

Agricultural Newsletter

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



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Is organic production and marketing in your future?

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

Organic Markets (part two in the series on Organic Agriculture)

As commodity prices continue to decline, many farmers are contemplating what are their options to add to the bottom line. One of those options might be tapping into the organic markets. The purpose of this and future articles is to provide some basic information on this steadily growing market and to help you decide whether organic production and marketing is in your future.

Although the organic industry began in a niche market, steady growth has led to its place as a "segment" market since 1997. The U.S. organic industry continues to grow at a rate of 20% annually and is expected to be worth \$6 billion in 2000. This growth trend seems to indicate that there is still a strong growth potential for organic products.

Organic markets can be divided into indirect and direct markets.

Indirect or Wholesale Markets

These include cooperatives, wholesale produce operations, brokers, and local milling operations for organic grain and feed. Many supermarket chains buy direct from farmers or from wholesalers of organic products. These markets demand certification. Often times these buyers are marketing organic products directly to consumers within a regional area, often time with minimal processing.

Direct Markets

Roadside stands, farmers markets, on-farm sales, and Community Supported Agriculture farms (CSAs) constitute the direct marketing end of the organic industry. Depending on the producer and the consumer these products may or may not be organically certified. Marketing at this level requires building strong relationships with the customer and understanding what motivates them to buy direct.

Premium Prices

Unlike conventional agriculture commodities there is no formal statistics available for organic prices. According to the Organic Alliance, organic premiums range from 20% to 400% above conventional prices, depending on season and availability. Most consumers are willing to pay premium prices for organic because of their concern for food safety and the environment. The fact that organic farmers are able to market soybeans for \$12-15/bu. or get \$15-20/cwt for milk can be a huge incentive to becoming certified organic.
(continued on page 2)

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Will Organic Certification Make Me Rich?

While certification may promote greater profits over the long run, it is definitely not a path to easy money or a way to save the farm. If you are going to sell organically you must be willing to approach specialty markets and accept that the organic markets requires a long-term commitment and often a change in farming philosophy. In addition, substantial investment of time and resources may be needed. As with any enterprise, farmers need to examine the cost of production for organic products. For some crops, the cost of off-farm organic inputs combined with the additional labor requirements may well exceed the premiums received.

Organic Certification as a Marketing Tool

Organics certification may open or consolidate certain markets and it may justify a modest premium, but it is important to remember that the organic industry is still young and possesses challenges. The responsibility of marketing the product remains with the producer.

Sometimes marketing products as organic can be more difficult than marketing conventional products due to the small size and evolving nature of the organic market. For producers choosing to enter the organic market, certification is essential, but it is important to understand that certification is only one component of marketing, not a substitute for marketing.

Where can I learn More?

There are several upcoming conferences that you may want to attend:

Feb. 8-9 2001, Minnesota Organic Conference, St. Cloud Civic Center, contact Doug & Janet Gunnink dgunnink@prairie.lakes.com or (507) 237-3162.

Feb 15-17 2001, Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, Campus of UW-LaCrosse, Contact Faye Jones fjeoc@win.bright.net or (715) 772-3153.

Hutches for dairy calves in winter

*Tom Syverud
Extension and Outreach Educator
Ashland, Douglas, & Iron Counties*

Approximately one out of every five (20%) calves born, will not live to maturity. Calf housing contributes to calf mortality, if the housing is not designed or used properly. Research has shown that calves can be raised successfully in a variety of housing systems. Regardless of the type of housing, there are two critical factors for getting calves off to a good start. Colostrum should be fed to the calf as soon after birth as possible. Colostrum is the best source of nutrients and it provides antibodies for disease resistance. Within 30 minutes, feed colostrum at a rate of 5% of body weight. For an 80 pound calf, that's 4 pounds or 2 quarts. The next two feedings should be 10 to 12 pounds of the transition milk. Secondly, the calf must have a clean dry area, free of drafts with room to move about to generate internal heat needed in the winter. Wisconsin research shows similar weight gains for calves raised in a warm environment versus outside hutches. An average gain of 1.1 pounds per day can be obtained. Research has also shown that calf mortality doubles when the calf is left with the dam for 24 hours. Although calves fed mastitis milk do not pass these organisms from the gut to udder, they do pass mastitis organisms when they suck other calves. It is not advisable to feed this waste milk.

If you are going to have problems raising calves in hutches, late fall and early winter is the time. Only about a third of farmers change their feeding practices when the temperature drops. When the temperature drops below 40° F, the calf is using extra energy to just maintain body temperature. To support the average growth needed, you need to increase the milk or milk replacer fed. For each 10° drop, feed 10% more. Calves can't adjust their digestive system quickly, so when feeding milk replacer increase the volume fed rather than feeding a more concentrated product. An easy way to do this is to feed three times a day. Re-

member to provide water in the winter to promote starter consumption. The quicker this happens, the less it costs to raise calves. Outdoor hutches do have some advantages over conventional calf rearing systems due to the initial lower costs, ease of calving, natural ventilation and less chance of disease spread. The disadvantages are labor, increased bedding needs and the periods of undesirable weather for the calf feeder.

New dairy opportunities?

*Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

Even though there are many dairy producers selling the cows and getting out of dairying, I have had a fair number of calls from optimistic people that want to get into dairying. Based on their various circumstances and the current dairy prices, the scenarios for success are limited. It is my idea that there will be several opportunities for someone wanting to start or expand their current operation. They will be able to do this very economically if they can work together with someone who is exiting the dairy business.

Looking at it from a different angle, it will be very difficult for someone to get started with a dairy operation from scratch. The only way they will be successful is if they really have things figured out, are extremely sharp dairy people, have made wise investment strategies and implement a marketing plan. There are so many variables for a successful operation and that is why I think it would be very important for anyone entering the dairy business to look for someone scaling back or exiting dairying.

If anyone is in the category of scaling down or thinking about selling the cows, give me a call and I will refer a few of my callers to you (with your permission) that are interested in getting started in dairying. I also welcome any other questions you may have on getting started in dairying, farm transitions, estate planning, regulations and alternative income opportunities. No matter how bad some situations may look, there are always opportunities for success.

Spooner Agricultural Research Station research results are in and posted on website

Mike Bertram
Asst. Superintendent
Spooner Ag Research Station

The results of research conducted at the Spooner Ag. Research Station are now on the web. The URL is <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/crops/>. Currently, the results of the variety/hybrid trials are listed. Management studies will be posted when the data are available. Also included are links to some useful sites for crop information.

Three corn hybrid evaluations were performed at the research station in different environments: non-irrigated sandy loam, irrigated sandy loam, and non-irrigated silt loam. Yields from 54 hybrids averaged 148 bu/A on the irrigated sandy loam site and ranged from 99 to 194 bu/A. Yields on the non-irrigated sandy loam site ranged from 70 to 142 bu/A with an average of 114 bu/A. Silt loam yields averaged 113 bu/A with a range from 74 to 138 bu/A. Complete results from Spooner and all the sites in Wisconsin are available in UW-Extension publication *A3653- 2000 Wisconsin Corn Hybrid Performance Trial Results* and from a link on our web site.

An alfalfa trial planted in 1997 with 22 varieties was concluded in 2000. The three-cut yield for 2000 averaged 4.06 tons dry matter/A. Three-year total yield averaged 12.99 tons/A. These and other Wisconsin

results are available on the web site and in publication *A1525- Forage variety update for Wisconsin, 2000*.

Soybean yields were down in 2000 compared to 1999. Thirty-two varieties were evaluated on a non-irrigated silt loam site. Yields averaged 22 bu/A. These ranged from 16 to 30 bu/A. This included both conventional and Roundup Ready varieties. Complete results are available online and from publication *A3654- 2000 Wisconsin Soybean Variety Test Results*.

Small grain results are also available from the web site and from publication *A3397- Small grain varieties for grain and forage in Wisconsin- 2001*. The oat trial included 34 released and experimental varieties. Yields ranged from 70 to 114 bu/A with an average of 92 bu/A. Eight barley varieties were tested with an average yield of 50 bu/A and a range from 32 to 63 bu/A.

These results are available in the publications listed above. Typically, the farm newspapers include a special insert sometime in December to publish the information. Selecting a high yielding, well-adapted variety or hybrid can be a good way to boost yields and increase profits. Joe Lauer, corn agronomist at UW- Madison, notes that a direct relationship between seed price and hybrid performance does not exist. "Hybrids should never be purchased without consulting performance data. Within maturities, grain yield potential of 'average' hybrids is consistently 10 to 15 percent lower than for highest-yielding group of hybrids on the market. Make your choice based on proven performance – from multiple locations and/or years. Further select for traits important for your farm situation or given fields."

Work efficiency tip: Long-day lighting in dairy barns

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

I recently asked a dairy farmer if he had considered long-day lighting as a way to improve both the profitability and working conditions in his dairy barn. His reply was, "I work plenty of long days in the barn and the cows see enough of me and the light already." While this may be true, I think he missed the point I was trying to make. In our never ending search to increase profits on the farm, long-day lighting or photoperiod control is another well researched topic that can increase production, improve heifer growth and make a more enjoyable and safer work environment.

Studies have shown that exposing cows to supplemental light during the short days of fall and winter can increase production by about 5-16%. However, cows also eat more, and there is a cost to install and operate the lights. Estimated costs and pay-back periods for lights in a 40 cow tie-stall barn range from \$1,672 paid back in 111 days to \$2,125 paid back in 332 days.

Sixteen to eighteen hours of light and 6-8 hours of dark per day from September to March or April is recommended. Note that consistent night/off and early morning/on timing is necessary to achieve an increase in milk production. The intensity of the light at the cows eye level is also important. Approximately 15-20 foot candles of light on average is recommended.

For more information call your local Extension Office or visit the UW Healthy Farmers, Healthy Profits Project website at <http://bse.wisc.edu/hfhp/>.



What is fair?

Bill Saumer

Area Agricultural Agent

Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

The word “fair” has been said in the news so many times in the past few weeks that it seems to have lost its meaning. It appears that political candidates as well as just about everybody else want things to be fair for everyone. Unfortunately, things are not fair. It was recently reported that Minnesota has a 925 million dollar annual budget surplus due to the booming economy, but don’t talk to livestock producers and people employed in the agriculture sector about a booming economy. It is true that some areas are doing okay, but the cow numbers nationally continue to grow and the milk prices remain in the poverty range for many producers. If most of the population and businesses are doing so well, why is agriculture left out of the loop, especially dairy?

I have along-winded response to this question and if you want to hear or see it, give me a call. A shorter version of my response is that we are in a world-wide market and governmental policies support this. When we are in this type of market, we will have low commodity prices until there is a significant weather or political event somewhere in the world affecting our food supply.

So, what can we do about it? I think it has been and will continue to be difficult to change governmental policies because not even all dairy producers can agree on what should be done. We have states opposing one another as far as what they see as fair policies. We even have farmers within the same state in opposition to one another as to how large farms should be and what regulations and policies should be implemented. What can farmers do, especially in NW Wisconsin and namely what can I do to help dairy producers in this area? I feel that I have to help producers that want to stay in dairy production to be successful, profitable and sustainable. In situations where this is not

possible, then I can help provide alternatives or implement a plan that meets the producers goals and needs.

One specific program we have implemented is our Dairy Price Risk Management Education. If you were not able to attend our first sessions, we will be hosting more of this and similar programs in the future. These workshops help the producer develop their own personalized dairy marketing plan, which enables them to better understand their own operation and what marketing decisions they can implement to increase their profitability. If you have any questions regarding dairy farm sustainability or any other agriculture related topic, please give me a call. I will also be able to determine who is reading this newsletter! Maybe with your added input we will be better prepared to determine what is actually fair after all is said and done.

Free weekend getaways planned

Kevin Schoessow

Area Agricultural Agent

Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

Everybody needs a break from the pressure and stress of work, a chance to step away from job responsibilities – even if it’s for a day or two. Farmers and their families are no exception to this particular need. But it’s often difficult – some would say impossible – for farmers to get away from their operations for even a couple of days.

Thanks to a public-private coalition, Sowing Seeds of Hope, farmers and their families now have an opportunity to get away from the daily grind for a weekend and to gain some valuable coping skills as well.

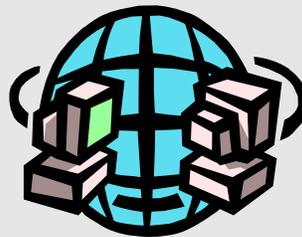
Last spring, 58 couples from around the state took part in the first getaways held at five different locations. Now a second round of farm couple weekend getaways is being planned. Based on a conversation I had with coordinator Roger Williams of the University Wis. Madison, this year they will offering getaways at eight locations across the state. Two are tentatively planned for Eau Claire and Park Falls later this winter.

The cost of the getaway weekend—meals, refreshments, lodging, instruction and educational materials—is covered by a federal grant. In addition, the Wisconsin coalition may be able to help out with financial assistance to cover the cost of child care or farm labor during time away from the farm.

Formed last year, the Sowing Seeds of Hope coalition is comprised of the Wisconsin Farmers Foundation, the UW-Madison, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development, Lutheran Synod, DATCP, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, Marshfield Clinic, and the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health.

If you and your spouse are interested in this reinvigorating weekend call Roger Williams toll free at 1-800-442-4617 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

We’re on the Web!



You may find this newsletter, our gardener’s newsletter, and additional information on our upcoming events by visiting the websites of the **Spoooner Agricultural Research Station:**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/index.htm>

and the **Ashland Agricultural Research Station:**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/aars/>

Is all cheap seed the same?

John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Bayfield & Ashland Counties

Seed company reps are out in force, as you know. How do we make a decision on cheap versus expensive alfalfa varieties? While data demonstrates the yield potential of Vernal alfalfa, it also represents the potential productivity of other old and/or cheap varieties available to growers today. There are really two sources of cheap seed sold in the alfalfa seed industry today.

The first kind of cheap seed is variety not stated (VNS) seed. This seed is produced from older varieties like Vernal or Ranger. The performance of VNS seed is most likely to be poor because of using unimproved genetics. In addition, you do not know what variety or genetics you have purchased.

A second type of inexpensive seed is variety blends. Often in years of surplus alfalfa seed production, several varieties are blended together and sold as an unnamed seed blend. The blended seed varies by dealer and company. However, there is potential for several modern varieties to be included in these blends, making their performance quite good. The problem is that you never know what genetics have been included and at what ra-

tios. There is a chance of getting good quality alfalfa genetics in a blend. Likewise, there is a chance of having poor varieties in a blend.

Purchasing alfalfa seed for forage production is an important management decision. The true "cost" of seed is not reflected in the purchase price alone. Planting an inferior yielding variety means that long-term costs of production are higher per ton of forage produced. In addition, more risk is introduced into your operation by buying "cheap" seed.

Seed purchasing should be based on variety yield performance, disease resistance, winter survival, and stand persistence. Consult the *Perennial Forage Variety Update for Wisconsin* (Undersander, et al, 2000) for alfalfa variety descriptions and yield performance data.

Finally, there are other questions to ask when purchasing seed. Does the company provide agronomic support services to growers? What is the product warranty or germination guarantee? Will the product be delivered in a timely manner? Are there quantity discounts?

Alfalfa variety choices should be based on long-term variety performance information, not on the price of seed.

Source: *Focus on Forage, University of Wisconsin*

Attention all email and Internet users!

Would you like to receive periodic electronic correspondence about UW-Extension's upcoming programs?

Perhaps you would like to receive a link to an electronic copy of this newsletter in addition to or instead of the printed copy you now receive in the mail.

If you would be interested in either of these services, please call 1-800-528-1914 or send an email to lltoman@facstaff.wisc.edu to be added to our electronic mailing list.

This Quarter's Events

January 4, February 1, & March 1, 2001 Sheep Management ETNs. 7:30 p.m. - 8:50 p.m., Local County ETN site.

January 11, 2001 Northwest Wisconsin Dairy Herd Operators Seminar, Eau Claire.

January 25-26, 2001 Northern Wisconsin Safari of Ag Specialists, various locations.

January 26-27, 2001 Bring Profit Back to the Farm - Value Added Conference, Eau Claire.

February 1-2, 2001 Northern Wisconsin Safari of Ag Specialists, various locations.

February 7, 2001 Four-state Dairy Program, St. Cloud, MN.

February 8-9, 2001 Northern Wisconsin Safari of Ag Specialists, various locations.

February 13, 2001 Pasture Improvement ETN, 8:00 p.m. - 9:50 p.m. Local County ETN site.

February 20, 2001 Marketing Strategies for Small Farms & Market Gardeners ETN, 8:00 p.m. - 9:50 p.m. Local County ETN site.

February 27, 2001 Dairy Risk Management ETN, 8:00 p.m. - 9:50 p.m. Local County ETN site.

March 7, 2001 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Spooner Ag Research Station.

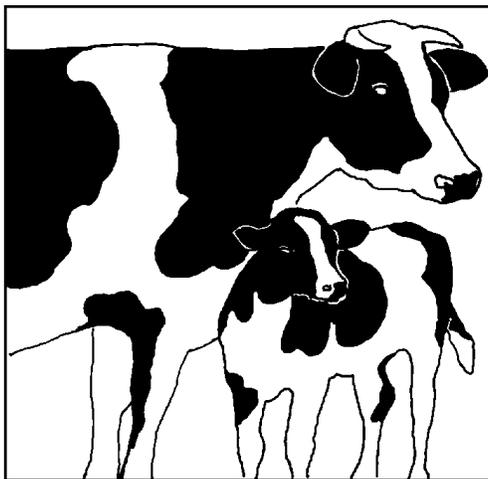
March 8, 2001 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00 a.m. -

Liver flukes in northern Wisconsin are a serious problem

Tom Syverud
Extension & Outreach Educator
Ashland, Douglas, & Iron Counties

Liver flukes are a common problem for domestic ruminants worldwide. *Fasciola hepatica*, the common liver fluke, is epidemic along the Gulf Coast, West Coast and Rocky Mountain region. In our area, it appears the main problem is with *Fasciola gigantica*, the giant liver fluke. In this species a mature fluke can reach 1½ to 2 inches long. Economically important infections occur in both dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats and domestically raised deer and elk. Native white tail deer are important carriers of liver flukes. Deer are the only animal in which flukes can complete their life cycle.

The complicated life cycle begins as eggs are passed from deer in manure. The eggs then develop into miracidia in approximately two to four weeks, depending upon the temperature, and then hatch in water. Then the miracidia infect lymnaeid snails, a very common small native snail of wet areas. In the snail, multiplication and development occurs, finally developing into cercariae. After two months (if temperatures are low) cercariae emerge from the snail, crawl to and then encyst on aquatic or wet vegetation. At this point, the cercariae wait in a resting stage (it remains viable as long as it does not dry out), until it is consumed with the forage by an animal. After ingestion, the young flukes are released in the duodenum, penetrate the intestinal wall, and enter the peritoneal cavity. From there they penetrate and wander in the liver. In cattle, sheep, goats and elk, the fluke grows and wanders in the liver for several weeks, all the while destroying liver tissue. In deer, the fluke will find the bile duct before it does much damage to



the liver. Here the fluke completes its life cycle, producing eggs which pass in manure. In cattle, sheep, goats and elk, the fluke wanders in the liver until it dies. Sometimes, if the adult fluke can find the bile duct in cattle, it can remain there for years (without significant damage) or be shed in manure within 5 - 6 months. Prenatal infections have also been reported in cattle.

The severity of liver fluke infection can range from a devastating disease in sheep to an asymptomatic infection in cattle. It depends upon the numbers of cercariae ingested over a short period of time. Signs of chronic infection may include: anemia, unthriftiness, submandibular edema and reduced milk production. A serious secondary infection occurs when the bacteria *Clostridium novyi* invades the destroyed liver tissue. When this happens, it is called Black disease (infectious necrotic hepatitis), and can be a real killer. Closely related to the bacteria that causes Blackleg, *Clostridium novyi* is also a soil-borne organism, present on the skin, passed in manure of infected animals, multiples rapidly and produces a powerful killing toxin. Sometimes death is sudden with no well-defined signs. Most cases occur in summer and early fall when liver fluke infection is highest. Common findings are dark spots in the liver, yellow fluid in body cavities, blood vessel rupture and blackened tissue that form from the released blood. In

cattle, blood in urine and bleeding from the mouth and anus has been reported by northern Wisconsin farmers this year, just prior to death. It appears that dairy cattle need more intact liver or are stressed more after calving, because that is a common time for them to succumb to this disease.

Control measures are designed to reduce the number of flukes in the host animals and to reduce the exposure of livestock to snail-infested ground. Although not always practical, fencing animals out of wet, swampy land is recommended. Burning of pastures may be helpful. Good rotational grazing practices, without close grazing, may reduce infection rate. It appears that the incidence of these problems are worse in wet years with mild winters. Routine treatment of livestock in spring and autumn is recommended. Clorsulon (Curatrem) is administered to cattle orally, as an 8.5% suspension, at a dosage rate of 7 mg/kg for treatment of immature and adult flukes. The dosage rate of clorsulan (2 mg/kg), administered with ivermectin, as Ivomec Plus is only effective against the adult liver fluke. Clorsulan is not licenced for use in dairy cattle of breeding age and cattle must not be treated within 8 days of slaughter. Albendazole is indicated for the removal of liver flukes from cattle at a dosage rate of 10 mg/kg of body weight. Read the label for contraindications, i.e., dairy cattle, breeding age, slaughter times. Also recommended is to vaccinate twice yearly with a 9-way vaccine to protect against the Clostridial diseases as well. Remember to vaccinate and use a booster shot three to four weeks later, for animals receiving their first vaccinations. This should be done at least three weeks prior to spring turn out. Work with your local veterinarian for more specific recommendations.

This information was found in the Merck Veterinary Manual and personal communications with Rhonda Pinckney, DVM, UW Veterinary School; Larry Baumann, DVM, UW River Falls; and Richard Fish, DVM, WDATCP Division of Animal Health.

Updates from the Ashland Research Station

Mike Mlynarek
Superintendent
Ashland Ag Research Station

This year's research summaries, which provide side by side comparisons of crop varieties and hybrid corn performance, have been published. Reports from statewide evaluation programs for Wisconsin's diverse crops can be obtained through County Agents and they typically appear in December issues of popular Wisconsin farm periodicals.

They are also available at <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu>; www.uwex.edu/ces/forage; www.uwex.edu/ces/soybean. Small grain test results are available at www.uwex.edu/ces/pubs by doing a search for publication A3397.

Use this information to assist you in selecting varieties and hybrids that are high yielding and have other desirable characteristics for your particular situation. Proper variety and hybrid selection is critical for increasing net returns.

The Ashland Station grew 10 acres of canola in 2000 for the second straight year and worked with two other producers, one with 12 acres, the other with 30 acres. I will put together a more complete summary in the next weeks, but here are some observations.

The Station's production field of Hyola 401 yielded 2,630 lbs/a, roughly 1,000 lbs/a more than we experienced last year with CL2078. Cool, dry conditions after planting on 4/24 produced slow, uneven germination and early growth. The crop evened out nicely, however, and the cool growing season, with timely gentle rains, appeared to be nearly ideal. The crop responded with a prolonged flowering period, resulting in plants heavy with pods full of plump seed. Favorable conditions between swathing and combining meant an easy harvest.

The off-Station 12 acre site, also Hyola 401, yielded an estimated 1,550 lbs/a. The site was on a drought prone sandy loam, far enough away from Lake Superior so that it is often considerably warmer than at the Research Station. Planted two days later than the Station, this location experienced much quicker crop growth and maturity, and was ripe nearly two weeks before the Station's field. Drought stress was evident at times, causing wilted plants and likely limiting yield. Also, after swathing, intense thunderstorms with heavy rain and high winds caused considerable seed loss. This was quite evident at combining and by the dense stand of volunteer canola that followed.

The off-Station 30 acre clay loam site, planted to CL2078 on 4/29, yielded 1,300 lb/acre. This location suffered from heavy wild mustard pressure. Given canola's growth habit, it tends to outcompete many weeds. Mustard family weeds can be a big problem in canola since these are closely related species. Roundup Ready types and canola varieties with resistance to other herbicides are available and are an option for fields with a large mustard family weed seed load. Crop rotations, to reduce weed seed load may be the best option. It is interesting to note that the Research Station did also have some wild mustard. Weeds were only a problem where the canola was thin, such as where there was a gap from not overlapping drill passes. A vigorously growing canola stand with a reasonable plant density is very competitive.

In addition to the production fields, research trials evaluated canola varieties and experimental breeding lines at several UW Research Stations including Ashland. That information will be available soon at <http://brassica.agronomy.wisc.edu/>. Top trial yields at Ashland were in excess of 3,000 lb/a.

I remain excited about this crop and will keep you posted. Excellent yields are attainable in our region. Markets are still an issue, but this will only improve. Demand for canola oil, for human consumption and as a biodegradable lubricant, continues to grow steadily. Plans are being developed for a significant crushing facility near Iron River, Michigan. They may be buying seed

by next fall. Other nearby markets are possible.

Thanks to the many people who helped with and participated in this project. Special thanks to: Josh Palmer, UW-Madison CALS summer intern, who was responsible for considerable documentation, data collection and reporting; cooperating farmers and farm businesses; UW-Ashland Ag Research Station staff; those attending our Field Day on 7/18/00; and especially to U.W. Madison CALS Research Division for funding summer internships at the Stations.

Blackleg outbreak

John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Bayfield & Ashland Counties

This fall an outbreak of blackleg occurred on several farms resulting in a loss of nearly 30 animals. We urge anyone pasturing young cattle to work with your veterinarian and follow his/her recommendations for vaccinations. This is a cheap form of insurance.

One veterinary practice recommends:

Standard vaccination recommendations are to give the first vaccination between 2-6 months of age and a booster 2-4 weeks later with annual boosters thereafter.

Mistakes commonly made that result in a lack of protection from blackleg are:

- 1) Vaccinating at birth and thinking that this will last several months until the cattle are rounded up in the fall.
- 2) Vaccinating only once the first year and never boosting.
- 3) Not boosting annually.
- 4) Boosting only young animals.

If you have questions concerning blackleg please consult your veterinarian. We can also have our Extension veterinarian, housed at River Falls, contact you for a consultation.

AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

PRODUCED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION
AND
UW-MADISON COLLEGE OF AG AND LIFE SCIENCES

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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.*



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