

Richland County AG News & Notes

Agricultural Newsletter of the Richland County Extension Office

Winter 2006

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Calendar of Events:

January

- 1 Premises Registration Due
- 3 Agronomy Update – 7:30 am UW-Richland
- 5 Sheep Management WisLine
- 13 Competitive Edge Dairy Seminar – Mineral Point
- 18 SW WI Profitable Pastures Winter Seminar – Mineral Point
- 21 Beginning Farmer Workshop – Mineral Point
- 21 Richland County Holstein Association Annual Banquet
- 25 Nutrient Management - Class #1
- 28 Richland County Fair Steer Weigh-In

February

- 2 Sheep Management WisLine
- 4 State Fair Steer Weigh-In
- 7 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Boaz Community Center
- 8 Nutrient Management – Class #2
- 9 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Lone Rock Fire Station
- 11 Pork Producers Annual Meeting
- 18 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Richland Center
- 21 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Yuba Community Center
- 22 Nutrient Management – Class #3
- 23 Private Pesticide Applicator Training – Test Only, UW-Richland

March

- 2 Sheep Management WisLine
- 3 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Test Only, UW-Richland
- 8 Nutrient Management - Class #4

When's the Right Time to Talk Cash Rent!!

I get the question of "what is fair cash rent" almost year round, because land changes hands or there is a disagreement in a verbal arrangement. But, if the world were perfect and I had the choice of suggesting when the best time of year to develop a rental arrangement was, it would be from January 1 to mid-March. Why is this the right time of year? There are a couple of very good reasons for starting at this time.

The first reason, it is tax time for both the lessor and lessee. The party owning the land and just got his property tax bill!! The lessor will know what their taxes are per acre and what the appraised value of their land. These are both key starting points in entering a discussion on cash rent. The lessee will have just prepared their income tax information, which will provide them with what their expenses per acre were in the past year. Both parties want an agreement but they generally start at different places. The lessor wants his obligations covered like property taxes and a return on investment. The lessee wants a rent that will provide him with a return on investment as compared to his risk and expenses. Since both parties have different needs it will take some time to negotiate an agreement.

The most important reason for starting now is there is time to talk or negotiate. Developing a rental arrangement generally starts out with a conversation, but eventually needs to be put on paper which takes time. A very good agreement may take several meetings and a few pots of coffee or cans of soda and/or plates of cookies to write it correctly. This bargaining process provides the means of arriving at a rent that is acceptable to both parties. If you rush the process, you may end up with an unfair agreement. An unfair, lopsided arrangement tends to encourage dishonesty and poor cooperation from the injured party. Unfair

agreements generally do not last!! Also by starting early, if one or the other party needs additional advice concerning the document, there is plenty of time to seek that advice.

These are a couple reasons for starting now, I'm sure there are others. The main point, it is never too early to talk over a cash rental arrangement and give yourself time to negotiate a fair agreement. Once it's in place, both parties can be satisfied that their needs are met.

If you have questions on cash rent or writing an agreement, contact Steve Kohlstedt at the Richland County Extension Office, 608-647-6148 or e-mail steven.kohlstedt@ces.uwex.edu

Avian Influenza, Concerns to Poultry Producers

We have heard a lot about Avian Influenza (AI) in the news over the past few months, but what is it? What causes AI, and how does it affect poultry producers?

Avian Influenza is an acute contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. There are two basic types of AI: Low Pathogenic and High Pathogenic. The virus is spread through many vectors. The main vectors are bird-to-bird contact, feces, contaminated equipment, and people. Once Avian Influenza is transmitted it has an incubation period that can be as little as a few hours or as long as 14 days.

Low pathogenic Avian Influenza is more common type of this virus, and has been reported globally for more than 125 years. Low Pathogenic AI causes mild or no clinical signs in poultry. The symptoms associated with low pathogenic AI are decreased egg production and mild respiratory symptoms such as coughing or sneezing.

High Pathogenic AI is the type of AI that has brought some concern to human health.

Signs of highly pathogenic AI include sudden death without clinical signs, decreased activity and decreased feed intake, decreased egg production, misshapen eggs, swelling and purple discoloration of the head, combs, wattles, and legs.

Historically, the US has had outbreaks of High Pathogenic AI in the years 1920, 1983, and 2004. The 1983 outbreak in Pennsylvania caused 17 million birds to die or be destroyed, caused the industry about \$65 million, and caused the price of eggs to increase by 30%.

There is no practical treatment for AI. Infected flocks must be quarantined and depopulated. All buildings and equipment need to be cleaned and disinfected after depopulation. The litter and manure must be composted before it can be spread back to the soil.

Prevention is the only practical approach to AI. Good biosecurity should be taken to prevent AI. Since other birds are the main source of infection it is important to keep susceptible birds away from infected birds and their secretions. When moving between flocks, be cautious that you may be carrying fecal material on your clothing, footwear, etc. This is the most common way for disease to spread from flock to flock. Good management practices for your flock will help prevent AI and other diseases of poultry.

If you have any questions or would like more information about Avian Influenza, please feel free to contact Adam Hady, Richland County Interim Agriculture Educator at 608/647.6148 or e-mail adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu.

Drought Stressed Corn could mean Molds and Mycotoxins

I don't generally write about Molds and Mycotoxins because it dips into an area I know just enough about to be dangerous,

which is feeding. But, in a very unusual year like 2005, it is worth the time to keep an eye on what we are feeding.

Drought-stressed corn could be an opportunity for molds to start. The conditions were right for a variety of molds with hot humid temperatures and corn left in the field to dry. Whenever we have mold development in the field and stored corn, we run the risk of mycotoxins. Stresses such as water stress, high temperature stress, insect damage and subsequent reduced vigor increases the possibility of an infestation of molds and mycotoxins.

Mycotoxin is a highly toxic by-product of mold growth in feed and grain. Myco means fungus and toxin means poison. They represent a broad spectrum of acute and chronic diseases to livestock. Mycotoxins can remain as a residue in meat and milk, posing a possible threat to human health. Mycotoxins are generated from a variety of molds through naturally occurring secondary metabolic processes. The amount and type of mycotoxin or secondary metabolite varies with environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. *Aspergillus*, the mold which produces aflatoxins, grows in warm, dry conditions. *Fusarium*, which produces Zearalenone and the "T" toxins, grows in cool, wet conditions.

There are some signs that will give you some idea that your feed has a mold problem. They are: dustiness of the feed; caking of feed; poor feed flow out of the bins; feed refusal by animals for no apparent reason; feed has a moldy or mildew smell to it; and/or dark unnatural color. Any one of these signs or a combination signs may indicate that your feed or stored grain may have mold problems.

Mycotoxins affect animals in a variety of ways. The worse case scenario is death, but there are general signs before this such as the animal going off of feed, losing condition, losing balance, and reproductive

disorders. If these things happen, it could be caused by the quality of the feed source.

If you believe that your feed may be moldy and you want to test for mycotoxins, there are several labs in Wisconsin that test for a variety of mycotoxins. For concerns related to mycotoxins, consult either your feed representative or your UW-Extension office for assistance.

Drought conditions have occurred in the area, and there can be an increased risk for mold and mycotoxins. So be aware that if your animals go off feed, you may want to test your feed just to be safe.

Improving Your Bottom Line –With Nutrient Management

Area farmers are invited to attend Workshop series, **“Improving Your Bottom Line – Steps to a Practical Nutrient Management Plan”** on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 from 12:30PM to 3:30PM at the Richland County Agriculture Services Building.

A farm nutrient management plan is a strategy for obtaining the maximum return from the on and off farm fertilizer resources in a manner that protects water quality. Farms with livestock can maximize savings with good manure management. For some producers, a current regulatory requirement mandates a Nutrient Management Plan because of farm livestock numbers or participation in county cost share programs. This meeting will clarify who needs a plan and when.

This January 25, workshop will discuss why develop a plan, what is a nutrient management plan, how it saves producers money, program monies available, preparing for a plan, plan development and upcoming nutrient management workshops. Speakers include Steve Kohlstedt, Richland County Ag/Resource Extension agent; Sam Skemp, NRCS soil conservationist; Cathy Cooper,

Richland County Conservationist and Adam Hady Richland County Agriculture Educator. The meeting will initiate the first of a series of workshops to be held at in Richland County through January. This series will cover training in developing a farmer written and certified nutrient management plan for their farm. To sign up for this training and plan writing, please contact the Richland County UW-Extension Office at 608/647-6148 to register or if you have questions about this program.

SW Wisconsin Profitable Pastures Winter Seminar Will Be Held On January 18th

The 6th annual Southwest Wisconsin Profitable Pastures Winter Seminar will be held on January 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, Mineral Point, WI. Topics and speakers are:

- Got Grass? Custom Grazing Opportunities: A producer panel with Dick Ryan, John Wentz, Gerald Jaeger, and Jim Munsch; all well recognized Wisconsin graziers with a good perspective on what it takes to be successful from both sides of the custom grazing fence.
- Warm Season Grass Establishment Research Update: Julie Doll, graduate researcher with UW Madison’s Agroecology Program.
- Dealing with Drought: Dairy producers Dan Vosberg, South Wayne, WI; Bonnie Haugen, Canton, MN; and Chris Neis, Mt. Carroll, IL will discuss drought management strategies for grazing farms in the Upper Midwest.

There will also be a brief update on local GLCI grant projects. Cost of the program is \$15.00, and producers are asked to RSVP by January 13th to help ensure an accurate lunch count. For more information, please contact: Rhonda Gildersleeve, Iowa County Agriculture Agent, (608) 935-0391 or via email: rhonda.gildersleeve@ces.uwex.edu.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions For 2006

The Richland County Extension Office will be offering training sessions for private pesticide applicator certification. Certification is required for producers to purchase, apply, store, and mix pesticides that are labeled as RESTRICTED USE. Participation in a training session and successful completion of an evaluation will satisfy the requirements to obtain the five-year certification. Producers can also gain certification by passing the test in a test-only session.

All day training sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m at the following locations:

Tuesday, February 7, Boaz Community Center

Thursday, February 9, Lone Rock Fire Station Meeting Room

Saturday, February 18, Room 408, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

Tuesday, February 21, Yuba Community Center

We will take a short break for lunch; please note lunch will NOT be provided, so make arrangements to have your own lunch.

Test-Only Sessions will be held:

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Room 408, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

Friday, March 3, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room 408, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

The training fee is **\$30** per private applicator. **Pre-registration is required** and can be done at the Richland County Extension Office, located on the UW-Richland Campus in Melvill Hall. Upon registration the participant will receive the materials for the class. Materials are needed before the sessions. This allow for ample time to look over the study materials prior to the training/ testing. Please note that the law requires a positive form of Identification prior to taking the class or test. Acceptable forms of identification include: drivers

license, photo ID card (with birth date), Social Security Card with a second form of ID, or a birth certificate with a second form of ID. Your Social Security number is also required to receive your license.

For more information, contact Steve Kohlstedt, Richland County Ag/ Resource Agent or Adam Hady, Richland County Agriculture Educator at 608/647-6148.

2006-Sheep Management WisLine

The long-running annual Sheep Management teleconference series will be held in 2006 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the three Thursday evenings of January 5, February 2, and March 2 at WisLine sites in County Extension Offices throughout the state of Wisconsin. Information on important sheep production issues and topics will be presented by producers, scientists, and extension workers for the benefit of Wisconsin sheep producers and youth sheep project members.

Sheep Management WisLine programs are provided by UW Cooperative Extension and the UW-Madison Department of Animal Sciences, and are hosted by Dave Thomas, Sheep Extension Specialist. The WisLine system provides two-way voice communications between the speakers and listeners from participating County Extension Offices in Wisconsin, and free to the public. Program information, including handouts, will be available at your County Extension Office.

The Sheep Management WisLine program may not be offered in all counties. Contact your County Extension Office for availability in your area. The programs are free, but participants must call their local County Extension Office prior to each session to register for that particular session. This will guarantee that the WisLine site is open and that adequate copies of handout materials are available. For more information call the Richland County Extension Office.

Beginning Farmers Workshop Will Be Held January 21st in Mineral Point

Beginning and aspiring farmers can learn about local resources available to assist them with their farming goals at a "Grow Wisconsin Farmers" workshop that will be offered January 21st at the Comfort Inn, Mineral Point.

The workshop will provide information on strategies for getting started, pursuing a farm career, preserving the family farm, developing a support network. The morning program features a farmer panel presenting ideas on different ways to get started farming as well as a panel with local professional advisors on how to plan successful a farm business and/or transferring farm ownership.

During the afternoon session, participants may choose from two of four roundtable panel discussions covering the following topics:

- * Organic Certification: What Does It Take?
- * Niche/Value Added Opportunities
- * Innovative Dairy Opportunities
- * Evaluating Potential Farms

The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at about 3:30 p.m. Advance registration for the workshop is \$15 to cover registration and instructional materials and registration is due by January 10, 2006. The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board will provide lunch and refreshments. For information and registration, contact Rhonda Gildersleeve, Iowa County Agriculture Agent, 222 North Iowa Street, Suite 1, Dodgeville, WI 53533, phone: (608) 935-0391; or Joy Kirkpatrick, Outreach Specialist, UW-Center for Dairy Profitability at 608-263-3485.



Dairy Road Show Offers Farmers a Competitive Edge

It's not too late to make plans to attend one of the presentations of the 2006 University of Wisconsin-Extension Dairy Team Road Show in January and learn more about changes in Wisconsin's competitive dairy business.

The topics discussed will be of interest to both dairy producers and industry professionals. The program includes up-to-date information on reproductive management, dairy cattle nutrition, biosecurity and crossbreeding. In addition, the Transition Cow Index (TCI), a new benchmarking tool for fresh cows, will be explained.

This year's Road Show, "Gaining the Competitive Edge - A Dairy Seminar Series," pulls out from UW-Madison for seven dates in January in locations around the state.

Seminars will be:

- Jan. 10** - Westby and Melrose
- Jan. 11** - Rice Lake and Menomonie
- Jan. 12** - Curtiss and Plover
- Jan. 13** - Mineral Point
- Jan. 17** - Kiel and Lomira
- Jan. 18** - Slovan and De Pere
- Jan. 19** - New London and Kelly Lake

The program will be the same at each location. Topics are:

"Reproductive Management Programs to Improve Conception Rates", Paul Fricke, UW-Extension dairy reproduction specialist

"Dairy Cattle Nutrition Update," Randy Shaver, UW-Extension dairy nutritionist

"Where Does Biosecurity Fit on Your Farm," Pam Ruegg, D.V.M., UW-Extension milk quality specialist Larry Baumann, D.V.M. and Dave Rhoda, D.V.M

"What We've Learned from Research about Crossbreeding" Kent Weigel, UW-Extension geneticist

"Transition Cow Index (TCI)," host agents.

All meetings will run from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee for the program, which includes lunch and materials, is \$20 per person. Registrations are due one week before the seminar you wish to attend.

For additional information, please contact Irv Possin at 920-929-3171, or by e-mail at irvan.possin@ces.uwex.edu.

UW-Extension extends Farmer to Farmer Web Site Linking Feed Buyers and Sellers

In response to requests, the Farmer to Farmer Web site that links buyers and sellers hay, corn and forage will continue until April 1, 2006, instead of ending on Dec. 1, 2005, as originally scheduled said Mike Ballweg, University of Wisconsin-Extension crops and soils agent in Sheboygan County.

Many livestock producers may find themselves short on hay; forages and other feed for livestock because of losses to alfalfa winterkill last winter and abnormally dry weather this summer.

"Some parts of the state, especially in eastern Wisconsin, have shortages," said Ballweg. "However, other parts of the state have good supplies because they weren't affected by winterkill or by lack of rain. This year, people who need to buy hay may be able to find it without searching out of state."

Ballweg and other members of UW-Extension's Grains Team have established a Web site where growers facing shortages can find growers who have excess feed to sell. The Web site is at

<http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>. The Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn List is free of charge for both buyers and sellers.

Ballweg said this site benefits both buyers and sellers. Buyers can locate feed for their animals quickly. Sellers can find buyers for hay, forage or corn they don't need for their own animals.

The Web site is easy to use and buyers and sellers can access it anytime between now and April 1, 2006. People who wish to use this service but do not have access to the Internet can get access and assistance at their county UW-Extension office.

Richland County Agriculture On-Line

The Richland County Extension agriculture website is available with many convenient links to agriculture related sites. There are links to the Wisconsin Cattleman's Association, Pork Association, Milk Marketing Board, Equity Livestock Markets, 2004 custom rate guide and more.

To search through the website: go to <http://richland.uwex.edu> and click on

Agriculture

Richland County Agriculture Fact:

In 2004 Richland County dairies produced 221,000,000 pounds of milk

Source: DATCP 2005 Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics



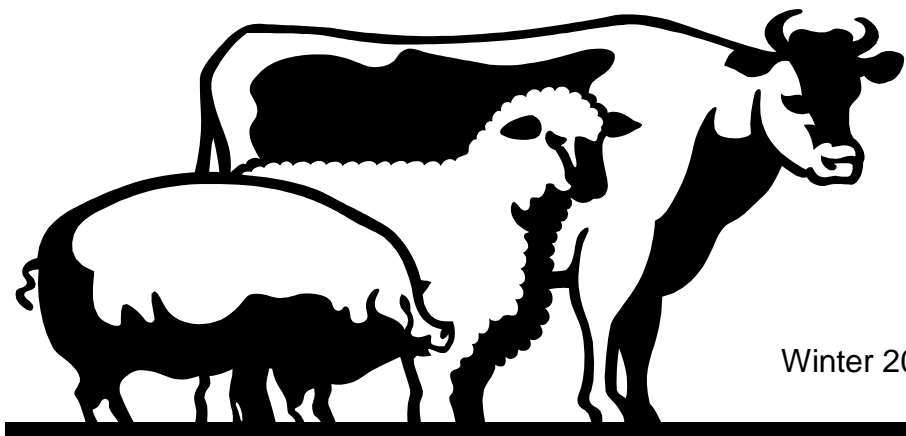
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