

Agricultural Newsletter

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



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Late Planted Corn Yields and Will 2014 Corn "Make It?"

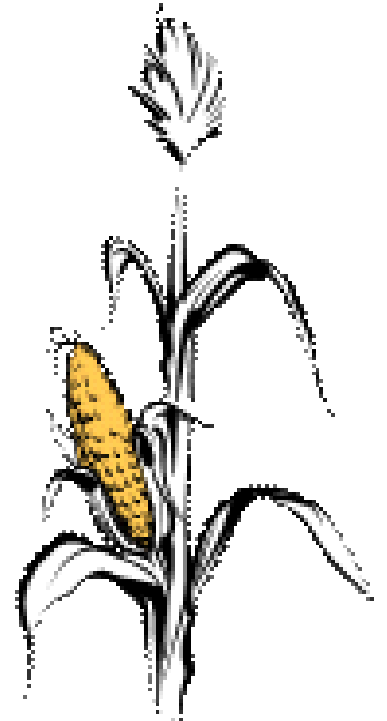
Phil Holman
Superintendent & Agronomy Research Program
Manager
Spooner Ag Research Station

The weather so far in 2014 has made planting corn a challenge. Most corn was planted late and a good number of acres were not planted at all. Date-of-planting trials were last done at the Spooner Ag Research Station in 1991-94 (<http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/WCM/W023.aspx>). Data from those trials should still be relevant for yield loss declines with later planting dates. Yield decline didn't start until after May 8. Between May 8th and May 22nd yields declined a bushel per day. From May 22nd until June 5th yields declined 2 bushels per day. Yields declined 4 bushels per acre per day after June 5th.

Relatively cool weather and late planting also has many asking whether the corn will "Make it"? Corn planted even as late as July has been used for silage (Alternative Forage Trials in 2003 & 2004). Corn for grain, however will need some good corn growing weather and sufficient GDUs (growing degree units) accumulation to achieve maturity.

Examining the Spooner Ag Research Station GDU history records show that as of June 23, 2014, we have accumulated 526 GDUs. The average for the last 30 years has been 762 GDUs on June 23rd. We are 236 GDUs behind which is approximately two weeks (using the current accumulation rate of 17 GDUs per day). The average first frost date over the last 30 years is September 29th and at that date the average GDU accumulation was 2360.

If the rest of the year is normal, 2360 average GDUs minus 236 behind means there will be 2124 GDU's in 2014. Corn with 85-90 day relative maturities need approximately 2150-2250 GDUs to reach maturity based on seed company charts. Based on these calculations, corn in the Spooner area and surrounding counties will need some above average GDUs the rest of the season to "make it."



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Agricultural NEWSLETTER

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and
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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.

NW Graziers Network – 2014 Pasture Walk Schedule

Contacts: Otto Wiegand at UWEX Spooner 715-635-3506, Randy Gilbertson at NW Graziers 715-520-2112, or Lynn Johnson at NW Graziers 715-268-8778, watch for press releases and other announcements.

July 15, Tues, 6-8:30 PM, Rusk Co – Dairy Sheep Pasture Walk, Maple Hill Farm, Brian and Tammy Michielson - N4009 Townline Rd, Ladysmith, multi-species pastures: sheep, beef, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ship milk to Wisconsin Sheep Dairy Cooperative, electric netting for interior fencing without the use of lanes, also market products with on-farm store, cooperatives, farmers markets, etc, contact Ag Agent Rich Toebe 715-532-2151.

July 19, Sat, 10-Noon, Washburn Co – Bison, Beef, Hog Pasture Walk, West Wind Family Farms, Steve & Lorri Hubin - Hwy 70, 4 miles east of Spooner, 65 bison, 42 mostly Black Angus beef, 17 sows, grass-fed, contracts bison with North Star Bison, also lumber-cutting business, contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 / 3942.

July 26, Sat, 10-Noon – Barron Co – Beef & Horse Pasture Walk, Gary & JoAnne Crowe – 1030 8th Ave, Barron, details later, contact Ag Agent Tim Jergenson 715-537-6250.

Aug 6, Weds, 9:30-Noon, Taylor Co, border of Rusk Co – Organic Dairy Pasture Walk, Jersey Gold Dairy, Jay & Theresa Ludvigsen – N7676 Spur Road, Sheldon, use of annuals for pasture, no-tilling of out-wintering paddocks, pasture renovation, University of Wisconsin pasture plot, pollinator habitat plots, Organic Valley patron, contact Ag Agent Rich Toebe 715-532-2151.

Aug 28, Thurs, 10-Noon, Polk Co - Organic Dairy Pasture Walk, Mike & Julie Petherbridge – 1739 100th Ave (Cty F), 5 miles east of Dresser, 40 mixed breed cows, Holstein, Normande, other, Organic Valley patron, rotational grazing, heavy clay soils, owners not from farm background, contact Ag Agent Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600.

Sept 11, Thurs, 9-3, Sawyer Co – NW Graziers Fall Conference, LCO College, Hayward – featuring Dr. Woody Lane from Oregon and other speakers, topics including privatizing grazing networks, grazing brokerage and contracts, silvo-pastures, pasture nutrition, followed by a tour of the LCO farm, contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 (see article).

Sept 12, Fri, 9-11:30, Sawyer Co – Sheep Pasture Walk, Northstar Homestead Farm, Ann, Laura & Kara Berlage – 11077N Fullington Road, off Hwy A and Moose Lake Road, special guest Dr. Woody Lane from Oregon, grazing sheep, hogs, chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, fish, forage sprouts, CSA garden, silvo-pasture, café, store, contact Kara 715-462-3453.

Sept 12, Fri, 1-4, Spooner Station – Sheep Seminar and Sheep Station Tour – featured speaker Dr. Woody Lane of Oregon, contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506.

Prevented Planting Options for Insured WI Farmers

Paul D. Mitchell, Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison

Assumptions: You bought corn and soybean crop insurance with a yield history of 160 bu/ac for the corn and 40 bu/ac for the soybeans. With 75% Revenue Protection on both crops, your yield guarantees are 120 bu/ac for the corn and 30 bu/ac for the soybeans. Revenue guarantees are 120 bu/ac x \$5.65/bu = \$678.00/ac and 30 bu/ac x \$12.87/bu = \$386.10/ac. The final planting dates in your county are May 31 for corn, June 5 corn silage, and June 10 for soybeans (June 15 in southern WI). By May 31, you planted 250 acres of corn and by June 10, you planted 150 acres of soybeans, leaving 100 acres unplanted. You trigger Prevented Plant since at least 20 acres or 20% of the insured acres are affected.

What are Your Options?

1) Plant corn, corn silage, or soybeans late with a reduced guarantee

- Corn: guarantee reduced 1% per day for each day after May 31.
- Corn silage: guarantee reduced 1% per day for each day after June 5.
- Soybeans: guarantee reduced 1% per day for each day after June 10 (June 15 in southern WI)

Example: Suppose you planted all 100 remaining acres to soybeans on June 17 (7 days late). Your guarantee on these 100 soybean acres would be $(100\% - 7\%) = 93\% \times \$386.10/\text{ac} = \$359.07/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$35,907$. The guarantee on the 150 soybean acres planted on time is unchanged.

2) Take the full Prevented Plant (PP) indemnity equal to 60% of your guarantee.

- Corn: full PP indemnity = $60\% \times \$678.00/\text{ac} = \$406.80/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$40,680$.
- Soybean: full PP indemnity = $60\% \times \$386.10/\text{ac} = \$231.66/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$23,166$.

On these acres, you can plant a forage/cover crop (including alfalfa), but you cannot harvest or graze the forage/cover crop until after November 1.

3) Take a reduced Prevented Plant (PP) indemnity equal to 35% of your full Prevented Plant indemnity

- Corn: partial PP indemnity = $35\% \times \$406.80/\text{ac} = \$142.38/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$14,238$.
- Soybean: partial PP indemnity = $35\% \times \$231.66/\text{ac} = \$81.08/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$8,108$.

On these acres, you can plant any forage/cover crop you want and harvest as you want.

4) Leave the acres uninsured – you pay no premiums for these 100 acres, will receive no indemnities, but face no restrictions on planting and harvesting/grazing the forage or cover crops.

Comments:

1) **Acreage Limits:** When you choose Prevented Plant acres to claim for a crop, your planted acres plus Prevented Plant acres for this crop cannot exceed the maximum acres planted of that crop in any of the last 4 years. In this example, the farmer has already planted 250 corn acres. If the farmer had planted at least 350 corn acres in any of the last 4 years, he could claim up to 100 acres for corn Prevented Plant indemnities. If instead the maximum the farmer had planted was 300 corn acres and 200 soybean acres in any of the last 4 years, he could only claim 50 acres for corn Prevented Plant indemnities and would have to claim 50 acres as soybean Prevented Plant indemnities.

2) **Alfalfa Establishment:** Growers can establish alfalfa with or without a nurse crop on prevented plant acres (options 2 and 3). If alfalfa is planted by July 1, you can insure its 2014 production with a 2014 Forage Production policy if the stand is adequate on May 24, 2014. If alfalfa is planted August 1- 24, 2013, you can insure against winter kill with a 2014 Forage Seeding policy written agreement.

3) **Yield History Impacts:** Late planted crops (option 1) use actual yields for future yield history calculations. Acres claimed for reduced Prevented Plant (option 3) use 60% of the yield history from planted acres for future yield history calculations. Acres claimed for full Prevented Plant (option 2) and uninsured acres (option 4) generate no yield history.

Considerations for Switching Soybean Maturity Groups for Delayed Plantings

Adapted from Shawn P. Conley, State Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, and John Gaska, Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Delayed corn planting coupled with frequent rainfall events and poor planting conditions have postponed soybean planting across many parts of WI. Since we have passed the hybrid maturity switch date for corn in southern WI (May 20th, given 2014 costs and prices) three common questions have arisen regarding soybean plantings. These are:

1. When during the planting season should a producer switch to an earlier maturing soybean variety?

In southern Wisconsin, full season soybean varieties (>1.8RM) out yielded earlier maturing varieties (<1.8RM) by 15 bu per acre at early May planting dates compared to only 2 to 5 bu per acre at late May planting dates. In northern Wisconsin, late maturing varieties (1.7 to 1.9RM) also outyielded early maturing varieties (<1.7RM), however the difference was not as great. Switching to an earlier maturing variety when planting after the first week of June will reduce the chance of damage from an early fall frost. Unfortunately growers will realize a yield reduction if they choose to move to an earlier maturity groups and lowered seeding rate. It is also important to note that if you do choose to switch to an earlier maturity group soybean, do not use a variety that is more than 0.5 RM earlier than you normally would plant.

2. When is the latest soybeans can be planted in Wisconsin and still expect a grain yield?

Research from the 1990s in southern Wisconsin indicates that in two out of three years, grain can be harvested from soybeans planted as late as June 26, although the yields are usually minimal and not generally economically feasible. The frequency of harvesting grain from soybeans planted this late can be increased by using early maturing varieties (<1.8RM) in southern Wisconsin, and <1.0RM in northern production areas. A planting date of June 20 in southern Wisconsin and June 15 in northern Wisconsin, using early maturing varieties, was considered to be the latest practical date. However today's grain prices coupled with opportunities for late-season discounted treated soybean seed may entice growers to push the planting date window in 2014.

3. What should my target plant population be in my late planted soybeans?

To maximize yield potential in late planted soybean, growers should target a stand of 180,000 plants per acre in row spacing's d" 20 inches. Wider row spacings and reduced plant stands will lead to reduced yield potential due to decreased canopy development. Planting too few seeds can also lead to a lower physical pod set and harvest issues. To achieve 180,000 plants per acre a grower may have to plant up to 200,000 seeds per acre (assuming 90% germ).

62nd Spooner Sheep Day to be Held August 16

The 62nd Spooner Sheep Day will be held at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station on Saturday, August 16, 2014. The Spooner Sheep Day has a long tradition of providing useful information to the state's sheep producers and is the longest-running agricultural field day of the many held each year by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Registration will begin at the station headquarters at 8:30 a.m. with the program ending at approximately 3:30 p.m. This year's program will include an interesting program on estrous synchronization of ewes with Reid Redden, Extension sheep specialist from North Dakota State University along with a presentation on estimating breed values with Tom Murphy, PhD student from UW-Madison. In addition, Rusty Burgett, UW-Madison sheep researcher and Hannah Stellrecht, summer sheep intern and UW-Madison undergraduate will lead a presentation on Caseous Lamphadenitis (CL). The afternoon presentations will include a walking tour of the sheep pastures with the specialists.

Attendance at the educational sessions is free. A delicious lamb lunch will be served at noon at a cost of \$8.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children ages 5 to 11, and free for children under 5. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Lorraine Toman at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station (715-635-3735, lltoman@wisc.edu).

The Spooner Sheep Day is sponsored by the Department of Animal Sciences and the Agricultural Research Stations of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Link May Exist Between Disposition and Reproduction

*Ryan Sterry
Agricultural Agent
St. Croix County*

Experience tells most producers that high strung, poorly tempered stock, sometimes do not perform as well as herd mates with a more moderate disposition. Science has backed this up in the feedlot with studies showing steers with calmer dispositions outgaining steers with the most excitable temperaments. Links are also being made by research between disposition and health, including response to vaccination. Most of all, stock with a bad temperament pose a greater risk to you being injuring during handling.

Determining if a link exists between reproductive performance and disposition has been difficult to prove. Anecdotally, producers and A.I. technicians have noted that cows with bad temperaments are less likely to conceive to A.I. However, putting hard numbers to this has proven difficult.

In an experiment at Oregon State University by Reinaldo Cooke, crossbred heifers were divided into two groups. After weaning one group was trained for handling by being

brought up from pasture to a pen three times a week, for four weeks, so that they'd become acclimated to people and going through a working chute. The other group was not handled during this time and was left on pasture. Both groups were tested for the hormone Cortisol. This hormone is associated with stress and is part of the "fight or flight" response in animals. When Cortisol levels are elevated, it is an indicator of stress. Some research indicates elevated cortisol levels impair the naturally occurring reproductive hormones LH and FSH, and could help explain why stressed or poorly tempered animals may have poorer fertility.

Since these were young heifers not ready to breed yet, you might be asking what could possibly be proven by this experiment. The results of this study found two important differences in the trained group that could impact reproduction down the road. First, the group that was handled had lower Cortisol levels at the end of the four week training period than the non-trained group. Secondly, the trained group reached puberty at a faster rate than the non-trained heifers, with nearly a 20% difference in the number of heifers cycling five, six, and seven months after the project began. Having these heifers start cycling sooner can greatly improve reproduction by allowing heifers to be bred sooner and calve early in the calving season. These heifers will ultimately have more time to recover before breeding again as first calf heifers, and have a greater opportunity to maintain an early caving interval throughout their lives.

A similar study was done at the University of Florida by Cooke, this

time with mature cows. One group had the same worker walk the pen twice a week offering the cows a small treat (range cubes), while the control group was left alone on pasture. In this case, the group that was worked with showed no difference in Cortisol levels or pregnancy rate at the end of the breeding season. However, when disposition score was looked at alone regardless of treatment, cows with the most agitated and aggressive scores had lower pregnancy rates at the end of the 90 day breeding season.

Putting a temperament score to your own stock is rather easy. Use a scale of 1 to 5, with one being calm, and five being very excited and / or aggressive towards people. This scoring scale can be used while animals are in the chute and when they are in the pen. A chute exit speed score and also be assigned as animals leave the chute, with one being the slowest and five the fastest. These three scores can be averaged to give an overall score to each animal.

While a definitive link between disposition and reproduction has not been made yet, research is starting to show tendencies that one may exist. A key point of this early research is temperament and fertility is not just a concern for A.I. breeding. Studies using natural service bulls have shown the same tendency for poorly tempered cows to have poorer fertility. Bottom line, there are already many good reasons to cull cattle with bad temperaments, to consider disposition as part of your breeding criteria, and train your stock to be handled. If you don't already do so, improving reproduction is one more reason to reconsider adding these management practices to your herd.

Fall Graziers Conference Features National Speaker

Thursday, September 11, LCO College, Hayward

Otto Wiegand

Area Agricultural Agent

Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties

The NW Wisconsin Graziers, Lake Superior Graziers and Douglas County Graziers Networks are happy to invite you to a Fall Graziers Conference to be held on Thurs, Sept 11, from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the LCO College in Hayward. Featured speakers will include Dr. Woody Lane of Oregon who will talk about privatizing grazing networks, nutrition on pasture or another topic, Laura Paine who will talk about grazing brokerage and contract arrangements, and a speaker on silvo-pastures, which combines forages and trees. Todd Briar will finish the day with a tour of the LCO Farm. Watch for press releases closer to the event. Contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand at 715-635-3506 for more information.

Woody Lane is a nationally-known livestock nutritionist living in Oregon. He owns and operates an independent consulting firm called “Lane Livestock Services,” teaches courses in forages and livestock nutrition to ranchers, facilitates three forage study groups for ranchers in Western Oregon, and writes a popular monthly column in the nationally-published “The Shepherd” magazine called “From the Feed Trough...”. He is an expert on nutrition, pasture management, grazing techniques, and also on sheep and beef cattle, and has worked closely with farmers and ranchers across the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. He is qualified as a Certified Grassland Professional of the American Forage and Grassland Council. He has also just published his first book “From The Feed Trough: Essays and Insights on Livestock Nutrition in a Complex World”. Woody is in great demand as a speaker and has given scores of nutrition and forage workshops across the United States and Canada. Woody earned MS and PhD Degrees in Animal Nutrition from Cornell University. He was a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for several years in the 1980s.



Woody Lane, Livestock Nutritionist

As a private consultant in Oregon, Woody Lane has organized three fee-based forage study groups that currently include more than 60 farms, ranches, and other agribusinesses. These groups began in 1995, 2000, and 2002, respectively, and meet monthly. Woody has facilitated more than 450 forage group meetings. These groups are all fee-based groups with closed membership, and have successfully operated without grants or public support. Woody has also given more than 40 presentations about this program around the U.S. and has developed a training program for facilitators.

Woody’s activities on the following day, Friday, Sept 12, will include a morning sheep pasture walk at the Northstar Homestead Farm (Berlage) / Farmstead Creamery & Café east of Hayward, and a sheep seminar at the Spooner Ag Research Station in the afternoon (See pasture walk schedule).

Laura Paine is working in a brand new position as grazing broker with the Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council in Platteville. Her primary focuses will be to identify and assess existing grassland resources that could potentially be used for grazing, act as the broker to grassland owners and livestock producers together, and establish grazing contracts and plans between the two parties based on their goals. Paine will be working mostly in Southwest Wisconsin, but is available for presentations around the state.

Paine previously worked with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for eight years with grazing and organic agriculture programs. Before that, she was the Extension Ag Agent in Columbia County where she lives. Paine and her husband run a rotationally-grazed beef farm.

USDA Licenses First Vaccine for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea

Adapted from APHIS/USDA Press Release

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today issued a conditional license to Harris vaccines of Ames, IA for a vaccine that may aid in the control of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in swine. This is the first licensed vaccine for PEDv. It will be used to vaccinate sows with the intent that they build antibody, and transmit that antibody through their milk to newborn piglets. It is intended to protect the piglets against PEDv.

Porcine epidemic diarrhea is a disease that causes significant sickness in swine, affecting their growth and health, and causes high mortality in piglets. It is common in parts of Asia and Europe. PEDv only affects pigs and does not pose any risk to people or pets. It is not a food safety concern.

Recently APHIS announced the availability of \$26.2 million in funding to combat these diseases and issued a Federal Order requiring the reporting of new detections of PEDv and other new swine enteric coronavirus disease to APHIS or State animal health officials. The Federal Order also requires that operations reporting these viruses work with their veterinarian, USDA or State animal health officials to develop and implement a reasonable management plan to address the detected virus and prevent its spread. Plans will be based on industry-recommended best practices, and include disease monitoring through testing and biosecurity measures.

This Quarter's Events

Contacts: UW-Extension Ag Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow, Spooner Station, 715-635-3506/800-528-1914, Jane Anklam Douglas Co, 715-395-1363, or Jason Fischbach, Ashland & Bayfield Counties, 715-373-6104 x5 for more information.

July 14, Mon, 10-Noon – Implements of Husbandry (IOH) Presentation, Ladysmith – Community Library, contact Rich Toebe 715-532-2151

July 15, Tues, 6- 7:30 PM - Container and Vertical Gardening Techniques Workshop - Spooner Ag Research Station Teaching & Display Garden, contact Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506

July 22, Tues, 4-7 PM – Regional Vineyard Walk – Trout brook Vineyard, Ernie & Lynn Betker, 1212 Trout Brook Road N, Hudson, \$20, register by July 17, contact Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506.

July 24-27, Thurs-Sun – Washburn County Fair – Spooner, Fairgrounds

July 24-26, Thurs-Sat – Central Burnett County Fair – Webster, Fairgrounds

July 26, Sat, 7-11 AM – Community Agriculture Association Breakfast – Siren, Gandy Dancer EAA Fly-In, Airport

Aug 12-14, Tues-Thurs – Farm Technology Days, Stevens Point, WI – Blue Top and Feltz Family Farms, Portage Co

Aug 14-17, Thurs-Sun – Sawyer County Fair – Hayward, Fairgrounds

Aug 14-17, Thurs-Sun – Burnett Agricultural Society Fair – Grantsburg, Fairgrounds

Aug 16, Sat, 8:30-3:30 – Spooner Sheep Day - Spooner Ag Research Station (see article)

Aug 19, Tues, 4-8 – Twilight Garden Tour – Spooner Ag Research Station Teaching & Display Garden

Sept 5-7, Fri-Sun – Sheep and Wool Festival – Jefferson, contact Rusty Burgett 715-635-3735

Sept 11, Thurs, 9-3, Sawyer Co – NW Graziers Fall Conference, LCO College, Hayward – (see conference article)

Sept 12, Fri, 1-4, Spooner Station – Sheep Seminar and Sheep Station Tour – featured speaker Dr. Woody Lane of Oregon, contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 (see conference article).

Sept 20, Sat. 9-10:30 AM - Preparing Your Garden for Winter Workshop - Spooner Ag Research Station Garden

Sept 30-Oct 4, Tues-Sat - World Dairy Expo, Madison

Nov 2013 – Mar 2014 – Beginning Farmer Course – Spooner Ag Research Station

Bison, Multi-species Pasture Walk

July 19, Saturday, 10:00-Noon, East of Spooner

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

UW-Extension and the NW Wisconsin Graziers Network will hold a bison, beef and hog pasture walk at the West Wind Family Farms, owned by Steve and Lorri Hubin, on Saturday morning, July 19, from 10:00 AM to Noon. The farm is located on Wind Road, 4 miles east of Spooner on Hwy 70 on the south side. Watch for the signs. Beverages will be provided.

The Hubins raise 65 bison on contract throughout the year for Northstar Bison in Haugen. They raise 43 Black Angus beef cows and market 20-40 grass-finished feeder cattle each year. There are 17 sows of mixed breeds, Poland-China, Duroc and Berkshire. About 100 feeder pigs are sold each year. The Hubins use a grazing plan for the bison from NW Graziers. Steve established a 33-acre oak savannah for the bison. He still works for the Red Oaks Lumber business at the same location which he sold to his son Dexter last year.

For additional information, contact Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow at UW-Extension at Spooner, 715-635-3506, or Randy Gilbertson at NW Graziers, 715-520-2112.



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this summer - full schedule inside**

**Will your corn crop “make it” this
year?**

**This year’s Graziers Conference
will feature nationally recognized
livestock nutritionist Woody Lane**



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Kevin A. Schoessow

Kevin Schoessow
UWEX Area Agricultural Agent