

Richland County AG News & Notes

Agricultural Newsletter of the Richland County Extension Office

Winter 2007

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Cooperative Extension - University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX requirements.

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:

January

- 4 UW Sheep Wis-Line Series – Richland Co. Extension Office
- 5 Dairy Management Seminar – Green County
- 8 Agronomy Update Meeting - Platteville
- 9 Winter Pasture Meeting Series – Lancaster Research Station
- 9 Dairy Road Show - Westby
- 10 DATCP Johne's Program – Pippin Center, UW-Richland
- 12 Dairy Road Show - Dodgeville
- 19 Tri-State Beef Days – Prairie Du Chein
- 24 Understanding the Nutrient Management Plan – Richland Ag. Services Building

February

- 1 UW Sheep Wis-Line Series – Richland Co. Extension Office
- 7 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Pippin Center, UW-Richland
- 13 Winter Pasture Meeting Series – Lancaster Research Station
- 15 Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Pippin Center, UW-Richland
- 23 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Test Only - Richland Co. Extension Office
- 16 Pest Management Meetings - Janesville

March

- 1 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Test Only - Richland Co. Extension Office
- 1 UW Sheep Wis-Line Series – Richland Co. Extension Office
- 13 Winter Pasture Meeting Series – Lancaster Research Station

The Effects of Milk Prices and Corn Prices on the Profitability of Feeding Corn to Dairy Cows

Prepared by
Bruce J. Jones
Center for Dairy Profitability
May 1996

Does it make sense to feed corn to dairy cows when corn is nearly \$5.00 per bushel? This is the question that many dairy producers are asking these days. Most people would expect the answer to this question is no. This is an incorrect assumption, however, because there are still cases where it is profitable to feed higher priced corn. The purpose of this paper is to explain how it can be economically rational for dairy producers to continue to feed corn when it is relatively expensive.

Profit Maximization and Feeding Corn

A basic principle of economics is the assumption that businesses, such as dairy farms, attempt to maximize profits. Businesses achieve this goal by adhering to a relatively straightforward decision criterion: produce outputs in all cases where the values of the outputs exceed the costs of inputs. In the case of dairy farms, producers feed corn to dairy cows as long as the value of the milk produced exceeds the cost of the corn that is fed.

As dairy producers attempt to maximize profits, they evaluate the costs and returns associated with each successive bushel of corn that could be fed to dairy cows. Producers will commit more and more bushels of corn to a dairy cow's ration until the value of the milk produced from adding the last bushel of corn to the ration is exactly equal to the cost of a bushel of corn. When this point is reached it is no longer possible to gain profits from increasing the corn in a dairy cow's diet.

The profitability of feeding corn changes as the prices for milk and corn vary. This change in profit occurs because the cost of corn and value of milk both vary as prices rise and fall. This is an important point because it means dairy producers need to adjust feeding practices as corn becomes more or less expensive or milk becomes more or less valuable.

The potential for earning profits from feeding corn to dairy cows will increase (decrease) as the price of milk rises (falls) and/or the price of corn declines (increases). Given this, it follows that dairy producers would be inclined to feed more (less) corn to dairy cows when corn is cheap (expensive) and/or milk prices are relatively high (low). The extent to which dairy producers are willing to make adjustments in their feeding of corn depends on how much the cost of corn and the value of milk change as a result of variations in the prices of corn and milk.

In addition to responding to price changes, dairy producers also make adjustments in feeding programs as the production response from feeding corn declines over time. Persons familiar with dairy cows understand that at about the eighth week of lactation, a cow's milk production peaks and then steadily falls over the remainder of the lactation period. This decline in the productive capacity of a dairy cow over a lactation period means the quantity of milk produced from a bushel of corn in, say, the 25th week of lactation will be less than the milk obtained from the bushel of corn in, say, the 12th week of lactation. Dairy producers need to be aware of this naturally occurring decline in a dairy cow's productivity in order to adjust feeding practices as the value of milk production falls in the latter stages of the lactation period.

Profits From Feeding Corn at Various Points of a Lactation Period

Table 1 shows how the ratio of marginal value product to marginal cost varies depending on the price of milk, the price of corn, and the stage of lactation for a dairy cow. This ratio is a profitability measure that indicates whether the value of milk (marginal value product) is equal to the cost of corn (marginal cost). Values of one or more for these ratios are an indication that it would be profitable to feed additional corn because the value of milk exceeds the cost of corn. Ratios of less than one are an indication that it would be advisable to cut back on feeding corn because the value of milk is less than the cost of corn.

The ratios reported in Table 1 are divided into groups so that it is possible to see how the profitability of feeding corn varies depending on whether a cow is in the early (10th week), mid (20th week), or late stage (30th week) of lactation. This grouping was done with an understanding that cows are more (less) productive in the early (late) stages of a lactation period.

The ratios presented for a cow in the 10th week of lactation are all greater than one. This means that it is profitable to feed corn even when it costs \$6.00 per bushel early in the lactation when a cow is likely to have a high production response to corn. This finding is somewhat surprising but it seems plausible given that the value of milk gained from feeding corn should be relatively high on the early weeks of lactation.

The ratios reported for the 20th week of lactation show that feeding less corn in a ration is a profitable action when corn is \$4.00 or more and /or the price for milk is \$13.00 or less. This is evidenced by the ratio values of less than one that are reported for those cases where the corn is relatively expensive and the milk price is on the low

side. These data show that the profitability of feeding corn declines as a dairy cow's productivity falls through the course of a lactation.

The ratios reported for the 30th week of lactation are generally less than one. This information is evidence that is difficult to gain returns from feeding corn in the latter stages of lactation. Given these data it would seem that in almost all cassia dairy producer would be very likely to cut back on the feeding of corn in the last weeks of a cow's lactation period.

Conclusion

In this paper it has been shown that the price of corn is only one of the factors that producers need to consider when they are trying to decide whether it is profitable to feed corn. In addition to looking at corn prices, producers must also consider the price of milk and the production response from feeding corn. In general the information presented here says that feeding corn in the early stages of lactation is generally profitable, even when corn is relatively expensive. Other information presented here suggests that the returns from feeding corn in the latter stages of lactation are relatively low. Thus it follows that producers should be somewhat hesitant to feed high corn diets to cows late in lactation, particularly when corn is relatively expensive.

Hopefully the information presented in this paper will help producers understand how they should go about analyzing these three variables when they are making decisions about whether they should or should not be adjusting the corn that is going into the rations they are feeding dairy cows.

Table 1: Ratios of Marginal Value Product to Marginal Cost for Corn fed to Dairy Cows *

Cows in 10 th week of Lactation		Price of corn (per bushel)				
Milk Price		2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00
10.00		4.65	3.10	2.32	1.86	1.55
11.00		5.11	3.41	2.56	2.05	1.70
12.00		5.58	3.72	2.79	2.23	1.86
13.00		6.04	4.03	3.02	2.42	2.01
14.00		6.51	4.34	3.25	2.60	2.17

Cows in 20 th week of Lactation		Price of corn (per bushel)				
Milk Price		2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00
10.00		1.80	1.20	.90	.72	.60
11.00		1.98	1.32	.99	.79	.66
12.00		2.16	1.44	1.08	.86	.72
13.00		2.34	1.56	1.17	.94	.78
14.00		2.52	1.68	1.26	1.01	.84

Cows in 30 th week of Lactation		Price of corn (per bushel)				
Milk Price		2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00
10.00		.85	.57	.42	.34	.28
11.00		.93	.62	.47	.37	.31
12.00		1.02	.68	.51	.41	.34
13.00		1.10	.73	.55	.44	.37
14.00		1.19	.79	.59	.47	.40

* The values reported in this table were calculated using a milk production model estimated by this author. This model was used to simulate the production of a dairy cow that was assumed to be fed a total mixed ration of hay equivalent (H), soybean meal (SBM), corn (C), and minerals (M). The percentage breakdown of the assumed ration, on a dry matter basis, is as follows: 68.2% H, 5.2% SBM, 24.8% C, and 1.8% M. Readers should understand that different ratio values would have been obtained if a different base ration had been assumed. The trends in the ratios (declining over course of the lactation) would not change however.

Lancaster Agricultural Research Station Launches Winter Discussion Series on Pastures

University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Lancaster Agricultural Research Station are teaming up to host a winter discussion series on pasture topics for producers interested in pasture management. There is no cost for attending the program, but please pre-register with Rhonda Gildersleeve, Iowa County UW-Extension at (608) 935-0391 or Arin Crooks, Lancaster Agricultural Research Station at (608) 723-2580.

Meeting dates for the discussion series in 2007 are:

Jan. 9 *Crossbreeding and the Grazing Dairy* - Dr. Kent Weigel, UW Dairy Geneticist

Feb. 13 *History Repeats Itself: Good Management Makes Future Management Easier* with Dr. Geoff Brink, Research Agronomist, US Dairy Forage Research Center

March 13 *Breeding & Selection of Pasture Legumes* - Dr. Healthcliffe Riday, Legume Geneticist, US Dairy Forage Research Center.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions For 2007

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:

Wednesday, February 7, Pippin Center, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

Thursday, February 15, Pippin Center, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

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:

Friday, February 23, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room 448, Melvill Hall, UW-Richland

Thursday, March 1, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room 448, 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 or Adam Hady, Richland County Agriculture Agent at 608/647-6148 or e-mail adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu.

Production in the Past

The Sheep industry in 1930's

Sheep producer have always battled with the continual problem of parasites. And today we understand the life cycles better, have better preventative care, better medications, and wormers.

But how did we treat parasites before our medications and wormers? While reading the chapter on common diseases of sheep in the book *Sheep Husbandry in Minnesota*, I thought that this would make an excellent short on how we used to treat tapeworms and roundworms in sheep around the turn of the century. The treatment was called the gasoline treatment.

The gasoline treatment was a mixture made up of either common gasoline or benzene and a liquid to dilute the mixture. The common diluent was a thin consistency flax tea or sweet skim milk. To treat a lamb that weighs about 50 pounds, a mixture of 4 ounces of diluent and two tablespoons of gasoline would be shaken together and given to the lamb orally. When using this treatment, the recommendations were to keep the lamb off of feed for 12 hours prior to treatment and a few hours after.

However, the best treatment recommended was to keep things clean and prevent worms before you had to treat for them.

Source: *Sheep Husbandry in Minnesota*. Thomas Shaw. Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, 1900. pgs 183-85.

Sheep Management WisLine Program

The long-running annual Sheep Management teleconference series will be held in 2007 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the three Thursday evenings of January 4, February 1, and March 1 at WisLine sites in many 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.

The January 4 program will be presented by Dave Thomas, UW Extension Sheep Specialist, on the topic of "Available Tools for Genetic Improvement." While proper nutrition, health care, and management are very important to flock productivity, the limit to performance is set by the genetic makeup of each animal. Most livestock industries have readily adopted the tools available to them to make large gains in genetic improvement. The sheep industry lags the other livestock industries in the use of such tools. This program will discuss genetic improvement tools currently available to both commercial and purebred flocks and how they can be used to improve the genetic merit of flocks.

Topics and speakers for the February and March Sheep Management WisLine programs will be announced at a later date.

Sheep Management WisLine programs are provided as a service of 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 participating from County Extension Offices in Wisconsin. These

programs are free to the public. Program information, including handouts, will be available at your County Extension Office or the following website <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/sheep/> starting in late December 2006.

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. Further questions should be directed to your local County Extension Office or to Dave Thomas, Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Madison at dlthomas@wisc.edu or 608-263-4306.

Richland County Agriculture Facts:

Farms in Richland County

Richland County has a total of 1,358 Farms

Farms by Size:

1-9 acres	22
10-49 acres	243
50-179 acres	620
180-499 acres	392
500-999 acres	62
1,000 + acres	19

Source: 2002 USDA Census Data

2007 Johne's Program: Additional Money Available for Producers

MADISON -- "Wisconsin dairy producers have a window of opportunity for reimbursement of costs associated with Johne's disease" says Dr. Elisabeth Patton, Designated Johne's Coordinator in the Division of Animal Health, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

To find out more about reimbursements, changes and updates in the 2007 Johne's disease control program, plan on attending one of the 12 producer meetings that will be held across the state between Jan. 8 and Feb. 12. There are no fees for the meeting and a noon lunch will be provided. However, to allow for an accurate meal count, and because space is limited, pre-registration is required by calling 608-224-4874.

Jan.10, **Richland Center**, UW-Richland Center, Pippin Conference Center, 1200 Hwy. 14 West, noon-2 p.m.

Jan.17, **Sheboygan**, UW-Sheboygan, Room 3210, 1 University Drive., noon-2 p.m.

Jan. 23, **Monroe**, Site to be determined, noon-2 p.m.

Jan. 24, **Tomah**, Cranberry Country Lodge, 319 Wittig Road., noon-2 p.m.

Jan.30, **Madison**, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Room 106, 2811 Agriculture Drive., noon-2 p.m.

Jan.31, **Platteville**, UW-Platteville Student Center, South Room, noon-2 p.m.

This is an abbreviated list, for a complete list contact Dr. Andrea Foley.

Interested producers are encouraged to have their Johne's certified veterinarian complete a Johne's risk assessment and herd management plan (RAMP). Farmers who have a RAMP completed by Feb. 28, 2007 can apply for reimbursement of 2007 Johne's disease management costs. Eligible costs may include the RAMP, and up to 75 percent of veterinary costs associated with Department approved Johne's disease testing and vaccination.

According to the National Animal Health Monitoring System, in test positive herds with at least 10 percent of animals culled in the past year with clinical signs of Johne's, the disease costs dairy producers more than \$200 per cow annually (or nearly \$16,000 in a typical Wisconsin dairy operation). These costs are primarily associated with decreased milk production and premature culling.

To register and for more information contact **Dr. Andrea Foley**, Division of Animal Health at andrea.foley@datcp.state.wi.us or at 608-224-4874. For even more information check out the Department's website at www.datcp.state.wi.us keyword search Johne's.

Wisconsin Agronomy Update Meetings Scheduled for January

Madison - Grain farmers can get the latest information on hybrid and variety performance, hear an analysis of last year's growing season and get updated recommendations for field crop production at Crop Production and Management Meetings to be held in January at eight locations in Wisconsin.

The meetings are sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Department of Agronomy and UW-Extension and will feature presentations by Joe Lauer, UW-

Madison/Extension corn specialist; John Gaska, UW-Extension soybean and small grains specialist; and Dan Undersander, UW-Madison/Extension forage agronomist.

Each meeting will cover the same topics, which include:

Corn: Milk2006 and silage hybrid performance; getting a handle on seed costs-plant density; grain equivalents in silage the first step in setting value; imbibitional chilling effect on stand.

Soybeans: crop year retrospect; specialty soybean production issues; soybean disease roundup.

Forages: Roundup Ready alfalfa uses and potential; alfalfa/grass mixes for Wisconsin.

Small Grains: small grain production synopsis.

The registration fee is \$12 per person; meal cost is extra. Please pre-register with the local county UW-Extension agriculture agent for the meeting you plan to attend. Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education credits have been requested. Meetings will be held on the following schedule:

Thursday, Jan. 4, Fond du Lac, UW-Fond du Lac, Rm 114 University Center. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., meeting at 8 a.m. Contact: Mike Rankin, 920-929-3171.

Thursday, Jan. 4, Kimberly, Liberty Hall, U.S. Highway 441, College Avenue Exit, east one block, 800 Eisenhower Drive. Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m. Contact: Kevin Jarek, 920-832-5121.

Friday, Jan. 5, Janesville, Milwaukee Grill (formerly the Cornerstone Restaurant). Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m. Contact: Jim Stute, 608-757-5696.

Monday, Jan. 8, Platteville, Park Inn Convention Center, 300 U.S. Highway 151. Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m. Contact: Ted Bay, 608-723-2125.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, Wausau, Best Western/Midway Motor Lodge, 2901 Martin Avenue. Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 p.m. Contact: Mike Wildeck, 715-261-1231.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, Eau Claire, Holiday Inn, campus area. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., meeting at 8 a.m. Contact: Mahlon Peterson, 715-839-4712.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, Sparta, American Legion, U.S. Highway 21 (NE side of town.) Meeting at 1 p.m. Contact: Bill Halfman, 608-269-8722.

Thursday, Jan. 11, Waunakee, Rex's Innkeeper, U.S. Highways 113 and 19 (north one block.) Lunch at noon, meeting at noon. Contact: David Fisher, 608-224-3716

Keeping Your Place Bio-secure

Biosecurity is a word that we hear a lot from veterinarians and governmental agencies. But what is biosecurity and is it something that you should be worried about? Well, this is how I view biosecurity; it is taking measures to prevent the transfer of diseases from place to place and animal to animal.

So what does that mean?? It means that we do what we can to keep our animals healthy. We routinely practice some forms of biosecurity, such as cleaning out feeders or water tanks. However, we don't often think of all the ways that disease can be spread from farm to farm. Follow these five easy steps to biosecurity to keep your animals healthy.

1. *Keep Your Distance* – limit the traffic through your animals and know who is there. Also allow for “clean” areas between animal groups.
2. *Keep It Clean* – Don't drag debris and other unwanted diseases to your animals. Clean and wash your clothes and footwear, especially if you have been visiting another farm.
3. *Don't Haul Disease Home* – if you are taking your animal to show, an

area where many animals are brought together, or you are purchasing a new animal, keep them separate from the rest of the animals. You don't know what they might have picked up.

4. *Don't Borrow Disease* – Sharing equipment is one way to spread disease. If you share with the neighbor, make sure that the equipment has been disinfected when you get it and when you send it back.
5. *Be Informed* – learning what diseases look like and how they are spread is an important step to biosecurity.

Following these simple steps and using good common sense, you and your animals will share a healthy relationship.

Average Crop Yields in Richland County

Crop	Average Yield 2004 per acre	Average Yield 2005 per Acre
CORN FOR GRAIN	142 BUSHEL	169 BUSHEL
CORN SILAGE	17 TON	21 TON
SOYBEANS	43 BUSHEL	53 BUSHEL
OAT	62 BUSHEL	60 BUSHEL
ALFALFA HAY	2.7 TON	2.6 TON

Source: 2006 Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics

Understanding the Nutrient Management Plan

Area farmers are invited to attend a 4 session Workshop series, “**Understanding the Nutrient Management Plan**” on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 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.

The series of 4 workshops will provide you with the basics of establishing and understanding a nutrient management plan. Each of the meetings will build off of what was discussed in the previous meeting. The first meeting will cover 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 Resource Extension agent; Cathy Cooper, Richland County Conservationist and Adam Hady Richland County Extension Agriculture Agent.

There is limited room for this training so please pre-register by contacting the Richland County UW-Extension Office at 608/647-6148 or if you have questions about this program.

Dairy Road Show Offers Farmers a Competitive Edge

Madison Make plans to attend one of the presentations of the 2007 University of Wisconsin-Extension Dairy Team Road show in January and learn more about gaining a competitive edge in the dairy business.

The topics discussed will be of interest to both dairy producers and industry professionals. The program includes information on developing management plans to deal with clinical mastitis; methods of improving profitability; management strategies to decrease neonatal calf mortality; and design options and management experience for compost bedded barns.

This year's Road Show, "Gaining the Competitive Edge - A Dairy Seminar Series," will be held in January in locations around the state.

Seminars will be:

Jan. 9, Westby and Melrose

Jan. 10, Rice Lake and Menomonie

Jan. 11, Antigo and Medford

Jan. 12, Dodgeville

Jan. 16, Casco and Hollandtown

Jan. 17, Kiel and Lomira

Jan. 18, Manawa and Suring

Jan. 19, Plover and Loyal

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

"Managing Cows with Clinical Mastitis"
Pam Ruegg, D.V.M., UW-Extension milk quality specialist and Dave Rhoda, D.V.M.

"Strategies to Improve Profitability," UW-Ag Economists from the Center for Dairy Profitability.

"Twinning and Neonatal Calf Mortality,"
Paul Fricke, UW-Extension dairy reproduction specialist and Kent Weigel, UW-Extension geneticist.

"Compost and Bedded Pack Housing" David Kammel, UW-Agricultural Engineer and Brian Holmes, UW-Agricultural Engineer.

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 Otto Wiegand at 715-635-3506 or 800-528-1914 or by email at otto.weigand@ces.uwex.edu

Tri-State Beef Days

Tri-State Beef Days continues as an educational event for beef cow/calf and feedlot producers. It's purpose is to provide pertinent research results and management strategies for staying competitive in the beef business.

This year's program will again address production and management issues related to the challenges of a changing beef industry. It should be of interest for everyone involved in the beef cattle business.

Marketing, crossbreeding, the bio economy, weaning calves and feed lot design.

This event will take place at the Crawford County Administration Building on Jan 19th. There is a \$25 registration fee. For more information contact Dave Wachter of the Grant County Extension Office at 608/723-2125.

UW-Extension is Offering Heart of the Farm Conferences in 2007

Mark your calendars! Building on past Heart of the Farm one-day conferences, University of Wisconsin-Extension will be offering five Heart of the Farm workshops throughout Wisconsin in 2007.

The Heart of the Farm-Women in Agriculture 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.

This year workshops will be held at the following locations:

Friday, March 9, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Wilton at the Wilton Community Center.
Contact: Bill Halfman, Monroe County, 608-269-8722

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007: Platteville at Pioneer Farm
Contact: Kevin Bernhardt, UW-Platteville, 608-342-1365

Organizers will use local input to plan each workshop, so each agenda will be slightly different. Topics may include balancing farm, family and off-farm work, agricultural law issues, value-added opportunities, strategies for affordable health care, improving communication skills, managing farm debt, farm transfer issues, personality styles, impacts of animal diseases on farm markets, off-farm investment options, measuring farm profitability, and effective methods to influence decision-makers.

For an agenda, price and registration information for a specific location, contact the agent listed or call Jenny Vanderlin, Center for Dairy Profitability, 608-263-7795, jmvander@wisc.edu. A complete set of brochures will be available soon on the Heart of the Farm website:

www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm

Heart of the Farm Women in Agriculture is partially supported by the USDA Risk Management Agency, UW-Center for Dairy

Profitability and is sponsored by UW-Extension's Farm and Risk Management Education team.

Dairy Management Seminar

The Green County Milk Quality Council, in cooperation with UW-Extension, will be sponsoring the 19th Annual Green County Dairy Management Seminar on Friday January 5, 2006. The seminar will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and will be held in a new location this year, the Auditorium of the Green County Agriculture Building, 2842 6th St, Monroe.

The featured speaker for this year's program will be Dr. Mike Hutjens, Extension Dairy Specialist, University of Illinois. Dr Hutjens is a very popular speaker with dairy producers. Hutjens will speak on three topics. They will include "Meeting the Starch Challenge: Distillers Grains and \$3/bushel Corn"; "Measuring Economic Impactors: Feed Efficiency, Economic Benchmarks, and MUN"; and "Transition Cow Feeding Strategies." Mark Mayer, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent will also provide an overview of Wisconsin's new Large Farm Siting Regulations that took effect this fall and have replaced Green County's large farm ordinance.

Due to sponsorships by many local businesses the advance registration fee is only \$5 and includes lunch. Registrations are due to the Green County UW-Extension Office by December 29, 2006. An additional \$2 late fee will be charged for registrations received after this date. Enrollment is limited to the first 80 participants who register.

Registration brochures are available at most Green County area dairy supply and service businesses or can be obtained via the internet at green.uwex.edu or by contacting Mark Mayer, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent for Green County @ 608-328-9440.

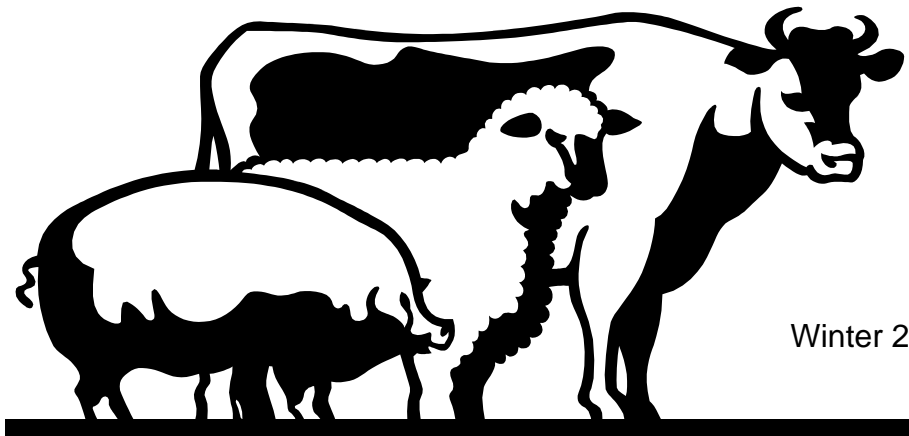
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RICHLAND COUNTY AG NEWS & NOTES



Winter 2007