

Your county extension office



UW Extension
Cooperative Extension
Clark County

June 2011



Extension Views Newsletter

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Crops & Soils Agent
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GREETINGS!

SERENA MENSE, 4-H/AG SUMMER INTERN

Hi, my name is Serena Mense and I am your Clark County 4-H/Ag Intern for the summer. I grew up on a place with 7 acres where we have four horses, two dogs, and three cats.

Over the years I have shown horses extensively and I've showed my dog in 4-H. I have also judged horses through 4-H events. I went to high school in Black River Falls and am now a coming junior at UW-River Falls where I am working on a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science with an Equine Emphasis.

This summer I will be doing a number of things, some of them including helping with the Clean Sweep program where farmers and residents are given an opportunity to dispose of hazardous chemicals to help protect our surface and groundwater, helping 4-H youth with their fair projects, working at the fair, and helping at Farm Technology Days.

I am really looking forward to helping everyone and getting new experiences under my belt to broaden my agriculture knowledge throughout the summer.

2011 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER & CENTURY FARM AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 1ST

DO YOU KNOW OF A FARMER OR WORK WITH A FARMER THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE THAT HAS MET THESE REQUIREMENTS:

- APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AGE 37 OR LESS ON JANUARY 1ST OF 2011.
- ANY TYPE OF FARMING ENTERPRISE IS ELIGIBLE, BUT AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE APPLICANT'S GROSS INCOME MUST BE DERIVED FROM FARMING.
- APPLICANT CAN BE THE FARM OWNER, OPERATOR, OR MANAGER INVOLVED IN A FARM BUSINESS.

FOR A NOMINATION FORM CONTACT:
CLARK COUNTY UW-EXTENSION
MARIA BENDIXEN
517 COURT ST RM 104
NEILLSVILLE WI 54456
CALL: 715-743-5121

JULY IS BEEF MONTH!

COME CELEBRATE WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL WI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

BEEF ROUND-UP

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011

BRECKE RODEO ARENA, HWY 64, 5-1/2 miles west of Medford

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS

Beef Judging Contest from 8:30 to 10 am
(Prizes awarded to individuals & teams)

NCWCA Seed Stock Auction *Begins at 11 am*
(Come bid on the best cattle NCWCA has to offer)

From Noon to 5 pm

*Cattle Breeds on Display, Games, Petting Zoo,
Raffles, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Industry
Equipment & Products, Beef Educational Displays*

Serving from Noon to 7 pm

Ribeye Sandwiches & 1/2 pound Hamburgers

Ranch Rodeo & Team Sorting from 1 to 5 pm
Monetary Prizes Awarded!

Call 715-305-4392 for more information

"Larry J" Classic Country & Polka from 4 to 8 pm

Events All Day 8:30 am—8:00 pm

For more information call:
715-785-7777 or 715-657-0233
UW-Extension: 715-748-3327

CLARK COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 10-14, 2011

NEILLSVILLE



Wednesday, August 10

9 am Dog Show
5:30 pm Cat Show
7:30 pm Miss Clark County

Thursday, August 11

8:30 am Beef Show
9:00 am Cloverbud/
Explorers
Swine Show
Dairy Goats
12:30 pm Sheep (follow Beef)
1:00 pm Flowers & Houseplants
3:00 pm Foods
7:00 pm Farm Tractor Pull

Friday, August 12

8:00 am Rabbit & Poultry
8:30 am Dairy Show
9:00 am All Fine Arts Exhibits
7:00 pm Men's Club Truck Pull



Saturday, August 13

8:30 am Rabbit Show
9:00 am Horse Show
Poultry
Draft Horse Halter
12:00 pm Little Britches Dairy Show
12:30 pm Draft Horse Hitch
6:00 pm Motokazie Supercross Motor Cycle
Races
7:30 pm Livestock Sale

Sunday, August 14

8:30 am Open Dairy Show
10:00 am Draft Horse Halter
11:30 am Draft Horse Hitch
12:00 pm Livestock Supreme Showmanship
1:00 pm Men's Club Demo Derby
2:00 pm Dairy Supreme Showmanship

CORN CROP MATURITY ESTIMATE

Richard Halopka, UW-Extension Crops & Soils Agent

Corn is planted and emerging, but how many days are required for the crop to reach maturity and will it reach maturity before a killing frost? These are the questions on a grower's mind.

Corn grows in response to daily heat accumulation or growing degree days (GDD). Estimating GDD is a practice of collecting the daily high and low temperature, but the maximum high is 86 degrees F and the minimum low is 50 degrees F. Here is an example for three days:

1. High is 90, low is 65, GDD formula is $[(\text{max. temp} + \text{min. temp})/2] - 50 = \text{GDD}$ accumulated. $[(86 + 65)/2] - 50 = 25.5 \text{ GDD}$
2. High is 72, low is 46. $[(72 + 50)/2] = 11 \text{ GDD}$
3. High is 63, low 42. $[(63 + 50)/2] = 6.5 \text{ GDD}$
4. The total accumulated GDD for this three day example is $25.5 + 11 + 6.5 = 43 \text{ GDD}$.
5. Remember GDD are not

negative or reduced, it is a measure of accumulated heat during the growing season.

Generally an 80 day maturity hybrid requires 1,950 GDD, while a 95 day maturity requires 2,400 GDD. Corn planting was delayed in 2011, but weather conditions during the balance of the growing season will determine corn maturity. With normal growing conditions for the balance of the season we can estimate a date of corn maturity. Remember this is just an estimate with normal growing conditions.

Corn emergence requires a minimum of 125 growing degree days. This explains why some year's corn will emerge in a week and others may require three weeks. Once corn has emerged it will require 65 days to reach the reproductive stage or silk. From the silk stage it will require 45 days until 50% milk line and an additional 15 days to black layer. Black layered corn is considered physiologically mature, but may

require time to dry down for storage.

Using the numbers provided, here is an example predicting when our corn crop may be physiologically mature in 2011.

Example:

Corn emerged on June 1, 2011 + 65 days = August 5, 2011 - corn should be in the reproductive stage. August 5, 2011 + 45 days = September 19, 2011 - corn should be 50% milk line for corn silage harvest. September 19, 2011 + 15 days = October 4, 2011 - corn should be black layered.

This example is estimating corn maturity based on normal growing conditions, numerous factors may alter this estimate.

Reference:

Iowa State University Corn Field Guide

WEED OF THE MONTH: QUACKGRASS

Quackgrass is a perennial grass that originated in Europe. Quackgrass reproduces from both seed and underground rhizomes. Deep tillage was used for quackgrass control before herbicides were developed, but tillage cut the rhizomes which developed numerous new plants. A repeated shallow tillage will help control quackgrass providing it doesn't cut the rhizomes. Quackgrass seed will remain viable in soil for numerous years. Mowing before seed is produced will aid in

controlling quackgrass. The narrow pointed stem claspings auricles aid in quackgrass identification. The benefits of quackgrass are its sod forming qualities to prevent soil erosion and it provides fair forage for livestock. Quackgrass is an aggressive weed that will crowd out desired plants or crops. Integrating multiple tillage passes and/or herbicide applications may be required to control quackgrass in a field.



Quackgrass with a seed head and underground rhizomes

WALKING AND TALKING CROPS FOR 2011

RICHARD HALOPKA, CROPS & SOILS AGENT

The 2011 growing season is much different than 2010. During the 2011 growing season I will have monthly programs to cover observations as we walk county fields. The current program schedule for the growing season is:

July 12-14, 2011
Farm Technology Days, Marathon County
Seehafer Acres, M243 St. Hwy. 97, Marshfield

1. Many field demos
2. Manure spill demo
3. Crop demo



August 3, 2011
Jeff Ossman Farm, W5717 Kington Rd,
Greenwood
1:00—3:00 PM

1. Corn and soybean maturity stages
2. Scouting for soybean aphids
3. Disease scouting in soybeans and corn
4. Plant nutrient evaluation

September date to be determined
Malm's Rolling Acres, W4234 153rd Rd, Loyal
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch provided

1. Central Wisconsin Forage Council's fall forage field day
2. Harvest demos
3. Short presentations
4. Talking crops during the day

All of these events will be rain or shine, please come see crops growing in the field and tips to diagnose possible problems.

If you have any questions, please call Richard Halopka Clark County UW-Extension Crops and Soils agent at 715-743-5121.

“ASK THE MASTER GARDENER” PROGRAM



Clark County Master Gardeners are hosting “Ask the Master Gardener” program from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the following dates. You can call or just stop by with your plants, insects,

weeds, etc. to the UW-Extension Office and talk to our local master gardeners with your gardening questions on:

- July 13 Farm Tech Days
- July 27th Courthouse
- August 10 Clark County Fair

- August 24 Courthouse
- September 14 & 28 Courthouse

This is sponsored by the Clark County UW-Extension and Clark County Master Gardeners.

For more information contact:

Richard Halopka
 Crops & Soils Agent
 Clark County UW-Extension
 517 Court Street, Room 104
 Neillsville WI 54456
 715-743-5121

CLARK COUNTY LAND CASH RENT SURVEY RESULTS

Thorp Avg. Cash Rent: \$103 Avg. Corn Yield: 124 N=9	Withee NO RESPONSE	Hixon Avg. Cash Rent: \$80 Avg. Corn Yield: 123 N=2	Hoard Avg. Cash Rent: \$82 Avg. Corn Yield: 114 N=7	Mayville Avg. Cash Rent: \$51 Avg. Corn Yield: 110 N=3
Worden NO RESPONSE	Reseburg Avg. Cash Rent: \$165 Avg. Corn Yield: N=1	Longwood Avg. Cash Rent: \$85 Avg. Corn Yield: 103 N=2	Green Grove Avg. Cash Rent: \$55 Avg. Corn Yield: 126 N=4	Colby Avg. Cash Rent: \$43 Avg. Corn Yield: 118 N=2
Butler NO RESPONSE	Mead NO RESPONSE	Warner Avg. Cash Rent: \$75 Avg. Corn Yield: 125 N=4	Beaver Ave. Cash Rent: \$58 Avg. Corn Yield: 119 N=6	Unity Ave. Cash Rent: \$118 Avg. Corn Yield: 115 N=2
Foster North Avg. Cash Rent: \$55 Avg. Corn Yield: 130 N=2	Hendren NO RESPONSE	Eaton NO RESPONSE	Loyal Avg. Cash Rent: \$60 Avg. Corn Yield: 135 N=1	Sherman NO RESPONSE
Foster South Avg. Cash Rent: \$65 Avg. Corn Yield: 143 N=2	Seif NO RESPONSE	Weston Avg. Cash Rent: \$75 Avg. Corn Yield: 125 N=1	York Avg. Cash Rent: \$65 Avg. Corn Yield: 132 N=4	Fremont NO RESPONSE
Mentor Avg. Cash Rent: \$71 Avg. Corn Yield: 170 N=5	Hewett NO RESPONSE	Pine Valley Avg. Cash Rent: \$40 Avg. Corn Yield: N=2	Grant Avg. Cash Rent: \$45 Avg. Corn Yield: 179 N=4	Lynn NO RESPONSE
	Dewhurst NO RESPONSE	Levis NO RESPONSE	Washburn NO RESPONSE	Sherwood NO RESPONSE

Average for Clark County

Avg. Cash Rent: \$71

Avg. Corn Yield: 131

N=69

CUT, BALE, SCOUT!

The Clark County UW-Extension will host a **Cut, Bale & Scout** demonstration at the Enos Martin farm, N12642 St. Hwy 73 Owen on July 7th from 1-3 PM.

Bryan Jensen, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, will provide all participants with a sweep net for potato leafhopper scouting on their farm. This

is a rain or shine event and we will practice scouting for potato leaf hoppers in an alfalfa field.

If you have concerns or questions about other crops we'll answer them also. Please pre-register by July 5th so we have a count for the sweep nets by contacting Richard Halopka Crops & Soils Agent at 715-743-5121.

Scouting for Leafhoppers

Weekly Scouting – 20 sweeps at 5 locations in each alfalfa field. Because leafhopper population densities vary from year to year and from field to field, the only way to accurately determine damage potential is by monitoring fields on a weekly schedule.

- Start scouting 5-7 days after first cut.
- Use a standard 15-inch diameter insect sweep net.
- Walk a VV-shaped pattern in the field and take twenty consecutive sweeps in each of five randomly selected areas.
- Keep a running total of the number of leafhoppers caught. Count adults and nymphs.
- Divide the field total by 100.
- Compare the field counts with the threshold based on crop height.
- If over the threshold, decide on spraying or cutting.
- Continue to the next field.
- After cutting a field over threshold, scout the regrowth. Start scouting sooner if nymphs were present.

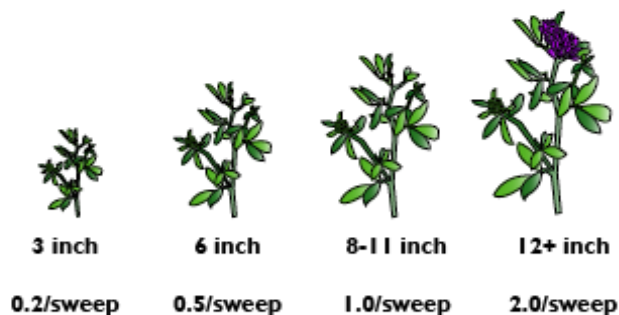


Leafhopper ID



Damage to Alfalfa:
Damage symptoms appear as stunting as well as yellowing of the leaves in a v-shaped pattern starting at the tip of a leaf. As a result of hopper burn, there may be yield loss, quality loss and potentially a reduction in plant vigor and stand. New alfalfa seedings are particularly susceptible to potato leafhopper damage.

Leafhopper Thresholds



Sample of scouting record

Potato leafhoppers: Use 20 net sweeps per set.

Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total/100	Av./Sweep
10	12	8	15	11	56	0.56

Alfalfa Height 6 inch

The average is above the threshold of 0.5 for this field



CLARK COUNTY SPONSORED FARMERS' MARKETS

CITY	LOCATION	DAY	TIME
ABBOTSFORD	East Town Mall 1011 East Spruce Street	Tuesdays	2—6 PM
GREENWOOD	203 E Schofield Ave	Wednesdays	2—6 PM
LOYAL	Across from Kwik Trip 139 N Main	Tuesdays Saturdays	1—5 PM 8 AM—Noon
OWEN	Friends of the Old School 112 W 3rd Street	Saturdays	8 AM—Noon
THORP	Yellowstone Park 320 E Stanley Street	Wednesdays	Noon-5 PM



TASTE TESTING AT THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

Tues., July 26	Wed., July 27	Sat., July 30	Tues., August 23	Wed., August 24	Sat., August 27
Abbotsford 2-4 PM	Greenwood 2-4 PM	Neillsville 8-10 AM Loyal 8:30-10:30 AM	Abbotsford 2-4 PM	Greenwood 2-4 PM	Neillsville 8-10 AM Loyal 8:30-10:30 AM

For more information contact:
Clark County UW-Extension
517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456
715-743-5121

GOAT & SHEEP PARASITE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Mark & Karen Vornholt's Sheep Farm

W7152 Tree Rd, Neillsville

2:00—6:00 PM

Are parasites sucking away your herd's potential?

This program will focus on internal parasite biology, anthelmintic or dewormer resistance, management strategies, fecal egg count training, and FAMACHA training.

- Learn how to take fecal samples and assess parasite load through fecal egg counts.
- Learn how to assess anemia using the FAMACHA scoring system.

FAMACHA scoring cards will be available for purchase for \$15.

For more information contact Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent at 715-743-5121

“A Growing Tradition” Continues in Marathon County!

Join us July 12-14, 2011

Seehafer Acres

M243 State Hwy 97
Marshfield, WI

**Wisconsin
Farm Technology Days**

Admission \$5.00 - FREE Parking

A Growing Tradition

July
12-14

**2011
WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS**

MARATHON COUNTY

For more information visit

www.marathonfarmtech.com

Field Demonstrations: Field demonstrations will be expanded to include a wide array of attractions including multiple forms of forage cutting and harvesting. Cutting, merging, baling, chopping and storage demonstrations will provide newer technologies of interest to the large, small and hobby-scale farm and rural attendees. Hundreds of equipment manufacturers and dealers from the Midwest will be on site to discuss your needs and available options.

Field Demonstrations Schedule

Tuesday, July 12th	Wednesday, July 13th	Thursday, July 14th
<p>Morning: Raking & Baleage Merging & Chopping Baleage Wrapping Mowing</p> <p>Afternoon: Raking & Baling Merging & Chopping Mowing</p>	<p>Morning: Raking & Baleage Merging & Chopping Baleage Wrapping Mowing</p> <p>Afternoon: Raking & Baling Merging & Chopping Mowing</p>	<p>Morning: Raking & Baleage Merging & Chopping Baleage Wrapping</p> <p>Afternoon: Raking & Baling Merging & Chopping</p>

**Manure Spill
Demonstrations**

10 AM & 2 PM
Each Day

Meet @ Professional Nutrient
Applicator table in Applied
Technology Center Tent

PRECISION AND CONSISTENCY IMPORTANT FOR TRANSITION COWS

MARIA BENDIXEN, DAIRY & LIVESTOCK AGENT

Dairy producers know that cows need a consistent diet to produce and reproduce well. However many cows do not receive the consistent diet we know they should have. There are several reasons for that and in order to correct the problem we need to understand the circumstances that lead to inconsistency.

The first is cow preference. Cows will not always eat what they should when given a choice, in that regard they are very similar to people. This problem has been dealt with in part by TMR mixers that are supposed to give a balance diet. Sometimes it doesn't work that way. Cows still sort feed and some are even experts at it. One of the reasons sorting is so bad is the imbalance between the boss cows and subordinate cows who are required to come to the bunk later after the "good stuff" is gone. In that case you have some cows that have a ration that is too hot and some that are lacking energy. The best way to reduce this problem is to provide at least 20 inches of bunk space per head. If that is not feasible, try to provide a TMR that is harder to sort by making sure forages are put up at optimum moisture levels. Many people feed free choice hay to dry cows along with a TMR for the rest of their ration. Cow preference is

also a problem with this management as well. Some cows will not eat the hay to their fiber requirement, but instead will fill up on the TMR ration causing acidosis in the rumen and other metabolic health issues. Hay for dry cows should be mixed with the ration to ensure that all cows get what they need. Even if consumption of the hay seems good it might mean some cows are eating more than they need and others not enough.

The weather also plays a role in consistency. Heat causes cows to reduce intake and reduce production. Many producers will increase the energy fed in the ration in times of heat to keep the cows milking. This is problematic because cows produce buffer in their saliva and they tend to ruminate less in heat and they drool out more saliva leaving less buffer in the rumen. So adding energy contributes to rumen acidosis. Rations should be kept consistent during heat with the exception of added buffer. The other reason for inconsistency has to do with what we put in front of cows. Making sure that ingredients are measured accurately keeping scales and mixers maintained and in good working order can help. It is also important that the person doing the feeding is striving for a precise



ration. Moisture and other nutrient levels in forages change over time depending on the storage structure used so they should be sampled often. Moisture should be measured after a rain event or if there is reason to believe the moisture has changed. Forage amounts should be adjusted based on the moisture of the feed to ensure that cows are getting the ration that is written on paper. If you adjust the ration from what was provided by the nutritionist, be sure to let them know so you can monitor the results together.

Communication is essential to determine how your herd responds to feed changes. Making sure that all cows have access to the ration that you intended to provide should pay dividends in terms of milk in the tank and herd health.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 715-743-5121.

BLACK CUTWORM FEEDING ON CORN - OUT OF THE WOODS YET?

Eileen Cullen, Extension Entomologist

Black cutworm (BCW) larvae are in the larger stages (4th to 6th instar) and corn in the V4-V6 stages from what I have seen in the field and reports received this week from consultants, growers, and UW-Extension agriculture agents in Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Jackson and Vernon counties. Reports are ranging from 3% cut plants to 6-

8%, 10-12% or more (30 to 40% in fields that were not scouted previously). Please see earlier WCM articles from this season for details on BCW Black Cutworm Damage Potential for Corn (WCM Vol. 18, No. 8) and Black Cutworm Feeding on Bt Technology (WCM Vol. 18, No. 13).

The most important aspect of cutworm control is careful field scouting as soon as plants begin to emerge. Obviously, corn field scouting should have been underway for the last two to three weeks. In typical years, BCW is only an occasional pest, but this year the heavy moth flights have given us a large larval population that has

BLACK CUTWORM FEEDING ON CORN - OUT OF THE WOODS YET? (CONTINUED)

reached and exceeded the economic threshold of 5% cut plants. (note: with high corn prices, a more conservative BCW threshold is approximately 3% cut plants).

The question now is ... how much longer will the larvae feed and can they still cut plants?

Stage of corn plant, original plant population, and BCW larval stage should all be considered. BCW larvae are in the cutting stage (capable of cutting plants) from 4th through 7th instar. One cutworm is capable of cutting several plants. Generally, the cutting stage larvae are between 0.5 inch and 1.5 inch when full grown. However, body

length is not always an accurate indicator of how "old" a BCW is. The best technique is to measure the insect's head capsule (just the head, not the pronotum_first segment_ directly behind it) between the shaded areas under the head capsule width column in Table 2-9 from UWEX Publication A3646, Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops 2011 (Pg. 63).

For example, a sixth instar BCW larva will feed for approximately 14 days. In later crop stages, by V4, large larvae may not be able to cut plants. Instead, they will burrow into the corn plant, below ground level, and result in "wilted whorl" or "dead heart" symptom where newly emerging whorl leaves

wilt.

At this point in the field, you should determine if BCW larvae are 6th instar or smaller, and if corn plants can still be cut. By V5-V6, the plants should be out of the woods. By 7th instar, BCW will only feed for a few more days before pupating. There are three BCW generations per year, but it is only the first generation which is active in May and June that causes damage to field corn.

I have seen Black Cutworm damage in Clark County corn fields. If you have any questions, please call Richard Halopka, UWEX Crops & Soils Agent, 715-743-5121.

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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