeding out steers, are invited to attend the North Central WI Cattlemen's Association *January Event*. The Event begins at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011 at the Chelsea Conservation Club, N6357 State Hwy 13, Medford, WI. The program includes discussions with Robert Fourdraine of the WI Livestock Identification Consortium and a marketing panel from the Equity, Central Livestock and Bloomington Markets. The *January Event* concludes with dinner served at 5 p.m.

Formed in 2008, the North Central WI Cattlemen's Association members from Price, Taylor, Rusk, Clark, Marathon and Lincoln counties meet together monthly,

having fun with their peers while learning beef production strategies. Their goal is to improve the quality of their industry. They work to promote beef consumption and beef education to the public, primarily by hosting their Beef Round-up and Seed Stock Sale in July. NCWCA is looking for new members from those who raise beef: large or small cow/calf producers, feedlots, backgrounders or Holstein steer producers.

The January Event registration and dinner is included with paid membership to NCWCA. Dues are \$35/family and \$20/individual or associate. Paying membership dues at the *January Event* also qualifies for door



prize drawings which include: animal health products, coupons from NCWCA sponsors and a free bull breeding soundness exam at the NCWCA Breeding Soundness Clinic to be held in May, 2011.

For more information or to RSVP, contact UW-Extension Taylor County at 715-748-3327.

LEARN THE ABCs of CSA's

Registration Open for Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin Workshops in January

For those interested in starting, expanding, or improving a CSA

(Community Supported Agriculture) operation, register now for the Buy Local, Buy



Wisconsin 2011 Regional Workshop Roadshows. "The ABCs of CSAs" workshop will be held in January 2011 in East Troy, Viroqua, and Menomonie.

Start-up considerations, financial management, share planning, marketing, succession planning, member involvement, distribution, communication, member retention, and balancing multiple markets will be discussed. Barb Perkins of Vermont Valley Community Farms in Blue Mounds and Laura Frerichs of Loon Organics in Hutchinson,

Minnesota will be the speakers for the workshops. Perkins and Frerichs will share their experience about the unique challenges and considerations of running a viable and successful CSA.

All workshops are 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Dates and locations for the "The ABCs of CSAs" workshops are:

- Monday, January 17, 2011
East Troy
- Tuesday, January 18, 2011
Viroqua
- Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Menomonie

In Viroqua and Menomonie, the cost is \$30 for the first registration and \$15 for any additional registrations in the party. The cost

for East Troy is \$40 per registration.

These workshops are the first in a series planned for 2011. "Selling to Retail" is planned for February, and "Selling to Institutions" will be held in March.

Register by mail or online, at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin. Online registration will start in early January. To get a registration brochure and more information, contact Theresa Feiner at theresa.feiner@wisconsin.gov or 608-224-5112.

FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN-UP NOW FOR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS

Applications Will Be Accepted Through January 21, 2011

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting new applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The deadline for applications has been extended to January 21, 2011.

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages good conservation on farm and forest land. Last year, average payment was \$6800 per farm. The program is open to all farmers nationwide, regardless of size or type of operation. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and tribal agricultural lands.

Although CSP is a continuous signup program, producers must apply by

January 21, 2011, to be considered for 2011 funding.

Jane Reigel, NRCS District Conservationist for Clark County, encourages interested farmers to apply now to be considered for funding. "Farmers who are practicing good conservation should act now to take advantage of this great program," said Reigel. "If you take the time to sign up now, much of the paperwork can be completed later, and farmers will see the payments for five years, and benefits of good conservation for generations to come."

In Wisconsin, 968 farmers and forestland owners enrolled in CSP in 2010. Over \$6 million in annual

payments will be made to these farmers beginning in November. The average payment this year is \$6800 per contract. Contracts run for five years. Potential participants can use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. The checklist and application form is available online at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov and at NRCS field offices. Farmers will need to document their current and proposed conservation practices which will be used to rank applications and determine payments. NRCS field staff will also conduct on-site field verifications of applicants' information.

In the last signup, average cropland payment per acre was \$18.94 and average pastureland payment per acre was \$18.12.

For information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, producers can visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov or visit their local NRCS field office.

CSP Payments Per Acre Wisconsin Last Signup			
	Low	High	Average
Cropland	\$7.51	\$44.03	\$18.94
Pasture*	\$4.79	\$42.25	\$18.12
Forested	\$1.10	\$23.97	\$4.33
*Includes both pasture and pastured cropland land use			

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 in Greenwood.

Producers with a 2010 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 2010 SCC average.

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



WINTER SPREADING GUIDELINES

BY MATT ZOSCHKE, CLARK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION

Recent events in Clark County have prompted the need for a quick review of winter manure application. A lot of snow cover still remains on the ground. One thing for sure is that it is very difficult and extremely risky to be applying manure at this time of the year. Many farmers had stopped applying manure a month or so ago, but this snow keeps hanging on and the recent rains have compounded the challenge.

The question remains: Where should we apply manure?

If your manure storage still has adequate capacity or if you have had the Land Conservation Department identify safe stacking sites on your farm, please continue to utilize these safe storage options. If you no longer have adequate storage capacity or safe stacking sites have never been identified, the following list will provide you with a way to identify the least risky fields for winter manure spreading.

If you must apply manure, find the fields with the following characteristics:

1. **High on the landscape**- fields located the farthest from streams, ditches (road or otherwise), and other concentrated flow areas.
2. **No upslope runoff**- fields that do not have other fields draining across them will have less runoff water moving over them when the snow melts.
3. **Downslope buffers**- fields with buffer strips, including a hay field downslope, will filter runoff water better than bare soil.
4. **Grassed waterways, well casings, and tile inlets**- stay away from them! All of these are direct conduits to either surface or groundwater.
5. **Rough surface**- fields that have been contour plowed, either chisel or molboard plowed in the fall, will have a rough surface that will slow runoff water.

6. **High surface residue**- fields that have greater than 30% residue cover will slow runoff water and decrease soil erosion. Flat fields that had corn grain, with residue left on the field, and that were fall chisel plowed on the contour are the best candidate.
7. **Internally drained**- these fields have more ponding/infiltration and less runoff.
8. **Slope less than 6%**- flatter fields may produce less runoff. Applying liquid manure on fields with a 3% or less slope is ideal in winter.
9. **Corn ground**- corn will utilize the nutrients in manure better than any other crop the following year.
10. **Low fertility ground**- fields with less than 50ppm phosphorus. Check soil tests.

The least risky fields will have all of the above characteristics. A field appropriate for winter spreading will exhibit at least seven of the ten listed characteristics

If you absolutely have to spread, limit the application of liquid manure to less than one tanker load/acre or less than 5,000 gallons/acre. Limit the application of solid manure to less than 10 tons/acre. Come back to the field in spring and reapply if necessary.

As always, implement a nutrient management plan, which may reduce your liability if a runoff event occurs. Recordkeeping is essential to provide quick answers when the tough questions are asked. Without the appropriate documentation, any and all information is subject to scrutiny. Be prepared to outline your story in detail! After the snow is gone, manure can fly onto the fields with limited risk of runoff.

For more information or any questions contact Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservation at 715-743-5102.

FORAGE UPDATE MEETING

MARCH 1, 2011

ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

11 AM—2:30 PM

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, TBA
- ⇒ 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 February 25, 2011. This helps with planning meals and handouts. Cost of the meeting is \$8.00 to cover meal and materials.

Program is sponsored by:

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

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.

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
NEILLSVILLE WI 54456
PERMIT #90

UW-Extension Office
Clark County
517 Court Street Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

