

# Agricultural Newsletter

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



July-August-September  
2016  
Volume 22 Issue 3

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### Removable Insert:

*Farm Service Agency Update*

## 64th Annual Spooner Sheep Day to be the Last

*Dave Thomas*  
*Sheep Management & Genetics*  
*UW-Madison*

The **64<sup>th</sup> Annual Spooner Sheep Day** will be held at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station on **Saturday, August 27, 2016**. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. at the Station Headquarters (W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner, WI 54801). The educational program will start at 9:15 a.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m.

It is very likely that the 2016 event will be the last Spooner Sheep Day because the sheep are to be sold in October 2016 due to severe budget cuts to the UW System. The Spooner Agricultural Research Station was established in 1909 and is the oldest of the several agricultural research stations operated throughout Wisconsin by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CAL S) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sheep were introduced to the Spooner Station in 1936 and the first sheep field day was held in 1953. The Spooner Sheep Day is thought to be the longest-running agricultural field day of the several held each year by CAL S.

This year's program will be a look back and a celebration of the accomplishments and impact of the Spooner sheep program. The program is not yet finalized, but confirmed speakers include:

Dr. Richard "Dick" Vathauer – Emeritus Professor and former Beef and Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Madison

Dr. Sherwood "Woody" Lane – previous Beef and Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Madison and current grazing consultant, Roseburg, Oregon

Robert "Bob" Rand, former Superintendent, Spooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Yves Berger, Emeritus Sheep Researcher and former Superintendent, Spooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Philip "Phil" Holman, Current Superintendent, Spooner Ag Research Station, UW-Madison

Laurel Kieffer, Dairy Sheep Producer and President, Dairy Sheep Association of North America, Strum, WI

Duane Klindworth, Sheep Producer and Immediate Past President, Indianhead Sheep Breeders Association, Augusta, WI

# Agricultural NEWSLETTER

*produced by*  
*University of Wisconsin-Extension*  
*and*  
*UW-Madison College of Ag & Life*  
*Sciences*

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and Washburn Counties:**

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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.

Dr. Maristela Rovai, previous post-doctoral student at Spooner Ag Research Station and current Dairy (Cattle) Extension Specialist, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Dr. Claire Sandrock, previous M.S. and Ph.D. graduate student at Spooner Ag Research Station and current *Program Manager, Center for Special Children, Vernon Memorial Healthcare, LaFarge, WI*

Alexa Roscizewski, undergraduate student, Department of Animal Sciences, UW-Madison and current Summer Sheep Intern at Spooner Ag Research Station

Dr. David “Dave” Thomas, Professor of Sheep Management and Genetics, UW-Madison

Check in the near future for a complete schedule at the UW-Madison Sheep and Goat Extension Web Site: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/> or the web site of the Spooner Ag Research Station: <http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/>, or contact Lorraine Toman at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station ([spooner@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:spooner@cals.wisc.edu), 715-635-3735) or Dave Thomas at UW-Madison ([dlthomas@wisc.edu](mailto:dlthomas@wisc.edu), 608-263-4306) for additional information.

**IMPORTANT: Pre-Registration Required** - Pre-registration for this event is **required** with a deadline of August 19, 2016. Space may be limited. Contact Lorraine Toman at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station at 715-635-3735 or [spooner@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:spooner@cals.wisc.edu) to register. Attendance at the educational sessions is free, but a nominal fee will be charged for a delicious lamb lunch.

## Farm Succession - Individual Consultations

### *Joy Kirkpatrick – Spooner Ag Station – July 6-7, Aug 11-12*

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

Joy Kirkpatrick, an Outreach Specialist from the UW-Madison Center for Dairy Profitability, will be offering two-hour consultations to farm families regarding farm succession or transition. Joy has 15 years experience in farm succession. Farm succession more often fails due to lack of communication and consensus than to the economics of the farm itself. Consultations are free of charge and will be offered at the Spooner Ag Research Station. The initial dates available are Weds-Thurs, July 6-7, and Thurs-Fri, Aug 11-12. One or two evening sessions may also be available. Depending on demand, future dates may be offered. The purpose is start the succession conversation and find out what the needs of the specific parties are. Contact Ag Agent Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow at 715-635-3506 to set up an appointment.

Starting in late summer and going into the winter there will webinars on specific succession topics. These may be live or offered later as recordings. Topics could include but are not limited to business structures, lease agreements, taxes, retirement planning, insurance, asset transfers, gifting, appraisals and surveys, operation size or modernization requirements, and other topics. These will be announced at a later date.

# Learn the Economic & Environmental Benefits of Silvopasture in Upcoming Workshop

*Diomy Zamora*  
*Univ. of Minnesota-Extension*

*Diane Mayerfeld*  
*Univ. of Wisconsin-Extension*

University of Minnesota Extension, University of Wisconsin Extension, and the Savanna Institute will jointly host a silvopasture workshop in Luck, Wisconsin, Fri-Sat, July 29-30. The workshop will begin Friday evening, July 29<sup>th</sup>, with networking and a discussion among silvopasture practitioners and natural resource professionals about their experience with silvopasture. Saturday morning, July 30<sup>th</sup>, will begin with indoor presentations, followed by visits to two farms practicing silvopasture in the afternoon. Speakers will include University researchers, Extension educators, NRCS Grazing Specialist, practitioners, and Natural Resource professionals working on silvopasture. Financial support is provided by North Central SARE and UW Extension.



Diomy Zamora discusses Lynn Johnson's silvopasture near Turtle Lake.

Silvopasture is a sustainable agroforestry practice where trees and forage crops are grown together on the same piece of land, and grazing animals eat the forages. The livestock provide annual income, and the trees may provide income after a time in the form of wood, nuts or other products. Silvopasture can provide economic and environmental benefits that complement regular forestry and open pasture production, including shade for livestock and forages, and habitat for birds and beneficial insects.

Topics covered will include

- Establishment and management of silvopasture
- Opportunities and challenges of silvopasture
- Where to go for more information
- Economics
- Livestock management in silvopasture (focus on cattle)
- Controlling brush, toxic plants and invasives

## Times and Locations:

**July 29, 2016:** 5-7 pm - registration 4 pm. **Location:** West Denmark Lutheran Church, 2478 170th Street, Luck, WI 54853;

**July 30, 2016:** 8 am-5 pm - registration 7 am. **Location:** 740 Roundlake Rd. Luck, WI, 54853.

Participants can reserve a room at a local hotel ([Luck Country Inn](#) or [Cumberland Inn and Suites](#)) or contact [Diomy Zamora](#) for camping options. Participants can just come for the Saturday portion of the workshop, but we strongly encourage attendees to participate in the Friday evening program. Registration is \$45 for the full workshop or \$30 for just the Saturday program. Register online at <https://www.regonline.com/silvopasturecamp>. This registration will cover one dinner (Friday, July 29, 2016), and breakfast, lunch and snacks (Saturday, July 30, 2016). Early registration is encouraged; please register before July 14 to guarantee a spot.

For information or to register, contact: Diomy Zamora, 612-626-9272 or [zamor015@umn.edu](mailto:zamor015@umn.edu), or Diane Mayerfeld, [dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu](mailto:dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu) or 608-262-8188.

# Summer Pasture Walk Schedule Offers Information for Many Species

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

## ***Multi-Species Pasture Walk – Spooner, WI – Sat June 25***

Welcome to a unique multi-species pasture walk to be held on Saturday, June 25, from 10-Noon at the Chickadee Hills Farm, Spooner, WI owned by Sherry Sutton-Zanado and her husband Matt. Sherry and Matt own Northland Financial Planning Services, LLC, and Northland Retirement Group, LLC in Trego. Sherry spent much time on her grandparent’s multi-species farm when she was growing up.

The farm was purchased and new house and outbuildings were put up in the past two years. It features free-range laying hens and ducks, guinea fowl, heritage breed pigs (Mulefoot and Mangelitza), horses and a large garden. The pigs eat forage and acorns on pasture. The Zanardos plan to add honey bees, sheep and perhaps beef cattle later. They have two 18-bushel compost tumblers for the garden. They also make horse manure bricks which provide about 50% of the heat for the house. The bricks are easy to handle, burn well and don’t make any odor. Beside hay, animals are fed cabbage, apples and squash for winter feed.

To reach to farm from Spooner, take Hwy 53 to County Road A and go east (right) approximately 6 miles to 8th Street, then go north (left) for half a mile. The fire number is N6374 8th Street. From Hayward, go south on Hwy 27 to Stone Lake and then west on Cty A about 12 miles to 8th Street. Watch for the signs. There will be a NW Graziers steering committee meeting at the farm at 9:00 ahead of the pasture walk for those who are interested in participating. Contact UW-Extension Ag Agent, Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 for more information.

## ***Alpaca & Llama Pasture Walk – Comstock, Sat, July 9, 10-Noon***

An alpaca and llama pasture walk will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-Noon at the Dippreyville Farm owned by Don and Sheila Dipprey. The farm is located at 49 190<sup>th</sup> Ave, Comstock. From Hwy 8 in Turtle Lake, take

Cty T north six miles, then east or right one mile. Or from Hwy 63 just south of Comstock, take 19 ½ Ave. west about three miles to the Polk-Barron County Line and then one mile west on 190<sup>th</sup> Ave. Watch for the signs. The pasture walk will be followed by a lunch at the house. If Ladybird (the resident ostrich) is laying, a big pan of egg bake will be on the table.

Don and Sheila have been raising llamas for the past 25 years, reaching a maximum of 45 head. Recently they started going more into alpacas, having purchased their present herd of 23 suri alpacas from Barbe and Jim Kackly in Mineral Point, WI. Don and Sheila own 43 acres. The contour of the land is well-suited for grazing of these camelids from South America. All the hay and feed is purchased. Don is the retired Turtle Lake HS Ag Instructor and works part-time as a UW-Extension Ag Agent for Polk Co in Balsam Lake.

The Dippreys keep 27 of acres under the Federal Forest Crop Law program. The remaining 13 acres are marginal pasture ground, but alpacas and llamas are very efficient grazers. A bit of hay is supplemented all summer. Presently the alpacas are pastured separately from the llamas mostly because of the extra fencing needs of the alpacas. Original plastic electric fencing has been converted to permanent high tensile with no electricity. Smaller paddocks by the barn are enclosed with cattle panels. The Dippreys need to watch for toxic weeds such as night shade, but the biggest concern is burdocks which can totally destroy a fleece’s quality in a very short time.

For further information, contact Don Dipprey at 715-419-1903, or Otto Wiegand, UW-Extension in Spooner at 715-635-3506.

## ***Bison and Silvopasture Walk - Aug 13, Sat, 10-Noon, West of Spooner***

UW-Extension and the NW Wisconsin Graziers Network will hold a bison and silvopasture walk at the David and Veronica Fogerty farm on Saturday, August 13, from 10:00-Noon. The farm is located on 2473 Rolling Green Road, about 10 miles west of Spooner. Take Hwy 70 west of Spooner, turn right or north on County H, then left or west on Rolling Green Rd. Watch for the signs. Snacks and drinks

will be provided. Touring wagons with tractors will be provided to take people around the farm.

Fogerty currently contracts with North Star Bison in Rice Lake to raise about 65 bison. He grazes about 200 acres with 80 acres in silvo-pasture. Included in his regular pasture program are kura clover, orchard grass, two fescues, red clover, two white clovers and winter rye. Fogerty has also established four acres of teff grass for the third year in a row, eight acres of sorghum-sudan grass, and three acres of forage crabgrass for the second year. Much of what Fogerty does is to mitigate the potential effects of low rainfall and sandy soils. He does not intend to make hay this year, but will buy hay as needed. Fogerty has installed a new gravity-fed watering system.

In partnership with another beekeeper, Fogerty has started seven bee boxes this year. Fogerty has been running a browse trial with his bison on oak and aspen for three

years. He has installed 15 water tanks and more than a mile of water lines around his farm. Fogerty works closely with US Fish & Wildlife, Burnett County Land & Water, NRCS and UW-Extension on his various projects. Dave is a retired teacher and septic system installer. Veronica is also a retired teacher.

A second afternoon event will be held for those interested in a more detailed discussion of the silvopasture research being done on the farm. Randy Gilbertson, a Grazing Planner and Burnett County Ag Resources and Conservation Planner, will report on changes in vegetation types in the savannah (silvopasture) over the past five years due to significant thinning of the tree overstory. Also discussed will be an aspen browsing trial with bison.

For additional information, contact Otto Wiegand at UW-Extension at Spooner, 800-528-1914, or 715-635-3506 or Randy Gilbertson, NW Graziers, 715-520-2112.

## Alfalfa Weevil Update

*June 1, 2016*

*Bryan Jensen*

*UW Extension and IPM Program*



Judging by degree day accumulations, most areas of the northern Wisconsin are at the point where scouting for alfalfa weevils should begin and peak feeding is occurring in southern Wisconsin. The good news is that harvest is well underway and I haven't had reports of extensive feeding. Our typical recommendation is to scout second crop re-growth for those fields which were heavily infested during first crop. A concern is that harvest was well ahead of peak

feeding and those fields with heavy damage may have gone unnoticed because larvae were small and damage was easy to miss.

If those larvae survive, you could get significant feeding on either the crown/stem buds and or new foliage. A suggestion would be to spot check fields just to determine what, if any feeding, is occurring. With recent rains, alfalfa should bounce back and re-growth should be occurring. If not, check around the crown to make sure weevils are present. You will find the larvae under leaf litter, and hiding at the juncture between stubble and soil. If re-growth is not occurring 4-5 days after harvest, you've had sufficient rainfall and larvae are present your best option is to treat.

Additionally, check re-growth for signs of feeding. During second crop re-growth the economic threshold is bumped up to 50% of the stems showing signs of feeding. Before treating consider size of larvae present. If all are 4<sup>th</sup> and final in star (approx. 3/8 inch) you may not be able to prevent enough damage to pay for an insecticide and the loss of beneficial insects. To confirm this suspicion, scout for the presence of pupae.

# Keeping Your Chickens Cool

*Ron Kean  
Extension Poultry Specialist  
UW-Madison*

Many small flock owners are concerned about keeping their chickens cool on hot summer days. There are a few things you can do that will help them get through to cooler days in the fall. Since chickens have a normal body temperature of 104-107 F, they can handle fairly warm temperatures. They don't sweat like we do, however, so it can be

more difficult for them to dissipate heat when the temperatures get quite warm. Birds pant to cool themselves. In doing so, they can breathe out quite a bit of moisture.

These things both lead to the number one priority for chickens in hot weather – water. It should be obvious, but chickens need access to fresh, cool water. Adequate water will go a long way toward keeping the chickens cool. Along with water to drink, water in the environment can be helpful. Spraying the ground around the birds

can be helpful. They may get a little dirty, but they will be cooler. Moisture on the birds will help with evaporative cooling, functioning as “sweat” for the birds. Water misted into the airstream from a fan is another way of cooling the air around the chickens.

Air movement is another important part of cooling. If possible, fans can help a great deal. If electric fans are not an option, opening windows can help with natural ventilation. Often, if outdoor access is

*(con't on next page)*

# Learn About Your Lake Series

## *Minong Town Hall*

*John Haack  
Natural Resources Educator  
St. Croix Basin*

Loons, fish, lake critters, and cool lake plants are on the docket for the Learn about Your Lake sessions at the Minong Town Hall on four Saturday mornings this summer. Sessions are free and no registration is required. Bring the kids. Sessions are family friendly and run from 9:00-10:00 AM with time afterwards to meet the presenters, pick their brains and share stories. The Minong Town Lakes Committee will provide coffee, juice and snacks. The Minong Town Hall is located at W7095 Nancy Lake Road, Minong, WI.

- **June 18 – Life on the Edge – John Haack, Natural Resource Educator, UW-Extension.** Hear about the adorable and sometimes creepy animals that live along our lake shores. Discover their interesting lives, odd behaviors, amazing calls and songs. A few guest critters will be there.
- **June 25 – The Secret Life of Fish - Neal Rosenberg, Wisconsin DNR & NW Hatchery Group Leader.** Learn about our state fish, the mighty musky and how the WDNR is propagating musky and walleyes to re-stock state waters. See an exciting presentation with live footage of the Gov. Thompson Hatchery crew in action. Handle gear used by the hatchery crew and get a chance to win a prize.
- **July 9 – Loony about Loons - Erica LeMoine, Loon Watch Coordinator, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.** Learn about loon migration, nesting, calling and other fascinating loon facts. Get a free loon poster and learn what you can do to help loons. Ask any loony question that comes to mind.
- **July 16 – Amazing Lake Plants, Matt Berg - Endangered Resource Service LCC.** Join us for this fun, hands-on session. Learn to identify common plants found in area lakes. Discover cool plant facts and understand why plants are important for healthy lakes. If you have a lake plant you want identified, bring it with you.

Programs are sponsored by University Extension, Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Dept, the Minong Town Lakes Committee and the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association. For more information, contact John Haack, UW- Extension, at [john.haack@ces.uwex](mailto:john.haack@ces.uwex) or by phone at 715-635- 7406.

available, forcing the chickens out of their coop can be helpful. It may be much cooler outside, under a shade tree, than inside a building. Chickens may need to be locked out of their coops to keep them out, however. If the birds do not have outdoor access, good ventilation is much more important. Insulation can be helpful to block solar radiation. Spraying water on the roof of the house may help cool the inside as well. Again, water misted into fans can be helpful. This will create the possibility of wet litter, so care must be taken not to overdo this.

Daily feeding patterns can be adjusted to help beat the heat. Digestion of feed causes a great deal of internal heat for the chicken. Providing feed in the late afternoon or evening, so most digestion occurs overnight while temperatures are cooler, can help. Removing the feed during the day will help keep the birds cooler. They will adjust to this feeding schedule very quickly. Chickens also tend to eat less when they are hot, so this can help keep feed consumption up. This, in turn, will help keep egg or meat production stable, even during hot weather. In extended periods of heat, increasing the protein level of the feed slightly can improve egg production. It may not be worth the effort for a short hot spell, however.

There has been some research showing improvements from providing extra electrolytes during hot weather. These can be provided in the feed or water. It is usually easier to mix these in the water, and this has the added bonus that chickens will often drink more water with electrolytes added. There is a limit to this, however, so don't be tempted to think more is better. Hopefully, these things will help keep your chickens alive and well during this hot weather.

## This Quarter's Events

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**Contacts:** UW-Extension Ag Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow, Spooner Station, 715-635-3506, Jane Anklam, Douglas Co, 715-395-1363, Jason Fischbach or Matt Cogger, Ashland & Bayfield Counties, 715-682-8393, Tim Jergenson, Barron Co, 715-537-6250 for more information.

**June 25, Sat, 10-Noon – Multispecies Pasture Walk, Spooner –** Sherry Sutton-Zanardo and Dave Zanardo (see article)

**July 6-7, Weds-Thurs – Farm Succession Individual Consultations, Spooner Ag Station –** by appointment, Joy Kirkpatrick, UW-Extension, also Aug 11-12, or later dates (see article)

**July 9, Sat, 10-Noon – Alpaca / Llama Pasture Walk, Comstock –** Dipprey Farm (see article)

**July 12, Tues, 6:00-7:30 – Becoming a Natural Gardener, Spooner** Ag Research Station Teaching & Display Garden

**July 19-21, Tues-Thurs – Farm Technology Days, Lake Geneva -** Snudden Farms

**July 21-24, Thurs-Sun – Central Burnett County Fair, Webster –** Fairgrounds

**July 28-31, Thurs-Sun – Washburn County Fair, Spooner –** Fairgrounds

**July 29-30, Fri-Sat – Silvopasture Introduction Workshop, Polk Co – Turtle Lake, Luck,** contact Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 (see article)

**Aug 11-12, Thurs-Fri - Farm Succession Individual Consultations** (see article)

**Aug 13, Sat, 10-Noon – Bison and Silvopasture Pasture Walk, Spooner –** Dave Fogerty Farm (see article)

**Aug 16, Tues, 4-8 – Twilight Garden Tour, Spooner –** Ag Research Station Garden

**Aug 18-21, Thurs-Sun – Sawyer County Fair, Hayward–** Fairgrounds

**Aug 25-28, Thurs-Sun – Burnett Agricultural Society Fair, Grantsburg –** Fairgrounds

**Aug 27, Sat, 9-3 – Spooner Sheep Day, Spooner -** Ag Research Station (see article)

**Sept 8-11, Fri-Sun – Sheep and Wool Festival, Jefferson –** contact Jill, 608-868-2505

**Sept 10, Sat, 10 – Noon – Monarch Way Station and Season in Review,** Spooner Ag Research Station Teaching & Display Garden

**Oct 4-8 – Tues-Sat – World Dairy Expo, Madison –** Alliant Energy Center

**Oct 8, Sat – Kids & Cows Family Day, Rice Lake –** Fairgrounds, N. Wis. Beef Producers, contact Lori Lyons, 715-210-0049

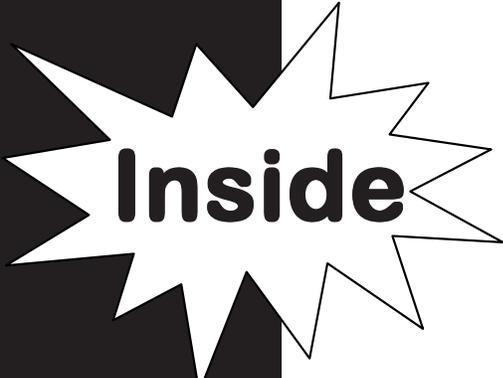
## Bilingual Dairy Employee Videos are Available

*Liz Binversie  
Agricultural Agent  
Brown County*

Looking for bilingual dairy employee training materials? A set of Dairy Employee Videos is now available to farm owners and managers who employ individuals in the dairy field. There are four introductory videos developed by the UW-Extension, in which employees will learn proper techniques to use when managing the bedding and TMR. Videos are included in both English and Spanish, and each video has subtitles to go along with the audio. The titles of the four videos included in the series are: Bedding Management 101 / El Manejo del Establo 101; and TMR Management 101 / El Manejo de Alimentación 101

These videos are an effective learning tool, providing short lessons that are easier to learn while reducing the time owners and managers will have to provide relief work so their employees can watch the training videos. Bedding Management 101 covers the basics including: importance of cleanliness, when and how to clean stalls, and keeping alleys clean. TMR Management 101 teaches employees about proper feed management and topics include: importance of consistency, proper face management, weighing and mixing, and when to push up feed.

The video set can be ordered for \$25. For more information about these videos, please contact Liz Binversie, UWEX Brown County, at [Binversie\\_ey@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:Binversie_ey@co.brown.wi.us) or 920-391-4612.



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**Pasture walk schedule packed with  
info on diverse species**

**Individual consultations are  
available for farm succession**



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**Kevin Schoessow  
UWEX Area Agricultural Agent**