

Agricultural Newsletter

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



January-February-March
2014
Volume 20 Issue 1

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Nutrient Management Training for Farmers – Spooner, January 22 & 29

Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer Counties

Washburn County Land and Water Conservation and UW-Extension invite all interested farmers to two Nutrient Management Workshops to be held on consecutive Wednesdays, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, at the Spooner Ag Research Station.

If space is limited, priority will be given to Washburn County farmers. The workshops are free of charge and lunch will be provided. Farmers may attend either or both days. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 20 or Jan. 27.

The topics to be covered will include the following:

January 22

- Introduction to Nutrient Management Planning
- Soil Testing and Conservation Plans
- Nutrient Management Standards
- Dietary Phosphorus and Nitrogen Management

January 29

- Phosphorus, Potassium and pH Management
- Manure Management
- County Cost-Share Opportunities

Free services offered to attendees include on-farm spreader calibration and manure analysis.

For more information, contact Brent Edlin or Lisa Burns at Washburn Land & Water, 715-468-4654, or Kevin Schoessow or Otto Wiegand at UW-Extension, 715-635-3506. To register, contact Lorraine Toman at Spooner Ag Research, 715-635-3735.

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and
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Sciences

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University of Wisconsin, United States
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.

Northwest Graziers Annual Conference

Tesora, Siren, Saturday, March 8

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

The Northwest Wisconsin Graziers Network will hold its Annual Conference in Siren in 2014 at the Tesora Conference Center on Saturday, March 8 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

The agenda is still being planned, but topics will include principles of agroforestry / silvo-pastures, a panel on woodlot grazing from various perspectives, local weed problems, cover crops and soil microbiology or mob-grazing. The keynote speaker will be Dusty Walter of the Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri. Other scheduled speakers include Mark Renz, UW-Extension Weed Specialist, and Kevin Shelley, UW-Extension Nutrient and Pest Management Specialist who will discuss cover crops. Watch newspapers for more details later.

The cost of the conference is \$20. Local grass-fed beef will be on the lunch menu. For more information or to register, contact UW Extension Ag Agents Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow at Spoooner 715-635-3506, or Randy Gilbertson at NW Graziers 715-520-2112.

2014 Crop Budget Cost of Production Calculator for Wis. Available Online

*Ken Barnett
UW-Extension State Specialist*

The costs for growing alfalfa, corn, soybeans, and wheat in Wisconsin are predicted to be lower in 2014 than in 2013. Fertilizer prices have dropped substantially, pesticide prices are expected to be slightly higher and seed prices are expected to be stable to lower, according to Ken Barnett, University of Wisconsin-Extension educator. "When deciding how much of an input to apply, producers can maximize their investment in that input by considering its marginal rate of return," said Barnett.

The 2014 Crop Budget Cost of Production Calculator for Wisconsin can help producers in making their cropping decisions in the upcoming year. It allows producers to construct enterprise budgets for corn after corn, corn after soybeans, corn silage after alfalfa, corn silage after corn, soybeans, winter wheat, seeding alfalfa and established alfalfa for hay and haylage.

This Cost of Production Calculator can be downloaded from the Farm Team web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/farmteam/>. Look in the Enterprise Budgets heading and then go to the Field Crop section. For more information about this cost of production calculator, contact Ken Barnett at 715-355-4561 or ken.barnett@ces.uwex.edu.

Farming for Profit Series - Fruit Production

Kevin Schoessow

Area Agricultural Development Agent

Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer Counties

The 4th annual Farming for Profit Series this year is entitled “The Business Potential of Small Acreage Fruit.” Six sessions will be held on consecutive Monday nights from 6:30-9:00 pm, January 27th to March 3rd. Previous year’s subjects included hay, beef and vegetables. Presentations will be a combination of live instruction and webinars. Locations this year will include: Spooner Ag Research Station, Douglas County Courthouse in Superior, Rusk County Government Center in Ladysmith, Polk County Government Center in Balsam Lake, and WITC in Ashland.

Session topics include:

January 27 - Introduction to producing fruit for sale, understanding risks involved

February 3 - Apples, tart cherries, plums

February 10 - Blueberries, currants, aronia

February 17 - Strawberries, raspberries

February 24 - Grapes

March 3 - Markets, labor, enterprise budgets

The registration fee for the entire series is \$40 or for individual sessions is \$10 each. Fees include handouts and other materials. To register or get more information, please contact UW-Extension Ag Agents Kevin Schoessow or Otto Wiegand, Spooner Station 715-635-3506/800-528-1914, Jane Anklam, Douglas Co 715-395-1363, Jason Fischbach, Ashland & Bayfield Counties 715-373-6104 x5, Jennifer Blazek, Polk Co 715-485-8600, or Rich Toebe, Rusk Co 715-531-1910.



New Sheep Researcher for the Spooner Ag Research Station

The Spooner Agricultural Research Station would like to introduce its new sheep researcher and assistant superintendent.

Rusty Burgett comes to Spooner originally from Ohio. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State University majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Agricultural Economics. After managing the meat science laboratory and processing plant at Ohio State, he earned his Masters degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison where he studied ruminant nutrition. He investigated the effects of feeding dried distillers grains to ewes during gestation on subsequent lamb progeny growth and reproductive performance. Rusty completed his Master’s program in July, 2012 and worked as the shepherd for Iowa State University, managing approximately 200 Hampshire and commercial ewes. He was also the farm operations manager for the livestock teaching farms at ISU.

Rusty is very excited to be back with the University of Wisconsin. He plans to conduct several research trials with the sheep at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station to maximize production, efficiency and sustainability within the dairy and meat sheep industries. “I have been very fortunate to be able to work with a lot of great sheep researchers throughout the U.S. and I hope to apply that knowledge I’ve gained through those opportunities to the research and extension program here”. Rusty can be reached by email at rburgett@wisc.edu or by phone at 715-635-3735.

Plot Results at the UW-Spooner Ag Research Station

Phil Holman
Superintendent
Spooner Agricultural Research Station

Variety Trial averages for the Spooner Ag Research Station for 2013 are listed below. Internet links are listed to help select varieties to plant for 2014.

Corn planting was delayed by a week or two due to a May snow storm and slow warm up. June was very wet with 9.45" of rain. May, June and July were unseasonably cool and growing degree units were a couple weeks behind normal. Then the rains quit and July, August and September were below normal for precipitation which greatly impacted all non-irrigated yields. The killing frost was 4 weeks later than normal which greatly helped kernel fill that was behind from late planting and low growing degree units.

The **Soybean** planting was a week behind as well and had cold and wet early season weather. The soybean yield on dryland fields was below 20 bushels/acre but the irrigated soybeans yielded well. The irrigated soybean variety trial averaged 47 bushels per acre.

Alfalfa yields were down, then up and then down in 2013. First cut harvest was impacted by the late spring (and May snow). A couple fields had areas of complete winter kill as well. Second cut harvest was great. The abundant rainfall after first cutting was wonderful for yields. Alfalfa yields in later crops are impacted greatly by the rainfall amount the week or two after the previous harvest. Thus, third harvest yields were poor due to the drought.

Oats and barley yields were great. The cool and wet weather in June was good for small grain production.

2013 Trial Averages were as follows:

Corn Grain	
Irrigated Sandy Loam soil	204 bu/A
Dryland Sandy Loam soil	56 bu/A
Dryland Silt Loam soil	87 bu/A
Corn Silage	
Irrigated Sandy Loam soil	9.8 Ton D.M./A
Dryland Silt Loam soil	5.4 Ton D.M./A
Soybean	
Irrigated Sandy Loam soil	47 bu/A
Dryland Sandy Loam soil	18 bu/A
Oats	93 bu/A
Barley	54 bu/A

Complete Variety Trial Results can be found at: Corn Grain and Silage: corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/; Soybean: soybean.uwex.edu/; Alfalfa: www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/alfalfa.htm; Oats & Barley: soybean.uwex.edu/

Forage Quality: Know Your Numbers

Jane Anklam
Horticulture & Agriculture Agent
Douglas County

In Douglas Co., several farmers are taking advantage of discounted forage sampling tests offered by the UW-Forage and Soil Testing Lab. The goal is to establish a baseline of their Relative Feed Quality (RFQ). This number helps establish a performance comparison between hay lots according to animal needs. For example, for those who feed dairy, they want to have a RFQ of 150. For beef, a RFQ of 125-135 is ideal. These numbers vary with stages of the livestock development. Dry cows and young heifers can do well with a RFQ of 115 vs. stocker cattle that require a RFQ closer to 140.

The RFQ is also important for producers who want to compare various fields under differing conditions and management. For producers selling forage, the RFQ is what buyers look for as an indication of value. Knowing how the RFQ results compare to soil test is the first step. A test will verify the soil pH, N, P, and K levels, all which are important for quality forage. Dollar for dollar soil testing is the most cost effective tool compared to other management factors such as ratio of grass to legume, stage it was cut, or how it was dried and stored.

Soil samples can be taken in fall or spring. Setting up a soil sampling rotation so that you do not have to sample the entire farm at the same time is a good idea. Once you know your amendment needs, we can come up with a cost effective strategy to raise the soil nutrition. Get to know your numbers, both RFQ and soil test.

Beginning Farmer Course Still Has Openings

Ag Research Station, Spooner – Jan. 9 - Mar. 6
8 Sessions - Thursdays, 11:00-1:15

Otto Wiegand
 Area Agricultural Agent
 Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer 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. 7 and is offered by the University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course. Class sessions are held on Thursdays from 11:00-1:15. Additional discussion and questions following each session are encouraged. Delivery will be done through interactive Power Point 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 500 students have enrolled and a third of them have gone on to start their own farms.

This is the remaining schedule, focusing on business planning and management:

Jan. 9 – farm-driven market strategies, local, organic and grass-fed
 Jan. 16 – USDA/FSA beginning farmer loans, farm start-up financial record-keeping
 Jan. 23 – risk management, farm business startups, lessons learned
 Feb. 6 – low-cost dairy parlor design, zero grain and once a day milking
 Feb. 13 – grazing management, natural resource management
 Feb. 20 – emerging markets, on-farm energy
 Feb. 27 – principals of organic dairying, herd health
 Mar. 6 – bringing it all together, farmer perspectives on start-up dairy / livestock businesses

To register or obtain information, contact Otto Wiegand at UWEX Spooner, 715-635-3506, or Dick Cates at 608-265-6437, or Steve Neary, 262-617-0941 at Beg. Farmer. The course is a collaborative effort between the UW-Center for Integrated Agricultural Studies, UW Cooperative Extension, the Lac Courtes Oreilles Community College, CALS, DATCP, the Technical Colleges and GrassWorks.

NRCS Announces Sign-Up Period for Conservation Stewardship Program

Tom Fredrickson
 NRCS Spooner

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that they will be accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) until January 17, 2014.

CSP is offered in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off dates for ranking periods. The program provides many conservation benefits, including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancement, and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

All producers are encouraged to apply for CSP. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, is a voluntary program that offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland and non-industrial forestland.

For more information in Burnett and Washburn Counties, contact the Spooner NRCS office at (715)-635-8228 x3.

CAFO Conference – WITC, Rice Lake, February 13

Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer Counties

UW-Extension and Wisconsin DNR invite WPDES-permitted CAFO owners & managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers for an update meeting at the WITC Conference Center, 1900 College Ave. in Rice Lake on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The session goals are to improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and DNR, and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.

The tentative agenda includes:

- Nutrient management planning topics (public notice requirements for new land, etc.) - DNR Nutrient Management Planning 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 – improving communications panel discussion
- 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

The Registration fee is \$30 in advance, \$45 after February 6th or for walk-ins. Lunch and snacks are provided. If payment by check, payable to UW Extension. Credit/debit Cards are now accepted (processing fee applies). For more information or to register, contact Tim or Kim at UW-Extension, Barron Co, 715-537-6250.

Northern Safari Series – Spooner

Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer Counties

This winter marks the 29th 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 held in four locations over two days, Ladysmith, Maple, Spooner and Balsam Lake in that order. They are free of charge and open to the public. Seminars in Spooner start at 10 AM and run 1 1/2 hours. Note that the first one is on a Thursday and the other two are on Friday. Another seminar may be scheduled later. Watch your local newspapers for details.

Spooner Seminars – 10 AM:

- Jan 23, Thurs – Adapting your farming to climate change – Dick Wolkowski, Emeritus UW-Extension Soil Scientist
- Feb 21, Fri – Farm lease and contracts – Phil Harris, UW-Extension Ag Economist
- Mar 21, Fri – Native pollinators - Christelle Guedot, UW-Extension Entomologist

For more information about the Safari, contact your local UW-Extension office in following counties: Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn - Kevin Schoessow or Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914, Douglas – Jane Anklam 715-395-1363, Rusk – Rich Toebe 715-532-2151, or Polk – Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600.

This Quarter's Events

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

Dec 19, Thurs, 12 - 4 PM - Farm Transitions and Succession Workshop, Maple – Maple Town Hall, contact Jane Anklam 715-395-1515

Jan 9, Thurs – Ag Lenders Conference, Menomonie – contact Katie Wantoch 715-232-1636

Jan 9, 16, 23, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar 6, Thursdays, 11 AM to 1 PM – Beginning Farmer Course Parts II & III, Spooner - contact Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 (See article)

Jan 14-16, Tues-Thur – Wis. Crop Management Conference & Agri-Industry Showcase, Alliant Energy Center, Madison. Contact WABA 608-223-1111 or register online <http://wiagribusiness.org/tradeshows.php>

Jan 16-18, Thurs-Sat – GrassWorks Grazing Conference, Rothschild/Wausau – Patriot Center, contact Lanice Szomi 715-965-8324

Jan 19-21, Sun-Tues – Wis. Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conference, Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Contact Anna Maenner, 920-478-4277 or register online <http://www.waga.org/>

Jan 21-22, Tues-Weds, 10-3:30 – Rice Lake Farm Show – Red Cedar Mall

Jan 22, 29, Wednesdays – Nutrient Management Training, Spooner – contact Brent Edlin or Lisa Burns, Washburn Land & Water, 715-468-4654 (See article)

Jan 23, Feb, 21, Mar 21 – Northern Safari - Spooner – also Balsam Lake, Maple and Ladysmith, contact Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506 (See article)

Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, Mondays, 6:30-9:00 PM – Fruit Crops Series, Spooner, Balsam Lake, Ladysmith, Superior & Ashland – contact Kevin Schoessow or Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 (See article)

Feb 1, Sat – Indianhead Shepherds Clinic, WITC, Rice Lake – contact Tim Jergenson 715-537-6250, or register on-line at Indianhead Sheep Breeders Assoc.

Feb 4, Tues, 6:30-8:30 PM – Insect Pests in Vegetable Crops, Balsam Lake – Government Center, contact Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600

Feb 8, Sat, 9:30-3:30 - Heart of the Farm Women's Conference, Cumberland – Das Lach Haus, contact Tim Jergenson 715-537-6250, Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600, Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506 (See article)

Feb 13, Thurs – Regional CAFO Meeting, Rice Lake – WITC, contact Tim Jergenson, 715-537-6250 (See article)

Feb 27-Mar 1, Thurs-Sat – MOSES Organic Conference, LaCrosse – early registration discount by Jan 17, contact MOSES at 715-778-5775, or www.mosesorganic.org

Mar 7, Fri – Animal Husbandry Conference, Eau Claire – contact Ryan Sterry 715-531-1930

Mar 8, Sat, 9:30-3:30 – NW Graziers Annual Conference, Siren - Tesora Conference Center, contact Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506 (See article)

Mar 18, Tues, 6:30-8:30 PM - Plant Diseases in Vegetable Crops, Balsam Lake – Government Center, contact Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600

Mar 19, Weds, 9:00-3:00 – Pesticide Applicator Training, Spooner – contact Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506 – other sites are Balsam Lake Jan 22, or Barron Mar 20

Mar 26, Weds – Irrigation Workshop, Spooner Ag Station – contact Otto Wiegand or Kevin Schoessow 715-635-3506

Apr 8, Tues – St Croix Watershed Conference, UW-River Falls - contact John Haack 715-635-7406

Heart of The Farm Conference for Women **Will Highlight Farm Insurance, Taxes, Safety**

Otto Wiegand
Area Agricultural 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 Das Lach Haus in Cumberland, WI in on Sat, Feb 8, from 9:00-3:30.

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. Since 2002, a total of 35 one-day conferences held across the state reached over 1,000 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 conference is likely to include sessions on crop insurance, farm insurance, taxes, farm safety and a farmer panel on farmer husband-wife communication. Chair-massage and Reike therapists will be on hand for much of the day. Come and share your questions and experiences on these topics and meet new people.

Registration for the workshop will be about \$15 or \$20 per person. To register, obtain a brochure, or for more information, contact UW-Extension Agents Tim Jergenson 715-537-6250, Jennifer Blazek 715-485-8600, Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506, or Jenny Vanderlin, 608-263-7795, jmvander@wisc.edu, website at: www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm.



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There is still time to attend the remaining classes in the Beginning Farmer Series

Fruit growers will be interested in this year's Farming For Profit Series

Plot results for the Spooner Ag Research Station are in



www.facebook.com/spoonerag

Kevin Schoessow
UWEX Area Agricultural Agent