

Agricultural Newsletter

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



April-May-June
2016

Volume 22 Issue 2

Table of Contents

- 1 Regional Cow-Calf Meeting on Predator Management
- 2 Multi-Species Pasture Walk to be held in Spooner
- 2 Honey Bee Pollinator Effort
- 4 Hay Market Demand and Price Report for Upper Midwest
- 5 Skid Steer Safety and Manure Storage Systems
- 6 Upcoming Trials at the Spooner Ag Research Station
- 7 Washburn County LCD Tree, Shrub and Wildflower Sale
- 7 This Quarter's Events
- 8 Spooner Dairy Sheep Program Ending

Removable Inserts:

Farm Service Agency Update

Five Free Apps for Wisconsin Crop Production

Regional Cow-Calf Meeting Focuses on Predator Management and Issues

Minong, Washburn County, Sat, May 21, 9:00-3:00

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

Be sure to attend this year's regional cow-calf meeting focusing on predator management issues to be held on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00-3:30, at the Minong Center in Minong, WI, located in northern Washburn County. The Center is just east of Hwy 53 on Hwy 77 on the left side of the street. The event will conclude with predator abatement techniques and pasture walk at the Larry and Deb Radzak beef farm at Chittamo about 7 miles from Minong, going east on Hwy 77 and then north on Cty G. Signs will be posted at the locations or turnoffs. The event is sponsored by UW-Extension, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Wis DNR and the NW Wis Graziers Network.

The agenda is as follows:

- 9:00 - Update on the Beef Industry – Dr. Brenda Boetel, Extension Economist, UW-River Falls
- 10:00 - Composting Animal Carcasses – Adam Hardy, UW-Extension
- 11:00 - Black Bear and Wolf Management in Wis - David MacFarland, Wis DNR
- 11:30 - Black Bear and Wolf Damage Management Programs in Wis - Brad Koele, Wis DNR
- Noon - Lunch Catered by The LongBranch
- 1:00 - Integrated Predator Damage Management in Wis - Dave Ruid, USDA-WS
- 2:00 - The Use of Livestock Guard Dogs for Cattle - Mike Marlow, USDA-WS
- 2:30 - Field Demonstration on Predator Abatement Techniques – Radzak Farm

You should register in advance by Wednesday, May 18. The cost of the program is \$12 for the meal. For registration or information, contact Otto Wiegand at UWEX-Spooner, 800-528-1914 or 715-635-3506, or David Ruid, USDA-APHIS, 715-369-5221, ext 13.

Agricultural NEWSLETTER

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

Representing Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties:

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

Richard Otto Wiegand
Area Ag Agent
715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914

Phil Holman
Spooner Ag Research Station
Superintendent
715-635-3735

Representing Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties:

Jason Fischbach
Matt Cogger
Area Agricultural Agents
715-373-6104

Jane Anklam
Horticulture & Agricultural Agent
715-395-1515

University of Wisconsin, United States
Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin
Counties Cooperating. UW-Extension
provides equal opportunity in employment
and programming. Including Title IX and ADA
requirements.

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.

Multi-Species Pasture Walk

Spooner, WI – Sat June 25

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

Welcome to a 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-Zanardo and her husband Matt. Sherry and Matt own Northland Financial Planning Services, LLC, and Northland Retirement Group, LLC in Trego. Sherry spent a lot of 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. Contact UW-Extension Ag Agent, Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506, for more information.

Honey Bee Pollinator Effort

USDA / NRCS

Honey bees and beekeeping. The honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) is widely used in North America for its pollinating services. Although humans have had a long association with honey bees, humans have not “domesticated” the honey bee like typical livestock. Beekeeping requires skill and knowledge of bee and colony biology. Some important points to understand are:

- 1) basic bee nest ecology
- 2) the bee caste system
- 3) bee anatomy
- 4) the development of the bee brood
- 5) worker bee sequence of duties
- 6) brood rearing and population seasonality
- 7) colony communication
- 8) queen and colony reproduction/replacement
- 9) how to read and understand bee behavior and biology.

Honey bees in Wisconsin. Honey bees live in colonies also known as hives. Most honey bees in the state are year around residents utilized for honey production. Some hives are moved both in state and throughout the country for pollinator services. Honey bees can be found in all Wisconsin counties.

Where am I most likely to see honey bees? The honey bee is closely associated with “bee pastures.” A bee pasture is any grassy cover that contains suitable flowering plants for honey bee forage (nectar or pollen). Beekeepers typically place bee hives (stacks of boxes the honey bee uses for a home) in grassy areas within 3 miles of high quality “bee pasture” or conservation areas such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

What are the threats?

- loss of foraging habitat (bee pastures) to cultivated crops.
- loss of foraging plants within bee pastures due to poor management (grasses take over and wildflowers cannot compete)
- honey bee mortality due to a lack of integrated pest management.

What are the opportunities? Honey bee habitat can be created or improved by:

- 1) establishing preferred wild foraging plants,
- 2) establishing preferred cultivated foraging plants
- 3) developing and implementing integrated pest management
- 4) implementing managed intensive grazing systems that maximize high quality honey bee forage, such as white clover.

Specific actions landowners can take: Maintain and improve healthy grazing lands. Grass-based grazing sustains honey bee forage plants. Practices such as interseeding white clover into grazing lands provides high quality forage for both bees and livestock. The NRCS can help develop a grazing system that increases plant health and forage production

Wild Forage Establishment / Enhancement.

Establishing wild bee forage or enhancing grassy cover in non-cropland areas. Converting cropland to preferred forbs (wildflowers) provides honey bee forage if it is within three miles of the hive. Inter-seeding preferred forbs and legumes into existing grassy cover provides honey bee forage if it is within three miles of a hive. NRCS can help develop a prairie restoration plan that includes livestock forage and bird habitat, and high quality bee forage.

Cover Cropping. Flowering cover crops may provide honey bee forage within three miles of a hive. If possible, allow the cover crop to persist during the entire year and flower during the full bloom period.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Since pesticides may drift onto adjacent habitat, all agricultural producers play an important role in honey bee protection and conservation, not just growers of fruits, berries, seeds, and nuts. Managed honey bees cannot always be moved out of agricultural areas to protect them from pesticide applications. IPM uses least hazardous pest management options, and only when there is a demonstrated need. Special precautions can reduce hazards to bees, people and the environment. Good pest management:

- 1) reduces conditions that favor pests
- 2) establishes an economic threshold of damage that can be tolerated before using pesticide
- 3) monitors pest populations
- 4) controls pests with the most specific pest option when the damage threshold is reached.

The NRCS, in collaboration with IPM specialists, can help you identify potential pesticide hazards to honey bees, incorporate honey bee protection into IPM plans, and help you prevent or mitigate identified hazards to honey bees.

Financial Assistance. NRCS may provide financial assistance to landowners for practices that improve honey bee forage including:

The Core Practices

- Conservation Cover
- Cover Crops
- Field Border
- Forage Harvest Management
- Forage and Biomass Plantings
- Prescribed Grazing
- Shrub Establishment

The Supporting Practices in Wisconsin

- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
- Fencing
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Shrub Site Preparation
- Livestock Pipeline
- Pumping Plant
- Integrated Pest Management
- Watering Facility
- Water Well
- Forest Stand Improvement

Note: These practices are used only in support of core practices used. To learn more contact your local NRCS office, or on the web at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest

March 7, 2016

*Richard Halopka
Crops & Soils Agent
Clark County*

All hay prices quoted are dollars per ton FOB point of origin for alfalfa hay unless otherwise noted. The information presented in this report is compiled from public and private sales and reports in the Midwest. The past several months of hay reports are archived. To view previous hay reports, go to UW-Extension Team Forage at <https://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/files/2016> and click on the past hay reports section. Hay auction data will be collected on the first and third week of the month and posted on the following Monday when possible. Demand and sales activity overall hay price was steady to \$5.00 per ton stronger than the previous report. Currently supply exceeds demand and lower quality hay is the majority of the supply. Small square bale alfalfa continues to demand a premium price regardless of quality.

Upper Midwest Hay Price Summary by Quality Grade Hay Grade Bale type, Price (\$/ton), Average - Minimum to Maximum

Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)

Small Square \$242.00 - \$200.00 to \$300.00
Large Square \$188.00 - \$130.00 to \$275.00
Large Round \$149.00 - \$95.00 to \$200.00

Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)

Small Square \$170.00 - \$112.00 to \$240.00
Large Square \$126.00 - \$80.00 to \$205.00
Large Round \$86.00 - \$50.00 to \$120.00

Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)

Small Square \$95.00 - \$85.00 to \$120.00
Large Square \$95.00 - \$45.00 to \$150.00
Large Round \$67.00 - \$40.00 to \$120.00

Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)

Small Square No reported sales
Large Square \$81.00 - \$50.00 to \$115.00
Large Round \$53.00 - \$15.00 to \$80.00

In Nebraska, the bulk of the hay sold steady with light to moderate demand. The talk this week is baling corn stalks with improved weather. There is good demand for grinding hay. For Iowa, weaker prices this week reflected the quality of hay at the auction, mostly lower quality. Bedding prices were weaker with warmer temperatures expected the next week. In South Dakota, hay traded on a mostly steady market with light interest and demand. Markets discounted low quality hay. Warm temperatures have created some difficulty in moving hay and bedding as some road weight limits are in place. Best demand is for grinding hay and average quality alfalfa or alfalfa/grass hay. Very little inquiry for high testing hay as milk prices are around \$14.00. For Missouri, warmer weather has cattlemen looking for green grass rather than feeding stored feed. Interest in buying hay is slow with few sales actually occurring. Farmers in the hay business have discontinued the hay ad, because of so little demand. Hay supply is moderate, demand is light, and prices are steady. In Southwest Minnesota, only lower quality hay offered at auction this week. Prices were steady for the quality offered. Straw market was strong. For Illinois, hay demand was moderate to good with steady prices. Large square bales were down this week. Many producers are not concerned as they have inventory to get them into spring and hope for a better hay season this year. Straw is in demand in the north and central regions.

In Wisconsin, hay supply exceeds demand at most auctions. Excessive lower quality hay is available and prices may be discounted. As in other markets, small lots of small square bales have a good demand and better price compared to large packaged hay. Straw prices are steady with price reflecting the quality of the straw. Small square bale price dropped about \$0.50 per bale and averaged \$2.45 a bale (range of \$1.00 to \$6.00). Large square bale price saw an increase of \$15.00 a bale this week, with an average price of \$46.00 per bale (range of \$18.00 to \$51.00); and large round bales were \$4.00 lower compared to the last report with an average price \$28.00 per bale (range of \$20.00 - \$55.00 per bale).

The next Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on March 21, 2016. Due to the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin, the following links are included in this report allowing producers to obtain some state and nearby state prices (these may or may not be quality tested auctions).

- The Equity Cooperative market report is at http://livestock.equitycoop.com/market_reports/. Go to the Lomira and Reedsville locations for their reports on hay and straw prices.

- The Fennimore Livestock Exchange is at <http://www.fennimorelivestock.com/index.php?site=home>. The Reynolds Feed & Supply, LLC of Dodgeville is at <http://www.reynoldslivestock.com/what1snew/>. The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at <http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html>.
- The Zumbrota Hay & Bedding Auction of Zumbrota, MN is at <http://cla.crinet.com/page5295/ZumbrotaHayAndBeddingAuction>.
- The Dyersville Sales Company of Dyersville, Iowa is at <http://dyersvillesales.com/hay-auction/hayauction-results/>.
- The Fort Atkinson auction is at <http://www.fortatkinsonhay.com/>.
- The UW-Extension Farmer to Farmer website is an electronic neighborhood bulletin board that allows local farmers to get in touch with one another to facilitate the marketing of feed commodities. It has recently been expanded to connect those with productive pastures to those producers who are in need of pastures. It can be found at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/>. If you would like assistance posting to this web site, contact your county's UW-Extension agriculture agent.

Skid Steer Safety and Manure Storage Systems

*Trisha Wagner
Agriculture Agent
Jackson County*

*Cheryl Skjolaas
Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist*

Manure storage systems can present dangers for skid steer operators. Caution should always be used when operating near any type of manure storage or handling system. These systems pose drowning hazards and employees should be aware of the dangers present when working with skid steers near these facilities. Winter with snow and icy surfaces add to dangers of operating a skid steer around these systems. Always be aware of the surfaces upon which you are operating.

Manure in storage may appear solid, particularly in winter, when it looks frozen solid. This may be especially difficult to notice during times of limited day light. However, the frozen surface will not support the weight of a skid steer and could even give way to the weight of a human. It is not safe to cross frozen manure for man or machine. Never drive on any surface that you are uncertain of. Know your work environment and never trust a manure surface to be solid or frozen. If you are using the skid steer to push manure into a storage system, use caution to approach the push-off area and bump rail slowly. Never push beyond the bump rail. Push-off ramp surfaces can be steep and slippery, causing dangers for machinery operation. Manure can accumulate and plug up the push-in ramp, making the surface unstable. Be sure to clean the area after use so manure does not accumulate and freeze. Without good traction, a skid steer operator may have a hard time controlling the machine on ice and risk slipping into the manure storage facility.



To address the safety concerns when operating a skid steer around a manure storage system:

- √ Be aware of your working conditions and how to safely operate the skid steer for those conditions.
- √ Operate slowly when surfaces are frozen, ice and snow covered.
- √ Read the operator's manual to learn of the capabilities and limitations of your skid steer and ask a supervisor if you are unsure about any operating procedures.

Upcoming Trials at the Spooner Ag Research Station

*Phil Holman
Superintendent
Spooner Agricultural Research Station*

Fall Cover Crop Trial – In September of 2015, tillage radish, crimson clover, a mix of both, and a control were established after winter rye harvest. This spring, a corn will be planted into the cover crops and a nitrogen side-dress rate trial will be conducted to see how cover crops impact the nitrogen rate needs of corn.



Organic Soybeans Demonstration – Weed control in organic production is extremely difficult. For a few years, there have been organic soybeans grown at the Arlington Ag Research Station. To control weeds, winter rye is planted the previous fall. In the spring, soybeans are planted into the standing rye and once the rye is heading (and soybeans emerging), the rye is rolled with a crimping roller (<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2015/07/advances-using-the-roller-crimper-for-organic-no-till-in-wisconsin/>). We do not have this style of roller but will manage the rye differently to leave the plant residue on the surface to try to limit weed growth and competition. This will not have any replication, but will be a good demonstration plot.

White Mold Soybean Variety Evaluation – UW-Plant Pathology is working on variety lines with resistance to white mold. This trial will test out the early season varieties in a field that had white mold in soybeans in 2014. This is an irrigated field and extra moisture will be applied to help ensure moisture is present to create conditions favorable for white mold.

Soybean Date of Planting Trial – This will be the third year of a soybean planting date trial. Target planting dates are early May, May 20, May 30, June 10 and June 20. Three maturity groups are planted for each date and two varieties of each maturity group. The early plantings have 1.5, 1.0 and 0.5 groups. The 3rd and 4th planting have 1.0, 0.5, and 0.0 groups. The latest planting has 0.5, 0.0, and 0.05 group soybeans. This is part of a large multi-location study looking at soybean maturity during the season. Twice a week, soybean growth stages are measured for each plot to see how maturities progress in response to planting dates and weather conditions.

Variety Trials – Each year we conduct variety trials on the following crops: corn grain (irrigated, silt loam and dryland sandy loam locations), corn silage (irrigated and silt loam locations), soybeans (irrigated and silt loam locations), and small grains (oats & barley at the silt loam location). Other variety trials are switchgrass for biofuel evaluation and a forage evaluation of new meadow fescue varieties.

Organic Grass Species and Variety Trial – In 2014, an organic grass species and variety trial was established. The plot was fertilized with a fall manure application and two applications of fish oil in 2015. Forage yields were measured in 2015 for orchardgrass (5 varieties), tall fescue (5), meadow fescue (2), festolium (2), and timothy (2). Yields were as follows:

Orchardgrass	3.77 tons of dry matter/acre
Tall Fescue	3.52
Meadow Fescue	3.23
Festolium	2.76
Timothy	2.50

These yields are the average of the varieties and individual varieties showed some differences. Contact me at the Ag Research Station--(715) 635-3735--for variety data. Yields will be taken again in 2016.

Washburn County Land Conservation Tree, Shrub & Wildflower Sale

Lisa Burns
Conservation Coordinator
Washburn Co. Land Conservation Dept.

The Washburn County Land & Water Conservation Department is selling trees, shrubs and wildflowers. All sales are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some species have already run out. Pick-up dates for tree and shrub orders are April 29 and 30th, 2016 at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Wildflower flats can be picked up on June 3, 2016 also at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Order forms may be picked up at the Land & Water Conservation office in the Shell Lake Courthouse, calling 715-468-4654 to get one mailed or on their website: <http://www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/land-water-conservation>.

Pine Trees are sold in bundles of 25 for \$20.00. Species include: *Norway (Red) Pine, White Pine, Norway Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce.*

Shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 for \$18.00. Species include: Paper Birch, Black Chokeberry, Red Crabapple, Redosier Dogwood and Serviceberry (Juneberry).

Native Wildflowers and Grasses are sold in flats of 48 plants for \$44.00. They are suitable for a shoreline habitat restoration, prairie restoration or simple gardening. Collections include: Butterfly (Dry) Garden, Wetland, Prairie, and Woodland (32-40 plants).

This Quarter's Events

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

Mar 30, Weds, 1-3 PM – Custom Manure Haulers Training, Barron – Gov't Center, contact Tim Jergenson, 715-537-6250.

April 14, Thurs, 3-5 PM – Apple Pruning Workshop, Spooner - Jeff & Sue Burch Farm.

April 14, Thurs, 6:30-8:30 PM - Apple Grafting Workshop, Spooner Ag Research Station - \$20, space is limited, prior registration required.

April 16, Sat, 10-Noon - Apple Pruning Workshop, free; Noon-2:00 PM, Apple Grafting Workshop, Seeley, \$20, Mary's Sunday Morning Orchard, Heather & Steve Harrington hosting.

April 23, Sat, 1-3:30 PM, Grape Pruning Workshop, Spooner Station – free.

May 14, Sat, 10-4 – Prairie Fling Festival, Hunt Hill, Sarona – contact Nikki Nelson, program@hunthill.org, 715-635-6543, or Anna DeMers, 262-352-3299.

May 21, Sat, 9-3:30 – Cow-Calf Meeting, Minong – (see article)

June 4, Sat, 6-11 – Barron Co Dairy Breakfast, Rice Lake – Hungry Hollow Steam and Gas Engine Club, on Cty 25, 2.2 miles south of Hwy 48, features tours of Norswiss Farms.

June 11, Sat, AM – Washburn County Dairy Breakfast, Spooner – Fairgrounds.

June 18, Sat, AM – Burnett / Polk Dairy Breakfast – location TBA.

June 18, Sat, AM – Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast, Hayward – Fairgrounds.

June 21, 22, 24, Tues, Weds & Fri – Tractor Safety Training, Spooner Ag Research Station – for youth aged 12-17, contact Lorraine, Otto or Kevin at UWEX-Spooner, 715-635-3506.

June 25, Sat, 10-Noon – Multispecies Pasture Walk, Springbrook – Sherry Sutton-Zanardo and Dave Zanardo, contact Otto Wiegand 715-635-3506 (see article).

July 9, Sat, 10-12 – Alpaca and Llama Pasture Walk, Comstock – Don Dipprey Farm, contact Otto Wiegand, 715-635-3506 or Don Dipprey, 715-419-1903.

July 19-21- Tues-Thurs – Farm Technology Days, Walworth County – Lake Geneva, Snudden Farms.

Fall – Beef, Silvo-Pasture Walk, Shell Lake – Bob & Jane Pederson Farm, Cty B, TBA.

Dairy Sheep Program Ending

*Phil Holman
Superintendent
Spooner Agricultural Research Station*

In January, it was announced that the Dairy Sheep Program at the Spooner Ag Research Station will end in the fall/winter of 2016. The sheep researcher at UW Madison is retiring and due to State/University budget cuts, the position does not appear that it will be filled. Thus, without a researcher, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences decided to liquidate the flock at the completion of this lactation.

No decision has been made yet on the method of dispersal of the sheep flock. A bid sale of some kind will be done in the fall. Dairy sheep producers and other interested producers from around the country have expressed interest in rams, ewe lambs, and adult ewes. The Spooner Dairy Sheep flock is the only one of its kind in North America and has been a critical link for information and genetics for dairy sheep producers in the United States and Canada.

The station will remain open and focus on crop research. University Agronomy, Soils, Horticulture and Plant Pathology researchers use the station and feel it is important to continue crop research utilizing the northern Wisconsin growing season, climate and soil types.



Inside

**This
Issue**

**Agricultural
Newsletter**

**April
May
June**

2016

**Spooner Dairy Sheep Program to
end**

**Predators are a key topic at
upcoming Cow-Calf Meeting**

**Join the effort to save our honey
bees**



**[www.facebook.com/
spoonerag](http://www.facebook.com/spoonerag)**

**Kevin Schoessow
UWEX Area Agricultural Agent**