

# Agriculture Newsletter

April 2015



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If you will need any type of accommodation or assistance as you attend any UW-Extension sponsored event, please contact the host county office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

The past few months have been very busy in the Extension 'meeting' world, and I hope you took the opportunity to attend some of the meetings offered by UW-Extension.

UW-Extension will be offering an extraordinary program April 30 in Kimberly which will feature Dr. Temple Grandin among other world renowned experts. Please take a minute to read the program synopsis found in this newsletter. The registration deadline is quickly approaching, and we have a limited number of seats for the event. So, if you are thinking about attending do not delay sending your completed registration form which can be found in this newsletter.

As it has been reported in the news, there have been outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry flocks in several states recently, including Minnesota and Missouri. What is avian influenza and how can we prevent it in our flocks? UW-Extension poultry specialist, Dr. Ron Kean, describes avian influenza and addresses the importance of biosecurity for your flock. His article appears in the insert pages of this newsletter.

Spring is here despite the intermittent chances of snow, and we are quickly turning our attention to outside chores—which may have been left for warmer weather. Many youth are beginning to look ahead to the fair which will be here sooner than we think. If you are looking for specific forms for your Livestock Project for the 2015 Oconto County Youth Fair, this information can be located at the following website: <http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>. In addition to species specific forms, you have access to a Calendar of Events which will list pertinent information such as weigh in and other deadlines. Please check this webpage for more information.

Please be advised if you or someone you know will be showing swine at the 2015 Oconto County Youth Fair, the swine need to be identified with a RFID tag available from the Oconto County UW- Extension office. Directions for the proper placement of the ear tag(s) will be mailed along with the RFID tags. Exhibitors will submit one completed 2015 Swine Exhibitor Form with accompanying photographs per animal identified. The submission deadline for the completed 2015 Swine Exhibitor Form with photographs is April 25, 2015, to [staciepienta@gmail.com](mailto:staciepienta@gmail.com). If you have questions regarding acquisition of tags or completion of the form, please call the Oconto County UW- Extension office at (920) 834- 6845.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Mills-Lloyd*

Agriculture Agent—Specializing in Dairy and Livestock  
Oconto County UW-Extension Office

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## Events, Deadlines and Notes

### Wisconsin Dairy and Beef Well-Being Conference

Consumers want to know where and how their food is produced. The University of Wisconsin-Extension will host the annual Dairy and Beef Well-Being Conference on April 30 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Since consumer confidence is a critical piece of food production, this year's conference will focus on animal care practices and why it matters to consumers. Dairy and beef producers, veterinarians, farm service providers, educators, emergency managers, first responders, and elected officials are encouraged to attend.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Temple Grandin, world-renown animal behavior specialist. Dr. Grandin will be addressing livestock production with a presentation entitled, Biological Systems Overload—Looking at Optimal Production, Not Maximum Production. In addition, Dr. Dee Griffin who is widely known as a pioneer in Beef Quality Assurance will be speaking on how proper animal care is not only good for animals, it's good for all of us.

Additional speakers will include:

- The Value of a Cull Cow-The Packer Perspective, Dr. Lily Edwards-Callaway, Animal Welfare Programs, JBS
- We're Only as Good as Our Customers Think We Are, Bruce Feinberg, McDonald's Global Health and Welfare Officer
- Dairy Calf Care and Management, Dr. Amy Stanton, UW-Madison/UW-Extension
- Humane Euthanasia, Dr. Kurt Voegel, UW-River Falls
- Lameness in Feedlot and Cow/Calf Operations, Dr. Jan Shearer, Iowa State University

The conference will be held at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Dr, Kimberly, WI 54136. Registration for Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and Humane Officers is \$75 on or before April 16, and \$85 after April

16. General registration fee is \$45 on or before April 16, and \$55 after April 16.

This program has been approved for up to 5.4 hours of continuing education credits for veterinary practitioners, veterinary technicians, and humane officers. One Beef/Dairy Beef Quality Assurance credit will be offered. Four credits will be offered for American Registry for Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS).

Go to <http://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/> for the program agenda and registration information. The program is presented by UW-Extension Dairy and Livestock Teams, and monetary sponsors include: Zoetis, JBS, McDonalds, National Dairy Farm Program, Equity Livestock Cooperative, Merial, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Wisconsin Beef Council, Elanco, and Wisconsin Farmers Union.

### Marinette County Library Series

We are starting a series of programs held within the various branches of the Marinette County Consolidated Library System. There may be others that are scheduled, but the current schedule is:

April 15	1 pm	Marinette Library	Seed starting & Selection
April 29	1 pm	Crivitz Library	Companion Planting in Vegetable Gardens
May 7	6 pm	Goodman Library	Landscaping for Wildlife
May 11	1 pm	Marinette Library	Landscaping for Wildlife
June 17	1 pm	Marinette Library	Companion Planting in Vegetable Gardens

All of these sessions are free to attend. If you have any questions about these programs, contact either the branch librarian, or call the Marinette County UW-Extension Office at 715-732-7510 or email [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu).

## Calendar of Events

Remember you can find all this information and more detailed information on our websites—<http://oconto.uwex.edu> or <http://marinette.uwex.edu>.

April 15	Marinette	Seed Starting and Selection
April 25		Deadline for Form Submission for Oconto County Swine
April 25	Gillett	Oconto County Fair Sheep Weigh-In
April 25	Oconto Falls	MAQA Training
April 29	Crivitz	Companion Planting in Vegetable Gardens
April 30	Kimberly	Wisconsin Dairy and Beef Well Being Conference
May 7	Goodman	Landscaping for Wildlife
May 8	Kimberly	Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals
May 11	Marinette	Landscaping for Wildlife
June 14	Oconto Falls	Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm
June 17	Marinette	Companion Planting in Vegetable Gardens

The University of Wisconsin-Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment. If you need any accommodations to assist in your participation, please contact Scott or Gina at 715-732-7510 at least 24 hours prior to the event. All requests will be kept confidential.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Training**

The Master Gardener Volunteer training is being offered in Florence this year with a cost of \$95 per individual or \$155 per couple. The training is a 14 week series, which takes place on Tuesday evenings from March 17 to June 16, and held mainly at the Natural Resources Center. Contact Scott or Kathy Bednarski in the UW-Extension Florence County office at 715-528-4480.

**Spring Garden Conference**

The annual North Stars Garden Conference will be held in Florence on Saturday, May 2. Contact Kathy in the Florence County UW-Extension Office, 715-528-4480 to get a copy of the brochure.

**Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Training**

In order to align with the state standards, the Oconto County Fair Board has decided the following species exhibitors must attend MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training **dairy, dairy goat, rabbit, and poultry** in addition to **beef, sheep, swine and meat goats** in order to be eligible to sell in the 2015 Sale of Champions.

If you are not MAQA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2015 Oconto County Fair. MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) training must be renewed every year.

The MAQA trainings scheduled for this year:

Saturday, April 25 – Washington Middle School, Oconto Falls, 2:30-4:00 pm

Registration for these trainings is requested at least two weeks prior to the event date. You can register online at: <http://goo.gl/PXQ45H> or by calling 920-834-6845.

The Pulaski FFA Chapter is also hosting one MAQA training:  
Tuesday, May 19 – Pulaski High School Ag Room 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Registration for this training is requested two weeks prior to the event date. You can register via email at [kmsanty@pulaskischools.org](mailto:kmsanty@pulaskischools.org).

Exhibitors must attend the entire training to be certified. Please choose the date and location that works best for you!

Please call Sarah Mills-Lloyd with any questions, 920-834-6845.

**Mark Your Calendar-  
Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Scheduled for June 14, 2015**

The Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Committee invites you to celebrate June Dairy Month by attending Breakfast on the Farm! The 2015 Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm will be held Sunday, June 14, at Golden Corners Dairy, LLC owned by the Wolf family—John & Bev, Bryan and Andy—located near Oconto Falls.

A community service of thankfulness and blessing will begin at 7:30 am and breakfast will be served from 8 am until 1 pm. Entertainment will be available for all ages, including live music, a petting zoo, children’s games and activities, and much more. Watch the newspaper for details about ticket prices, the breakfast menu, and more specific entertainment details in the near future.

**Weekly Hay Price Report as of March 20, 2015**

Current hay demand and price reports can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	203.00	135.00	280.00
	Large Square	211.00	137.50	255.00
	Large Round	126.50	100.00	155.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	171.00	135.00	215.00
	Large Square	134.00	115.00	245.00
	Large Round	116.00	70.00	130.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	93.00	86.00	100.00
	Large Square	105.00	50.00	160.00
	Large Round	87.00	47.50	120.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	80.00	80.00	80.00
	Large Square	93.40	40.00	85.00
	Large Round	66.25	35.00	92.50



**Oconto County**

301 Washington St.  
Oconto WI 54153  
920-834-6845  
Fax: 920-834-6853  
TDD No Voice Service: (920) 834-7045  
(Please indicate message is for UW-Extension)

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**Oconto County**

**We're on the web!**  
<http://oconto.uwex.edu>

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