

Your county extension office



**UW Extension**  
Cooperative Extension  
Clark County

February 2012



Extension Views Newsletter

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## UNDERSTANDING COMMODITY MARKETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 GREENWOOD FIRE HALL 1:00-3:00 PM

### What do these stories have to do with your bottom line?

“Food Crisis as Drought and Cold Hit Mexico,” New York Times, January 30, 2012

“Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food,” Time Magazine, Friday, August 21, 2009

“Global Corn Supplies Tight,” Feedstuffs, January 30, 2012

“Attractive but unbalanced dairy growth creating challenges,” Western Farm Press, February 6, 2012

Commodity marketing is starting to receive a lot more time in the minds of producers throughout the county. However, the inner workings of the commodity marketing system

are a mystery to most of people who are heavily affected by them. You wouldn't dream of trying to balance a ration for a cow without knowing how a ruminants digestive systems works. Yet many people are working with the commodity markets and contracting both feeds and milk without much of an understanding of the system behind the markets. With that in mind, UWEX is hosting an afternoon program with Kevin Bernhardt, UW-Extension Price Risk Management Specialist. Kevin will give a brief history of commodity markets and discuss the forces that influence the market. Participants will gain an understanding of the workings of the commodity market and some ideas on how to create a marketing plan that meets the needs of your farm.

The program will be held at the Greenwood Fire Hall from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is requested by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Negotiating New Rental Rates?

See page 6 for more information on  
**Renting Farm Assets**



## HEART OF THE FARM COMES TO MARSHFIELD FRIDAY, MARCH 2 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Heart of the Farm is a program for farm women. This program has been very popular across the state and is coming to Marshfield on Friday, March 2.

Topics and speakers:

- **Balancing Act** — Or is it a Three Ring Circus, Matt Lippert, Ag Agent, UW-Extension, Wood County and Jenny Vanderlin, Assistant Director, UW-Extension, Center for Dairy Profitability. This will be a fun, facilitated discussion on balancing farm, family, and personal priorities. Learn how others “do it all” or how they avoid feeling guilty if they don’t!
- **Farm Business Arrangements**, Phil Harris, Farm Law Specialist, UW-Extension. Phil is widely acclaimed for his expertise in farm law and his ability to put it in

practical terms. You will be sure to get lots of ideas for your farm from Phil’s presentation.

- **Thank you, Michael Pollan OR Never underestimate the Power of a Farm tour**, Daphne Holterman, dairy farmer and World Dairy Expo Woman of the Year, 2009. Do you feel you make a difference in the world of Agriculture? — You Do! Daphne will discuss how you, as women, area set up perfectly to answer Pollan’s “call to action” and talk about what you do and why you do it every day.
- **Take Charge of your Destiny** — to top off the day, there will be an input session for planning future Heart of the Farm Programs. To set the mood for good conversation, Marieke Peterman of Holland’s Family Cheese, Thorp and the staff of Marshfield’s own Blue Heron

BrewPub will discuss hot o pair cheese and beverages to take a meal beyond just simple nutrition.

We are still finalizing a location in Marshfield, but be sure to put down the date. The program is planned to run approximately 9 AM to 3 PM.

To register contact Wood County UWEX at 715-421-8440. Registration is \$15 if received by Feb 27th.

*Heart of the Farm is supported by the UW-Center for Dairy Profitability, UW-Extension Farm Management Team, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, USDA Risk Management Agency, North Central Risk Management Education Center and USDA-Research, Education and Economics.*

## BEAT THE HEAT – IN FEBRUARY! WORKSHOPS TO BE OFFERED

How to keep your cows cool.....next summer! It’s cold outside, but now is the perfect time to be thinking ahead to next summer and how to keep your cows cool. University of Wisconsin-Extension is excited to host **‘Beat the Heat - in February!’** workshop Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Abbotsford City Hall. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration is \$20.00 and includes lunch and materials. Pre-registration deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>, space is limited.

Hot summer weather can really have an impact on herd health and milk production. This workshop will focus on ways to minimize the affects of heat.

Topics and Speakers include:

- **Building and Updating Facilities to Keep Cows Cooler**, *Dr. David Kammel, Biological Systems Engineer, UW-Extension/UW-Madison*
- **Feeding for Hot Weather: Dietary Options and Feeding Management Strategies**, *Bernie Ford, Large Herd Dairy Specialist, Land O’ Lakes Feed*
- **Building for Cow Comfort**, *Rebecca Mentick-Brotzman, DVM, School of Veterinary Medicine, UW-Madison*
- **Real Life Applications of Heat Abatement Systems**, *Dr. Mike*

*Wolf , Country Doctors Veterinary Service, and John McBride, VES Environmental Solutions*

Morning and afternoon refreshments will be sponsored by VES Environmental Solutions, LLC.

Pre-registration is required. Please send in your registration by February 15th to the Clark County UW-Extension office, 517 Court St Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456. If you have any questions regarding this program contact Maria Bendixen, UW-Extension Clark County agriculture agent at 715-743-5121.

# 2012 CATTLE FEEDER CLINIC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

THE TIMBERS, STANLEY

613 S Broadway Street

10:30 AM — 2:00 PM

## A SEMINAR SERIES FOR

- **Beef Cattle Feeders**
- **Dairy Steer Feeders**
- **Ag Professionals**
- **Educators**

Topics will address information for finishing both beef and dairy cattle

- **UW Extension Dairy Beef Feeders Survey Project:** Details on the Holstein Feeders Survey Project to determine what are Wisconsin Feeder's overhead costs, and a call for project participants. *Presented by Randy Knapp, Chippewa County Agricultural Agent and Maria Bendixen, Clark County Agriculture Agent*
- **Every feeder needs to learn about grid marketing, because all cattle are marketed on a**

**grid.** This presentation will cover how cattle are priced on grid and how these grids influence price of cattle in other markets such as an auction facility. *Presented by Amy Radunz, UW Extension Beef Specialist.*

- **Beef Enterprise Budget Tools: An Interactive Examination of How much risk can you afford.** This session will be a hands on activity for participants to learn about UW Extension Budgeting Tools by using them to compare different scenarios. *Led by Dr. Radunz and Dr. Fluharty*
- **Best management practice considerations for alternative feeding operations.** This presentation will cover current market conditions and how they impact commodity and alternative (all-natural, grass-fed,



age and source verified, etc.) and tips for successful management of cattle for these alternative programs. *Presented by Dr. Francis Fluharty, The Ohio State University*

Registration fee of \$15 will be charged to cover the meal and handouts.

To register to attend the 2012 Cattle Feeder Clinic at the Timbers in Stanley contact the Chippewa County Extension Office at 715-726-7952.

## MILK QUALITY UPDATE

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

BS Catering, Hwy 64 East of Medford

10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

WI Clinical Mastitis & Antibiotic Resistance Project  
*What does mastitis cost Wisconsin farmers?  
 Which cases does it pay to treat?*

Drug Residues de ja vu  
*FDA is poised to sample bulk tank milk for 28 drug residues.  
 How might this effect you?*



Our guest lecturer is Pamela L. Ruegg, DVM, MPVM, UW-Madison, Dept. of Dairy Science.

Dr. Ruegg is a dairy science professor and extension milk quality specialist. Her research interests are focused on the application of epidemiologic techniques to critical issues related to milk quality and safety and enhancing on-farm implementation of best

management practices to improve herd health.

Call in your registration to UW-Extension office 715-748-3327 by February 3rd so we may plan for meals and materials.

There is no cost to attend, but advance registration is appreciated!

### Sponsored in cooperation with:

- DeLonay Dairy Health Services*
- Medford Veterinary Clinic*
- Clark-Marathon Veterinary Service, LLC*
- Marshfield Veterinary Service*
- Loyal Veterinary Service, SC*
- Dairyland Animal Clinic, SC*
- Athens Veterinary Service, Inc.*
- UWEX—Taylor County*
- UWEX—Clark County*
- Grassland Veterinary Service*

# CENTRAL WI FORAGE COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL & ANNUAL MEETING

**FEBRUARY 15, 2012**  
**ABBLYAND TRUCK STOP, CURTISS**  
**11:00 AM—3:00 PM**

## Agenda

- 11:00 CWFC business & MFA Update  
11:30 Kenya experience *by Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent*  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Maintaining soil fertility for increased yields of forage, K & S survey *by John Peters, UW Soils & Forage Lab*  
1:30 RR Alfalfa, fact, fiction, research, and management *by Mark Renz, UW Weed Scientist*  
2:15 Land rent, what can I pay for growing forages?, crop budgets *by Richard Halopka, Clark County Crops & Soils Agent*  
2:45 Wrap up questions

Meeting is open to the public and membership in MFA or CWFC is not required.

Cost for this program is \$5.00. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121 to register.

Make checks payable to: Central WI Forage Council

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

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

## **WALKING AND TALKING CROPS: *LET'S TALK COMBINES***

**MARCH 9, 2012**  
**JEFF OSSMAN FARM**  
**W5717 KINGMAN RD, GREENWOOD**  
**12:30—3:00 pm**

### *Adjusting combines during harvest & precision applications: how to use your yield monitor*

Jim Leverich, UW-Extension Farm Researcher, will share a common sense approach to adjusting your combine; equipment color is not a concern.

Jim will then educate the group on the capabilities of your yield monitor.

Bottom line is to get more bang for your buck invested.

For more information or to register, please contact:

Richard Halopka  
UW-Extension  
Crops & Soils Agent  
715-743-5121

# MIDWEST DAIRY & BEEF HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI

REGISTRATION 8:30 AM — PROGRAM 9:00 AM — 3:30 PM



The care and well being of cattle in the state of Wisconsin is important to consumers and farmers alike. This conference will help producers improve the care of their cattle and gain a better understanding on the consumers point of view.

## Program Agenda:

- **Housing to Optimize Cow Well-Being**, *Nigel Cook, DVM Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine*

Dr. Cook will discuss strategies to reduce lameness, increase cow comfort and will also present an overview of the Dairy Initiative at the UW School of Vet Medicine.

- **Pain Management for Livestock**, *Hans Coetzee, Iowa State University*

Dr. Coetzee will discuss pain management in cattle along with management practices that can be used to reduce pain in cattle.

- **Live Dairy Cattle Handling Demonstration** (Barn #1), *Ben Bartlett, Emeritus Extension Educator, Michigan State*

Dr. Bartlett will share the why and how of low stress handling with lecture, live animal demonstrations and attitude adjustments.

- **What's Your Perception?**, *Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent*

## Break-out Sessions:

- **Dehorning Methods & Pain Management**, *Sandy Stuttgen, DVM, UW-Extension and Edie Brandt, DVM, De Pere Vet Service*
- **Caring for Compromised Cattle**, *Amy Radunz, University of Wisconsin Beef Specialist*
- **Castration Methods & Pain Management**, *Hans Coetzee, Iowa State University*
- **Dairy Beef Residues**, *Dave Rhoda, DVM Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association*
- **Producer Panel**—Telling agriculture's story! Understanding the public's perception and what we can do to boost consumer confidence.

Cost of this workshop is **\$50** per person. Pre-registration is required. Registrations received after deadline will be **\$55**. Registration discount available for groups of 20 or more.

Six veterinary CEU credits will be available for a registration fee of \$75.

Make check payable to: UW-Extension  
Registration deadline: **February 20, 2012**

Mail to:

Outagamie Co UWEX  
3365 W Brewster St  
Appleton WI 54914

For more information contact:

Mark Mayer  
Green Co Dairy & Livestock  
608-328-9440  
Email: mark.mayer@ces.uwex.edu

## Program Supporters

*Wisconsin Farm Bureau*

*Equity Cooperative*

*Priefert*

*UW-Extension Livestock Team*

*UW-Extension Dairy Team*

# RENTING FARM ASSETS WEBINAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COUNTY BOARD ROOM—NEILLSVILLE

or

TAYLOR COUNTY UW-EXTENSION OFFICE—MEDFORD

- 1:00 p.m. Introduction to Land Values and Lease Concepts Around the Region  
*Arlin Brannstrom, Farm Management Specialist*
- Discussion will include a breakdown of how land prices are changing around the state and what might be driving the increases in land rent.
- 1:20 p.m. Corn & Bean Economics 2012 — Review of Enterprise Budgets 2012
- This segment will include factors to consider when determining the profitability of renting land to grow corn and beans on in the coming year.
- 1:40 p.m. Pros & Cons of Risk Sharing / Variable Cash Leases  
*Bruce Jones, Farm Management Specialist*
- He will share some tools he has developed that will help landlords and renters decide if a flexible lease contract will work for them and if so what kind might fit their situation.
- 2:00 p.m. Lease Contracts and Legal Concerns  
*Phil Harris, Farm Law Specialist*
- Many rental agreements are on a handshake — Phil will cover the legal issues involved with renting farm assets and what makes for a legal contract.
- 2:30 p.m. Resource Summary / Ag Lease 101  
*Arlin Brannstrom, Farm Management Specialist*
- Ag lease 101 is a multistate resource site that has been developed to provide information to renters and landlords
- 2:40 p.m. Local Land & Rental Discussion  
Various Ag Agents
- Local agents will discuss local resources and issues with the group
- 3:00 p.m. Meeting Concluded



*Please register by Wednesday, March 7 at the location  
you would like to attend.*

*Clark County UW-Extension Office at: 715-743-5121  
Taylor County UW-Extension Office at: 715-748-3327*

*Sponsored by: UW-Extension FARM Team*

# FRESH MARKET VEGETABLE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Monday, February 20, 2012

Timber's Restaurant, Stanley

613 S Broadway Street

9:30 AM — 4:00 PM



## Topics to be discussed:

- Review 2011 season pest problems, Amanda Gevens, Extension Plant Specialist and Russ Groves, Vegetable Extension Specialist & Applied Insect Ecologist
- Application of pesticides, rates, calibration and getting good coverage, *Dan Heider or Bryan Jensen, Integrated Pest Management*
- Season long guide to producing high quality tomatoes and peppers including recommendations for organic and conventional producers
  - ◇ Overview of field production management — *AJ Bussan, Vegetable Crop Production System Specialist*
- Staking, plastic, enterprise budget, etc.
  - ◇ Insect Management for field and greenhouse tomato and pepper — *Russ Groves, Vegetable Extension Specialist & Applied Insect Ecologist*
  - ◇ Disease Management for field and greenhouse tomato and pepper — *Amanda Gevens, Extension Plant Specialist*
  - ◇ Nutrient Management for tomato and pepper including applying nutrients through the drip tape (determining how much to mix, etc.) — *Matt Ruark, Soil Scientist*
  - ◇ High Tunnel Management making sure to hit temperature management and the importance there of, *AJ Bussan, Vegetable Crop Production System Specialist*

CEU credits have been requested.

Cost of the program is \$15.00 which covers lunch and materials. Pre-registration is required by Monday, February 13th.

Make check payable to:  
UW-Extension

Mail to:

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

For more information contact  
Richard Halopka, Clark County  
Crops & Soils Agent at 715-743-5121 or Jerry Clark, Chippewa/Eau  
Claire County Crops & Soils Agent  
at 715-726-7950.

## PROFESSIONAL NUTRIENT APPLICATOR ASSOCIATION OF WI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012

ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

(203 N 1ST ST)

12:30 — 3:30 PM

### Level 1 Training

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

1. Advance reservations are needed for these sessions, as seating is limited at some locations.

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

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

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

If interested in attending please contact:

Richard Halopka  
Clark Co Crops & Soils Agent  
715-743-5121

# MANAGING IN VOLATILE TIMES

KEN BOLTON, CENTER FOR DAIRY PROFITABILITY

A major recent but ongoing stress for farm managers is price volatility. Widely fluctuating prices for agricultural products, including milk, along with the up and down nature of input costs present a three-fold challenge for any business manager. The first is making decisions with decreased predictability of future prices and margins. Second is the potential for negative cash flow that does not permit the paying of bills. The third challenge is erosion of business equity if negative profit margins/increased debt persist, eventually placing the entire business at increased risk of survival.

Attempting to manage on the fly as prices ebb and flow is akin to taking the preverbal tiger by the tail. But, an alternative approach to always being behind the eight ball is available! Unlike prior times when prices were more stable and predictable and thus planning could be optional, the situation has changed - with a vengeance.

In order to manage effectively, dairy producers and other farmers can develop a realistic financial plan for the coming year. This planning activity lets producers see what cash flows and profits they are likely to earn. When updated, as the year develops, it also gives producers direction on what they can afford to spend when paying bills, making loan payments or purchasing assets such as dairy cows, equipment, and farmland.

Perhaps the main difficulty of pulling

together a financial plan is making realistic assumptions about likely selling prices of farm commodities. Likewise it is a challenge to set prices of key inputs like feed, fertilizer, seed, and fuel. This price discovery is frustrating but it has to be done if producers are to have meaningful financial plans to use in managing their operations. Thankfully, guidance is available.

Each year the UW-Madison, Department of Applied and Agricultural Economics publishes a report, titled *Status of Wisconsin Agriculture*, <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/agoutlook> containing information about the outlook for commodity prices and input costs. USDA also makes long-term market projections (WASDA) with regular updates as does several private entities such as Doane, Rabobank and others. Additionally, Professor Brian Gould's (University of Wisconsin, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics) webpage, *Understanding Dairy Markets*, <http://future.aae.wisc.edu> is another excellent resource. The advantage of Dr. Gould's information is it is updated continuously for changing market conditions.

Additional Land Grant Universities also offer assessments of where prices will be over the next production year as well as shorter-term. All sources of future and updated price information are available for making the Cash Flow projection. This outlook information is what producers need to begin the development of management plans

they will use to manage their operations and share with their lenders over the course of a year. AgFA income and expense comparable data specific to the producer's herd size is available at <http://cdp.wisc.edu/AgFA.htm> to further personalize the plan. The release of much of the annual outlook information occurs near year-end at the same time business planning may occur on many farms.

Utilization of the user friendly "Working Capital Decision Support System" Tool <http://cdp.wisc.edu/Decision%20Making%20Tools.htm> along with the above available guidance and the fact all calculations are made by the program takes much of the drudgery out of the planning process. The Big-Three financial statements; Balance Sheet, Farm Earnings and Cash Flow, are fully integrated in the Tool. Importation of AgFA financial reports into the Tool reduces data entry by two thirds. All of the above makes the present no better time to perform risk reducing business planning not only beneficial but efficient!

Project collaborators include UW-Extension, the Center for Dairy Profitability, Lakeshore Farm Management and Fox Valley Farm Management Cooperatives as well as WDATCP, Wisconsin Department of Commerce- Dairy 2020 program and Wisconsin Vocational/Technical Agricultural programs. This educational program is support by a North Central Risk Management Education Center Grant.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Clark County UW-Extension will host a General Farming Private Pesticide Applicator Training and open book examination on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, March 7**  
**Colby VFW, Hwy 13**
- **Tuesday, March 13**  
**Neillsville Courthouse Auditorium, 517 Court St**

- **Friday, March 16**  
**Thorp Fire Hall, 101 So Wilson**

Registration begins at 9 a.m., training begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. The training fee of \$30 includes materials and certification with WDATCP. So we may plan, phone in one week in advance of the session you plan on attending to the

Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

If we mail you materials the cost is \$30 plus \$5 for shipping/handling for a total of \$35. Enclose a check for \$35 made payable to the Clark County UW-Extension. Remit to: UW-Extension, 517 Court St Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456.

# GETTING A GOOD FORAGE STAND

Dan Undersander, Forage Agronomist

Some farmers always get a good forage stand and some always fear seeding grasses or legumes because of difficulty getting good stands. A good stand is crucial to profitability because, if the stand is thin, it will never yield well and will be weedy or, if the stand is so poor that reseeding is necessary, the grower will have lost most or all of a growing season for forage production on that field.

More than 90% of the forage stand failures are due to one of three reasons:

- 1) low soil pH
- 2) loose soil
- 3) placing seed too deep

Each cause of stand failure is preventable by the farmer.

We have known for over a hundred years that **alfalfa needs a soil with pH of 6.8 and grasses and other legumes need a pH of 6.0 to 6.3** but many farmers do not apply lime, either in adequate amounts or sufficiently far ahead of seeding to raise soil pH. Failure to raise soil pH to optimum levels results in poor germination and slowed seedling growth which makes the seedlings more susceptible to disease and death. Lime should be applied 1 year prior to seeding to allow the soil pH to rise to optimum.

The second major cause of stand failure is **seeding into loose soil**. Soil must be packed around the seed to make good seed to soil contact so that the seed can take up water from the soil. All of us have seen fields where the forage stand was better in the wheel tracks or the headlands – where the soil was packed more firmly around the seed.

The old, but good, recommendation has been that if you stand on the field and your shoe sinks more than ¼ inch into the soil, the soil is too loose for seeding.

Some soils need to be fall plowed to allow settling to occur before a spring seeding. Chiseled soils may need less time to settle but still require disking to level and pack soil surface prior to seeding. Fields seeded

no-till and will generally have firm soil, though some disking may be necessary in these systems simply to smooth the field for future hay making. Spike tooth harrows or drags will level the field and break up clods but they are bad for seeding because they loosen soil rather than pack it.

A Brillion seeder has been successful on tilled fields because it has two corrugated packing rolls to pack the soil. A drill can do as well if it has press wheels that are properly adjusted. Some farmers have attached a corrugated roller behind the drill to further pack the soil. Note that a corrugated roller is much more effective in getting a stand than a smooth roller because the latter rides up over clods, stones and ridges whereas the former packs more consistently across the contour of the field.

The third major reason for stand failure is **seeding too deep with a drill**. Legume seed should be placed ¼ to ½ inch deep in most soils (¾ inch depth in sandy soils). Placing seed deeper may delay or reduce emergence and result in poor stands. Poor seed placement is often visible in new seedings as rows or parts of rows that germinate and emerge well while adjacent rows have a poor stand as shown in the picture.



Poor seed placement in areas with skips in seedling establishment.

One good test to use when seeding with a drill is to look for seeds on the soil surface after seeding. If the seed is properly placed at ¼ to ½ inch depth, some seed will end up on the soil surface. One should find 8 to 10 seeds per square foot on the soil surface a pass with the drill. If the number is less, you are likely placing the rest of the seed too deep.

Alfalfa, grass and clover seedings can have a high success rate if the grower seeds at proper soil pH, depth and packs soil well.



Poorly packed soil resulted in seedling establishment only in wheel tracks.

## CLARK COUNTY DAIRY PROMOTION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Clark Co. Dairy Promotion Committee is an affiliated organization of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board that supports and promotes the Dairy Industry at the local level. The group is involved in a number of activities during the year, including the Little Britches and Saw Cow events at the county fair, a recipe contest in Loyal in June, advertisements in print and on radio, and having a booth when Santa comes to town in December. The committee sponsors the many dairy breakfasts held in June and various 4-H projects. The committee needs new members to help carry on this worthwhile work.



If you are interested in joining the Clark Co. Dairy Promotion Committee, please feel free to attend our annual meeting on Thursday, March 15th at the Neillsville Country Club at 1:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for the annual meeting contact Matt Bendixen, Clark County Dairy Promotion President at 715-267-6371.

## 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 on Thursday, March 15th at the Neillsville Country Club at 1:00 PM.

Producers with a 2011 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 2011 SCC average. Send to the Clark County UW-Extension office, 517 Court Street, Room 104, Neillsville WI 54456.

## REDUCING YOUR RISK: COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS OF WPDES PERMIT HOLDERS

An update meeting for WPDES permitted CAFO owners & managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers.

**March 8, 2012**

Marshfield Ag Research Station, Marshfield, WI

<http://www.ars.wisc.edu/marshfield/>

Session goals: Improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and WDNR; and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.

**Meeting topics & speakers  
(Session start: 9 am, end: 3:30 pm)**

- Spreading maps, w soils and tile line monitoring, irrigation requirements, hauling audits -

- DNR NMP Specialist
- Feed storage & runoff control system design, operation and maintenance considerations – Local DATCP Engineer
- Working proactively with Towns to preserve rural roadways – UW Extension Educator
- NRCS 590 vs. NR 243 requirements – DNR NMP specialist
- EPA farm inspections, what to expect – US EPA Representative
- Record-Keeping and NM plans –

- DNR NMP specialist and group discussion
- Satellite farm issues and permits – Local DNR Agricultural Specialist
- Working with your professional manure applicator – Local Custom Hauler

Cost in advance is \$15, \$25 after March 1 or at the door. Send in payment to Wood County UWEX, PO Box 8095, WI Rapids WI 54495 if interested in attending or call 715-421-8440.

# A LITTLE BIT OF LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION, FOR THOSE INTERESTED

MATT ZOSCHKE, CLARK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATIONIST

## Physiography, Relief, and Drainage

Clark County is in two physiographic regions. About 95 percent of the county is in the Central Plain Region, and the rest is in the Northern Highland Region, according to the Soil Survey of Clark County, Wisconsin. The Northern Highland region makes up a narrow strip in the northern and northeastern parts of the county along the Taylor and Marathon County lines. The Central Plain region makes up the rest of the county.

The Central Plain is underlain by Cambrian sandstone. South of Neillsville and in the southwestern part of the county, the Central Plain is mostly driftless (not influenced by glacial activity), and thus the sandstone is near the surface. The landscape is mostly level and gently sloping and has many wet areas and some sandstone mounds (monadnocks) that range from a few feet to several hundred feet above the plain. Along the Black River, the underlying Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks are exposed where the Cambrian sandstone has eroded away. North of Neillsville, the Central Plain consists mostly of glacial drift over Cambrian sandstone. This area has been influenced by recent glacial activity. The landscape consists mainly of level and gently sloping ground moraine with many areas of moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils. A few monadnocks exist in this region.

The Northern Highland region is an asymmetrical dome dominated by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic bedrock. In most places, glacial drift overlies the bedrock. The landscape is mostly a level or gently sloping ground moraine with many areas of moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils. A few monadnocks exist in this region.

Clark County was subject to three glacial advances. The very northern

part of the county was glaciated between about 25,000 and 95,000 years ago. These glacial margins of advance were called the Harrison and Hamburg. The central part (and the majority of the county) was glaciated between 790,000 and 25,000 years ago. This glacial margin is called the Nasonville and is evident around County Highway G. The southern quarter of Clark County was glaciated much earlier, probably around 2,400,000 and 790,000 years ago. This glacial margin is associated with the Marshfield Advance and can be driven over on State Highway 10, just east of Neillsville.

Relief in Clark County is largely controlled by the glacial features and by the bedrock. The highest elevation, 1,460 feet, is northeast of Dorchester in the northeast corner of the county. The lowest elevation, about 883 feet, is along the shore of Lake Arbutus in the southwestern part of the county. Most of the county's elevation ranges from about 1,100 to 1,200 feet. Local differences in elevation are generally less than 100 feet. The greatest local difference is between the top of Bruce Mound (1,355 feet) and the nearby shore of Lake Arbutus (about 883 feet).

Most of Clark County is in the Black River drainage basin. The Black River flows south through the central part of the county and is part of the Mississippi River drainage system. The northwestern and west-central parts of the county are drained by the Eau Claire River, which is part of the Chippewa River drainage system. The eastern edges of the county are drained by the Eau Pleine and Yellow Rivers, which are part of the Wisconsin River drainage system. All surface waters in Clark County eventually drain to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

## Geology

According to the *Bedrock Geology of Wisconsin, West-Central Sheet*,

prepared by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, there are a variety of rock types found within Clark County. Cambrian rocks of the Mount Simon Formation underlie the majority of Clark County. The majority of the county has a depth to bedrock of 0 to 15 meters and is described as having good to excellent outcrop, particularly on hillsides, road cuts, and in river valleys.

The bedrock geology of the county consists mainly of Upper Cambrian age sandstone. Precambrian crystalline rock underlies the northernmost and eastern portions of the county. The sandstone has been eroded away, exposing the crystalline rock along the Black River and its tributaries. The Cambrian sandstone is generally less than 50 feet thick in the majority of the county. The exception is the southwestern portion of the county, where the most recent glacier activity has not eroded away the sandstone. In this area, the sandstone is more than 50 feet thick.

## Watersheds

A watershed can be defined as an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point, such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. All lands and waterways can be found within one watershed or another. The Clark County Land Conservation Department has delineated and designated watersheds. The Clark County designated watersheds are based on county specific waterbodies, such as Mead Lake, Black River, or Rock Creek. The WDNR has also delineated and designated watersheds in Clark County. Both designations are accurate and correct and in many cases the watershed boundaries are the same. However, many state programs are based not on the locally designated Clark County watersheds, but more often on the state designated watersheds. In Wisconsin, watersheds vary in scale from major river systems

**A LITTLE BIT OF LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION, FOR THOSE INTERESTED (CONTINUED)**

to small creek drainage areas and typically range in size from 100 to 300 square miles. River basins encompass several watersheds.

There are 32 river basins in Wisconsin which range in size from 500 to over 5,000 square miles. Wisconsin's 32 river basins are then divided into 23 geographic management units. These units, or "GMUs", are the basis for the WDNR Watersheds and form the land

unit around which many state-funded conversation cost-share grant programs are implemented.

Clark County is located within three geographic management units (GMUs) including the Lower Chippewa, Black-Buffalo-Trempealeau, and the Central Wisconsin GMU. Within these GMUs, Clark County is located within three different river basins including the

Upper Wisconsin River Basin in the eastern portion of the county, the Black River Basin in the central, and the Lower Chippewa River Basin in the west. Within these basins, 13 distinct watersheds can be found. The following table identifies each WDNR designated watershed located within Clark County and displays the square mileage and total percent of county land within each watershed.

<b>DNR Watershed</b>	<b>Square Miles</b>	<b>% of County</b>
Big Eau Pleine (CW18)	21.01	1.72
Black and Hay Creeks (LC15)	13.90	1.14
Cawley and Rock Creeks (BR10)	169.63	13.91
East Fork—Black River (BR07)	91.36	7.49
Halls Creek (BR06)	16.30	1.34
Little Eau Pleine (CW14)	11.76	0.96
North Fork—Eau Claire River (LC17)	110.25	9.04
O'Neill and Cunningham Creeks (BR09)	161.01	13.20
Popple River (BR11)	203.06	16.65
South Fork—Eau Claire River (LC16)	215.23	17.65
Trappers and Pine Creeks (BR12)	7.90	0.65
Five Mile and Wedges Creeks (BR08)	144.57	11.86
Yellow River (CW05)	53.39	4.38

<b>Clark County Watershed</b>	<b>Square Miles</b>	<b>% of County</b>
Eau Pleine River	32.8	2.7
Popple River	159.4	13.1
Wolf River	34.1	2.8
North Fork—Eau Claire River	76.4	6.3
Black River	163.1	13.4
Mead Lake	98.3	8.1
Rock Creek	79.0	6.5
South Fork—Eau Claire River	72.3	5.9
Yellow River	53.4	4.4
Rock Dam Lake	58.4	4.8
Wedges Creek	124.3	10.2
Cawley Creek	41.9	3.4
O'Neill Creek	60.4	5.0
Cunningham Creek	63.0	5.2
East Fork—Black River	89.9	7.4
Halls Creek	12.5	1.0

The following table identifies each county designated watershed located within Clark County and displays the square mileage and total percent of county land within each watershed.

## Cooperative Extension marks 100 years of working for Wisconsin

Cooperative Extension's first agent, E.L. Luther, hired in 1912 in Oneida County, made farm visits using a two-cylinder motorbike. One hundred years later, both modes of transportation and Cooperative Extension programming have changed, but one important point remains the same.

Cooperative Extension educators continue to serve as a portal to educational resources from the University of Wisconsin to address issues faced by individuals, families, businesses and communities around the state.

"Our centennial creates opportunities for us to celebrate 100 years of Cooperative Extension history through stories that highlight how we've evolved and changed to meet the needs of people, businesses and communities in Wisconsin and beyond," said Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Richard M. Klemme. "Our past serves as the foundation for our current work. Throughout 2012, we will explain and demonstrate how the work we do today positively influences the future of Wisconsin."

In 1911, the Wisconsin legislature provided funds for counties to jointly employ with the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture "an agriculturist who is an agent of a restricted area, a county or a part of one." The Oneida County Board was the first county to send three of their members to Madison, asking the University for this service, with expenses to be shared on a 50/50 basis. Luther was hired in February 1912, and two additional agents were hired that same year, one in Eau Claire County and the other in Barron County.

In 1912, Luther provided agricultural information about livestock, winter feed, soils and legumes. Today, Cooperative Extension is home to four program areas offering local information in person and online, providing research-based information 24/7. Local Cooperative Extension offices also connect communities with University of Wisconsin campuses, where Cooperative Extension faculty and staff provide research-based information about the issues facing the people of Wisconsin.

With an office in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and on three Native American reservations, Cooperative Extension develops practical educational programs tailored to local needs and based on university knowledge and research. Cooperative Extension delivers expertise to the public, addressing a wide range of needs, in both urban and rural areas of the states. Information about the Clark County Cooperative Extension Office is available online at: [yourcountyextensionoffice.org](http://yourcountyextensionoffice.org).

Colleagues in Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, will be incorporating the 2012 Centennial Celebration into a variety of conferences, workshops and educational programs throughout the year. Examples include the Garden Expo in Madison in February; Farm Technology Days in Outagamie County in July; county fairs; and the 2012 Wisconsin State Fair.

"Our centennial provides us with a timely opportunity to thank our clients, partners and friends for their continued support of our educational programs," added Klemme. "It also creates opportunities for people to share their memories of Cooperative Extension, highlight our relevance and celebrate the impacts of our educational programming."

More information about the Cooperative Extension 2012 Centennial, including historical photos and timeline, is available online at <http://100.ces.uwex.edu>.



*E.L. Luther, the first agent of Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, made his rounds on a two-cylinder Indian motorcycle. Photo courtesy of UW-Madison Archives.*



## LEARN HOW TO — PRUNE YOUR SMALL SHRUBS OR FRUIT TREES

Teri Lessig, Horticulture Educator at Wood County UW-Extension will be giving a presentation on “**How to Prune Your Small Shrubs or Fruit Trees**” on **Saturday, March 31st at the Adult Development Center in Greenwood starting at 10 AM.**

Teri has worked in the field of Horticulture her entire life, often joking that “it is all she knows”. She graduated from UW-River Falls in 1996 with a BS in Horticulture. She has experience in several areas in the field of Horticulture including greenhouse management, landscaping and landscape maintenance,

commercial vegetable production, retail service, sustainable gardening, and growing cultivated mushrooms.

The easiest way to learn how to properly prune is to get out and do it. There are a few basic “rules of thumb” that are easy to learn and remember. Most trees and shrubs should be pruned in late winter or early spring. This is called dormant season pruning. Some can be cut all the way to the ground, where others benefit more from selective pruning. It is very beneficial to most plants to be pruned throughout their lives. Pruning is actually invigorating to plants and

often encourages new growth. It is also an opportunity to remove dead and diseased wood and control the size and shape of a plant. We will start the day with a brief discussion of pruning techniques and a review of the basic rules, and then venture outside for a hands-on demonstration.

Join Teri Lessig, Horticulture Educator at Wood County UWEX, for a presentation detailing all the pruning techniques that we can use on our home landscape plants. We will cover fruits, flowering shrubs, evergreens, and small shade trees. It is time to start thinking about spring!

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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