

# Agricultural Newsletter

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



January-February-March  
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Volume 17 Issue 1

## Table of Contents

- 1 Beginning Farmer Course still has openings
- 2 WI Dairy & Beef Animal Husbandry Conference
- 3 Plot Results at the Spooner Ag Research Station
- 4 Growing & Marketing High Quality Hay Workshop Series
- 5 Heart of the Farm Conference for Women
- 5 NRCS Offers New Funds for Farm & Wildlife Lands
- 6 Northern Safari of Ag Specialists Seminar Series
- 6 Producers Encouraged to Sign Up for FSA Programs
- 7 Notes from Douglas County
- 7 This Quarter's Events

## Beginning Farmer Course Still Has Openings

***Spooner Ag Research Station – Jan. 20 - Mar. 10***  
***8 Sessions - Thursdays, 11:00-1:15***

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

There are still openings to attend the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers course offered locally at the Ag Research Station in Spooner. The remaining sessions are \$120 or \$15 each. You can also take the course on-line at your convenience.

The course began on Nov. 11 and is offered by the University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course. Class sessions are held on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Additional discussion and questions following each session are encouraged. Delivery will be done through interactive PowerPoint and audio. The course applies to both grass-based and conventional farming. An important focus of the remaining sessions is business planning. Since the course began in 1995, over 400 students have enrolled and a third of them have gone on to start their own farms.

This is the remaining course schedule:

- Jan. 20 – Farm-driven market strategies, successful business startup model
- Jan. 27 – USDA/FSA beginning farmer loans, farm start-up financial record-keeping
- Feb. 3 – Risk management, farm business startups, lessons learned
- Feb. 10 – Low-cost dairy parlor design, dairy / livestock wintering strategies
- Feb. 17 – Principles of organic dairying, herd health
- Feb. 24 – Farm and grazing management, environmental stewardship
- Mar. 3 – Emerging markets: biomass for renewal energy, organic and grass-based markets
- Mar. 10 – Bringing it all together, perspectives on start-up dairy / livestock business startups

To register or obtain information, contact Otto Wiegand at UWEX Spooner, 715-635-3506, Randy Gilbertson at NW Graziers, 715-520-2112, Dick Cates at 608-265-6437, or Jennifer Taylor at CIAS / UW-Short Course 608-265-7914. The course is a collaborative effort between the UW-Center for Integrated Agricultural Studies, UW Cooperative Extension, CALS, DATCP, the Technical Colleges and GrassWorks.

# Agricultural NEWSLETTER

produced by  
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and  
UW-Madison College of Ag & Life  
Sciences

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## **Representing Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties:**

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Area Ag Development Agent  
715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914

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## **Representing Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties:**

Jason Fischbach  
Area Agricultural Agent  
715-373-6104

Jane Anklam  
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Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin  
Counties Cooperating. UW-Extension  
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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.

## WI Dairy & Beef Animal Husbandry Conference – Neillsville, March 4

*Maria Bendixen*  
Agricultural Agent  
Clark County

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

University of Wisconsin-Extension will host a one-day statewide conference on March 4 to address one of the most important emerging issues in agriculture – animal handling and well-being. Dairy and beef producers, veterinarians, farm service providers, educators and interested elected officials are invited to attend this conference that focuses on expanding awareness and understanding about the growing concern nationwide of how farm animals are cared for and what the implications could be for large animal agriculture in Wisconsin.

Naomi Botheras, Animal Welfare Specialist from Ohio State, will open the conference with “Animal Handling and Production-Based Outcomes.” Return on investment for training stock people to improve animal handling can be quite high. Strategies to improve both animal stress levels and production will be covered.

Trevor DeVries, Department of Animal and Poultry Science at Guelph in Canada, will present “Utilizing Knowledge of Dairy Cow Behavior to Improve Cow Comfort.” Producers invest significant amounts of money in constructing comfortable housing for dairy cattle. This presentation will focus on the feeding, standing and lying areas.

Curt Pate, a Montana rancher and stockmanship trainer, will provide a live cattle handling demonstration for dairy and beef breakout sessions. Kurt Vogel, UW-River Falls Professor of Animal Science, will outline how to measure animal welfare on farms. The industry and producers are looking to quantify animal welfare and comfort so that it can be communicated to the consumer in a clearer way.

To wrap up, there will be a panel of food buyers and producers who will share ways that producers can boost consumer confidence in the welfare of animals on Wisconsin farms, including insight into potential animal care standards.

The conference will be held on Friday, March 4 at American Legion Hall in Neillsville. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the conference concludes at 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$40. For more details, visit <http://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/>, contact UW-Extension Ag Agents, Maria Bendixen at Neillsville, 715-733-5121, or Otto Wiegand at Spoooner, 715-635-3506. Otto Wiegand can provide ride-share for a limited number of participants from the Spoooner area.

The conference is sponsored by UW-Extension, DATCP, the Nat. Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Wis. Farm Bureau, Equity Livestock, PDPW, and Animart.

# Plot Results at the UW-Spooner Ag Research Station

Phil Holman  
 Superintendent  
 Spooner Ag Research Station

## Nitrogen Rate on Soybeans at Different Soil pH

Farmers and researchers sometimes wonder if soybeans need more nitrogen than they produce themselves. Other states have had research of the nitrogen needs of soybeans, but no research was available in Wisconsin. This year the soil pH plots were in soybeans so I side-dressed 25 or 50 lbs per acre of nitrogen as urea or ammonium sulfate when the plants were V2 (approximately 4" tall). Soybean Varieties used were NK Brand S06-W2 and Asgrow 0808.

Yields across soil pH ranged from 35.4 to 42.0 bu/A with the top yield at a pH of 6.2. This fits right in line with the UW Fertility recommendation guidelines of a soil pH for soybeans of 6.3. Actually harvest yields in this trial of the 5.2 and 5.7 plots were statistically the same as the 6.2 yields.

Soil pH	Yield
4.7	35.4
5.2	41.6
5.7	41.6
6.2	42.0
6.7	41.0

Fert Type	Fert Rate	Yield
none	none	39.7
AMS	25 lb N/A	41.2
AMS	50 lb N/A	41.5
Urea	25 lb N/A	40.7
Urea	50 lb N/A	40.9

As for nitrogen rates, small yield increases of 1 to 2 bushels per acre were measured for added nitrogen. The ammonium sulfate plots yielded slightly higher than the urea plots. This demonstrates a small increase in yield from the added sulfur of the ammonium sulfate. However, none of these yield increases are enough to be "economically" beneficial to cover the additional fertilizer cost.

## Winter Wheat Fungicide Trial

In fall of 2009, a winter wheat trial was planted to determine the effect of fungicide application around flag leaf to boot stage. Four varieties of winter wheat were used and Headline was the fungicide available for use. Variety yields averaged 70.6 to 73.2 bushels per acre and were not statistically significant. There was a significant yield difference of 6.4 bushels per acre more winter wheat in plots that were treated with fungicide.

	Yield bu/A
Pioneer 25R47	70.6
Kaskaskia	73.0
Illinois 01-11934	72.8
Pioneer 25 R22-N222	73.2
No Fungicide	69.2
Headline 9 oz./A	75.6

## Soybean Population

This spring, UW-Extension Soybean Specialist, Shawn Conley, listed protocol for UW-Extension Ag Agents to conduct "On-Farm" soybean seeding rate trials. A seeding rate trial was planted in one of the Spooner Ag Research Station production fields with our normal 30" row planter. Target seeding rates were 120,000, 160,000 and 200,000. We included replications of 60,000 seeds per acre as well.

Yields were highest at the 160,000 seeding rate but the 120,000 and 200,000 seeding rate yields were not significantly different. At the higher seeding rates, final plant populations were much lower than initially intended. Also of interest, was that even with very low plant population of seeding 60,000 seeds per acre, yields were only reduced by 2 to 4.7 bushels.

Seeding Rate	Yield	Harvest Population
60,000	36.0	51,691
120,000	38.2	100,769
160,000	40.7	133,003
200,000	39.9	157,687

## Complete Variety Trial Results can be found at:

- Corn Grain and Silage: [corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/](http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/)
- Soybean: [soybean.uwex.edu/](http://soybean.uwex.edu/)
- Alfalfa: [www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/alfalfa.htm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/alfalfa.htm)
- Oats & Barley: [soybean.uwex.edu/](http://soybean.uwex.edu/)

# Growing and Marketing High-Quality Hay

## *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Farming for Profit Workshop Series*

*Jason Fischbach  
Agricultural Agent  
Bayfield County*

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

UW-Extension is pleased to announce the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Farming for Profit Workshop Series. This annual event for farmers in NW Wisconsin will provide training and information to help you make money farming. The focus for 2011 is on profitable hay production. The four sessions will feature both live and distance education presentations and generally run from 6:00-8:30 p.m. There is a \$5 charge for individual sessions or \$15 for the entire series. Pre-registration is required. For more information, registration and specific session locations, contact UW-Extension Ag Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow in Spooner 715-635-3506/800-528-1914, Jason Fischbach in Ashland/Bayfield 715-373-6104 x5, Jane Anklam in Douglas 715-395-1363, Rich Toebe in Rusk 715-532-2151, or Mark Kopecky in Price 715-339-2555.

### ***Session 1 - Know Your Numbers: Pricing, Buying, and Selling Hay***

Jan. 10 - Monday at Hayward, Siren, Maple, Ashland, Ladysmith and Phillips

Producing a profit requires that you know your numbers. In this session, we'll discuss using enterprise budgets to determine your costs of production for producing hay and further help you decide what to charge when selling your hay. Matt Hanson, UW-Extension Ag Agent from Dodge County, will join us via teleconference to discuss how the Dodge Co. Forage Council operates the Beaver Dam hay auction. We'll also cover hayland lease agreements and how to negotiate stumpage prices for producers and landowners.

### ***Session 2 - Forage Quality: Evaluating, Testing, and Protecting Hay***

Jan. 24 – Monday at Hayward

Jan. 26 – Wednesday at Ladysmith

Jan. 27 – Thursday at Ashland

Whether buying or selling hay, it is crucial to know and understand hay quality. We'll teach you how to evaluate quality with hands-on demonstrations. Otto Wiegand, UW-Extension Ag Agent from Spooner, will present at each location. We'll also cover storage options to protect quality and quantity of stored hay.

### ***Session 3 - Forage Management I: Growing and Harvesting High Quality Hay***

Feb. 10 – Thursday at Hayward, Siren, Maple, Ashland, Ladysmith and Phillips

Northern Wisconsin can be a great place to produce high quality hay, if it's done right. We'll discuss the many aspects of hay production including: soil testing and nutrient management, sward density, species composition, and compaction. Dr. Dan Undersander, UW-Extension Forage Agronomist, will join us via teleconference. We'll also discuss the many aspects of hay harvest including: harvest timing, drying, preservatives, and baling.

### ***Session 4 - Forage Management II: New Seedings and Low-Cost Renovations***

Feb. 21 – Monday at Hayward, Siren, Maple, Ashland, Ladysmith and Phillips

In this session, you'll learn about low-cost strategies for improving the productivity and species composition of your hay fields. Dr. Dennis Cosgrove, UW-Extension Forage Agronomist, will join us via teleconference. We'll also discuss new seedings and choosing which species, varieties, and mixtures are right for you.



# Heart of The Farm Conference for Women

## ***Will Highlight Risk Management Issues***

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

*Jenny Vanderlin  
UW Center for Dairy Profitability*

A Heart of the Farm-Women in Agriculture Conference will be held at The Lodge at Crooked Lake in Siren on Wednesday, February 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Heart of the Farm Conference Series is a UW-Extension program committed to addressing the needs of farm women by providing education on farm business topics, connecting them with agricultural resources and creating support networks. The conference addresses issues relevant to both large and small operations. Since 2002, a total of 30 one-day conferences held across the state reached over 650 participants. As a result of these programs, participants improved their record-keeping, made changes to insurance coverage, implemented production changes, made decisions on retirement, and more!

The workshop will start with a Farmers Panel to discuss how farm women handle working on the farm or off the farm, balancing family issues and still finding personal or leisure time. Come and share your ideas and experiences in balancing farm, family and personal priorities with the panel. Other topics include agriculture loans, government programs, grants and other resources,



practical considerations for human resource management, and value-added markets. The conference will end with a taste of northwestern

Wisconsin, featuring local wines, breads, cheese and chocolate.

Registration for the workshop is \$20 per person. To register, obtain a brochure, or for more information, contact UW-Extension Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow, 715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914, or Jenny Vanderlin, [jmvander@wisc.edu](mailto:jmvander@wisc.edu), 608-263-7795, website at: [www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm).

Heart of the Farm is supported by grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency. It is partially funded by the Center for Dairy Profitability, UW-Extension Farm and Risk Management Team, and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

## NRCS Offers New Practices and Funds for Farm and Wildlife Lands

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that the Wisconsin sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) will be open until January 14<sup>th</sup> for 2011 funding.

The EQIP program is the primary program available to farmers for farmland conservation work, offering flat rate payments for over 70 conservation practices. WHIP offers cost sharing to restore wildlife habitat for targeted species.

Several new practices are available in EQIP this year. Composting Facility can be used to help reduce manure pathogens and

odors as well as benefit water quality. Two new forestry practices, Tree and Shrub Pruning as well as Forest Slash Treatment are now available.

Common practices signed up for in the past in Burnett-Washburn County include Grassed Waterway, Pasture/Hayland planting, Well Abandonment, Nutrient Management and Prescribed Grazing.

### ***Sign-up for Wildlife Habitat***

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical assistance and cost sharing to restore wildlife habitat. Depending on the site, streams, prairies and other types of habitat including habitat for pollinators may qualify to be restored. Two new practices, Wetland Restoration and Wetland Creation are new for this sign-up and have multiple benefits, including habitat for migratory birds.

For more information on these programs, visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact your local USDA Service Center.

# Northern Safari of Ag Specialists Seminar Series

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



This winter marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year that UW-Extension has sponsored the Northern Wisconsin Safari of Agriculture Specialists. The goal of this series is to bring University of Wisconsin-Extension specialists and agents, and their expertise to the state’s northern counties with the latest research-based information for farmers and farm businesses. Seminars are free and open to the public, run for an hour and one-half, and are held on three Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

This year’s speakers will be:

Jan.or Feb. – Topic and speaker to be announced.

Feb. 2-4 – **Issues With Raising Backyard Poultry**, including management, diseases, fencing, predators – Ron Kean, UW-Extension poultry and small animal specialist

Feb. 23-25 - **Extending Your Grazing Season**, including fall &

winter grains, beets and turnips, stockpiling – Dr. Rhonda Gildersleeve, Extension Grazing Specialist

The schedule for the program is as follows:

Wednesday, 10:30 AM - Rusk County Extension conference room, Ladysmith Courthouse

Wednesday, 1:30 PM - Price County Extension conference room, Phillips Courthouse

Wednesday, 1:00 PM - Ashland Agricultural Research Station

Thursday, 8:00 PM – Northwestern High School, Maple

Friday, 10:30 AM – Spooner Agricultural Research Station

Ron Kean grew up on a farm in Nebraska and has been at UW for 18 years. He is the extension poultry specialist, teaches companion animal

biology, is the breeder flock and hatchery management coordinator at UW-Madison, and writes the Answer Man column for Backyard Poultry Magazine. Ron has a BS in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska and an MS in Animal Breeding from Iowa State University.

Dr. Rhonda Gildersleeve has over 20 years’ experience working in Extension in California and Wisconsin (1999 to present) in grazing-based production systems for beef, sheep, and dairy cattle. Rhonda received a B.S. Agric. in Production Agronomy from UW-River Falls, an M.S. from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University with emphasis on Pasture Management & Utilization. She was raised on a dairy farm in Grant County and runs her own pasture-based beef farm near Boscobel.

For more information about the Safari, contact your local UW-Extension office in following counties: Ashland and Bayfield Counties - Jason Fishbach 715-373-6104, Douglas County – Jane Anklam 715-395-1363, Price County - Mark Kopecky 715-339-2555, Rusk County - Rich Toebe 715-532-2151, Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties - Kevin Schoessow or Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914.

## PRODUCERS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN-UP NOW FOR FSA PROGRAMS

It is time to sign up now for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) at your Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Signing up now will ease the potentially long wait times and scheduling conflicts that arise as the June 1st deadline approaches.

Producers need to sign a DCP or ACRE contract annually to be eligible to receive program benefits. Please contact your local county office today to set up an appointment!

# Notes from Douglas County

Jane Anklam  
Agricultural Agent  
Douglas County

Contact: 715-395-1363 or  
[jane.anklam@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:jane.anklam@ces.uwex.edu)

\*\* The USDA has cost share dollars available for hay land seeding that does include lime, seed and planting. Please contact Jane Anklam to learn if this may be appropriate for your system.

\*\*The University of Wisconsin, Cooperative Extension's General Master Gardener class will be offered Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. January 25-April 12, 2011 for Douglas County residents, to be held in Superior. Contact Cheryl Shockley to register (715-395-1363 or [Cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu))

\*\*Growers, businesses, and consumers in the Southern Douglas County Towns of Solon Springs, Bennett, Gordon, and Wascott are developing a Locally Grown Food Initiative with a goal to raise the potential for local people to have access to locally grown food. Contact Jane Anklam for more information or to become part of the initiative.

\*\*Douglas County farmers have the opportunity to utilize the Lake Superior Watershed No Till Drill Rental program this coming spring. The Truax FLEXII-812 is available to rent through the program for a fee of \$75 plus 8.50 /acre. Let's get three or five sites together and plan a demonstration for next year. Please contact Jane Anklam to discuss your no till drill plans. She will help you coordinate soil tests, field preparation and rental schedule.

## This Quarter's Events

**Contacts:** UW-Extension Ag Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow, Spooner Station, 715-635-3506, Jane Anklam, Douglas Co, 715-395-1363, or Jason Fischbach, Ashland & Bayfield Counties, 715-682-8393 for more information, brochures or how to register.

**Jan 7, Fri – Deadline to Sign Up for Conservation Stewardship Program** – get paid for your sound conservation practices, contact your local NRCS office, for Burnett & Washburn 715-635-8228, for Sawyer 715-532-3786

**Jan 14, Fri - Deadline to Sign Up for EQIP Cost-Sharing** – contact your local NRCS office, for Burnett & Washburn 715-635-8228, for Sawyer 715-532-3786

**Jan 14, 24, 26, 27 & Feb 10, 21 – Hay Series** - Hayward, Ashland, Maple, Ladysmith & Phillips – 6:00-8:30 PM, contact Kevin Schoessow / Wiegand 715-635-3506 (See article)

**Feb–Mar – Beginning Farmer Course Parts II & III**, Spooner Ag Research Station - 8 remaining sessions, 2-3 hours per session, \$15 per session, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in this region, contact Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 (See article)

**Feb 2, Weds - Heart of The Farm Conference, Siren** – for farm women, to be held at The Lodge, contact Kevin Schoessow / Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 (See article)

**Feb 2-4, 16-18, 23-25 – Northern Safari at Spooner, Ashland, Maple, Ladysmith & Phillips** – subjects include Issues in Raising Backyard Poultry and How To Extend Your Grazing Season. Third topic to be announced. Contact Kevin Schoessow / Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 (See article)

**Feb 13-15, Sun-Tues – GrassWorks Grazing Conference – Wisconsin Dells**, contact Heather Flashinski 715-289-4896, [grassheather@hotmail.com](mailto:grassheather@hotmail.com)

**Feb 24-26, Thurs-Sat – MOSES Organic Conference – LaCrosse**, contact MOSES 715-778-5775, [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org)

**Mar 4, Fri, 8:30-3:30 – Animal Husbandry Conference, Neillsville** – conference dedicated to anticipated future requirements for dairy and beef cattle welfare certification, contact Otto Wiegand for possible ride-share (See article)

**Mar 12, Sat, 8:30-3:30 – NW Graziers Annual Conference, Spooner** – Spooner Elementary School, watch for news releases or grazier mailing, contact Randy Gilbertson 715-520-2112, Lynn Johnson 715-268-8778, or Otto Wiegand / Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506

**Mar 15, Tues, 9:00-3:00 – Pesticide Applicator Training, Spooner** – contact Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506, alternative sites: Barron - March 8, or Balsam Lake - March 29



UWEX Area Agricultural Agents  
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties  
Spooner Agricultural Research Station  
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**Inside**

**This  
Issue**

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**Agricultural  
Newsletter**

**January  
February  
March**

**2011**

**New to farming? Attend the  
remaining Beginning Farmer  
Training sessions**

**Are you eligible for new NRCS  
practices and funds for your land?**

**Find out how the variety trials  
fared at the Spooner Agricultural  
Research Station**

Kevin Schoessow  
UWEX Area Agricultural Agent