Greetings:

Hopefully everyone has been able to stay warm during all this cold weather! I was definitely spoiled the last two winters in Virginia, so this has been a little bit of an adjustment period. At least from a crop standpoint, we have a decent amount of snow cover that will help insulate from the cold. For those of you with animals, extra care needs to be considered due to the additional energy requirement. Depending on weather and wind conditions, animals may require double the amount of maintenance energy. In this case, producers are encouraged to supply more feed and an adequate supply of water.

The annual Status of Wisconsin Agriculture report has been released by the UW-Madison Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. In 2013, Wisconsin’s net farm income was up 14 percent and the state’s farmers netted about $3.75 billion, which is just below the record farm income earned in 2011. Dairy, livestock, and poultry sales have continued to increase while grain producers took a large hit from the 2012 numbers. If you are interested in the full report, it can be accessed online at: http://www.aae.wisc.edu/pubs/status/.

Thank you to everyone who completed the agricultural needs assessment survey! Just over 110 surveys were mailed in or completed online. According the results, the top three areas of education were grains, forages, and dairy. These results will be used as I develop my three year plan of work.

Please take a few minutes to look at the upcoming educational meetings that are provided in this newsletter.

Take care,

Eric Ronk
Agriculture Agent
UWEX – Calumet County
Grain Crops Production Clinic  
Monday, February 10, 2014  
Registration: 9:30 am; Program 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cobblestone Creek Dining & Banquet  
740 West Ryan Street  
Brillion  
OR  
Doxbee’s Banquet & Buffet  
N6744 County Hwy C  
Seymour

Note: Presentation times will vary with location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Presenter:</th>
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| “Trash Talking - The $ Value of My Crop Residue” | Kevin Jarek  
UW-Extension Crops, Soils, and Horticulture Agent, Outagamie County |
| “Latest research update in Wisconsin field crops disease management” | Damon Smith  
UW-Extension Plant Pathology Specialist |
| “Soybean Inputs for 2014…Best Bang for the Buck” | Shawn Conley  
UW-Extension Soybean and Small Grain Specialist |
| “Comparison of Sediment and Nutrient Loss in Surface Runoff versus Tile Flow in Wisconsin” | Eric Cooley  
UW-Discovery Farms Program Co-Director |
UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, Shawano County |

Sponsored by:

Grain Crops Production Clinic Registration Form - Please register by Wednesday, February 5.

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: _________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________ City: ___________________ Zip: ___________

Where do you plan to attend?  
_____ Cobblestone Creek, Brillion  
_____ Doxbee’s Banquet & Buffet, Seymour  
_____ person(s) x $25/person = $________

Make check payable to: UW-Extension

Return registration to:  
For Brillion:  
Grain Crops Clinic  
Calumet Co. UW-Extension  
206 Court St.  
Chilton, WI 53014  
920-849-1450 x5

For Seymour:  
Grain Crops Clinic  
Outagamie Co.UW-Ext.  
3365 W. Brewster St.  
Appleton, WI 54914  
920-832-5121

4.0 CCA Credits have been applied for.
February
6 CAFO Meeting, 9:00-3:30 pm, Tundra Lodge, Green Bay
7 CAFO Meeting, 9:00-3:30 pm, Crystal Falls, New London
10 Grains Crop Clinic, 9:30-3:00 pm, Cobblestone Creek, Brillion
11 CAFO Meeting 9:00-3:30 pm, UW-Fond du Lac
14 Dealing with Compromised Cattle, 10:00-3:00 pm, Tundra Lodge, Green Bay
19 & 26 Shifting Gears for Your Later Farming Years, 10:00-3:00 pm, Outagamie County UW-Extension Office
20 Market Beef Webinar, 6:00-7:30 pm, Courthouse, Room #025
21 Forage Council Annual Meeting, 10:00-2:30 pm, Neighborhood Pub and Grill, Brant
24 Rabbit and Poultry Meeting and Skillathon, 7:00-8:30 pm, Courthouse, Room #025
25 Cattle Feeder Workshop, 5:30 pm, Chissy’s Pub and Grill, Waldo
26 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00-3:00 pm, Courthouse, Room #017
28 Manure Applicator Training, 9:00-12:00 noon, Courthouse, Room #025

March
4 Mardi Gras, 7:45 pm, Cobblestone Creek, Brillion
5 Manure Applicator Training, 1:00-4:00 pm, Courthouse, Room #025
7 Wisconsin Dairy Well Being Conference, 8:30-3:00 pm, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Eau Claire
14-15 Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit, Marriott West, Madison

April
10 Heart of the Farm, Milhome Supper Club

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
9:00-3:00 pm
Calumet County Courthouse, Room #017

For those interested in becoming certified or recertifying as a private pesticide applicator, there will be training offered on Wednesday, February 26. This training will take place in Room #017 of the Calumet County Courthouse from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Participants need to stop in at the UW-Extension Office to pick up the manual at least one week prior to the training. Cost for the manual and certification process is $30.00 per person and is payable at time of registration.

The training session will begin with presentations, there will be a 45 minute break for lunch, but lunch is own your own and finish up with the exam in the afternoon. The minimum score to pass the examination for those attending the training session is 50 percent.

The State of Wisconsin requires any person taking a certification exam to provide positive identification and their Social Security Number. Positive forms of identification include a birth certificate, state-issued identification card, or a driver’s license. Also, on the day of the training, please bring your training manual and a calculator.

If you have any questions, please contact the Calumet County UW-Extension Office at (920) 849-1450.

Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit

March 14-15, 2014
Madison Marriott West, Madison

- Connect with other influential women in agriculture, including the 2014 AgVocate of the Year Award winner at the Madison Marriott West
- Be inspired by a wide range of workshops, speakers, and great conversations!
- Renew and energize yourself with a morning workout and fun evening entertainment by Comedy City, a live improve comedy show.

For registration information go to http://wfbf.com/programsevents/womens-program/wisconsin-ag-womens-summit/. Registration deadline: March 7

Shifting Gears for Your Later Farming Years

Wednesdays, February 19 and 26, 2014
10:00-3:00 pm
Outagamie County UW-Extension Office

Is retirement a dirty word? OK, so maybe you aren’t going to ever fully retire from the farm business. But do you think about slowing down, letting someone else make the day-to-day decisions? Maybe you have a “bucket list” that you want to work on? Do you have a plan to make this happen? This two day workshop series can help answer the following questions?
- What do you want to do when you’re not farming 24/7
- What are my household needs and costs as I shift gears
- How heavily will I need to rely on farm business assets for my income
- What off-farm investments should I consider
- Communicating my needs and plans with other family members and farming partners
- Estate planning needs as you shift gears

For more information and to register, contact the Outagamie County UWEX Office at 832-5124.
### Calumet County Forage Council Annual Meeting

**Friday, February 21, 2014**

10:00-10:30 am – registration  
10:30 am – program  
Neighborhood Pub and Grill, Brant  
Everyone is invited!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Registration and Membership Sign Up</td>
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| 10:30 am | “Corn Silage Processing”  
Dr. Randy Shaver, Department of Dairy Science, UW-Madison |
| 11:30 am | “Forage Council Test Plot Update”  
Adam Faust, Local Producer  
Jeremy Hanson, Farm Business/Production Management Instructor, FVTC |
| 11:45 am | “Real Heifers…Real Herds – 2013 ICPA Report”  
Eric Ronk, UW-Extension Calumet County Agriculture Agent |
| 12:00 noon | Midwest Forage Association Update  
Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | “Alfalfa Seeding Rates”  
Corey Catt, Forage Products Manager, Latham Seeds |
| 1:30 pm | “Local Producer Panel on Corn Silage Processing” |
| 2:00 pm | Calumet County Forage Council Annual Meeting |

**Cost:** $20.00 per person for those registered by February 14. Late registrations and “walk in” registrations will be assessed an additional $5.00.

To register, call (920) 849-1450 x5 by February 14 (voicemail is available).
Dealing with Compromised Cattle
Prevention, Safety, & Management
Friday, February 14, 2014
Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, WI

Dealing with Compromised Cattle

Registration Form and Check To:

Registration deadline: February 7th
Check payable to: UW-Extension
Registration Fee: $20 per person (includes meal, speaker fees, and materials)

Name(s):___________________________________
Address:____________________________________
City:_______________________________________
ZIP:_______________________________________
Phone:_____________________________________
E-mail:_____________________________________
Registration fee: $20 per person (includes meal, speaker fees, and materials)
Check payable to: UW-Extension
Registration deadline: February 7th

Program: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Prevention: 10:00 am to 10:30 am
Registration: 10:30 am to 10:45 am

10:00 am Lunch
12:00 pm Preventing Drug Residue in Cull Cows
Wisconsin Vet Med Association HACCP Taskforce Representative
1:00 pm Assessing Risk-Ensuring Animal Welfare on Farms
Amy Stanton, PhD, UW-Extension Dairy Cattle Welfare Specialist
2:00 pm Safely Moving Down Cows
Michael J. Maroney, DVM, Diplomate American Board of Dairy Practice
3:00 pm Adjourn

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX requirements. UW-Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnic background, or economic circumstances. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the event. Requests will be kept confidential.

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Milk prices are starting out in 2014 considerably higher than what was forecasted earlier. All dairy product prices strengthened starting early January. Normally prices weaken the end of December going into January as holidays have ended. On the CME butter started January at $1.54 per pound and was $1.90 as of January 23rd. The 40-pound cheddar cheese price started January at $2.015 per pound and was $2.295 on January 23rd, the highest price since 2008. Cheddar barrels started January at $1.85 per pound and were $2.2575 on January 23rd. In the West nonfat dry milk has been trading above $2.00 per pound and dry whey near $0.62 per pound.

Factors explaining the strength in dairy product prices include milk production, and favorable domestic sales and strong exports, both of which tightened stocks. With only a small increase in milk production for the last quarter of last year dairy product production was not as high. The latest dairy product production report is for November of 2013. Compared to a year ago, butter production was down slightly at 0.1%, American cheese production down 2.7% with cheddar production down 3.4%, but Italian cheese production was up 7.8% netting total cheese production up 2.9%. Nonfat dry milk production was down 13.6% as more milk was shifted to skim milk powder production for exports. Skim milk powder production was 26.1% higher than a year ago.

Exports have been a big factor for higher prices. Butter and butterfat exports for November were 215% higher than a year ago. Butter manufactures were making more 82% fat butter for export tightening 80% fat butter for the domestic market. November cheese exports were 54% higher than a year ago and for the first 11 months 56 million pounds higher than 2012’s record cheese exports for the entire year. November nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were 54% higher than last year and dry whey exports were 15% higher. Shifting from nonfat dry milk production to skim milk powder production for exports tightened nonfat dry milk supplies.

December 31st stocks of butter were 27.2% lower than a year ago and have declined 65.4% from their peak in May. December 31st American cheese stocks fell for the first time this year below a year ago at 2.6% below. The same was true for total cheese stocks being 1.4% below a year ago.

The higher dairy product prices means much higher Class III and IV prices and prices well above a year ago. The December Class III price was $18.95, the highest price for the year, and will increase to near $21.00 in January and could approach $22.00 for February. A year ago the January Class III price was $17.05 and February $16.06. The December Class IV price was $21.54 and will be above $22.00 for January and $23.00 for February. A year ago the January Class IV price was $16.65 and February $15.72. The question is how long will dairy product prices stay at the levels to generate these high Class III and IV prices? History shows that buyers of cheese start some resistance when cheese gets over $2.00 a pound. While milk production is forecasted to increase in each of the five major exporters—EU-27 countries, New Zealand, U.S., Argentina and Australia—world demand is anticipated to stay strong with China leading the way with increased imports absorbing the increase in world supply of dairy products. Therefore, U.S. exports are anticipated to remain at a high level for most of the year. However, existing relatively high dairy product prices has lowered the price advantage of U.S. dairy products compared to world market prices. A big question is how will dairy producers respond to higher milk prices and lower feed costs which have improve their margins?

Some feed prices are much lower than a year ago. December corn was $4.31 per bushel compared to $6.87 a year ago and hay was $187 per ton compared to $217 a year ago. However, the price of soybean oil meal remains a little higher than a year ago. Lower feed prices and higher milk prices have greatly improved returns over feed costs. History tells us that dairy producers respond to improved margins with feeding cows for higher milk production and some added milk cows. Forage quality could dampen increases in milk per cow in states like Wisconsin and Minnesota and extreme drought in California could affect their milk production. But, we can expect cow numbers to increase as we move through the year and milk per cow to improve. This likely means milk prices averaging lower for the second half of the year than for the first half.

USDA’s milk production report for last December showed milk production for the 23 reporting states virtually unchanged from a year ago as was the estimate for U.S. milk production. For the 23 states milk cows were 0.1% lower than a year ago and milk per cow just 0.1% higher. This was also true for the U.S. estimate. Of the 23 state 8 had fewer milk cows than a year ago with largest percentage declines in Idaho down 2.6%, Illinois down 4.0% and Missouri down 3.2%. Of the 23 states 11 had less milk per cow. Lower forage quality may explain lower milk per cow in the Upper Midwest. Milk per cow was 1.1% lower in Iowa, 2.5% in Minnesota and 1.9% in Wisconsin. Ten of the 23 states had lower total milk production than a year ago with the biggest declines in Illinois, down 7.7%, Missouri 6.1% and Ohio 3.5%. In the West milk production was down 1.1% in Idaho, 1.8% in New Mexico and 0.2% in Texas, but up 1.1% in Arizona and 1.6% in California. In the Upper Midwest milk production was down 0.5% in Iowa, Minnesota down 2.5% and Wisconsin 1.9%. Up until the last couple of months and earlier in the year these three states had strong increases in milk production. In the Northeast milk production was up 1.6% in New York and 0.8% in Michigan, but down 0.7% in Pennsylvania. In the Southeast Florida’s milk production was up 4.1% due to more cows and good milk per cow.

Dairy futures are quite optimistic for most of the year. Class III futures don’t drop below $20 until April, below $19 until June and below $18 until November ending in December at $17.68. These are very favorable milk prices compared to last year when considering the Class III ranged from a low $16.93 in March to a high of $18.95 in December and averaged $17.99 for the year. Dairy producers need to evaluate whether they wish to lock in some of these prices using the futures market or with forward price contracts with their milk buyer. The odds are that as we move through the year with the much improved margins for dairy producers milk cow numbers will increase and milk per cow will improve. So the probability is higher that milk prices could be lower than what Class III futures currently show in the months ahead rather than higher. But, with high slaughter cow prices cow numbers may not increase much and lower forage quality could reduce the increase in milk per cow. The result would be less than expected increase in milk production keeping milk prices strong. And of course weather conditions impacting this year’s crops will also be an important factor.
A SEMINAR SERIES FOR
- Beef Cattle Feeders
- Dairy Steer Feeders
- Ag Professionals
- Educators

Topics will address information for finishing both beef and dairy cattle

5:30 PM Registration
6:00 PM Meal
6:45 PM Program Starts

Bedding Impacts on Cattle Performance and Economics
Presenter: Don Mier, UW-Extension Dairy Educator
This presentation will examine the cost of bedding with performance and quality differences observed when cattle are not kept clean.

Remodeling Retired Dairy Facilities for Raising Steers
Presenter: Dr. David Kammel, UW-Extension BioSystems Engineer
David will show examples of several common remodeling projects and the emphasis will be on ventilation of buildings, and feed storage and mixing areas that are low cost, user friendly and efficient, and feeding systems.

Factors That Impact Profit in Feeder Cattle
Presenter: Darrell Busby, Emeritus Iowa State Beef Specialist and Advisor to Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Program
Darrell’s group has tracked individual animal performance for many thousands of cattle over many years, and will present their documented observations on genetics, health, disposition and factors impacting gain and % choice. He will discuss traits the top 1/3 profitability animals have in common.

9:00 Adjourn

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2014 Cattle Feeder Meeting - Registration
February 25, 2014

Name: ____________________________________________________  Phone: __________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________   E-mail:   __________________________

Registration fee: $15.00 per person (Includes materials, meal and speaker fees)
Make check payable to:  UW-Extension
Registration deadline:  February 19, 2014

Mail to:  UW-Extension Sheboygan County
          Ann Herzog
          5 University Drive
          Sheboygan, WI 53081
Or call:  920-459-5902
**Microloan Program**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche, and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of $35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of $35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of $300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA’s Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact the FSA office (920-849-1449) to set up an appointment with a loan official.

**Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

Will you need additional crop storage capacity in 2014? The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a program to help producers build or upgrade grain, forage, fruit, vegetable, honey, and biomass farm-storage facilities. The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides very low-interest financing to assist producers with the construction or renovation of storage structures.

The maximum amount of a loan through the FSFL program is $500,000 per structure and participants are required to provide a down payment of at least 15 percent. Loan terms of seven years (<$100,000), seven or 10 years (>=$100,000 but <$250,000) or seven, 10 or 12 years if the loan is >$250,000 are available. The interest rate in effect at the time the loan is approved is locked in for the life of the loan.

The program was designed to help ensure that producers have adequate capacity to store their harvested production until they feed or sell the crop. Loans are available for the following items: bins, grain drying and handling facilities as well as silos and oxygen limiting structures; flat storage, bunkers, and other structures for storing silage and hay/haylage; plus fruit, vegetable, honey and biomass storage. Loans are also available for cold storage and for renovating existing storage facilities.

An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. A real estate mortgage, irrevocable letter of credit from your financial institution, or another form of additional security as required by the County Committee is necessary for any loan over $50,000, for any loan where the structure has little or no resale value, or any loan where the FSA County Committee determines additional security is required. Other program requirements include that all FSFL loan recipients carry federal crop insurance or Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops that will be stored in the FSFL structure and any crops that are expected to contribute 10% or more of their income that is derived from crops for the duration of the loan. All loans require a $100 non-refundable loan application fee.

Anyone interested in an FSFL needs to contact the FSA office (920-849-1449) at least two months prior to any planned construction to allow for loan processing. Please feel free to contact the FSA office if you have any questions.

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**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Sign-up Extended to Feb. 7**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extended the sign-up period for new applications to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Farm and forest landowners may apply by Feb. 7 for possible 2014 funding.

CSP encourages farmers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their farms and wooded lands. The program is open to all farmers, regardless of size or type of operation.

Applications can be made at any time at all USDA Service Centers, but only applications received by Feb. 7 will be ranked for funding in 2014.

In 2013, 308 Wisconsin farmers and forestland owners enrolled in CSP, with an average payment of $5,408 per contract. Over $1.6 million in payments will be made to those farm families this year, and over $8.3 million over the course of the five-year contract.

For many farmers, CSP offers reward and recognition for the conservation they are already doing, plus a little extra incentive to try a few more or new practices. NRCS encourages interested farmers to apply now to be considered for funding.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and tribal agricultural lands.

For the 2013 sign up, average payments in Wisconsin were $19 per acre for cropland, $13 per acre for pasture, and $4 per acre for woodland. Payments are made annually for each of the five years of the contract. CSP is open to small and large operations, with farms already enrolled ranging from just a couple of acres to over 4,000 acres of cropland.

Farmers will need to document their current and proposed conservation practices which will be used to rank applications and determine payments. NRCS field staff will also conduct on-site field verifications of applicants’ information.

For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center serving your county.
2014 Annual CAFO Meeting Agenda & Registration
An update meeting for WPDES permitted CAFO owners & managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers.

Session goals: Improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and WDNR; and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.

Registration: 8:30AM
Meeting topics (session times: 9:00AM to 3:30PM)

- NMP Topics (public notice requirements for new land, etc.) - DNR NMP Specialist
- Permit required reporting (annual reports and NMP updates, etc.) – Local DNR Regional Specialist
- Local Topic – UW Extension Agricultural Agent
- Topic or case study by Local Permitted Farm
- Engineering review requirements – DNR Plan Review Engineer
- Professional manure applicator/agronomist/custom harvester – Panel
- Winter spreading/stacking requirements – Local DNR Agricultural Specialist
- New or potential permit applicants, pre-permit meetings and inspections – Local DNR Regional Specialist
- Ask DNR Panel – DNR staff

Cost: $45
Lunch and snacks provided
Payment in check - Payable to: BCT (Brown County Treasurer) or cash only
NO Credit/Debit Cards

To register mail or fax the following information to:
Brown County UW-Extension, Attn: Joan, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI 54302
Phone: 920-391-4610 Fax: 920-391-4617

Name(s) of Attendee(s)___________________________________________________________________________
Firm/Farm Name ______________________________________ Phone___________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
Email ________________________________________________________________________________________

Circle location attending: Green Bay New London Fond du Lac
Number of people_______ x $ 45.00 = $________

Topic you are most interested in (circle one or write in): Digesters/industrial waste acceptance
Spreading setbacks/monitoring Recordkeeping Enforcement Other: ____________________

Office use: Date received__________________; Payment Enclosed: Check_________ Cash_________ None_________ Initials______________
THE CALUMET PIPELINE

We Extend the CALUMET to All Mankind