

Your county extension office



UW Extension
Cooperative Extension
Clark County

October 2011



Extension Views Newsletter

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LGM Dairy is Back Limited Funds Available!

Earlier this year, the LGM Dairy revenue insurance program was changed to be more attractive for producers as a tool for protecting the bottom line:

- 18-50% premium subsidy
- More choice of deductible
- Premiums due after coverage expires, not up front

As a result, this new risk management tool became so popular with dairy farmers, that federal funding for the program ran out last April. However, with a new federal fiscal year beginning October 1, funding is once again available for October contracts, but may not be available after that as a result of strong demand and limited dollars.

LGM DAIRY REVENUE INSURANCE IS BACK!!



Friday, October 21
12:30—2:30 PM

M & I Bank, Loyal

The program includes an update on LGM Dairy insurance program. Brian Gould, Extension Dairy Market specialist will then provide a market outlook for milk & grain, and present LGM dairy 202 a follow-up of last year's program.

Free, no charge!! ... but with limited seating, advanced registration is strongly encouraged.



....also, check out the new LGM Dairy reference manual available on-line at: <http://future.aae.wisc.edu/lgm-dairy/lgmdairymanual.pdf>

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

To reserve your seat, or for more information contact:
Maria Bendixen , Clark Co UWEX 715-743-5121

CAN IT PAY TO COVER SILAGE BAGS WITH A COVER?

BY KEN BARNETT, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—EXTENSION

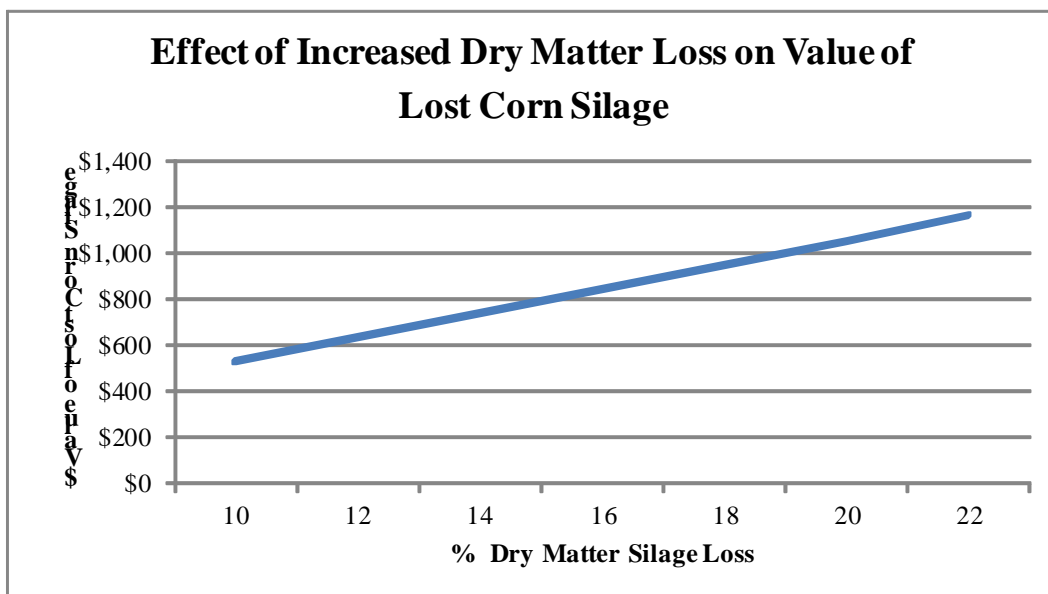
A question came up on the Forage Wisline on Sept. 23 about the cost for covering a silage bag with a cover to help reduce dry matter loss due to bird damage. A study by University of Wisconsin agricultural engineers, Richard Muck and Brian Holmes, quantified dry matter densities and losses in silage bags. Total dry matter losses (gaseous, seepage, and spoilage) ranged from 0 to 38.2 percent. Average dry matter loss across all bags was 14.2 percent (similar to a well-managed bunker). However, if the worst three bags were eliminated, the average loss dropped to about 10 percent. Unnoticed bird damage to the top of one of the bags caused a spoilage loss of 22 percent.

If 10 percent dry matter loss is

used as the “normal” loss for a silage bag and 22 percent dry matter loss is used as the “extreme” loss from bird damage, then heavy bird damage could cause a potential increased dry matter loss of 12 percent. A 9 foot by 100 foot silage bag has the capacity to store 67,800 pounds (or 33.9 tons) dry matter of silage. A 20 foot wide by 100 foot silage bag cover used to cover this silage bag would cost about \$500. It can be re-used, but no data on potential life span was found. If it could be used for just 5 years, then the cost per year would be \$100.

The value used for corn silage in this example is \$54.49 per ton at 65 percent moisture or \$155.98 per ton on a dry matter basis. A “normal” dry matter loss of 10

percent would result in a loss in value of the corn silage of \$528.78. An “extreme” dry matter loss of 22 percent would result in a loss in value of the corn silage of \$1,163.32. The difference in value of the lost corn silage between the “normal” and “extreme” corn silage is \$634.54. Thus, the silage bag cover valued at \$500 could have covered its purchase price in the first year in a case of “extreme” bird damage. The increased value of corn silage due to high grain prices will warrant precautions not previously economic with lower-priced grain. See the chart below for how increased silage dry matter loss affects the value of lost corn silage.



OSHA RECORDKEEPING WEBINAR SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 18

Agricultural employers who want a better understanding of the OSHA 1094 Recordkeeping and Reporting of Injuries standard are invited to join a webinar offered on Oct. 18, 2011 from 1-3 p.m.

The webinar will be led by Kelly Bubolz, Compliance Assistance Specialist, OSHA Appleton Area Office. She will discuss those parts of the regulations related to agricultural operations, including forms 300 and 300A. Example cases will be shared to help participants relate the types of injuries that they may experience in the production agricultural workplace.

Participants can submit questions or example injury situations prior to the webinar by completing a form on the Ag Safety website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/>. No personal identifiers will be used in the webinar or in any way identify the agricultural business for an OSHA inspection. Agricultural businesses that had more than ten employees at

any time during the last calendar year must comply with the OSHA 1904 standard and must keep OSHA injury and illness records. There are no exemptions for agricultural operations.

There are two options for participating in the webinar:

- From your office: You will need a computer connection with sound capabilities (speakers or a headset). You can check your computer connection at http://wisc.na4.acrobat.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm This test will help determine if you can access the webinar. Flash player is required but a download is available at the test site.
- From your local UW-Extension office or other coordinated site: We will work with UW-Extension offices and other partners to find a site convenient for you to participate. It is difficult to prearrange sites with

required technology and available meeting space without knowing where participants are located. As group sites are identified, information will be updated on Ag Safety website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/>.

Please register at the Ag Safety website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/>. Indicate in the message your name, mailing address with town and zip code, e-mail, and phone number. Also, indicate if you want to register for participation from your home office or at a local coordinated site. Registration is limited to 50 sites, so registration is very important.

To help arrange coordinated sites and to get webinar directions out in a timely manner, registration is requested by October 12th, 2011.

For additional information, please contact Cheryl Skjolaas at skjolaas@wisc.edu or by phone at 608-265-0568.

TIME TO SOIL TEST YOUR FIELDS

If interested in getting your soil tested contact the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

The cost of a routine soil test for a farm field is \$7.00 per sample. A routine soil test provides pH, organic matter, lime requirement, Phosphorus, and Potassium.

Micro nutrient tests are available for an additional fee.

Stop in or you can go directly to the Marshfield Soil & Forage Analysis Lab, 2611 East 29th Street, Marshfield WI 54449.

TEST, DON'T GUESS, FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO SOIL TEST YOUR FIELDS AND IS A FIRST STEP IN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

HUMAN RESOURCE SERIES FOR FARMS & AG BUSINESSES

Thursday, October 13th 9:30 am - 3 pm
Allison's Steakhouse Abbotsford

Ag Employment Law

- Employee legal issues
- Managing employment taxes
- Considerations for managing immigrant labor

Thursday, November 3rd 10 am - 2 pm
Abbyland Truck Stop Curtiss

Finding and keeping good employees

- What is a good employee
- Advertising for success
- Compensation packages
- Productive communication

Thursday, November 10th 10 am - 2 pm
Meadowview Golf Course Owen

Making good employees better

- Training and orientation for employees
- Performance evaluation
- Conflict resolution

Join us for one or all meetings which include lunch. Cost is \$10.00 per meeting, RSVP one week in advance of each class \$15 late fee or walk-in charge. After attending this series, you will be able to write your own Employee Handbook.

For more information or to register contact:
Maria Bendixen, Dairy & Livestock Agent
517 Court Street, Rm 104
Neillsville WI 54456
715-743-5121

WALKING & TALKING CROPS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13
RICHARD VINE FARM
W4070 HILL RD, GRANTON

1:00 — 3:00 PM

The Vine family farm has incorporated cover crops in their no-till cropping system. We will walk a couple of their cover crop fields that include tillage radish and winter rye.

For more information contact Richard Halopka, Crops & Soils Agent at 715-743-5121. This program is free of charge.



FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
THE SPORTS PAGE
MEDFORD

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Farm women and those women involved in area ag businesses are invited to attend the free upcoming luncheon. RSVP your attendance before October 11, by calling Taylor Co UWEX (715) 748-3327.

Also tell us of topics you want to discuss. The North Central Farm Women's Network is a safe, fun group of women who share similar interests: farming, business decision making and home making. This is a place for you to network and learn from each other.

2011 PEST MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETINGS

Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist

We are pleased to announce the schedule and topics for the 2011 Pest Management Update Meetings. We will once again be visiting locations throughout Wisconsin in early November. See the table below for the dates at specific locations. Registration details are listed at the top of the schedule. **Please pre-register** with the host agent to ensure we have ample food for lunch. It is not possible for host agents to switch attendees and meal counts between locations on the day of the meeting as each location in the series is a separate event for registration and local arrangements purposes. An additional "walk-in" fee for those who have not pre-registered will be accessed.

At the meeting presenters will review the 2011 crop year, provide necessary updates on new information/resources, and forecast issues for next year. The speakers will be Mark Renz, weed scientist, perennial cropping systems; Vince Davis, weed scientist, annual cropping systems; Eileen Cullen, field crop entomologist; and Paul Esker, field crop plant pathologist.

2011 Pest Management Update Topics will cover:

Weed Management: Annual Crops: 1) herbicide updates; 2) glyphosate resistance in Wisconsin update; 3) control strategies for giant ragweed; Perennial Crops: 4) weed management decisions in alfalfa; 5) costs of weeds in pastures; 6) costs of herbicide applications to legumes in

pastures; 7) invasive species rule update; 8) summary of switchgrass establishment treatments and yield potential.

Insect Management: 1) black cutworm in corn; 2) armyworm in corn and wheat; 3) slug management for corn and soybean; 4) spider mites in soybeans; 5) Japanese beetles in corn and soybeans; 6) Bt corn insect traits and refuge requirements updates.

Disease Management: 1) Biology and management of Goss's wilt; 2) considerations for using fungicides and insecticides in alfalfa; 3) the economics of using soybean seed treatments; 4) What have we learned from linking genetics and disease for small grains management?

2011 Wisconsin Pest Management Update Meetings

The schedule for the Wisconsin Pest Management Update meeting series is listed below. Presentations will include pest management and biology information for Wisconsin field and forage crops. Speakers will include Mark Renz and Vince Davis, weed scientists, Eileen Cullen, entomologist, and Paul Esker, plant pathologist.

All meetings will start with check-in registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. Presentations start promptly at 10 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Four hours of Certified Crop Advisor CEU credits in pest management are requested for each session. The \$35 registration fee per participant includes a noon meal and information packet. Extra packets of materials can be purchased for \$20 each.

Make your reservation with host agent one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

DATE	LOCATION	HOST AGENT
Monday November 7	Marshfield Marshfield Ag Research Station 1 mile north of Hwy 10 on Hwy 13 (old Cty A), east on A, then immediate right onto Yellowstone Drive	Matt Lippert Wood County Extension P.O. Box 8095 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 715-421-8440
Tuesday November 8	Lake Hallie/Chippewa Falls Eagles Club (2588 Hallie Road) Business Hwy 53 south of Hwy 29 Lake Hallie: between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls (across from Farm & Fleet)	Jerry Clark Chippewa County Extension 711 N. Bridge Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 (715) 726-7950
Wednesday November 9	Sparta Jake's Northwoods Northeast edge of Sparta on Hwy 21	Bill Halfman Monroe County Extension 14345 County Hwy B Sparta, WI 54656 (608) 269-8722

GRAIN HARVESTING

Joe Lauer, UW-Corn Specialist, last updated September 30, 2011

Use your time in combine seat to scout fields

Harvest provides an opportunity to scout

your fields. As you travel through the field, you can observe various

types of problems that may have occurred during the growing season. Weeds that were not controlled would be one of the most obvious problems that will show up. With the increase in weeds that are resistant to various herbicide classes, it is important to identify these problems as early as possible in order to control them as early as possible to control increases in populations and movement of the weed. This may also provide some opportunity to begin managing the problem this fall.

Insect and disease problems can also be detected in the fall. Note if particular varieties seem more susceptible to an insect or disease. If one variety or hybrid seems to be more susceptible to disease pressure or insect pressure, then this information could be used in variety or hybrid selection for next year. If all hybrids or varieties are affected similarly, then the cause of the problem needs to be identified to aid in selecting management options for next years crop.

To assessing lodging potential use either the pinch test or the push test to check for stalk integrity. Conduct the pinch test by squeezing the second or third internode above the ground. If it collapses, stalk quality is compromised. The push test is performed by pushing a corn stalk to approximately 45 degree angle. If it breaks, stalk quality has been



reduced. If 10 percent of the stalks tested show poor stalk quality or lodge at the root, then these fields should be harvested earlier.

Combine settings

Read you operators manual thoroughly for detailed settings for you specific combine model. Attend combine clinics to learn fine-tuning methods from other combine operators. With proper adjustment, a quality crop can be harvested.

Corn Harvesting Losses

Pre-harvest Losses

- Hybrid
 - Ear droppage: One ear (3/4 pound each) in each 1/100 of an acre is equivalent to one bushel per acre. To determine 1/100 of an acre, take the normal 1/1,000 acre distance times ten. For example, in 30" rows, 1/1000 of an acre is 17' 5"; 1/100 acre would be that distance across ten rows. For each ear in that area, there is one bushel per acre loss.
 - Maturity
- Weather
- Timeliness

Gathering Losses: grain that does not get into combine

- Shatter losses caused by the header: count the number of ears and kernels under the header. Two kernels per square foot are equal to one bushel per acre of loss. More than a half bushel per acre (or one kernel per square foot average) indicates adjustments would be appropriate.
- stubble losses
- stalk losses
- lodged plants

Machine Losses

- Improper adjustment of threshing, separating and cleaning sections
- Threshing loss is indicated by kernels attached to pieces of cob behind the combine. These were not shelled by the rotor or cylinder.
- Separating losses are additional loose kernels on the ground behind the combine. These were not shaken out of the cobs and husks and were lost over the back of the separator.

How to Measure Losses

1. Determine average loose kernel loss and cylinder/rotor loss
 - **every 2 kernels per square foot = 1 bushel per acre**
 - Kernel still attached to cob = cylinder/rotor loss
 - Acceptable level = 1.2 to 3 kernels per square foot
2. Determine machine ear loss
 - Behind combine, gather all ears on 1/100 acre
 - In front of combine, determine pre-harvest ear loss in standing corn on 1/100 acre
 - Subtract pre-harvest ear loss from ear loss at the rear of machine
 - **each 3/4 pound ear = 1 bushel per acre**
 - **each 1/2 pound ear = 2/3 bushel per acre**
 - Acceptable level = 0 to 1.0 bushels per acre
3. Typical level = 0.6 to 2.5 bushels per acre: **Can you limit your total field loss to less than a half bushel per acre?** That would place you and your combine in the top ten percent.

GRAIN HARVESTING (CONTINUED)

Kernel Moisture Ranges (%)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 33-35% Plant moisture = Silage harvest 2. 29-32% Kernel moisture = High Moisture Corn (High Moisture Ear) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. 25-26% Kernel moisture = Ideal for combining 4. 20-23% Kernel moisture = Ideal for picking | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Below 20% kernel moisture = field losses increase, but cost of drying shell corn is reduced |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

DON'T LET YOUR HARVEST GO UP IN SMOKE

BY JOHN SHUTSKE, ANRE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR

With only 5% of corn acres harvested as grain complete and 2% of soybeans harvested (compared to last year's 20%) as of the most recent (October 3, 2011) USDA Wisconsin Crop Progress Report, those running combines, trucks and other harvest equipment are in for a super busy October. It's important to use the few extra moments and rainy days you do have to take extra steps to reduce the risk of a catastrophic combine fire. The risk is higher when you're going all out to get the crop out of the field before the first snow flies, especially if you don't take the time to keep your machine clean and take care of all the required maintenance.

A few years ago when I was an agricultural safety specialist in Minnesota's Agricultural Engineering Department, my research team and I looked at more than 8,000 fires that had occurred over more than a decade. We dug into the details of 620 of these fires that happened from 1998-2000 and learned some important facts.

October is by far the highest risk month, based largely on the sheer number of hours spent in the field, often with little time to pay full attention to maintenance tasks. Mechanical failures like worn out bearings, slipping belts, etc. were the biggest cause followed by electrical system failure (arcing, sparking, overheating), and simple lack of maintenance. More than three-quarters (76.7%) of fires

started in the engine area. While "crop residue" was most often the first material to catch on fire, IF the fire burned into a fuel, oil, or hydraulic line, losses were often catastrophic ranging from tens of thousands of dollars to full losses.

Keep your machine as clean as possible. Depending on the design of the machine and the condition of the crop, you will rapidly learn where crop material will tend to accumulate. Manually remove material and use an air compressor (and safety glasses) to blow off dust, chaff and other material as often as possible. If you notice any type of flickering of lights/instruments, unusual noises (from failing bearings or other mechanical components), or even small leaks in fuel or oil lines, diagnose and fix the problem immediately.

If your combine does catch on fire, pull immediately away from the standing crop and get the engine shut down as soon as you can safely do so. A running engine will continue to "fan" the fire and will often continue to pump liquid fuel into a burning area if you've ruptured an oil or diesel line. Get help onto the site immediately by calling 911. Provide the dispatcher with your exact location, staying on the line if necessary so that your location can be detected. Let the fire department dispatcher know you have a farm machinery fire so they can send the right equipment. Do not try to fight the fire with an extinguisher unless

you are able to approach it safely.

Every grain combine should be equipped with two ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers – the larger, the better, but they should be AT LEAST 10-pounds with an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approval. One can be mounted in the cab, and one in an area where you can reach it from the ground without having to climb back into the machine. Check the pressure gauge on all extinguishers often. DO NOT try and test the extinguisher by "releasing" some of the chemical. It will effectively unseal the unit and requiring it to be recharged by a local fire department or other facility with the correct equipment. Many fire departments will also provide advice and will take a look at your extinguishers if you have any doubts or need other fire protection advice.

Finally, check with your insurance agent to make sure all your equipment is appropriately covered. A combine fire can easily cost \$150,000 or more. The additional "downtime" can run thousands of dollars a day depending on crop prices, the capacity of your machinery, and the weather conditions. Take time to think about and reduce your risk before it's too late!



CLARK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DRAFTS WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

For the past few months, the Clark County Land Conservation Committee and its Land Conservation Department has been preparing the statutorily required five year work plan for the years 2012-2017. The workplan is called the "Clark County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2017. Many methods were used to solicit public input. The tools used to gain public input included one countywide resource survey and five citizens meetings. This approach would allow each individual an opportunity to comment of how he/she expected his/her natural resources to be managed, instead of limiting the input to a select few individuals. Here is a summary of the opinions gathered from the survey and these meetings

Natural Resources Opinion Survey

In early May of 2011, a three question "Natural Resources Opinion Survey" was mailed out to over 1,500 county households, and also to each local unit of government. The survey had a 27% return rate. Many of you took part in the survey and I thank you for providing your opinions. Your valuable input will be used to create the workplan for the Land Conservation Department over the next five years.

The results of the survey can be further summarized by the following:

- What Local Natural Resources are **You** Most Concerned About?
 1. Groundwater 83%
 2. Lakes/Rivers/Streams 63%
 3. Agricultural Land 58%
 4. Forest/Woodland 50%
 5. Soil 44%
 6. Air 39%
 7. Fisheries/Wildlife 37%
 8. Peace and Quiet 27%
 9. Wetlands 26%
 10. Public Recreational Land 18%
- What are the Biggest Threats to **Your** Natural Resource Concerns?
 1. Agricultural Manure/Waste Storage and Landspreading 61%
 2. Agricultural Cropping Practices 47%
 3. Rural Residential Development 46%
 4. Domestic Solid Waste Disposal 38%

5. Industrial Municipal Sludge and Wastewater Application 35%
6. Exotic Invasive Plants and Animals Species 34%
7. Agricultural Livestock Operations 31%
8. Wetland/Stream Tiling, Ditching, and/or Filling 28%
9. Forest Management 27%
10. Agricultural Land Clearing 26%
Fish and/or Wildlife Excessive Harvesting 26%

- What Services should be Emphasized by Local, State, and Federal Conservation Staff?
 1. Groundwater Protection 69%
 2. Animal Manure Management Ordinance Implementation 59%
 3. Drinking Water Well Testing 53%
 4. Surface Water Protection 50%
 5. Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes and Streams 47%
Well Sealing/Abandonment Assistance 47%
 6. Farmland Preservation & Agricultural Economic Development 46%
 7. Tree Planting 45%
 8. Best Management Practice Implementation and Technical Asst. 41%
 9. Nutrient Management Planning 35%
Cost-Sharing and Financial Assistance 35%
 10. Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Restoration 33%

The information gathered from the survey was used to framework the discussion before each professional or citizen meeting. The survey provided valuable insight into how the citizens of Clark County expected their natural resources to be managed.

Natural Resources Management Advisory Meeting

The second method used to gather information for the Clark County Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision process was convening of a meeting for natural resource management professionals to assess the quality of the county's natural resources. The committee met on **Tuesday, May 31st, 2011** at the Clark County Courthouse Auditorium in Neillsville, Wisconsin. Fifteen persons, representing various levels of local, state and federal agencies, compiled a

CLARK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DRAFTS WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (CONTINUED)

list of natural resource issues that they believe required the attention of natural resource managers. The following is a list of the natural resource management topics discussed by the participants:

1. Inventorying of Natural Resources vs. Implementation of Conservation
2. Agricultural Preservation and Economic Development
3. Agricultural Expansion and Modernization
4. Changing of the Farmscape and Foodshed
 - WPDES CAFOs and their Expansion
 - Amish, Mennonite, and Small Dairy Farms
 - Absentee Landowners
 - Agricultural Land Rent Increasing
 - Soil Miners and Ditch Tillers
 - Loss of Local Control on Land Base due to Corporate Contracts
 - Use Value Assessment Affects on Land Management
5. Industrial and Residential Wastewater Storage and Spreading
6. Manure Storage and Land Application of Agricultural Wastewater
7. Groundwater/Surface Water Quality and Quantity
8. Air Quality- Open burning and Manure Storage
9. Land Fragmentation- Recreational vs. Working Lands (Forest and Crop)
10. Lack of Enforcement of County and State Codes
11. Financial Incentives and Cost-share
 - Statutory Requirement
 - Positive vs. Negative Incentives
12. Barriers to Conservation Implementation
 - Cost to Individuals vs. Cost to Society
 - Peer Examples/ Peer Pressure/ Personal Motivation
 - Different Standards of Acceptability

Citizen Advisory Meetings

Citizen advisory meetings were held in five different locations in Clark County over the course of two months. The meetings occurred on June 7th at the courthouse auditorium in Neillsville; July 12th at the Withee Town Hall; July 23rd at the Hewitt Town Hall; July 29th at the Mead Town Hall; and August 1st at the Farm Bureau Meeting in Neillsville. Each of these meetings was publicly advertised and was organized in manner that would prove to be essential in

gathering opinions from a diverse group of citizens. The citizen advisory meetings consisted of participants that represented various farmers (dairy, crop, specialty, etc.), Lake Association/District members, agribusiness owners/operators, agricultural lenders, crop consultants, building contractors, technical college educators, Farm Bureau and Dairy Business Association members, sportsman club members, and county, town, and other local municipality officials. More than 150 citizens attended these meetings and provided valuable input in regards to their natural resources and how they expected them to be managed.

The following is a list of the natural resource and conservation topics discussed at these citizen meetings:

1. Inventorying Natural Resources vs. Implementation of Conservation Practices: Where to Invest Limited Funding and Staffing Resources?
2. Education vs. Encouragement vs. Enforcement
3. Agricultural Preservation and Economic Development
4. Agricultural Expansion and Modernization
5. Soil Erosion
 - Disappearing Grassed Waterways
 - Increased Ditch Tillage
 - Moldboard Plowing vs. No Till
 - Absentee Landowners
 - Shift from Dairy Rotation to Cash Grain Rotation
6. Decrease in the Number of Farms and the Increase in Dairy Herd Sizes
7. Amount of Cattle/Manure vs. Amount of Acres Available
8. Nutrient Management Planning
9. Winter Manure Spreading
10. Loss of Buffers around Waterways
11. Increasing Levels of Soil Test Phosphorus
12. Decreasing Levels of Soil Test Organic Matter
13. Storage and Landspreading of Other Industrial, Municipal, and Residential Wastes
14. Feedlot and Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff
15. Alternatives Methods of Farming (Rotational Grazing, Organic, etc.)
16. Storing Other Types of Wastewater Other than Manure in Manure Storages

CLARK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DRAFTS WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (CONTINUED)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Ditching, Tiling, and Filing in of Wetlands 18. Shoreland and Streambank Erosion 19. Custom Hauling of Manure and Road Damage 20. Urban Runoff and Sediment/Fertilizer/
Pesticide 21. Non-Metallic Mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater/Surface Water Impacts - Conversion to Landfills 22. Open Burning of Household Refuse 23. Clean Sweep Program for Disposal of
Hazardous Waste 24. Groundwater Protection- Baseline data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality - Quantity 25. Surface Water Protection- Baseline Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mead Lake - Lake Arbutus 26. Recreational Land Development and
Agricultural Land Fragmentation 27. Beach Closings due to High Bacteria Counts 28. Invasive Species- Terrestrial and Aquatic 29. Drinking Water Well Testing Program 30. Financial Incentives for Conservation vs. Cost-
share vs. Subsidies 31. Agricultural Plastic Recycling 32. Corporate "Rural Cleansing" 33. Private Property Right vs. Public Water,
Wildlife, and Air Quality Rights 34. Workload and Staffing Requirements for the
Conservation Department: Too Much to
Accomplish with Too Few Staff and Funding
Resources- What are the Priorities? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase Efforts to Inventory the Water
Resources 2. Reduce Sediment and Nutrient Delivery to
Surface Water 3. Reduce Nutrient and Other Contaminant
Delivery to Groundwater 4. Maintain the Health and Viability of the Animal
and Plant Communities 5. Maintain the Functionality of the Existing
Hydrologic Infrastructure. |
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These goals were incorporated into the Land and Water Resource Management Workplan for 2012-2017.

Furthermore, these goals will assist Clark County by identifying and prioritizing the major, and agreed upon, natural resources issues and concerns for Clark County. Lastly, this list of goals will guide local natural resource professionals as they perform the following activities:

- develop a coordinated effort to resolve these identified issues and concerns
- determine the roles of agencies in implementing the work plan
- implement strategies that support the conservation programs for the local community
- secure funding for the management of the natural resource base in Clark County.

A draft copy of the workplan will be posted on the Clark County website in mid-October. A final public advisory meeting will be scheduled in late October. If you have any more input to provide the Land Conservation Committee, please call the Land Conservation Department at 715-743-5102. Once again, thank you for supporting your natural resources and their sustainable management.

Goals for Clark County's Natural Resource Management

The results of these meetings were presented to the Clark County Land Conservation Committee for review at their June, July, and August, 2011 regularly scheduled meetings. The Clark County Land Conservation Committee, after much discussion and deliberation agreed on the following goals:

Remember, safety first on the farm. Harvest time is a busy time, so please take the time to check equipment and be safe. You are important to your family.

INVASIVE WEED OF THE MONTH: BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn is a restricted invasive plant in Wisconsin. Buckthorn has a bush growth pattern, but may grow to 25 feet tall with a 10 inch diameter.

As a restricted invasive species Buckthorn may not be transported, planted, bought or sold in Wisconsin. Buckthorn is also an alternative habitat for the soybean aphid.

Buckthorn is a woody shrub that originated in Eurasia and was used as a hedgerow plant in Wisconsin in the 1850's. Buckthorn is a problem in the understory of oak and maple

forest, but will invade grasslands, roadsides, and prefers well drained soils.

Buckthorn generally grows as a large shrub form with loose spreading crowns. The bark is gray to brown, with opposite egg shaped pointed leaves with twigs that end in pointed thorns. Buckthorn will develop a cluster of large round black fruit that ripen in September. If you own a woodlot, fall is a good time to identify Buckthorn and implement a control.

If you have questions please contact Richard Halopka, UW-Extension Crops & Soils Agent, at 715-743-5121.

For Buckthorn control, please contact your local DNR office.

Reference

Stubbendieck J., Friisoe G. Y., Bolick M. R., Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, 1994

TAKE A LOOK AT MANURE TO DETERMINE STARCH DIGESTIBILITY

Starch is an important source of energy for dairy cows. Starch typically comes in the form of dry or high moisture corn and corn silage. Digestibility of corn starch, however, can be highly variable. Particle size, grain processing, moisture levels, and storage methods are some of the factors that affect starch digestibility. Starch digestibility can affect milk production, but it also costs money—corn is too expensive to let it just pass through the cow. One way to determine the amount of starch that is getting digested by cows is to assess the level of starch coming out of cows. This can be done through fecal starch analysis.

A reasonable goal for fecal starch in high producing cows is five percent or less. Excess starch in the manure means it is not being digested by the cow, meaning decreased milk production and wasted money. Dr. James Ferguson of the University of Pennsylvania estimates that each percent of fecal starch over five percent relates to a .6 pound loss

of milk production. A similar study done in Illinois showed that fecal starch levels varied greatly between farms, suggesting that many farms are missing out on opportunities to cut costs and increase milk production.

UW-Extension would like to dig deeper into starch digestibility. We want to take a look at farms in Wisconsin and see what starch content is in their feed and how much starch is passed through the digestive tract and left in the manure. We also want to see how starch content and digestibility change after corn has been stored and fermented over winter.

We are looking for farms that want to participate in this project. We need farms that will be harvesting and feeding new corn silage this year. Farm size does not matter, but we would need a group of ten cows 45 to 150 days in milk that are all receiving the same TMR diet. Manure samples would be collected from these cows in the fall, shortly after you begin feeding

your new corn silage. These manure samples would be comingled and sent to the lab as one sample. We would also collect feed samples from you to have analyzed. In the spring, manure samples would be collected from another group of ten cows 45 to 150 days in milk. Feed samples would also be collected again.

Participating farms will get the results of these feed and manure samples free of charge. The results will also be analyzed by Dr. Randy Shaver, UW-Madison Dairy Nutritionist, who may be able to provide insight and suggestions for improving starch digestion. I will be looking for farms to be a part this project in the near future. If you will be harvesting and feeding new corn silage this year and would be interested in participating, please let Maria Bendixen, Dairy & Livestock Agent know by calling 715-743-5121. Thank you!

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
THORP LIBRARY
6:00-8:00 PM



Use a compost bin — promote soil health and save

Participants will learn the process of composting and receive material on how to make a compost bin.

Benefits:

Promotes soil health

- Improves soil tilth and friability
- Improves soil drainage
- Loosens heavy clay soils
- Suppresses some soil-borne plant pathogens (diseases)

Saves money on:

- Soil amendments, like peat moss
- Fertilizers & pesticides by reducing need

Saves tax dollars on:

- Municipal costs for curb side pick up & drop-off sites for yard materials

Compost is not a fertilizer, but does contain plant nutrients.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Call 715-743-5121 for more information and/or to pre-register for this workshop.

*This workshop is sponsored by:
Clark County UW-Extension
Clark County Master Gardeners*

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