

# **Richland County AG News & Notes**

**Agricultural Newsletter of the Richland County Extension Office**

**Spring 2006**

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Requests or reasonable accommodation for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity of which it is intended.

## **Calendar of Events:**

### **April**

- 1 Pork Producers Meeting – 10 a.m. UW-Richland, Pippin Center**
- 1 Richland County Beef Producers Annual Meeting**
- 6 Poultry Health Update, UW-Richland, Pippin Center 7 p.m.**
- 11 Youth Meat Animal Quality Assurance, UW-Richland, Classroom Building, Rm 204**
- 30 Rabbits-R-Us Rabbit Show – Richland Center Community Building**

### **May**

- 12 Swine Weigh-In Richland County Fairgrounds**
- 11 Swine Weigh-In Richland County Fairgrounds**

### **June**

- 3 Badger Poultry Club Show – Richland County Fairgrounds**
- 15 Youth Meat Animal Quality Assurance**
- 28 District Black and White Show – Richland County Fairgrounds**

# Nitrogen Fertilizer Management on Rotationally Grazed Pastures

Dennis Cosgrove, UW-Extension

## Introduction

Split nitrogen applications have long been recommended on rotationally grazed pastures. Nitrogen applications in excess of approximately 50 units per acre for a single application are not utilized by pasture growth. One-half ton of pasture forage (a typical removal rate for a single grazing event) containing 20-25% crude protein removes 30 to 40 lbs of nitrogen per acre. Nitrogen applied in excess of this amount is lost through leaching or volatilization and is not captured in pasture re-growth. Consequently, multiple, small applications are recommended in rotationally grazed systems. The most efficient timing for these nitrogen applications to rotationally grazed pastures has not been established.

## Study Description

A nitrogen rate and timing study was conducted at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2004 and 2005. The grass and legume mixtures used in this study were as follows: Kentucky bluegrass (KB) and white clover, smooth bromegrass (SB) and alfalfa, and orchardgrass (OG) and red clover. Nitrogen treatments consisted of single applications of 50 units per acre of nitrogen (as urea) on May 1, June 15 or August 1. Multiple nitrogen applications of 50 units per acre each were made on May 1 and June 15 (100 units per acre total) and on May 1, June 15 and August 1 (150 units per acre total). Before and after each grazing event, the pasture quantity was measured with a pasture plate to determine animal intake per acre. Results presented here are averaged over 2 years.

## Results

Table 1 shows total yield for untreated plots and yield increases for each of the nitrogen application strategies. The greatest yield increases were recorded in the smooth bromegrass and orchardgrass pastures. The multiple nitrogen applications provided the greatest yield increases. However, a closer look shows that the June 15 applications contributed very little to this increase. For example, the May 1 and June 15 treatment increase was similar to the May 1 single application.

Species	Control Yield (lbsDM/acre)	May 1	June 15	August 1	May 1 + June 15	May 1 + June 15 + August 1
		Yield Increase (lbs DM/acre)				
KB	4365	246	14	232	710	885
SB	5293	1326	456	1002	1054	2019
OG	4654	1052	516	729	1062	1284

A more direct way to determine the most beneficial timing for nitrogen applications is to look at the increase in pounds of dry matter per pound of nitrogen applied. This is illustrated in Table 2. Once again the nitrogen response from Kentucky bluegrass was very small. Smooth bromegrass and orchardgrass responses were greatest with the single 50 unit application on May 1. The second greatest response came with the single application on August 1. Although multiple nitrogen applications provided more total forage, the increase per pound of nitrogen was less than the single applications on either May 1 or August 1.

Species	May 1	June 15	August 1	May 1 + June 15	May 1 + June 15 + August 1
	(lbs DM)/lb N				
KB	4.9	0.3	4.6	7.1	5.9
SB	26.5	9.1	20.0	10.5	13.5
OG	21.0	10.3	14.6	10.6	8.6

Table 3 show net return for each of the nitrogen application strategies. For the calculation of the net dollar return per acre from the nitrogen treatments, \$120 per ton for hay (\$137.93 per ton dry matter) and \$322 per ton for urea were used. Net returns were negative or marginal for all applications in the case of Kentucky bluegrass. Net returns for smooth bromegrass and orchardgrass were positive in all cases. Single application on May 1 and 3-50 unit applications were among the strategies providing the greatest returns. The single application on June 15 provided the lowest net returns in all cases.

Species	May 1	June 15	August 1	May 1 + June 15	May 1 + June 15 + August 1
Net \$ Return/Acre for N Application					
KB	-0.53	-16.53	-1.50	13.97	8.53
SB	73.95	13.95	51.60	37.69	86.74
OG	55.05	18.09	32.78	38.24	36.05

A concern with nitrogen fertilization of mixed grass and legume pastures is that they may decrease the legume content due to increased grass competition. Table 4 shows the effects of nitrogen applications on legume content of the different pasture mixtures after receiving the various nitrogen treatments for 2 consecutive years. Decreases in legume content were generally small. Averaged across the three grass species in the study, the multiple applications of 50 units on May 1, June 15 and August 1 resulted in the greatest decrease in legume content. The decrease in legume content is a result of increased grass competition. The largest decreases in legume content came in the red clover/orchardgrass pastures. Orchardgrass is a highly competitive grass and so resulted in the greatest legume decreases. The multiple nitrogen strategy resulted in the greatest dry matter yields and so resulted in the greatest decrease in legume content.

Species	Control	May 1	June 15	August 1	May 1 + June 15	May 1 + June 15 + August 1
% Change						
KB	25	+2	-2	-5	-7	-10
SB	45	+3	-3	-2	-13	-8
OG	55	-17	-10	+3	+3	-20

### Summary

Kentucky bluegrass responded very poorly to nitrogen fertilization in this study. This is likely due, in part, to significant levels of white clover in these plots. White clover is a very efficient nitrogen fixer and may have been providing adequate levels of nitrogen.

Three applications of 50 units of nitrogen each and a single application on May 1 provided the highest overall dry matter yield.

Single applications of 50 units of nitrogen on either May 1 or August 1 provided the greatest dry matter increases per pound of nitrogen applied.

The single 50 unit application on June 15 consistently provided the lowest dry matter increase and the lowest dry matter increase per pound of nitrogen applied.

The greatest returns per dollar spent on nitrogen were realized with the May 1 application and the 3-50 unit application. The lowest was from the June 15 single application.

Reductions in legume content due to nitrogen fertilization were not great. The largest reduction came from two consecutive years of 3-50 unit applications.

### Recommendations

Maximum growth rates for perennial cool-season grasses occur when temperatures are in the mid to high seventies. As temperatures increase, growth rates slow because carbon lost to plant respiration exceeds that gained through photosynthesis. This is why we see a significant summer slump in our cool-season grass growth. It stands to reason then that the greatest response to nitrogen application would come during times of relatively cool temperatures and adequate soil moisture.

Based on the results of this study the optimum time to apply nitrogen is early May and early August. Mid-June applications are not productive because grass growth is slowed by heat and drought. It is important to realize that, in early May pasture growth may already be greater than the animals' ability to utilize it. Nitrogen applications at this time will only exacerbate this problem. In order to capture this increased growth, pastures will likely need to be mechanically harvested or stocked with very high stocking rates.

It is also important to keep in mind that this work was done at a single location in west-central Wisconsin. Optimum application times will need to be adjusted in other locations to correspond to times of greatest pasture growth rates.

To view a spreadsheet based on this data, which can be used to estimate the potential return on nitrogen fertilization at various urea costs go to [www.uwrf.edu/grazing](http://www.uwrf.edu/grazing) and click on the "Software" link.

## **Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops....2006**

By Steve Kohlstedt

In February and March, Adam and I conducted our annual Private Pesticide Applicator training. It has become a tradition, based on the need for local farmers to be certified to apply Restricted use chemicals. A major part of this training is the identification of the problem so it can be "managed". The management of the problem may take the form of several avenues and deciding on the best avenue is always the challenge. Maybe the most difficult decision is what chemicals I have to pick from to help manage the challenge. With this in mind the University publishes a publication called, "Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops (2006). The publication number is A3646 and can be ordered from [www.cecommerce.uwex.edu](http://www.cecommerce.uwex.edu) or purchased from our office at a charge of \$8.50.

The introduction of the publication discusses the principles of pest management which starts with pest identification, goes to the laws, regulations, handling, application of pesticides, and concludes with the disposal of unwanted or unused materials. The book also highlights different chemical products recommended for weed, insect and disease control of corn, soybeans, forages and pastures and small grains. All chemicals in the publications are given by generic chemical name, as there are many "trade names" for the same generic chemicals. It is important to know the generic chemical names when comparing chemicals for effectiveness and price.

Since perennial weeds are very difficult to control, they have their own section. This portion of the publication discusses herbicide control of many of our perennial weeds based on where they are found.

The book also has a section on controlling insects in stored grain. This section deals directly with insecticides aimed at a certain grain bin pest.

The final section, the Appendix, has Commercial Trade Names of Chemicals used in Wisconsin, followed by the formulation of the product. It also shows the generic chemical name and the site of inhibition (this is how the chemical works on the target pest). In this section you can find out who manufactures the product and whether or not it is a Restricted use chemical. You can also learn about hazards of the product by the warning signals. Finally, the appendix will indicate the Restricted Entry Interval for the product, which is pretty valuable information to know.

If you are making some decisions concerning your pest management program, this publication may be a very worthwhile investment and it may give you some additional options.

### **Revised N Guidelines for Corn: A tool to maximize profitability**

**Madison** - Revised nitrogen application rate guidelines for corn will help farmers react to the increasing cost of nitrogen fertilizer. The revised guidelines, developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, give producers more flexibility in setting nitrogen application rates that reflect economic conditions on individual farms, according to UW-Madison/Extension soil scientists Larry Bundy and Carrie Laboski.

Bundy and Laboski noted that while the yield response of corn to applied nitrogen has not changed, the economics of corn production has. Soil fertility specialists in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois worked to develop a regional approach to nitrogen rate guidelines that are based on getting the most return on nitrogen fertilizer using field research data. Laboski said, "The new nitrogen rate guidelines were developed as a means to provide growers guidance on how much they might adjust their nitrogen application rates and maintain or enhance profitability depending upon their individual farm situation."

UW-Extension's nitrogen recommendations for corn are based on soil yield potential, previous crop and nitrogen-to-corn price ratio. Soil yield potentials can be found in UW-Extension Bulletin A2809, "Soil test recommendations for field, vegetable, and fruit crops." UW-Extension soil scientists say these three pieces of information allow farmers to identify a nitrogen rate that will, on average, maximize economic return to nitrogen use. They also can identify a range of nitrogen rates that will produce economic profitability within one dollar per acre of the maximum.

The most current information on nitrogen application rate guidelines can be found by visiting the UW Soil Science Web site at <http://www.soils.wisc.edu/extension/hottopics/>. Another tool for producers is a nitrogen rate calculator developed by Mike Rankin, UW-Extension crops and soils agents in Fond du Lac County. The calculator determines the economic optimum nitrogen rate for the most current

corn and nitrogen prices as entered by the user. The calculator is an Excel file that can be downloaded from the following web site:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/NComparison.htm>. Rankin's 3.1 version of the calculator approximates the new UW nitrogen recommendation program for corn. It also contains information and links to more detailed information about the recently developed regional approach to nitrogen recommendations.

## **Forage Variety Update (2005)**

By Steve Kohlstedt

The Forage Variety Update is a very valuable piece of information to have if you are looking at your forage rotations or even your potential plants for your pasture mixes. The update provides information concerning legumes such as: alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil and red clover. It will also give the recommended varieties for Kentucky Bluegrass, orchardgrass, reed canarygrass, ryegrass, smooth brome grass, tall fescue and timothy.

This publication will assist with selecting forage varieties, especially alfalfa varieties. When making these selections, it would be wise to consider the following points.

**1. Select a group of top-yielding varieties using the average yield.** Yield is the major factor in determining profitability of an alfalfa stand. Look for varieties with high average yields across several sites and years. Since most varieties yield the most the year after seeding, consider varieties with at least three site years to ensure the data is more than the first year. Another consideration, when looking at the older stands, is these varieties will have experienced three years of different weather conditions. If their yields are consistent over the three year period, it adds confidence in your selection.

**2. Check the yield at the variety trial site most like your conditions.** This ensures that the varieties also do well under the conditions that are most like your farm.

**3. Compare disease resistance and stand persistence.** Stand persistence is an estimate of the stand remaining after two or more winters. These ratings consider all factors relating to stand survival and are the best estimates of stand life. Frequently, the most persistent varieties are not the highest yielding and tradeoffs must be made.

**4. Check the selected varieties for winter survival.** A number of alfalfa varieties are being released with improved winter survival. These varieties will survive more difficult winters and tolerate October harvest with

less yield reduction the following spring. More intensive cutting schedules may increase the need for varieties with more winter survival. If you harvest in the fall, we strongly suggest using alfalfa varieties with superior winter survival.

**5. Compare forage quality of varieties.** Use milk per acre to select the variety that best combines traits of high yield and high forage quality. Also, consider planting some fields to high quality varieties and some to standard varieties to spread the harvest window in the spring. The standard varieties will be ready to harvest first and the high quality varieties may be harvested later. With these tips in mind, you should be able to make some good choices for your alfalfa varieties this spring.

The publication does have some additional information concerning a number of legumes and grasses. Red clover is grown in pastures across the state and for hay and haylage in northern and eastern Wisconsin on soils that are not adequately drained, limed, or where soils cannot be practically improved for alfalfa. Red clover is well suited for short rotation and for plow-down in rotation with other crops. Although difficult to dry as hay, red clover makes excellent low moisture silage when properly managed and harvested between late bud and early bloom. Because of its easy and rapid establishment, red clover is an excellent choice for interseeding into sod pastures to improve forage yield and quality.

Birdsfoot trefoil is a deep-rooted, winter-hardy legume that is useful in permanent pastures. It is best used on soils that are marginal for alfalfa production and where drought is not too severe. Seeding establishment is slower than alfalfa and red clover. Birdsfoot trefoil is best grown in mixtures with Kentucky bluegrass or timothy.

Kentucky bluegrass is a very hardy, sod-forming grass. It tolerates short grazing and is the most common pasture species in continuous and over-grazed pastures. It is fine-leaved, high quality forage grass. Kentucky bluegrass is very well adapted to cool temperatures and grows well in northern Wisconsin pastures of all types, producing yields in excess of 4 tons per acre and showing minimal summer slump in the absence of drought. On the other hand, growth is severely limited by high temperature and drought in southern Wisconsin.

Orchardgrass is a moderately hardy, bunch-type grass. It regrows quickly and is commonly grown in mixtures with alfalfa. It performs well in mixtures with other grasses, such as smooth brome grass and reed

canarygrass, when fertilized with nitrogen for early and late season grazing.

Reed canarygrass is a very hardy, sod-forming grass especially well-suited for permanent hay or pasture on peat or muck soils. It is also very useful for disposing of liquid manure and canning-crop refuse, producing high yields when nitrogen is present in these applications. It is very drought tolerant and is a good grass for dry, upland soils once established. It is also an excellent choice as a cover crop for wild game or for waterways. Reed canarygrass is invasive to wetlands and should be managed to minimize distribution of seeds and vegetative material to those areas.

Ryegrass is a new crop to Wisconsin. It can be used for overseeding pasture or, in northern Wisconsin, for hay or silage production in mixture with alfalfa or red clover in short term rotations (2 to 3 years). It is high in forage quality. Tetraploid types are more palatable and tend to be more winterhardy.

Smooth brome grass is extremely hardy, long lived and well-adapted to the entire state. It can be grazed or cut for hay or silage. It forms a solid sod that makes it suitable for roadsides or waterways. It has good drought and heat tolerance and is generally capable of higher yields under extreme heat and drought than most other grasses. Thus it may be the most versatile choice for southern and western Wisconsin.

Timothy is a very hardy, bunch-type grass used primarily in mixture with red clover in central and northern Wisconsin. It is best adapted to cooler climates and performs better in the central and northern parts of the state than in the south. It can also be used in mixture with alfalfa and is recommended for seeding with birdsfoot trefoil. Most varieties appear to have good disease resistance.

This is just a taste of the information available in the Forage Variety Update (2005). This publication can be downloaded from [www.cecommerce.uwex.edu](http://www.cecommerce.uwex.edu) or purchased at a cost of \$4.50 from our office. The publication number is A1525.

## **Trait Selection - How to Improve Your Genetic Progress**

With the advancement of genetic progress in our livestock breeds today we are able to choose a sire based on their genetic potential for a specific trait within a breed. The question then becomes what traits should I select for and how many traits?

To start the question of which traits do I select for, the simple answer is what traits are going to impact the herd or flock economically. For example a dairy producer may select for milk production traits, a cow-calf producer might select for growth, and so on.

However, it is important to remember that there are many traits that influence economic gain. The second factor, that has an influence on the traits that you want to select for, would be the Heritability of those traits. For example, reproductive traits tend to be low in heritability, so trying to improve fertility genetically would be a slower process than changing environmental effects such as nutrition to increase fertility. However, growth traits tend to be highly heritable, and allows for genetic progress to be made faster.

The fastest way to make genetic gains in a specific trait is to only select for that one trait. However, it does not make sense to only select for only one trait. So the next question becomes how many traits do I select for? What factors might influence how many traits to select for? When looking at the number of traits to select for, we may want to look at traits that correlated. Correlated traits are traits that are shown to have a relationship with each other. For example, if a beef producer was looking at weaning weight as a trait for selection, there would be positive correlation with yearling weight; a higher weaning weight would also provide a higher weaning weight. On the flip side, weaning weight and birth weight are also positively correlated in that as weaning weight increases, birth weight also increases, creating an unfavorable relationship for calving ease. If we choose trait that are correlated, we may only have to select for one trait and we will still see genetic gain in another.

The next item is the number of unrelated traits selecting for also makes a difference. Looking at the overall herd, the amount of progress made genetically for each trait declines as the number of traits selected for increases. Therefore, selecting on two or three traits will show progress faster than selecting for four or five separate traits.

Genetic progress, regardless of the bulls and traits we select for, is overall a long term process and will not create a quick fix. We are always looking at ways to improve our herds or flocks. There is more information available to producers now than there has ever been. Take the time to look at what the information tells you and how will that information benefit you and your operation.



## Improving Milk Quality with Milk Money

The Milk Money Program is designed to get dairy producers, local advisors, and consultants working together in a farmer-directed milk quality team. Teams then work together, to improve milk quality on your farm. The goal of the Milk Money Program is to increase the profitability and competitiveness of Wisconsin dairy farms through the production of high quality milk.

The Milk Money team is created and decided by the farm owner. Teams can be comprised of the farm owner, the Extension agent, veterinarian, dairy plant field rep, nutritionist, dairy equipment dealer, key employees, and others. This team will then have monthly meetings lasting a minimum of 4 months, to accomplish the farmer directed goals for milk quality.

The team is encouraged to look at topic that may get overlooked in the day-to-day operations. These overlooked topics include vet costs, drug costs, and production loss from clinical and sub-clinical mastitis. In addition to cost analysis, the team will also track farm progress on identified milk quality issues. As a team the responsibilities and accountabilities are spread among the team.

For more information on the Milk Money Program, please contact Adam Hady at the Richland County Extension Office 647-6148.

### KEEPING YOUR BIRDS HEALTHY GET THE FACTS ON NEW POULTRY HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The Richland County Extension Office, Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, and the United States Department of Agriculture would like to invite area poultry producers to attend an informational meeting for small poultry producers, including backyard flock owners and 4-H members scheduled for **Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.**

This meeting will be held in the **Pippin Center, Mellvill Hall on the UW-Richland Campus.**

The seminar will discuss Wisconsin's new flock certification program which provides an alternative to the requirement that poultry or game birds moved or sold for hatching, breeding or show be from flocks enrolled in the National Poultry Improvement Program. NPIP was originally developed for large commercial flocks, and it was difficult for small producers to comply with this requirement.

Now, poultry producers can sell or move poultry of any age within Wisconsin for breeding, hatching or exhibition if the flock is enrolled with the department as a "Wisconsin tested flock" or "Wisconsin associate flock." There is no charge and no requirement for flock inspection by the state. The flock must be tested annually for *Salmonella pullorum* and fowl typhoid. Turkeys will also need to be tested for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. Associate flocks will be those that consist entirely of birds acquired from Wisconsin tested flocks. The new program will be less expensive and have less paperwork for producers, save state resources by reducing the number of inspections, and increase the level of poultry disease surveillance in Wisconsin.

For more information on this meeting or other avian health concerns, please contact Adam Hady, Interim Agriculture Agent at 608/647.6148 or e- mail [adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu).



## Production in the Past: *Raising Poultry*

Raising poultry and recommendations for poultry was quite different in 1887. According to the book The Practical Poultry Keeper 21<sup>st</sup> Edition, feeding poultry was quite different. At this time in agriculture, the home flock was a very important part of the farm income, providing extra money from the sale of eggs and meat to markets in town.

Looking at common feeds that would be given to the chickens were : oatmeal, oats, middlings, wheat, barley, Indian corn, rice, bean & peas, milk, fresh greens, potatoes and meat scraps.

It was recommended that the early morning feeding be wet mashes of a starch such as boiled and smashed potato peelings mixed with middlings into a stiff paste and add a touch of salt and pepper. The mid-day feeding (if in confinement) should include a scanty feeding of finely minced meat scraps, fresh greens, and some grain. Finally the nightly feeding should be a heavy grain to carry the birds through the night. To stimulate the birds back into production in late winter and early spring, stale bread soaked in ale should also be added the diet.

### Richland County Agriculture Fact:

*Richland County's Top Agricultural Commodities (\$ in sales):*

1. DAIRY	\$30.7 MILLION
2. CATTLE & CALVES	\$9.2 MILLION
3. FORAGES	\$2.1 MILLION
4. APPLES	\$.69 MILLION
5. NURSERY & GREEN HOUSE	\$.22 MILLION

Source: Richland County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact - Numbers are from 2002

## National Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Judges and Type Conference

**Madison** - - The National Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) announced that a workshop/type conference for state and national show judges will be held April 8 on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

The day-long seminar will focus on preparing judges to officiate at premier dairy shows in the United States and to make evaluation of conformation by breed type programs and the show-ring more consistent. PDCA will feature heifer and cow classes from each of the dairy cattle breeds that illustrate the ideal type goals of each breed organization. Type evaluators from each of the participating organizations will also do a classification demonstration. Discussions will be held regarding reasons, show-ring procedures and judging youth showmanship. The workshop will start at 9:30 a.m. at the UW-Madison Stock Pavilion, 1675 Linden Drive, and should conclude by 4:15 p.m.

“The leaders of our major dairy cattle associations agree that communicating our breed improvement goals to those officiating at the major dairy shows in the U.S. is a crucial step to ensuring the industry’s successful future,” said Seth Johnson, executive-secretary of the American Guernsey Association.

The registration fee is \$30 per person and includes lunch and beverages. Youth groups are encouraged to attend at a reduced \$10 per person rate. To register, contact Johnson at the National Guernsey Association, (614) 864-2409 or by email at [SJohnson@usguernsey.com](mailto:SJohnson@usguernsey.com).

To learn more about the National PDCA Show judges workshop, contact Ted Halbach, UW-Madison extension dairy youth specialist, (608) 263-3305 or by email at [tjhalbach@wisc.edu](mailto:tjhalbach@wisc.edu).

The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, Inc. is a federation of the national dairy breed registry associations serving breeders and owners of Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and White dairy cattle. PDCA and its member organizations promote the added value and profitability that registered dairy cattle offer all dairy business owners.

## EQUINE HERPES VIRUS-1

-Adapted from:  
*FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, EQUINE HERPES VIRUS-1,*  
February 1, 2006



**Q. What is Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1)?**

A. Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) is a contagious viral disease of horses that can cause respiratory disease, abortion and occasionally neurologic disease. Also known as Rhinopneumonitis or 'rhino'.

**Q. How is the EHV-1 disease spread?**

A. Aerosol (airborne) and fomites (feed, clothing, boots, hands, etc.)

**Q. What are the clinical signs or symptoms seen with EHV-1?**

A. Respiratory disease, abortion and occasionally neurologic disease (lack of coordination, inability to stand, etc)

**Q. Are these clinical signs similar to any other equine diseases we have in our horse population?**

A. Yes. Equine Influenza Virus may cause respiratory disease, Equine Viral Arteritis may cause abortions, and West Nile Virus may cause neurologic disease

**BIO-SECURITY MEASURES FOR HORSE OWNERS**

- Immediately isolate any sick horses in the barn. Isolate any new horses or horses returning from another location or show for at least 7 days. If horses were exposed to sick horses while away, take further precautions and isolate horses for at least 21 days.

- As the EHV-1 virus can be spread on clothing, all human traffic (clients taking lessons, boarders, visitors, trainers, blacksmiths, veterinarians) should be vigilant about disinfecting boots before entering and leaving a different barn, wearing clothing (ex: jeans, jacket) that have not been worn in another horse barn, and washing hands before handling the horses. At the entrance of the barn, provide a tub of disinfectant and instructions for all to use. Bleach water (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) may be used and should be changed daily. Phenolic based disinfectants will be less effective if a lot of feces and other organic material collects in the tub, so clean out and replace the disinfectant solution regularly.

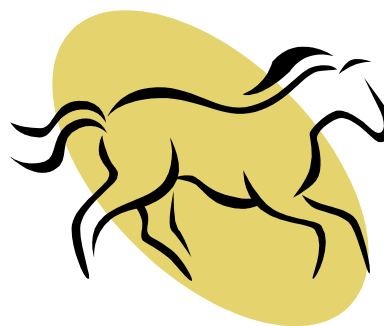
- Do not rotate horses from stall to stall. Don't share feed tubs or water buckets among the horses. Inserting a water hose previously submerged in a bucket of a sick horse, can potentially spread a virus.

- Disinfect any areas of the barn that may have been exposed to a sick horse or a horse that is of question, including disposal of all bedding and hay/feed. The

above disinfectants can be used. If the stall is needed, allow disinfectant to dry before placing a horse in the same location.

- Always work with the sick horse(s) last in your chore routine and exit the barn without completing any other tasks.

- When possible, separate horses in to small groups to minimize the number of horses that may be exposed, if you do have an infected horse.



**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.

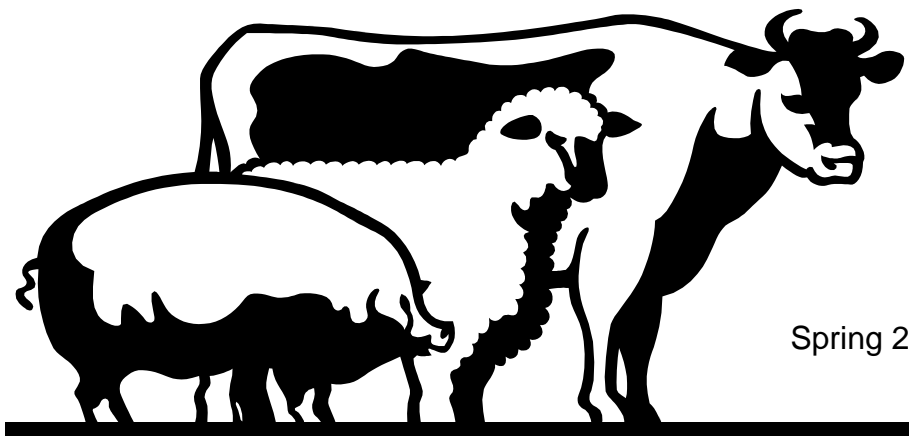
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Dated Material

# **Richland County AG News & Notes**



Spring 2006