

Agricultural Newsletter

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



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Pasture walk to be held in Turtle Lake

Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent - Livestock
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

Beginning graziers as well as those with experience are invited to attend a pasture walk to be held on Saturday, July 9 at Turtle Lake from 10:00-12:00 a.m. The event is free of charge and sponsored by the Northwest Wisconsin Graziers Network and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

The hosts are Mike and Vicki Brenna, 243 140th Ave. in Polk County just Northwest of Turtle Lake. From Turtle Lake go west on Highway 8 about one mile, turn right or north and go one mile on 15th St., turn left or west and go one mile on 135th Ave., turn right or north and go one mile on 20th St., then turn left or west on 140th Ave. and look for small bridge and then the farm on right.

Subjects to be covered include a fencing demonstration, rotational grazing of Scottish Highlander beef cattle, alternative farm energy and pasture aerator use. The Brennans offer a unique opportunity to discuss how a farmer with an off-farm income may establish a small, efficient and diverse retirement farm using grazing.

For more information, call Otto or Kevin at Spooner Area UW Extension Office, 800-528-1914 / 715-635-3506, Tim at the Barron County UW Extension, 715-537-6250, Ryan at Polk County UW Extension, 715-485-8600, or Aliasha at Rusk County UW-Extension, 715-532-2151.

Do I Need a USDOT Number?

All Wisconsin motor carriers (private, intrastate for-hire, and interstate exempt commodities) operating commercial motor vehicles in commerce are required by Title 49 CFR 390 to obtain and display a USDOT Number. Farmers are considered private carriers if they transport their own goods in their own vehicles to further a primary business that is not trucking. Farmers hauling their own livestock are considered private carriers and are required to have a USDOT number.

This number can be obtained by calling 800-832-5660. You can request a fax copy of the registration form for you to complete and mail in. You can obtain a paper copy of the MCS150 form and mail it to the US Department of Transportation. Both of these methods may take six weeks or longer. You can register online at www.SAFER.FMCSA.DOT.GOV. When you complete the online registration, you will receive your DOT number.

Agricultural NEWSLETTER

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

Applied Technology Tent is new for Farm Technology Days 2005

*Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent - Livestock
Burnett, Washburn, & Sawyer Counties*

You can learn about the newest ideas and technologies in Wisconsin Agriculture when you stop in at the Applied Technology Tent at Farm Technology Days, July 12-14, in Clark County.

The tent will feature a model of a modern low cost parlor system, an opportunity for anyone who hasn't toured a dairy with a parlor to see how this equipment works to improve efficiency and speed of milking while it improves cow comfort and dairy workers' health and safety.

Another area will feature a demonstration of animal identification procedures, with University of Wisconsin-Extension livestock specialists and several live animals.

You can also learn how to diagnose and manage soil compacting in this tent. Just outside the tent, you'll find UW-Extension soil specialists and agents demonstrating effects of soil compaction.

If you have a bunker silo, or are thinking about building one, another booth will explain the best way to manage it. Experts will show how to cover silage piles or bunkers and will explain the importance of removing silage in the proper way to maintain quality. A display of mini-bunker silos constructed with different cover options will let you see just how well

various covers work to preserve the silage. You can watch a video showing how different kinds of equipment for removing silage work and give safety tips for managing bunker silos.

UW-Discovery Farms Program will be on hand with information about on-farm water quality monitoring and soil and water conservation

Find out about the potential for Soybean Rust in Wisconsin and how UW-Extension specialists and agents are working to monitor sample plots to make sure it's detected early if it travels north this growing season. You can also visit one of the state's 20 Soybean Rust sentinel plots just outside the Applied Technology Tent.

You'll find all this and more in the Applied Technology Tent at Farm Technology Days.

Farmers Markets in need of vendors

Area Farmers Markets are always looking for vendors to sell at the markets. If you or someone you know has an interest in selling contact the following market managers for more information:

Burnett County - Saturday 1-4 p.m.,
Siren, Chuck Awe, 715-349-5226

Hayward Area - Monday 2-6 p.m.,
Sawyer County Fair Grounds, Jim
Spinner, 715-945-3028

Rice Lake - Saturday 8-Noon,
North of bridge, Rice Lake, Fred
Sharpley, 715-458-2737

Ashland - Saturday, 8-Noon, 200
block of Chapple Ave., Ashland,
Mary McPhetridge, 715-682-2500

Superior - Saturday, 8-Noon,
Barker's Island, Sue Ann Dumke,
715-372-8441.

Mobile Farmer's Market 2005

Sponsored by
F.E.A.S.T.

Food Security, Education, Access, Sustainable agriculture, & Tradition

In January 2005 the Chequamegon Nutrition Coalition and Sustainable Agriculture Coalitions merged to form FEAST (*Food Security, Education, Access, Sustainable agriculture, & Tradition*) to better address issues of getting quality food to the people who need it, while supporting and expanding local agriculture. Participants include UW-Extension's Nutrition Education Program, Bayfield and Ashland County Health Departments, Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, Northland College, Bad River's Gitiganing Project, Diabetes Prevention, and Nutrition Education Programs, the Red Cliff Community Health Center and Nutrition Program, USDA, Ashland County Aging Unit, the VISTA program, the Mission Food Pantry, Green Thumb Gardens local farms, and community members.

FEAST Invites local producers of Ashland and Bayfield counties to participate in the Mobile Farmer's Market Project. The Mobile Farmer's Market is designed to create greater access to fresh, locally grown produce in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. The goal of FEAST is to promote the use of senior and WIC farmer's market nutrition vouchers, provide nutrition and food assistance information to the public while supporting our local producers to establish new markets.

Each week, July-October, the Mobile Market truck will visit one to three communities. Red Cliff, Iron River, Drummond, Barnes, Glidden, Butternut, and Mellen. The Mobile Market manager will organize markets and sell produce. A nutrition educator will be available at all markets to share recipes and information. All profits will go back to the farmers. To participate, the producer must be certified to accept senior and WIC farm market vouchers.

To learn more about how you can participate contact: Amy Syverson at 715-685-0839 or UW-Extension Nutrition Educator Joy Schelble at 715-682-7017. **To become a grower certified to receive WIC and senior farmer's market vouchers contact:** Deb Hipsher with Ashland County Aging Unit 715-682-4414 or Carrie Linder with Bayfield County Human Services 715-373-6144 ext.174. The schedule for Mobile market 2005 for Ashland and Bayfield counties is posted below.

Mobile Market Schedule 2005

Ashland County

Butternut and Glidden (2nd Wed. of the month)

10 a.m. in Glidden at Senior Center and 12:30 p.m. in Butternut at Brookside Housing

August 10
 October 12
 September 14

Mellen (1st Wed. of the month)

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Corner of Main Street and Bennett

August 3
 September 7
 October 5

Senior Expo-Ashland High School

August 24

Bayfield County

Barnes (3rd Thurs. of the month)

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Center

August 18
 September 15
 October 20

Drummond

3:30 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Drummond School

Monday, July 11

Red Cliff (4th Thurs. of the month)

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Elderly Center

July 28
 August 25
 September 22

Iron River (1st Thurs. of the month)

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Community Center

August 4
 September 1
 October 6

Washburn

9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Washburn Library

Thursday, July 14

Watch out for silo gas

Mike Rankin
Crops and Soils Agent
Fond du Lac County

Silo gas, formed as newly stored silage ferments, can cause serious injuries — severe respiratory distress, permanent damage to lungs, and even death. In late summer and early fall, when silos are being filled, the danger is at its peak. “Corn silage forms more silo gas than other crops. We have had incidents of silo gas exposure from haylage, however, so we always need to be concerned,” said Mark Purschwitz, University of Wisconsin-Extension Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist. “Wisconsin had a silo-gas fatality last year and apparently one already this year.”

Silo gas begins to form immediately after forage is put into a silo. Silo gas includes nitrogen oxide, which changes to nitrogen dioxide, NO₂, in the presence of oxygen. Nitrogen dioxide, not to be confused with nitrous oxide or “laughing gas”, is a highly corrosive, toxic gas, which forms nitric acid when mixed with water. It is heavier than air and displaces oxygen. Silo gas also contains carbon dioxide, which is not toxic, but is heavier than air and displaces oxygen. When inhaled, the nitrogen dioxide in silo gas mixes with the moisture in the body, forming nitric acid. This causes severe burning and scarring of the lungs and other parts of the respiratory system. Since it is heavier than air, silo gas will settle on the surface of the silage and flow down silo chutes.

People exposed to silo gas may collapse and die from the gas or lack of oxygen. They may go into respiratory distress, fall down the silo chute, or receive respiratory burns. “Victims of silo gas have been known to die many hours later, sometimes in their sleep, from pulmonary edema, the buildup of fluid in the lungs from the burning,” adds Purschwitz.

Anyone who has been exposed to silo gas should get fresh air immediately and see a doctor, even if they feel better after getting fresh air. To prevent silo gas exposure, the following steps are recommended:

- Stay out of the silo for two to three weeks after filling. This is the peak period of silo gas formation. Keep the silo room closed off from the rest of the barn, and ventilate it to remove any gas that flows down the chute.
- Before you enter the silo for the first time, run the forage blower for 30 minutes, and leave it running while inside. Ventilate the chute and silo room as well. Have someone with you outside the silo to go for help if needed.
- If you must enter the silo to level off or set up an unloader after filling, do so immediately after the last load is in. Do not wait until after supper or the next day. The blower should be running while you are inside.
- Be aware that the forage blower air may not adequately ventilate a partly filled silo, since silo gas settles down on the surface. Leave silo doors open to allow gas to escape, but be sure to close off and ventilate the silo room.

- Invest in portable gas monitors to test for nitrogen dioxide and oxygen levels. This is the only way to be certain the atmosphere is safe to enter.

Bayfield Fruit Growers Clinic addresses commercial fruit growing problems

Vijai Pandian
Area Agricultural Agent
Ashland & Bayfield Counties

UW-Extension takes pride in inviting you to the Bayfield Fruit Grower’s Clinic on July 12, 2005 at the Bayfield Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This clinic is devoted to addressing commercial fruit production problems and to providing growers with the latest production technology in the fruit industry. The program commences with presentations by UW Tree Fruit Specialists Patricia McManus, Teryl Roper, and Dan Mahr; and Small Fruit Specialist Brian Smith. There will be an interactive field walk with specialists in the afternoon at Blue Vista Farm and Highland Valley Farm. University of Minnesota’s Blueberry Specialist, Dave Wildung, will be participating in the small fruit interactive field walk session in the afternoon.

Note: Pre-registration is due on or before June 30 in order to assure sufficient materials and meals.

For further information on the program and registration please contact us at 715-373-6104.

What do I pay or charge for standing hay?

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

This is a frequently asked question that comes into most UW-Extension offices during the growing season. Here are some guidelines for you to follow in calculating the right price for your situation.

The value of standing hay depends upon its quality, yield and current market conditions for hay. Average hay yields may range from 2 tons per acre dry matter in a two cut system and up to 3.5 tons per acre dry matter in a three cut system. First cutting generally accounts for 40% of the total yield for the season or about 1.5 tons per acre, with 2nd or 3rd cuttings averaging from 3/4 to 1 ton per acre.

Quality is in the “eye of the beholder” when evaluating standing hay. For our example, we will consider this to be a “good” stand of hay. In recent years, the average price of hay has ranged from \$45 to \$60 per ton for all hay. Alfalfa hay prices would typically be higher.

Also to consider is the buyer’s cost of harvesting. Harvesting costs vary depending upon the type of equipment and the number of times the hay is handled. Harvesting costs will vary from \$25 to \$50 per ton.

Example: Your Farm

- Price of Hay Per Ton = \$65 (good quality alfalfa)
- Times Yield Per Acre = 1.5 tons @ \$65 = \$97.75
- Minus Harvest Costs/Ton = \$45
- Equals Total = \$52.50 Per Acre

Grants and tax credits for agriculture

*Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent - Livestock
Burnett, Washburn, & Sawyer Counties*

Contacts: for Dept. of Revenue programs, Elaine Kroger 608-266-2442; for Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP) programs, Jim Cisler 608-224-5137, for Dept. of Commerce programs, 608-266-7370.

- Dairy Modernization Tax Credit - up to \$50,000 in tax credits based on 10% of invested money for improvement or purchases related to dairy production (does not include implements). Administered by Revenue.
- Dairy 2020 program - \$3000 for assistance in planning and business strategies, cannot be used for “brick and mortar” only planning. Administered by Commerce.
- Dairy 2020 Multiple Entity Grants - Grants up to \$7500 for planning and business strategies. Grants to encourage two or more independent entities to pool their resources to create a dairy business. Administered by Commerce.
- Milk Volume Production (MVP) Program - MVP is a loan package for “significant” increases in herd size. Provides seven year financing for cattle purchases only. \$500 per animal at 2% interest rate. Administered by Commerce.

- Business Employee’s Skills Training (BEST) Program - Money to train employees to upgrade their skills. Must have under 25 employees and under \$2.5 million in gross sales. Administered by Commerce.
- Value Chain Development Pilot Grant - Up to \$50,000 awarded to dairy processors looking to introduce new products and other activities related to product development. Administered by DATCP.
- Local Dairy Development Pilot Grant - Up to \$25,000 to enhance development of modernized dairy farming. Administered by DATCP.
- Dairy Farm Modernization Pilot Grant - Up to \$7,500 for professional services related to risk management, engineering/siting, and labor management. Only available for producers who have a business plan. No “brick and mortar” allowed using grant funds. Administered by DATCP.
- Dairy Farm Organic, Grazing or Farm Entry Transition Pilot Program - Up to \$7,500 for professional services related to design, planning, engineering/siting, and conservation. Must have a financial projection and business plan. Includes operations for cows, goats or sheep. Administered by DATCP.
- NEW! Commodity Innovation Pilot Grant Program – Up to \$200,000 for commodity processors for major initiatives to add value or cut costs. Includes hauling, distribution, marketing, new facilities or joint ventures. Administered by DATCP.

Spooner Ag Research Station crop update

*Phil Holman
Assistant Superintendent
Spooner Ag Research Station*

Crops at the Spooner Ag Research Station look very good.

Corn is waist high and of good color. We do have a small patch of black cutworm damage on one field where there was an old alfalfa field last year. Black cutworm damage has been reported to be found in many places in the state this year. Black cutworm eggs are laid in grassy locations and when those fields are subsequently planted to corn, black cutworms clip off the plants when they are V3-V5. Luckily this is a small isolated problem and the rest of our corn looks excellent so far. Corn trials this year include corn variety trials (grain and silage) and a soil pH trial. In the soil pH trial, the pH of 4.7 and 5.2 are visibly yellow and shorter from nutrient deficiencies than the corn in plots with a pH over 6.0.

Alfalfa winter kill took out two thirds of the planned alfalfa fields. Some fields were killed so much that they looked to have been sprayed. The fields that were saved were the fields seeded last year and only had one cutting taken in late July. Even those fields suffered some stand losses. We were able to harvest first

cutting timely and the second crop is close to knee high. There have been reports of potato leafhopper problems in alfalfa. I have found populations at or slightly above the threshold of when to spray for them but I do not see any damage on the plants. If potato leafhopper populations continue and I see some damage, we will spray otherwise we will be harvesting in a week or two and rescut after second cutting. Potato leafhopper damage can cause future yield losses in new seeding alfalfa. We seeded double our normal acreages of new seeding alfalfa to make up for the lost fields from winterkill. These fields were sprayed for weeds and are generally looking good. We should be able to harvest a first cutting off our new seeding at the same time as our second cutting. All alfalfa trials were winterkilled. Thus, several trials were reseeded. These include, an alfalfa variety trial, an alfalfa & grass mix yield & feed quality trial, alfalfa with ryegrass seeding rates trial, and an alfalfa with oat/ryegrass/or alone and different nitrogen fertilizations trial. These trials will have their first harvests in mid-July.

Soybeans are growing well. We should be spraying herbicide on soybeans this week. Then the soybeans should canopy to shade out any future weed growth. I am starting to monitor the soybeans frequently for soybean rust. No soybean rust has been reported near Wisconsin yet. The soybean variety trial was planted double its normal size to allow half of the plot to be sprayed for soybean rust and the other half to not be sprayed. This will determine which soybean varieties are more tolerant of soybean rust. If soybean rust doesn't appear in Northern Wisconsin, these plots will still be sprayed to determine

the effect of a fungicide application on soybean yields.

Potatoes look excellent and are nearing row closure. With the frequent rains, we started our blight control fungicides last week. Trials with potatoes include an advanced variety trial selection trial, seedpiece treatment trial, nitrogen rate/variety/growth regulator trial, and a herbicide trial.

Canola is in full flower and the bees are working hard pollinating. After pollination the seed pods form and swathing should be in late July.

Small grains are headed out and should be ready to harvest in late July or early August. Both the oats and barley look good.

Winter wheat variety and date of planting trials experienced some winter kill in areas. After harvesting, we will determine if the data is good or if problems were more caused from field location rather than varieties or treatments.

Lastly, **pastures** improved after a slow start. Rotational grazing of the sheep is going well. Pastures are split up more than usual since we have a trial grazing the dairy sheep with or without supplementation on pasture. The **kura clover** is growing good and getting thicker in most paddocks. We did plant some **Italian ryegrass** for additional pasture acres. It was planted on May 3rd and last week we did our first grazing. The sheep ate it well and we are interested in seeing how well it comes back. The remainder of the field was mowed for hay--it has been difficult to dry and is still getting washed.

Hopefully, the weather during the rest of the year allows for a good crop season.

EQIP program cost-sharing for conservation practices

*Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent - Livestock
Burnett, Washburn, & Sawyer Counties*

Cost-sharing is available for a number of conservation practices. Contact your local NRCS office to find out what programs may be available for your county, what monies are available and when the sign-up periods will occur.

The most popular programs in Burnett and Washburn Counties (contact Tom Frederickson, 715-635-8228 x3) include: Pasture and Hayland Planting, Residue Management/No-Till, Grass Waterways, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing and Pest Management.

Other programs include, but are not limited to: Animal Trails and Walkways, Forest Site Preparation, Forest Stand Improvement, Mulching, Streambank and Shoreland Protection, Terracing, Stripcropping, Tree and Shrub Pruning, Wells, Filterstrips and Bufferstrips, Waste Storage Facilities, Watering Facilities, Windbreaks and Shelterbelts, Fencing, Cover Crops, Conservation Crop Rotation/Organic, Closure of Waste Facilities and Decommissioning of Wells, Brush Management, Grade Stabilization, Sinkhole Treatment, Lined Waterway or Outlet, Roof Runoff Management, Underground Outlet, Spring Development, Contour Farming, Soil Spreading, Subsurface Drain, Field Border, and Water Control Structures.

This Quarter's Events

July 7-10, Thursday - Sunday, Webster, Burnett County – Central Burnett County Fair

July 9, Saturday, 10:00-Noon, Turtle Lake, Polk County – Northwest Graziers Pasture Walk, Mike and Vicki Brenna, 243 140th Ave., just NW of Turtle Lake, subjects include a fencing demonstration, rotational grazing of Scottish Highlander beef cattle, alternative energy, pasture aerator use.

July 11, Monday, Needs Assessment Survey deadline for Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties – if you received a survey, please fill it out and mail it back in the envelope provided to UW-Extension at the Spooner Station. Thanks!

July 12, Tuesday, Bayfield County - Bayfield Fruit Grower's Clinic at the Bayfield Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 12-14, Tuesday - Thursday, Loyal, Clark County – Farm Technology Days, one display will feature the latest in retro-fit milking parlors.

July 28-31, Thursday - Sunday, Spooner, Washburn County – Washburn County Junior Fair

August 1, Application Deadline for Leadership Washburn County Program 2005-2006, open to Washburn County residents, classes meet once a month from Sept. to May, contact Beverly at Washburn County UW Extension, 715-635-4444.

August 4-7, Thursday - Sunday, Hayward, Sawyer County – Sawyer County Fair

August 18, Thursday, Spooner, Washburn County – Potato Field Day, Spooner Ag Research Station

August 20, Saturday, 1:00-3:00 PM, Frederic, Polk County - Northwest Graziers Pasture Walk, Grant and Mary Burdick, 3183 73rd St., near Clam Falls just south of Burnett County – subjects include results for inter-seeding of legumes study, rotational grazing of Jersey dairy cows, premises registration and animal ID.

August 23, Tuesday, 4:00-8:00 PM, Spooner, Washburn County - Twilight Garden Tour - Spooner Ag Research Station

August 25-28, Thursday - Sunday, Grantsburg, Burnett County – Burnett Agricultural Society Fair

August 27, Saturday, 8:30-4:00, Spooner, Washburn County – Dairy Sheep Day - Spooner Ag Research Station

September, date and time to be announced, Chetek, Barron County - Northwest Graziers Pasture Walk, Cheyenne and Katy Christianson, 1732 9th Ave, subjects include organic dairying without grain feeding, turnips/alternative forages, rotational grazing of Holstein dairy cows.

September, date and time to be announced, Hillsdale, Barron County – Northwest Graziers Pasture Walk, Kevin and Julie Roske, 658 13th St, about 8 miles south of Barron, subjects include inter-seeding of legumes study, rotational grazing of Holstein dairy cattle, unique rope-wick method for herbicide application in Canada thistles.

Note: Additional pasture walks may be scheduled.