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Agricultural Facility Rental Rate Survey due January 31
By: Arlin Brannstrom, AAC

The North Central Extension Farm Management Committee is collecting facility rental data from the Midwest to update a regional publication on this topic. The survey is conducted electronically and all responses are anonymous. The entire process should only take a few minutes and it will help us greatly. For those of you currently renting agricultural facilities or have information about rented farm facilities, please take a few minutes to complete our survey. The process is easy and it will help us to answer rental rate questions in many states.

We are asking you to complete our on-line survey by going to the following link: Farm Building Lease Survey. Your name or the respondent’s name will not be connected to the information provided in any way. Many rental resources along with results of the survey will be posted at http://aglease101.org/.

We would like to complete the survey collection process by January 31. Thank you for your time.

Nutrient Management Training in Adams and Marquette Counties
By: Donald Genrich, Adams County

Training sessions for those individuals interested in writing a nutrient management plan for their farms are scheduled in Adams and Marquette Counties. Separate sessions are also planned for individualized instruction in Snap-Plus, a computer program used to create nutrient management plans.

Adams County Nutrient Management training will be held on January 24 and 31, and Adams County Snap-Plus training will be held on February 13 and 20. All Adams County sessions will be held at the Adams County Community Center, 569 North Cedar Street, Adams.

The Marquette County Nutrient Management Training will be held on March 7 and 14 and the Snap-Plus Training will be held on March 28 and April 3. All Marquette County sessions will be at the Marquette County Services Center, 480 Underwood Avenue, Montello.

All training sessions will start at 9:30 am and end at 3 pm. A noon lunch will be provided.

The classes will be taught by Don Genrich, Agriculture Agent Adams County and Nav Ghimire, Agriculture Agent for Green Lake County. Call Adams County UW-Extension at 608-339-4237 to register or email to: donald.genrich@ces.uwex.edu
2014 UW-Extension and Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association
Grower Education Conference February 4-6
Wisconsin Muck Growers Association Meeting February 5
By: Ken Schroeder, Portage County

Growers attending the conference will have the opportunity to get a head start on the season with expert market outlooks, research reports, information on new technologies and agribusiness advice. The conference is a great place for growers to get the advice, tips and insights that will give them the edge they need in a tough business. We have an excellent slate of speakers and presentations. Program details will be available soon. Watch the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association web site for the full agenda www.wisconsinpotatoes.com.

To reserve a hotel room for the conference, please call the Holiday Inn Convention Center at (715) 344-0200, or the Holiday Inn Express at (715) 344-0000 in Stevens Point, WI. You can also book your room online by visiting www.holidayinn.com. When reserving your room either by phone or online, please refer to the group block code: PAG to take advantage of discounted room rates. Call before JANUARY 17, 2014 to receive discounted rates.

For more detailed program information, conference registration and hotel information, check the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association website www.wisconsinpotatoes.com/ or WPVGA at 715-623-7683. Early registration deadline is January 17, 2014. Send registration forms and payment to: WPVGA, PO Box 327, Antigo, WI 54409, (715) 623-7683. Please note that rates will increase after January 17, 2014 so register today!

2014 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Classes Offered

Private Pesticide Applicator Training classes will once again be offered by your local UW-Extension office. Anyone who intends to purchase, mix, load, apply, or direct the use of restricted use pesticides as a private applicator must be certified. Certification is good for five years. There are two ways to become certified. Purchase and study the training manual and attend an all-day training class offered by your local UW-Extension office. These classes consist of presentations followed by a written exam at the end of the day. If you are unable to attend one of the classroom sessions, the second option is to self-study and schedule time through the UW-Extension office to take the exam on your own.

Training manuals are available at your local UW-Extension office and must be purchased at least five (5) days before the class or individual exam is taken.

- January 23 - Green Lake County
- January 24 - Waushara County
- January 29 - Adams County
- February 5 - Marquette County
- February 14 - Wood County
- February 21 - Juneau County
- February 21 - Portage County
- February 27 - Waupaca County
- March 4 - Waupaca County
- March 7 - Portage County
- March 10 - Adams County
- March 11 - Green Lake County
- March 21 - Waushara County
A session on horse care will be held Saturday, February 8, at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells (511 E Adams St, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965). Registration is at 8:45 am and the program will be 9 am to 12 pm. Speakers include Liv Sandberg, UW-Extension Equine Specialist, and Jennifer Thompson, DVM, from Fox Woods Equine Veterinary Care in Lodi will be talking about diseases, vaccinations, and dental care. Pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate refreshments. For more information, contact Lyssa Seefeldt at Marquette County UW-Extension at 608-297-3327 ext. 1 or e-mail lyssa.seefeldt@ces.uwex.edu.

Launched Your Pre-Harvest and Post-Harvest Marketing Plan
February 4 and 11

The purpose of this program is to develop a marketing plan for grain producers. This program will provide a foundation for the grain producer to reduce risk and increase profit on their farm. It is recommended to attend both sessions. Register with Clark County UW-Extension by January 31.

Winning the Game Pre-Harvest Grain Marketing, Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Winning the Game Post-Harvest Grain Marketing, Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Hayloft-Withee, 10:00 AM—3:00 PM. $20.00 for both sessions

Launch Your Pre-Harvest and Post-Harvest Marketing Plan
February 4 and 11

Horse Care Programming, February 8
By: Lyssa Seefeldt, Marquette County

A session on horse care will be held Saturday, February 8, at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells (511 E Adams St, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965). Registration is at 8:45 am and the program will be 9 am to 12 pm. Speakers include Liv Sandberg, UW-Extension Equine Specialist on parasites and Jennifer Thompson, DVM, from Fox Woods Equine Veterinary Care in Lodi will be talking about diseases, vaccinations, and dental care. Pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate refreshments. For more information, contact Lyssa Seefeldt at Marquette County UW-Extension at 608-297-3141 or lyssa.seefeldt@ces.uwex.edu.

Focus on Goats 2014: Profitability and Progress

Date: February 7-8, 2014
Location: UW Platteville
1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818

Registration and full schedule:
http://www.wdga.org/fog-2014

Clark, Taylor & Marathon County UW-Extension present

Heifers: The Next Generation

- Real Herds, Real Heifers: the cost of raising heifers in WI 2013 survey results
- New Concepts in Calf Scours: Don Sackett, DVM
- Raising Calves Right & Animal Wellbeing: Amy Stanton, PhD

March 6, 9:30 am—3 pm—$10 by Feb. 25/$15 at door, includes lunch
Abbotsford City Hall, 203 E Birch St., Abbotsford
More information at http://taylor.uwex.edu
Two-Part Nutrient Management Training, February 12 and 19  
By: Don Genrich, Adams County and Nav Ghimire, Green Lake County

Green Lake County UW-Extension and Land Conservation Department are jointly implementing a two-part Nutrient Management Training for farmers on February 12 and 19, 2014. The topics covered in the training are: Why is nutrient management an issue; State and federal direction on nutrient management; Components of a nutrient management plan; Understanding soil test reports; Management of nitrogen fertilizers, and Phosphorous in soil, feed, and the environment.

Benefits of the training include: reduced fertilizer cost, managing soil fertility, maximizing crop yields, and ability to write a nutrient management plan. Donald Genrich, Adams County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent and Nav Ghimire, Green Lake County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, are the instructors for the training.

Location: The workshop will be held in the Green Lake County Training Room located at Government Center, Court House and will run from 10 am – 3 pm. There is no registration fee for the training this year. Lunch will be provided to all who attend. Please pre-register at least one week in advance so we can make lunch arrangements for you. Call Nav Ghimire, Agriculture Agent at 920-294-4037 or Kathy 920-294-4032, or stop by in Green Lake County UW-Extension office located at 571 County Road A, Green Lake, Wisconsin. Please mention Nutrient Management when you register.

2014 Annual CAFO Meeting, February 12  
Marshfield Ag Research Station

An update meeting for WPDES permitted CAFO owners and managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers. Session goals: improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and WDNR; and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Meeting starts at 9 am and concludes at 3:30 pm. Topics: NMP Topics (public notice requirements for new land, etc.); permit required reporting (annual reports and NMP updates, etc.); local topic; topic or case study by Local Permitted Farm; engineering review requirements; professional manure applicator/agronomist/custom harvester (panel discussion); winter spreading/stacking requirements; new or potential permit applicants, pre-permit meetings and inspections; ask DNR Panel.

Cost: $30 in advance; $45 after February 4th or Walk-ins (at the Door). Lunch and snacks provided. Payment by check to Clark County UW-Extension or cash. No Credit/Debit Cards.
Area swine producers and their employees will have the opportunity to become Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) certified on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 6 pm at the Marquette County UW-Extension office. Please note that a Spanish version of the training is also available. An alternate day to receive PQA Plus certification is at the Wisconsin Corn/Soy/Pork Expo on Thursday, February 6.

This training is an opportunity to certify in the program, or renew your certification. The training session will focus on the 10 Good Production Practices, which are common sense practices based on sound scientific principles. The training will take approximately 2.5 hours. Individuals must pass an open-book exam, scoring 85% or better. Certification is good for three years from the training date.

To register for this session, please call the Marquette County UW-Extension office at 608-297-3141 with your name, phone number, and how many are attending. Please include the names of any additional people attending. **Please contact the Marquette County UW-Extension office by February 7 to register** for the Spanish version to ensure that the Spanish materials are available for the training.

Does February 19th not work for your schedule to re-certify? An online option is available to you (please note that new certifications do not have this option and require face-to-face training). Contact the Marquette County UW-Extension office to enroll in this option. Other training days and locations can be arranged, depending on the demand. Please contact Lyssa Seefeldt at 608-297-3141 to discuss additional training days.

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**Badger Swine Symposium Date Set, April 2**
**By Lyssa Seefeldt, Marquette County**

The UW-Extension Swine Team, UW-River Falls, UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and the Wisconsin Pork Association invite pork producers and industry professionals from across the state to attend the second annual Badger Swine Symposium. Speakers will address topics impacting the Wisconsin pork industry. Please join us at Mann Valley Lab Farm in River Falls, WI on April 2. The Mann Valley Lab Farm is located at 129 S. Glover Road, River Falls, WI 54022. More information will be released as the date gets closer. Contact Lyssa Seefeldt at 608-297-3141 to be on the list to receive more information as it becomes available.
Wisconsin cattle feeders who are seeking information on traits that high profit feeder calves have or are interested in improving their cattle housing, feed storage, handling and feeding facilities should attend this year’s cattle feeder clinics.

This year’s clinics will feature Darrell Busby, Tri County Steer Carcass Futurity Advisor and Iowa State University Extension Beef Specialist Emeritus. Darrell will present information on Factors that Impact Profit in the Feedlot and will discuss traits the top 1/3 profitability animals have in common.

David Kammel, UW Extension Bio-systems Engineer, will present information on Remodeling “Retired” Dairy Facilities for Raising Steers. David will discuss how some farms have converted and adapted their dairy facilities into a system that allows their use for growing and finishing steers in a safe and labor efficient housing system.

One major challenge in remodeling older facilities is creating a properly ventilated building environment for growing and finishing steers. Examples of common remodeling projects include using the dairy barn for shelter or a cattle handling center, using the concrete barnyard for a feed lot with drive-by feeding with TMR mixer, using the freestall barn for bedded pen finishing pens, and developing a feed center for growing and finishing rations. If you have a good example of a simple solution to successfully converting or remodeling your own farm to raise steers please bring your remodeling ideas and share them with your neighbors and friends.

How important is keeping animals clean on profitability? Local Extension Agents will discuss how keeping animals bedded, clean, and dry impacts both feedlot performance and carcass quality.

The Cattle Feeders Clinics will be held at 7 locations around the state beginning on February 24th and going through February 27th. Additional information will be available at the UW Extension Wisconsin Beef Information Center Website http://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/ in early 2014. This workshop series is partially funded by a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Dates, locations, and host Extension Offices for the Cattle Feeder’s series are as follows:

**February 24th**
- Afternoon-Green County Justice Center, Monroe, Contact: Green County Extension Office

**February 25th**
- Daytime-Marion- Equity Sale Barn, contact: Waupaca County Extension Office
- Evening-Waldo- Chissys Pub, contact: Sheboygan County Extension Office

**February 26th**
- Daytime-Marquette County Service Center- Montello, Contact: Marquette County Extension
- Office Evening-Withee, The Hayloft, contact: Taylor County Extension Office

**February 27th**
- Daytime-Mondovi, KD’s Homestyle Eatery, contact: Buffalo County Extension Office
- Evening-Sparta, Jake’s Northwoods, contact: Monroe County Extension Office

Marquette County will be hosting the February 26th site. Registration is at 9 am with the program starting at 9:30 am and concluding at 1 pm. Unique to the Marquette County will be a grazing and cow calf meeting following the Cattle Feeder workshop. There is a $10 fee to cover lunch and handouts. Please pre-register for the February 26th session by calling the Marquette County UW-Extension office at 608-297-3141 by February 21.
Grazing Meeting to Follow Cattle Feeder Workshop in Montello, February 26
By: Lyssa Seefeldt, Marquette County

Following lunch & the conclusion of the February 26th cattle feeder workshop in Montello, there will be a grazing meeting, starting at 1 pm. There will be two speakers with the meeting concluding at 3 pm.

Richard (Dick) Cates, PhD, will be discussing the Cates Family Farm: a managed grazing, direct market grass-fed beef business model. Richard (Dick) L. Cates, Jr., Ph.D., and his wife, Kim, co-own and operate the Cates Family Farm LLC near Spring Green, Wisconsin, a managed grazing, direct-market grass-fed beef business they started in 1987. Dick holds a Senior Lecturer position in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is director of the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Farm & Industry Short Course Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers, a business and training program for start-up farmers which he helped create in 1995, and he co-teaches courses in grassland--and agro--ecology, pasture management, and managed grazing. Dick recently served on the USDA Secretary’s Advisory Council for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and presently serves on his local River Valley Board of Education. He is a member of the WI Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Cattlemen’s Assoc., GrassWorks, Aldo Leopold Foundation, and the Spring Green Lions Club. He works internationally as a volunteer consultant with farmer-to-farmer assistance projects, most recently in Azerbaijan, China, Honduras, Moldova, and South Africa. His first book, Voices from the Heart of the Land: Rural Stories that Inspire Community (2008; University of Wisconsin Press), is based on conversations with elder rural citizens around their values about character and care for our land and rural community.

Following Dick’s presentation will be Wayne Coblentz, PhD, discussing the unique characteristics of fall-grown oat forages. Fall grown oats have the potential to extend the grazing season in October, even into November (when growth of perennial cool-season grasses slows). Late summer seeded oats also have the potential as emergency forage before winter. Wayne is a USDA Dairy Forage Research Center Research Leader, Dairy Scientist, and Research Agronomist based in Marshfield, WI. Wayne received his MS in Dairy Science from The Pennsylvania State University and PhD in Forage Physiology from Kansas State University. Prior to his employment at the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center, Wayne worked as a Professor of Animal Science at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. Wayne’s current research includes: investigation of changes in nutritional characteristics of forages as a result of agronomic inputs, application of animal wastes, grazing, climate, and post-harvest management.

SNAP-Plus Training, February 25 and March 4
By: Nav Ghimire, Green Lake County, Todd Morris and Mike Stanek

SNAP-Plus is computer software designed for Wisconsin farmers to prepare their Nutrient Management plan. You will have a chance to work on your nutrient management plan using SNAP-Plus. You can learn how to use SNAP-Plus to make crop nutrient recommendations. SNAP-Plus is an excellent tool for tracking nutrient applications and updating your nutrient management plan every year.

Benefits of SNAP-Plus training includes: saving money by writing your own plan in computer than hiring a consultant; reduced fertilizer cost; managing soil fertility; maximizing crop yields; and tracking your crop nutrient application and crop rotation history. Nav Ghimire, Agriculture Agent, UW-Extension Green Lake County, and Todd Morris, Soil Conservationist, Department of Land (Continued on page 8)
Recent viral videos of animal mistreatment on a Wisconsin dairy farm and that farm immediately losing their milk market has increased what was already a high level of interest among dairy producers to provide more training to employees and farm members. On February 25, UW-Extension will provide a training and town hall discussion for producers and their employees to improve the handling procedures of difficult to manage non-ambulatory animals.

**Location:** The workshop will be held in the Green Lake County Training Room located at Government Center, Court House that will run from 10 am – 3 pm. Please bring your soil test report (within last four years) on a 5 acre / sample basis. Please ask your lab for an electronic copy of the soil test report in SNAP-Plus. If you don’t have an electronic copy, just bring your written copy and we will download it into SNAP-Plus for you.

There is no registration fee for the training this year. Lunch will be provided to all who attend. Please pre-register at least one week in advance so we can make lunch arrangements for you. Call Nav Ghimire, Agriculture Agent at 920-294-4037 or Kathy 920-294-4032, or stop by the Green Lake County UW-Extension office located at 571 County Road A, Green Lake, Wisconsin. Please mention SNAP-Plus Training when you register.

**Care for non-ambulatory cattle: A workshop, February 25**

**By: Matt Lippert, Wood County**

- **Location:** Marshfield Ag Research Station, 2611 Yellowstone Drive, Marshfield WI 54495.
- The program begins with registration at 10 am. Morning sessions include: “Flight Zone, Cow Movement and Down Cows” by Amy Stanton, UW Animal Well-Being Specialist; and “Moving Down Cows” by Bob Leder, DVM. Afternoon sessions include: “Managing Drug Residue” by Kim Pokorny; “CAFO’s Animal Care” by Matt Lippert. Panel-Ask and Discuss session follows with program completion at 3 pm.
- Registration: $15 in advance or $25 at the door, includes lunch. Register at Wood County UW-Extension, 400 Market St., PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495 or call and enroll by credit card at 715-421-8440. **Registration deadline is February 19 or pay $25 at the door.**

**Century & Sesquicentennial Farm Applications, Deadline March 1**

Farm and home owners are encouraged to register for a Century or Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award. To qualify for the award, the farm or home, in whole or in part, must have been in continuous family ownership in the state of Wisconsin for the past 100 or 150 years. Title of century or sesquicentennial property must reside in a blood relative of the original owner or a legally adopted child of a descendant. Continuous residence in the state or on the property is not required, but the title to the property must be continuous.

More information and applications can be found at [http://marquette.uwex.edu/agriculture/century-farm/](http://marquette.uwex.edu/agriculture/century-farm/) or by contacting the Marquette County UW-Extension office at 608-297-3141. Marquette County residents are encouraged to work with Lyssa Seefeldt at the UW-Extension office to ensure that we get a story put in the local paper about the farm. **Applications are due to Jill Albanese at the WI State Fair no later than March 1.**
As many of you know, Mercy for Animals conducted an undercover recording of mistreatment of dairy cows on a farm in Brown County. That information has been released to media sources and the general public.

Without question, proper care and treatment of all animals is a top priority for all of us in the dairy and livestock industries. There is no place for animal abuse/mistreatment. UW-Extension encourages you to work closely with all of your employees who have animal handling and care responsibilities to make sure that the protocols you have developed are being followed. For those that do not have written protocols for animal care and handling, we encourage you to work closely with your veterinarian and other animal care experts to develop protocols specific to your operation(s). Regular training and re-training sessions with owners and employees is critical in order to ensure that the proper protocols are being followed at all times.

UW-Extension has developed a module on Animal Handling for Dairy Workers, which includes a 3-ring binder of materials along with a DVD in both English and Spanish. Modules can be purchased from the UW-Extension Learning Store. For more information, feel free to contact your local County UW-Extension office.

UW-Extension will be hosting the 5th Annual Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference on March 7, 2014 in Eau Claire. The purpose of the conference is to expand awareness and understanding about the growing concern nationwide of how farm animals are cared for and what the implications could be for animal agriculture in Wisconsin. Approaches to prevent animal cruelty will be discussed along with many other topics that are of the utmost importance to dairy farmers and the well-being of Wisconsin cattle. The conference features animal health and welfare topics, strategies for improvement in the cattle world, and an update on euthanasia.

This one day conference is designed for dairy and beef producers (the content of this conference applies to both), veterinarians, farm service providers, educators and interested elected officials. Continuing education credits are available for veterinarians.

The conference will be held at on Friday, March 7 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center located at 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701 (located one mile off of Highway 94- Exit 65 N on Highway 37 to Craig Road or three miles W of Highway 53 on Clairemont/Highway 12, take a left to Craig Road). A block of rooms is available by referencing the “Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference”. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the conference concludes at 3:00 p.m.

Financial support for this program has been provided by Animart, Equity Livestock, JBS, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and UW-Extension. For more information on the conference, please visit https://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/ or scan the QR code below with your smart phone. The site includes program details and registration information ($40/person or $75/veterinarian before March 1). Please contact Mark Hagedorn, Eau Claire County UW-Extension with questions at mark.hagedorn@ces.uwex.edu or 715-839-4712.
Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit, March 14-15  
By: Lyssa Seefeldt, Marquette County

UW-Extension has once again partnered with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Badgerland Financial to offer the 4th Annual Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit, March 14-15 in Madison, WI.  
Topics include planning & financing your value-added ag business, UW-Extension 101, making the most of social media, managing generations, updates on agriculture & regulatory policies, and more.  
Registration deadline is March 7, 2014 and you can save $25 by registering by February 14. More information on this program can be found at http://fyi.uwex.edu/cwas/2013/12/30/wisconsin-ag-womens-summit/ or contact your local UW-Extension office.

Heart of the Farm comes to Central Wisconsin, March 28  
By: Matt Lippert, Wood County

The widely acclaimed Heart of the Farm Program- a program for women involved in agriculture is coming to the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center near Milladore March 28th. Heart of the Farm is sponsored by UW-Extension, Center for Dairy Profitability and partially funded by a USDA risk management cooperative agreement. 
This year’s program will feature Laura Daniels. Daniels is a mother, wife, farmer, consultant and agriculture advocate. At Hartwood Farm in Cobb in Southwest Wisconsin Laura and her husband Jarred Sears take great joy in teaching their children Nathan 12 and Julia 8 their values as they work together. While Laura and Jarred share in ownership of the farm it is Laura who serves as General Manager in charge of day-to-day operations. They have 6 full time employees, 300 Jersey cows and operate 650 acres of crop and pasture land. Laura also does consulting in the areas of team building, employee management and dairy cattle nutrition. She is currently sharing her pro-ag and motivational speeches across the country, inspiring many to find their passion, build their skills and have confidence...
The decline in grain prices makes it essential for producers to accurately project the potential profitability of the crops they will plant in 2014.

Enterprise budgets for grain crop production are increasingly important as the market price for grain crops and the costs for inputs to grow these crops continue to increase. While working with area grain producers there was a need expressed for a simple and concise way to compare the potential production costs and returns for various crops. There are numerous spreadsheets that have been developed as a way for producers to develop sample enterprise budgets for their operations. Most of these are extremely detailed and complicated for those producers with limited computer experience.

According to the 2008 Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service 69 percent of farms in 2007 had computer access, while only 38 percent of farms used a computer for farm business.

In response to this need, I developed an Excel workbook with individual spreadsheets for corn, soybeans, winter wheat, seeding alfalfa and established alfalfa. Each spreadsheet is concise enough to print on a standard 8½ x 11 page of paper. The producer is able to enter the cost per ton for the fertilizer he uses as well as the amount applied per acre. Seed cost is calculated by entering the cost per bag and the population being planted. There are pop up directions as the cursor is moved from cell to cell. Tillage costs are covered by using custom rates for each operation. The grower may change these rates and simply enter a 0 or a 1 or 2 to indicate which tillage he is using and how many passes. For harvest there is a harvest, drying and trucking charge included. A line is included for land cost whether it is owned or rented land. At the bottom of the spreadsheet the grower can enter his expected yield and the expected selling price. The corn and soybean sheets have a sensitivity analysis table which provides the producer with net returns for changes in costs of production and selling price for 10 and 20 percent above and below the calculated cost and expected market returns. The key goal of this spreadsheet was to develop an understandable, easy to use spreadsheet to collect the major expenses in a crop production system. Producers have stated that they are concerned with covering their major costs while still being able to compare the potential returns from alternative crops.

This spreadsheet is posted and available for download from the UW-Extension, Waushara County website, http://waushara.uwex.edu/agriculture. Click on “Crop Budget Analyzer Jan 1_2014”. This spreadsheet has been used by producers, bankers, co-operatives, newspapers, technical school instructors and land conservation personnel from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Arkansas and other neighboring states. Users have stated that this spreadsheet is “the most simple and complete I have found”. For additional information or questions contact Ken Williams at ken.williams@ces.uwex.edu or 920-787-0416.
Nitrogen fertilizer applied to crops lingers in the soil and leaks out as nitrate for decades towards groundwater -- "much longer than previously thought," scientists in France and at the University of Calgary say in a new study. Thirty years after synthetic nitrogen (N) fertilizer had been applied to crops in 1982, about 15 percent of the fertilizer N still remained in soil organic matter, the scientists found. After three decades, approximately 10 percent of the fertilizer N had seeped through the soil towards the groundwater and will continue to leak in low amounts for at least another 50 years.

The study was led by researcher Mathieu Sebilo at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, France, and by Bernhard Mayer in the University of Calgary’s Department of Geoscience, and included several research organizations in France. Their paper, "Long-term fate of nitrate fertilizer in agricultural soils," was published in October 2013 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. The findings show that losses of fertilizer N towards the groundwater occur at low rates but over many decades. That means it could take longer than previously thought to reduce nitrate contamination in groundwater, including in aquifers that supply drinking water in North America and elsewhere.

There's a lot of fertilizer nitrogen that has accumulated in agricultural soils over the last few decades which will continue to leak as nitrate towards groundwater. Canada and the U.S. regulate the amount of nitrate allowed in drinking water. In the 1980s, surveys by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey showed that nitrate contamination had probably impacted more public and domestic water supply wells in the U.S. than any other contaminant.

The French-University Calgary study is the first that tracks, using stable isotope "fingerprinting," the fate of fertilizer N remaining in the soil zone over several decades. The research team used a stable isotope of nitrogen, N-15, as a tracer to track fertilizer nitrogen applied in 1982 to sugar beet and winter wheat crops on a pair of two-meter-square plots at a site in France.

Over the 30-year study, the researchers measured the amount of N-15 labeled fertilizer N taken up by plants and they quantified the amount of fertilizer N remaining in the soil. The novel aspect of their study was that they subsequently determined the long-term fate of this fertilizer N 'pool' retained in the soil. Their measurements of seepage water from locations two meters deep in the soil revealed the amount of fertilizer nitrate leaking towards the groundwater. The team found that 61 to 65 percent of the N-15 fertilizer applied in 1982 was taken up by the sugar beet and wheat plants over the 30-year study. However, 32 to 37 percent of the fertilizer N remained in the soil organic matter in 1985 or three years after application, while 12 to 15 percent still lingered in the soils after three decades.

Between eight to 12 percent of the fertilizer N applied in 1982 had leaked in the form of nitrate toward groundwater during the 30 years, and will continue to leak at low rates "for at least another five decades, much longer than previously thought," the study says. The scientists predict that about 15 percent of the initially applied fertilizer N will be exported from the soils towards the groundwater over a time span of almost one century after the 1982 fertilizer application.

This article is taken from online Science Daily magazine. Nav Ghimire is the University of Wisconsin -Extension Agriculture Agent for Green Lake County. He can be contacted in
Don’t Wait for Rain or Snow;
Get to Know Manure Runoff Advisory System Now

Release Date: Dec. 11, 2013
Contact: Donna Gilson, 608-224-5130, donna.gilson@wi.gov (DATCP)
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MADISON — Farmers who need to spread manure over winter should familiarize themselves with the Wisconsin Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast and follow it to reduce the risk of runoff into lakes, streams and wells, state agriculture and natural resource officials say.

"We've switched over to winter mode now that snow is flying and the ground is freezing," says Sara Walling, water quality section leader with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "Instead of the three-day outlook shown in the warm weather months, the winter map gives you a 10-day outlook. It takes into consideration risk due to upcoming snowmelt or rainfall, and the fact that soils are frozen. It's a valuable tool for farmers."

The Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast is updated three times a day. It shows a map of all the National Weather Service basins in the state, and rates the risk of runoff by basin — not by individual field. Users can view the whole state, or zoom in on their particular basins. The web address is www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov.

In the winter, the site shows three levels of risk:

- Winter risk, where soils are frozen or snow-covered and manure must be applied with caution because it might not not contact or infiltrate the soil
- High risk, where runoff may occur in the next 10 days, mostly due to rain
- High risk, where runoff may occur in the next 10 days, mainly because of snowmelt

"We recognize that not all farms have adequate storage capacity to avoid winter manure spreading," says Andrew Craig, nutrient management specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "During the winter months it is especially important for farmers to work closely with their crop consultants or county conservation officers to identify low-risk fields for manure spreading or find alternatives to manure spreading. The Runoff Risk Advisory System is a great resource to help reduce manure runoff risk in a particular basin and should be used in cooperation with professional advice."

The Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast is a joint effort of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, National Weather Service, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and U.S. Geological Survey."
January

16-18  **22nd Annual GrassWorks Grazing Conference**, Patriot Center, Wausau, WI. For schedule and online registration, visit www.grassworks.org or contact Conference Planner, Lanice Szomi: 715-965-8324 or email: grazingrocks@gmail.com

24 and 31 **Adams County Nutrient Management training**, Adams County Community Center, 569 North Cedar Street, Adams, WI, 9:30 am-3 pm, noon lunch will be provided. Call Adams County UW-Extension at 608-339-4237 to register or email to: donald.genrich@ces.uwex.edu.

24 **Taylor County Large Animal Science Discovery Day**, 11-3, USDA Ag Service Center, 925 Donald St, Medford. [http://taylor.uwex.edu/2013/12/27/large-animal-science-discovery-day/](http://taylor.uwex.edu/2013/12/27/large-animal-science-discovery-day/) by Friday, January 17 to the Taylor County UW-Extension Office, 715-748-3327. For more information, contact Sandy Stuttgen, Agriculture Agent at 715-748-3327, Ext. 1 or e-mail sandy.stuttgen@ces.uwex.edu.

February

4-6 **2014 UW-Extension and Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association Grower Education Conference and March 5 Muck Growers Association Meeting**, Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI. Registration: website www.wisconsinpotatoes.com/ or WPVGA at 715-623-7683.


7-8 **Focus on Goats 2014: Profitability and Progress**, UW-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, UW-Platteville, WI 53818. Registration and full schedule: http://www.wdga.org/fog-2014

8 **Horse Care Programming**, Wilderness Resort, 511 E Adams St, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965. Registration:8:45 am; program 9 am-12 pm. Cost: $5. Pre-registration requested. For more information, contact Lyssa Seefeldt, Marquette County UW-Extension,608-297-3141 or lyssa.seefeldt@ces.uwex.edu.

12 **Annual CAFO Meeting**, Marshfield Ag Research Station, 2811 Yellowstone Dr, Marshfield, WI.
8:30 am-registration; meeting 9 am-3 pm. See Page 4 for registration form.

12 & 19 Two-Part Nutrient Management Training, Green Lake County Training Room, Government Center Courthouse, 10 am–3 pm. Free, lunch provided. Pre-register at least one week in advance to Nav Ghimire at 920-294-4037 or Kathy 920-294-4032, or in person at Green Lake County UW-Extension office, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI.

13 and 20 SNAP-Plus Training, Adams County Community Center, 569 North Cedar Street, Adams, WI. 9:30 am-3 pm, noon lunch will be provided.

19 Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus Adult Training, Marquette County UW-Extension office, 480 Underwood Ave, Montello, WI 53949, 6 pm. Registration due February 7, 608-297-3141.

24-27 Cattle Feeder Workshops—See Page 6 for complete schedule and registration information.

25 Care for Non-ambulatory Cattle, Registration: $15 in advance or $25 at the door, includes lunch. Register at Wood County UW-Extension, 400 Market St., PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495 or call and enroll by credit card at 715-421-8440. Registration deadline is February 19.

25 & March 4 SNAP-Plus Training, Green Lake County Training Room, Government Center, Courthouse, 10 am–3 pm. Free, lunch provided. Pre-register at least one week in advance to Nav Ghimire 920-294-4037 or Kathy 920-294-4032, or in person at Green Lake County UW-Ext., 571 County Rd A, Green Lake, WI.

26 Grazing Meeting, Marquette County Service Center, 480 Underwood Avenue, Montello, WI. Pre-register with Marquette County UW-Extension, 608-297-3141 by February 21.

March

1 Centennial and Sesquicentennial Farm Applications due.

5 Processing Crops Meeting, Elizabeth Inn, 5246 Harding Avenue, Plover, WI. Registration: 8:30 am, meeting: 9 am-3 pm. Cost: $25 includes refreshments and lunch. Pre-registration required by March 3 by mailing a check to UW-Extension, PO Box 487, Wautoma WI. 54982.

6 Heifers: The Next Generation, Abbotsford City Hall, 203 E. Birch St, Abbotsford, WI. 9:30 am-3pm. Registration: Call Taylor County UW-Extension, 715-748-3327 Ext 8. Cost: $10 by February 26; $15 at door, lunch included.

7 5th Annual Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Registration: 8:30 am; conference concludes at 3:00 p.m. $40/person or $75/veterinarian before March 1. For more information, visit https://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/ or scan the QR code on Page 3. For more information, contact Mark Hagedorn, Eau Claire County UW-Extension, mark.hagedom@ces.uwex.edu or 715-839-4712.

March 7 and 14 Marquette County Nutrient Management Training, Marquette County Service Center, 480 Underwood Avenue, Montello, WI, 9:30 am-3 pm; noon lunch provided. Registration: call Adams County UW-Extension at 608-339-4237 or email: donald.genrich@ces.uwex.edu

14-15 Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit, Madison, WI. Save $25 by registering by February 14. Registration deadline March 7, 2014. For more information, visit http://fyi.uwex.edu/cwas/2013/12/30/wisconsin-ag-womens-summit/ or contact your local UW-Extension office.

28 Heart of the Farm Program, Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center, Milladore, WI. 9:00 am. Cost: $30. Registration: Wood County UW-Extension, 400 Market St., PO Box 8095, Wisc Rapids WI 54495, 715-421-8440.

March 28 and April 3 Snap-Plus Training, Marquette County Services Center, 480 Underwood Avenue, Montello, WI, 9:30 am-3 pm. A noon lunch will be provided. Registration: call Adams County UW-Extension at 608-339-4237 or email: donald.genrich@ces.uwex.edu

29 Managed Intensive Grazing meeting, Lettie Jensen Community Center, 487 North Main St. Amherst, WI 54406. Watch for details. Contact Ken Williams, Waushara County UW-Extension 920-787-0416.

April

2 Badger Swine Symposium, Mann Valley Lab Farm, 129 S. Glover Road, River Falls, WI 54022. Contact Lyssa Seefeldt at 608-297-3141 to be on the list to receive more information as it becomes available.