

Agricultural Newsletter

UW-Madison College of Ag & Life Science
University of Wisconsin-Extension



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Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Frequently Asked Questions

John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Bayfield & Ashland Counties

There continues to be much concern about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in our White-tailed Deer population. The following information may help in understanding this disease and its implications.

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

CWD is a nervous system disease of deer and elk. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's) or prion diseases. Though it shares certain features with other TSE's like bovine spongiform encephalopathy ("Mad Cow Disease") or scrapie in sheep, it is a distinct disease apparently affecting only deer and related species. CWD occurs in wild deer and elk primarily in northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming and adjacent Nebraska. CWD has also been found on elk farms in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Saskatchewan.

What are the signs of CWD in deer?

CWD attacks the brains of infected deer and elk, causing the animals to become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, lose bodily functions and die. Signs identified in captive deer include excessive salivation, loss of appetite, progressive weight loss, excessive thirst and urination, listlessness, teeth grinding, holding the head in a lowered position, and drooping ears. Many of these signs can also be caused by other diseases known in Wisconsin deer, such as Cranial Abscessation Syndrome, (a bacterial disease of the brain) or malnutrition. CWD is a slowly progressive disease; signs are usually not seen until the animal is 18 months of age or older.

How is CWD transmitted?

The mode of transmission between deer is not completely understood. It is thought that the disease can be passed between animals in a herd and also perhaps from close contact between mother and offspring. The prion which causes the disease is an abnormal version of a protein that normally occurs in the animals cells. It is not easily killed by environmental factors, heat or disinfection, so transmission from a contaminated environment may also be possible.

How is CWD diagnosed?

Brain samples are collected from dead deer and are examined microscopically using special stains to identify the CWD prion. A research team in Colorado has recently
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developed the first live animal test for CWD, based on the collection of tonsil samples for microscopic examination. This test seems to work well in deer, but not in elk.

What do we know about CWD in Wisconsin deer?

Wisconsin has tested over 1000 free-ranging white-tailed deer for CWD since 1999. Three CWD positive deer have now been identified from sampling done during the 2001 Gun Deer Season. All three deer were harvested from Dane County, Deer Management Unit 70A. All three were bucks 2½-3 years of age. In total, 82 deer were tested from the unit 70A area. State-wide, 345 samples from the 2001 gun deer season were tested. With the exception of the three positives, all other samples from the 2001 season were negative. All CWD tests performed in 1999 and 2000 were found to be negative. Results of additional testing of 516 tissue samples collected in the CWD surveillance area yielded 11 additional positive deer.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and Wisconsin's deer and elk farming industry are cooperating on a voluntary CWD surveillance program for farmed animals. Currently 46 elk herds and four white-tailed deer herds are enrolled. Since 1997, over 100 elk have been tested per year, all of which have been negative.

Is CWD transmissible to humans?

CWD has been known to occur in deer and elk in the USA for decades. In spite of ongoing surveillance for similar disease syndromes in humans, there has never been an instance of people contracting a disease from butchering or eating meat from CWD-infected animals. A World Health Organization (WHO) panel of experts reviewed all the available information on CWD and concluded that there is no scientific evidence that CWD can infect humans. However, there is much that scientists still do not know about CWD, and

one cannot state that transmission of CWD to humans is absolutely impossible.

Is it still safe to eat venison from Wisconsin deer?

There is no scientific evidence that CWD is transmissible through consumption of meat from an infected animal. CWD has not been linked to the human TSE disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, in the way that cattle BSE has been in Europe. The prion that causes CWD accumulates only in certain parts of infected animals—the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils and spleen — and, therefore, these tissues should not be eaten. Health officials additionally advise that no part of any animal with evidence of CWD should be consumed by humans or other animals. Experts suggest that hunters take simple precautions when field dressing deer in areas where CWD is found:

- **Wear rubber gloves** when field dressing carcasses.
- **Bone out the meat** from your animal.
- **Minimize the handling** of brain and spinal tissues.
- **Wash hands and instruments** thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- **Avoid consuming** brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. (Normal field dressing coupled with boning out of a carcass will remove essentially all of these parts.)
- **Request that your animal is processed individually**, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal.

What should I do if I observe or harvest a deer that I suspect might have CWD?

Call the local DNR office or the DNR Wildlife Health Team (608-267-6751, 608-221-5375) right away. The DNR will make every effort to collect samples from the possibly affected deer for CWD testing.

What will be done to manage CWD in Wisconsin deer?

The state and USDA are gathering all available information about the CWD positive deer identified in Dane County and other deer tested in that area and the rest of the state. We continue sampling deer from the affected and adjacent regions and will be discussing the best methods to control CWD in Wisconsin's deer. The monitoring program for CWD will continue to need the assistance of hunters statewide who volunteer to have their deer sampled at registration stations. State animal health authorities are also working to learn more about the CWD status of farmed deer and elk in the state, and to control mixing of farmed and wild deer and elk.

Is CWD a risk for Wisconsin's livestock?

There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted under natural conditions to cattle. CWD has been a problem in farmed elk in several western states, but has not been documented to date on elk or deer farms in Wisconsin.

Contact: Bureau of Wildlife Management, (608) 266-8204 or see DNR's website (www.dnr.state.wi.us), under Wildlife Management at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/cwd/

Source: Wisconsin DNR

Native Grasses Field Day July 16

From prairie and shoreland restoration to commercial seed and biomass production, the demand for native grasses has increased over the years. To help farmers and landowners better understand the commercial and environmental value of native grasses, a field day is planned for July 16 starting at 1 p.m. at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Topics include growing switch grass for biomass, variety trails of commercially available grasses, forage analysis evaluation of native blue stem, and native prairie restoration. For more info contact Kevin Schoessow at 1-800-528-1914, or 635-3506.

Is robotic milking for you?

*Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

“You have to spend money to make money.” This is an old saying that I heard years ago and I am sure it has been around longer than I have. This is also true for most businesses because in many cases, a major investment is necessary in order to start a new business or to take over an existing one. Some people have been able to work hard to be able to save up enough money to cover their future investments. Even if they did not have to borrow money, they still had to spend the money that they had saved up. One of the biggest concerns of potential borrowers is the accumulated interest on their loans and this can be a critical concern if the business experiences problems. Worrying about investing savings or borrowing money for a new investment has prevented people from improving their lifestyle, labor demands, and income. These same concerns exist when dairy producers consider any new purchase, especially a robotic milker.

Some believe that robotic milking will be the wave of the future and others say that it is not cost effective. It seems that over time, prices are reduced years after something is newly invented and marketed. When video-recorders first came out, most of them were a thousand dollars or more. Now, \$350 will get you a pretty nice unit with many more features than the original more expensive one. Maybe the initial costs of robotic systems seem high now, but with more companies getting into the production and installation, availability will increase as the prices will decrease. Dave Kammel, Prof., Agricultural Engineering Specialist, University of Wisconsin, agrees that the robotic systems costs will go lower in the coming years making the economics of ownership much more economical and feasible.

Many people dwell on the purchase and installation costs, but the initial investment is only a part of a much larger equation. Each farmer, investor and/or lender must look at

all of the benefits matched up to the negatives or costs. This will help determine if the equipment and facility will yield the necessary benefits and profits calculated or promised. Not all of the benefits will have a dollar figure attached either, which can oftentimes make the comparisons and analysis difficult. Different people will assign different values to many of the benefits and taking into account that no two farms are identical, every farm will come up with its own analysis and economic outlook.

Robotic milking systems can allow many producers to remain or become profitable without greatly expanding their herd numbers, which can be a tremendous asset. Each robot can milk up to 70 cows per 24 hour period, which is normally more than one person can handle in a conventional set-up. Labor requirements are greatly reduced since the robot takes care of the milking as well as gather much information about each cow in the herd. Since milking labor is taken care of, the operator has more time for other activities, including crop production. It is possible for a farm couple to have three robots milking nearly 200 cows and only require minimal additional labor. This system would also allow the farmer and spouse to be able to attend many other functions that would normally be impossible to go to, making life much more fulfilling and rewarding. Stronger, happier families should result from the additional quality time spent together and maybe more young people would choose to continue in agriculture once they see a healthier, richer lifestyle.

Many of these benefits have an extremely high value and if we want our agricultural heritage and success to continue, more of our younger people will have to become or stay involved with milking cows. The long-term economic impact of agriculture is probably too great to even try to measure or calculate and all technology that can enhance or promote farming, especially dairy production, must at least be considered or researched. After all, it is a rare occasion for things to improve on their own. Future success will only happen if people take the initiative now and in the coming years to pursue alternatives and improvements to en-

hance their profitability and lifestyles. This will help families throughout the nation as well as keep agriculture highlighted as one of the most important sectors of our economy and for us to maintain world-wide strength.

If you have any questions regarding robotic milking systems or any other potential improvement for your farm, contact your area agriculture extension office or the University of Wisconsin. We will see to it that your questions get answered.

Poor crop year could mean higher costs (for farmers)

*Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

If the current weather extremes continue in the Midwest, area farmers could be faced with higher feed costs in the coming year. This past spring was wet and cold and most crops got off to a late start. Forage production has also been a challenge and top quality forages may be difficult to attain this year. When we have more poor quality than excellent quality forages, feed costs go up due to the increase in purchased feeds. Compounding this scenario would be that higher grain and feed supplement prices could result. For this reason, many producers are looking at locking in on some grain, protein and supplement contracts for the coming year.

If you as a livestock producer anticipate higher purchased feed prices and you know what commodities work very well in your rations, you too should consider locking in a contract on some of your future purchased commodities. This may not be practical for a small producer, but as the size of the operation goes up, so does the need for the farmer to take advantage of feed contracts. If you have any questions on purchasing feed for future use, please give us a call at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914.

Notes from Dairy L

Tom Syverud
Extension and Outreach Educator
Ashland, Douglas, & Iron Counties

What causes hair balls in young stock?

Hair balls are called trichobezoars. They occur when calves lick their coat and swallow hairs. The cause for this behavior is not always clear. If calves are raised together they may lick each other after milk drinking. In some cases it seems to be related to poor quality feed or feed management or maybe to trace mineral deficiencies. Calves may also lick their own coat if they have fleas, lice, or other parasites on the skin. Hair may accumulate in either the rumen or the abomasum, and can eventually cause an obstruction at the reticulo-omasal opening, or at the pylorus. Hair balls can be fatal, when small bezoars enter the gut and cause an obstruction in these places. They can occur in other species as well (goats, sheep, horses).

Prevent them by raising calves in individual and separate pens up to weaning. Also review your calves' feeding program and management. Calves should be fed with whole milk or a very good replacer and a very good starter. If hair balls are a continuing problem, you may stop feeding hay or any kind of forage until 2 months of age. Provide your cows with a good trace mineral supplement, including your dry cows. The starter ration for the calves should also include trace minerals. Check calves for external parasites. To get rid hair balls, first you have to diagnose them in live animals. This can be done in some cases by palpating the rumen and the abomasum through the abdominal wall. Surgery would then be necessary.

Which stomach does water go into?

While studying for the dairy quiz bowl, one of the youth asked this question about the digestive system of the cow and goat. Additionally, is there a difference in bucket fed versus bottle fed calves, with regard

to the esophageal groove or does that mechanism come in to play whenever the animal drinks liquid regardless of the method of intake or the age of the animal?

The reflex closure of the reticular groove (a.k.a. esophageal groove) is caused by liquid hitting the back of the throat, but the reflex is measurably stronger if the liquid being fed is milk. This is not due to some special chemical property of milk, but has to do with the way the calf consumes the liquid. If it sucks eagerly (as opposed to just drinking normally and swallowing) the reflex that causes the reticular groove to close is activated and the milk is shunted to the abomasum. If you leave a pail of water in their pen and they just drink a little bit slowly, that water is mostly going to the rumen. It is good to have plain water available for calves because the rumen needs water to develop and function properly. The water that the calf gets in its milk feedings will mostly go into the abomasum and will not contribute to the rumen environment.

The reflex closure normally decreases with age, but this is more because the calves diet is changed to concentrates and/or forages. The bypass route is no longer necessary because the other stomach compartments (rumen, reticulum, omasum) have developed sufficiently. If a partly-weaned or recently-weaned calf is again given milk, then its rumen development will be delayed. According to a least one study, the response of the reticular groove to suckling can continue into maturity if the animal enjoys milk and is fed milk daily. In adult cattle, the reflex closure of the reticular groove can be stimulated by certain chemicals (one example is copper sulfate). This is useful if you want to deliver a medication to the abomasum without it being degraded or diluted in the fore-chambers. I think some wormers contain CaSO_4 .

A producer had trouble with coyotes and foxes climbing on the haylage and corn silage bags, putting pin holes in them. What can be done?

Predators are usually going after the rodents that feed and live close to the bags. Maintain the area around the bags, clear of veg-

etation (some producers use herbicides) so that they don't offer a hiding spot for rodents. Also removing the sod to leave only dirt around or under bag helps.

Buy and apply about 20 pounds of moth balls each year around the bags. To deter birds, a netting works great initially (any kind of netting that covers the bag will work), but most animals will steer clear of the netting, thinking it is some kind of trap. Applying a thin layer of ag lime will deter varmints from the area around the bags because they eat with their hands, and they don't like the taste of the lime that is on their hands after they have walked through it. Also, try a solar fencer around the bags, with 3-4 low wires set about five inches apart (top wire at 20-22 inches). Open bags can still have wires along both sides that can be cut back as the bag is used.

Summer fly control is important

Controlling flies can go a long way to improving cow comfort, cutting disease problems, and minimizing production losses. Flies can transfer diseases like brucellosis, tuberculosis, pinkeye, and Strep. and Staph. infections. Mastitis-causing bacteria can survive up to 16 days in a carrier fly. Many times the mastitis is subclinical and easily overlooked. As few as five flies per front leg causes animals to bunch together and use extra energy for tail switching, stomping, and head shaking. This causes heat stress, decreased feed intake, and can lower weight gains by 0.2 to 0.5 pounds a day, or reduce milk production by 2 pounds per day. For an average cost of \$7.00 to \$9.00 a month, the return can be up to \$30 to \$50 a month.

Fenceline feeders can help keep your cows eating

First, make sure there is enough manger space for all animals to eat at once. Feeding space needed = cows in group x 24 inches. A fenceline feeder stimulates the natural grazing position which encourages feed intake. Another advantage to ground level feeding is that cows produce more saliva, increasing the buffering capacity maintaining the proper rumen pH. These two factors can combine to increase production one to two pounds of milk per day per cow.

Burn barrels -

Unhealthy, unneighborly, unnecessary, and illegal

MADISON, Wis.— Open burning causes air pollution, and in most cases it's illegal, according to David S. Liebl of the University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Environment and Energy. That's why the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prohibits burning household trash in burn barrels or open fires. UW-Extension has created a new fact sheet to inform the public, fire marshals, volunteer fire departments, and local officials about the problems related to burning trash.

"Burn barrels are unhealthy, unnecessary, unneighborly and many times used illegally," says Jerry Waters, DNR air engineer based at Horicon. "Smoke from burning garbage often contains dioxin, acid gases, heavy metal vapors, carbon monoxide and other sorts of nasty toxins," emphasizes Waters.

"Today, Wisconsin has just two licensed municipal waste incinerators that are able to meet federal air pollution standards. But, according to recent estimates, we've got more than a half-million miniature incinerators (burn barrels) operating in people's back yards," Waters notes.

Burn barrels operate at relatively low temperatures, typically at 400 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit (F) and have poor combustion efficiency. As a result, toxic pollutants are created and emitted directly into the air. Backyard trash and leaf burning can release high levels of toxic compounds that cause cancer, birth defects and contribute to asthma and emphysema.

The open burning of household solid wastes, whether in a burn barrel or not, is prohibited by law. This prohibition includes all plastic materials, petroleum-based material such as asphalt shingles, kitchen wastes, dirty or wet paper wastes, treated or painted wood, furniture and demolition material.

Households (not businesses) are permitted to burn small amounts of lawn and garden debris; clear, untreated, unpainted wood, and clean paper waste that cannot be recycled. Burning permits are required in many unincorporated parts of the state and during particular times of the year (as a wildfire prevention measure), while many towns, cities and counties forbid all debris burning.

Waters says, "a big part of the problem is what people burn illegally. Anything plastic, coated papers, stuff that's oily or soggy, chemicals, treated or painted wood. That's where a lot of the toxic compounds and heavy metals come from." The DNR air engineer maintains that open trash burning is largely unnecessary because all Wisconsin communities are required to offer effective recycling and refuse collection programs. Today, even in very rural areas, many waste hauling companies offer wheeled-carts for end-of-driveway waste collection and recycling.

"There's very little reason to burn today," Waters says. "Every responsible unit of local government provides either curbside pick up service, a drop-off point, or both."

"You can also do a lot by reusing products and packaging, reducing waste and by composting organic material," continues Waters. "Garbage belongs in a landfill, not in your lungs or your kid's lungs."

For more information on open burning, you can obtain a copy of the new UW-Extension Burn Barrel fact sheet from your county Extension office. The Wisconsin DNR also maintains a web site devoted to information about open burning, at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ob/index.htm>.



This Quarter's Events

July 4-7, 2002, Burnett County Fair, Webster.

July 7-11, 2002, Farm Progress Days, Richland County.

July 16, 2002, Native Grass Field Day, 1 p.m., Spooner Ag Research Station.

July 25-28, 2002, Washburn County Fair, Spooner.

August 1-4, 2002, Sawyer County Fair, Hayward.

August 3, 2002, Clean Sweep Collection: Hwy. Shop, Washburn; School, Iron River (715-373-6113).

August 8, 2002, Clean Sweep Collection: Fairgrounds, Marengo; Recycling Center, Glidden (715-682-7017).

August 8-11, 2002, Bayfield County Fair, Fairgrounds, Iron River.

August 10, 2002, 50th Annual Sheep Day, Spooner.

August 22-25, 2002, Burnett County Fair, Grantsburg.

August 23-24, 2002, Wisconsin Grazing School, UW-River Falls.

The University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting the appropriate office so that proper arrangements can be made.

Soil critters

*Kevin Schoessow
Area Agricultural Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

I recently had an opportunity to attend a Soil Ecology Workshop at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan. This regional workshop brought together researchers, extension educators and farmers from across the north central U.S. to discuss the importance soil microorganisms have in a cropping system and how they impact the overall productivity and health of a soil. Perhaps the most intriguing parts of the workshop was our discussion on soil biology.

It always amazes me how little appreciation we have for the food web beneath our feet. Most people are familiar with the food chain above ground, i.e. the minnow eats the algae, the trout eats the minnow, the eagle eats the trout. But what about the unseen world in the soil, i.e. the bacteria breaks down the organic residue, the protozoa eats the bacteria, the fungi eats the protozoa, the nematode eats the fungi, the cricket eats the nematode, the bird eats the cricket. It is an amazingly complex relationship that scientist and farmers are beginning to appreciate and understand more and more.

So why do I bring all this up? For one important reason: soil microorganisms are an integral part of a healthy productive soil. Soil organisms decompose organic compounds, including manure, plant residue, and pesticides, preventing them from entering water and becoming pollutants. They store nitrogen and other nutrients that may otherwise enter the groundwater, and they fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, making it available to plants. Many organisms enhance soil aggregation and porosity, thus increasing infiltration and reducing runoff. Soil organisms also prey on plant pests.

How we manage our soils can have a significant effect on the populations of these beneficial organisms. In order for micro-

scopic soil creatures to survive, they need adequate food and shelter. How we manage the carbon and nitrogen cycle of the soil and how we promote good soil structure are keys to healthy soils. Crop rotations, use of cover crops, addition of manure or other types of by-products, soil erosion control, tillage, and appropriate pest management strategies are excellent ways to promote healthy diverse soil critter populations.

The next time you grab a handful of soil take a moment to think of the millions of critters that are working for you.

Renewable energy program funds available

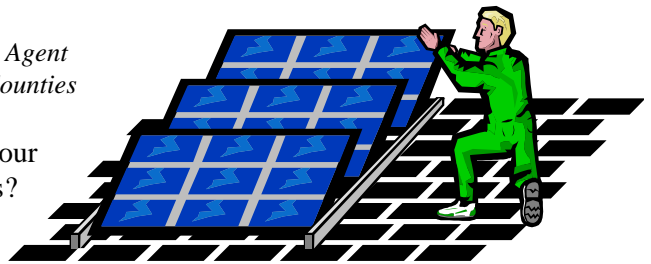
*Kevin Schoessow
Area Agricultural Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

Looking for ways to reduce your farm or home electric bills? Have you ever considered installing a solar electric system, wind turbine, or perhaps a bio digester? Check out the Wisconsin Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program. This public-private partnership was formed to provide energy information and services to electric utility customers in Wis-

consin. Wisconsin Focus on Energy created the Renewable Energy Program to be a one-stop resource for Wisconsin residents and businesses.

Incentives and grants are available for a variety of programs. There are incentive programs such as cash-back rewards and low interest loans for installation of commercially available renewable energy technologies. These technologies include solar space and water heating, wood space and water heating, ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic solar electric systems, wind, and hydroelectric.

Grant programs focus on research and development, feasibility studies, or demonstration and marketing of renewable energies. In many situations these renewable energy sources cost less than nonrenewable sources.



To find out more about Renewable Energy or other programs sponsored by Wisconsin Focus on Energy call (800) 762-7077, or visit their website at www.weccusa.org.

Wisconsin Grazing School

August 23-24, 2002

UW-River Falls

The Wisconsin Grazing School is designed to teach producers the basics of management intensive grazing with a hands-on approach. This two-day, intensive workshop will provide opportunities for in-depth discussions, field exercises, and reference materials that cover both livestock and agonomic topics related to grazing.

Registration is \$100 per person (or two people from the same farm) and is due by August 16, 2002. For more information contact the Area Agricultural Agents Office at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914.

Use lockout/tagout procedures when working with equipment

*John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Bayfield & Ashland Counties*

Farmers and their employees or family members should follow some simple but critically important safety procedures when they have to do repairs on farm machines or are in areas where machinery is running, according to Mark Purschwitz, University of Wisconsin-Extension Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist and Director of the UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

“People are at risk of serious injury or death if the machines are not shut off and any stored energy released prior to the work, or if the machines are unexpectedly turned on while the work is still underway,” Purschwitz explained.

The danger is very real and injuries and deaths have occurred in Wisconsin, Purschwitz added.

In one case, a person suffered a severe hand injury while working on a silage auger. A second person, not knowing about the work and not in direct view of the machine, turned it on. In another case, a person died in a grain bin entrapment when a second person, not knowing that someone was inside the bin, turned on the unloading auger.



To prevent such injuries and deaths, Purschwitz advises farmers to make “lockout/tagout” procedures routine practice on the farm. These practices apply to all machines powered by electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic or other sources of energy. Such practices are the norm for industry.

“Lockout” simply means shutting off the power and placing a lock on the switchbox or other control to prevent someone else from turning it back on. The person who will be working on the machine uses a lock that only he or she can open. If there is a key for the lock, he or she should pocket the key.

If more than one person is working on a machine or system, each person places his or her own lock on the control, using a special hasp that holds multiple locks and cannot be opened until the last lock is removed.

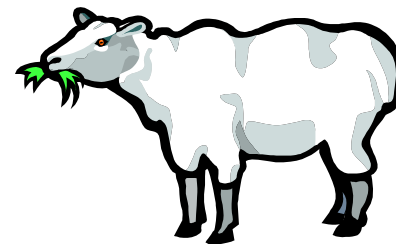
Other such devices include valve lockouts, which prevent a valve from being opened during work, and plug lockouts, which prevent cords from being plugged in. Because these lockout devices are commonly used by industry to conform to OSHA standards, they are readily available from safety suppliers and catalogs.

In cases where a power supply or control cannot be physically locked out, a “tagout” procedure is used. The worker securely fastens a special tag or other prominent warning to the control, to warn others not to turn it on or operate it until the work is completed and the tag removed. Tags and fasteners are also available from safety suppliers and catalogs.

Everyone who works or lives around farm machinery – even those who do not normally work on machines but who may turn one on for some reason – should be trained in these procedures and required to follow them, Purschwitz said. Training includes an explanation of why these procedures are important, the recognition of the various types of energy sources used, and the procedure for shutting off the power and releasing any stored energy in the machine or system.

50th Annual Spooner Sheep Day

*Yves Berger
Superintendent
Spooner Ag Research Station*



The first Sheep Day program held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spooner Agricultural Research Station was in 1953, and it has been an annual event ever since. The 2002 Annual Spooner Sheep Day will mark the 50th anniversary of this event. No one at the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has been able to identify any other field day with as long a history as Spooner Sheep Day. The 2002 program will be a celebration of the 50 years that the Spooner Station has provided valuable information for the Wisconsin sheep industry.

The 50th Annual Spooner Sheep Day will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station. A morning session will review major sheep research highlights from the Spooner Station over the last 50 years and the application of that research to efficient sheep production. A lamb barbecue will be served for lunch. The afternoon program will include remarks from former Spooner sheep scientists and sheep producers that have attended many Spooner Sheep Days and a tour of the Spooner sheep research facilities.

Watch for the announcement of final program for the 50th Annual Spooner Sheep Day in the state agricultural papers and in the Wisconsin Shepherd. Contact Yves Berger at 715-635-3735, ymberger@facstaff.wisc.edu, or Dave Thomas at 608-836-4677, dlthomas@facstaff.wisc.edu, for more information.

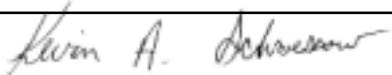
AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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AND
UW-MADISON COLLEGE OF AG AND LIFE SCIENCES

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*University of Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties Cooperating.
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*If you have any special needs or require special accommodations, please write to UWEX Area Agricultural Agent, Spooner Ag Research Station,
W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801 or UWEX Area Agricultural Agent, Ashland Ag Research Station, 68760 State Farm Road, Ashland, WI 54806.*



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