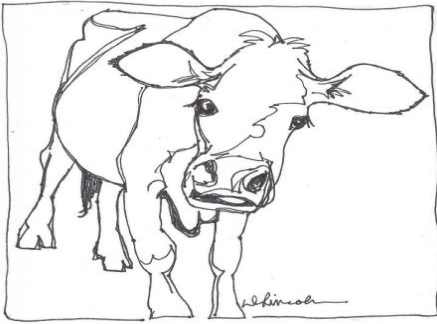


Oconto & Marinette County

Agriculture Newsletter



**From the Desk of Oconto County Agriculture Agent
Sarah Mills-Lloyd**

With our county fairs in a few short weeks, it feels that summer is drawing to a close.

The signs of fall are all around us with the days getting shorter and the cool, dewy mornings with spider webs entangled in the blades of grass. The rustle of the tree leaves even remind me of fall.

Where did the days of summer go? What was accomplished during these short few months? Each question I ponder as I write this newsletter. This summer all seems to be a blur and flurry of activity as just having finished Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, which I hope you were able to attend.

UW-Extension will be hosting a fall beef meeting on September 16th, so please plan on joining us. More information about this meeting is available in this edition of the newsletter on page 5.

You will also notice a short evaluation in the center of this newsletter with a self-addressed stamped envelope. I am asking for your valued feedback. The information you are able to provide will help further develop UW-Extension agriculture programming in Oconto and Marinette Counties. If you would please return the completed survey by August 30th, I would appreciate it.

As always, if you have questions about how we may be able to assist you and your farm, please do not hesitate to call my office (920) 834-6845.

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

**Oconto County
Agriculture Agent**
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If you will need 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.

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CALENDAR OF LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

August 5	Harmony	Kids' Dig It Exploration Day
August 12	Gillett	Oconto County Youth Fair Horse Show
August 13	Gillett	Oconto County Youth Fair Caged Bird & Caged Bird Show
August 15	Harmony	Summer Squash Spectacular
August 16	Harmony	Prairie Walk
August 17-21	Gillett	Oconto County Youth Fair
August 24-27	Wausaukee	Marinette County Fair
August 29	Grover	Soil Health Field Day
August 29	Grover	Corn Silage Management Field Day
August 31	Harmony	Harvesting & Storing Tree Fruits
September 16	Gillett	UW-Extension Fall Beef Meeting
September 29	Kimberly	Farm Management Update for Agribusiness Professionals
October 7		Barn Quilts of Oconto County Scenic Road Rally

Resources for Wisconsin Farmers

Wisconsin Farm Center

www.datcp.state.wi.us

Keyword search: Wisconsin Farmer Resource Guide or call (800) 942-2474 to visit with the knowledgeable staff who provide everything from financial consultation to animal health.

UW-Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources

<http://anre.uwex.edu>

Resources and links at your fingertips.

Farmer to Farmer

<http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu>

Connects Wisconsin farmers with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage.

UW-Extension Dairy Resources

Dairy—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/>

Milk Quality—<http://milkquality.wisc.edu>

Dairy Calf & Heifer Management—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/heifermgmt/>

UW-Extension Livestock

Livestock— <http://anre.uwex.edu/teams/livestock/>

Beef—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/>

Horse—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/horse/>

Poultry—<http://fyi.uwex.edu/poultry/>

Sheep/Goats—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/>

Swine— <http://fyi.uwex.edu/swineextension/>

Small Farm Resources—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/smallfarms/>

Grazing— <http://fyi.uwex.edu/grazres/>

Youth Livestock—

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/>

WEEKLY HAY PRICE REPORT as of July 31, 2017

Currently hay demand and price reports can be found at:

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$186.00	\$130.00	\$250.00
	Large Round	\$125.00	\$50.00	\$200.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$174.00	\$130.00	\$180.00
	Large Square	\$144.00	\$105.00	\$240.00
	Large Round	\$90.00	\$70.00	\$138.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$98.00	\$80.00	\$115.00
	Large Square	\$103.00	\$60.00	\$175.00
	Large Round	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Large Round	\$55.00	\$13.00	\$80.00

EVENTS, DEADLINES AND NOTES

Upcoming Horticulture Programs

All events are free, unless noted.

Harmony Arboretum Programs: The following programs are all held at the Harmony Arboretum, within the Demonstration Gardens. Programs are held rain or shine as there is a pavilion. The entrance to the demonstration garden is located ½ mile south of Hwy 64 on Marinette County Hwy E, which is 7 miles west of Marinette, or about 10 miles east of Hwy 141.

Kids' Dig It Exploration Day (August 5, 10:00 am–1:00 pm)

Join in the fun and learning of this youth-oriented day of exploration. Featured guests include the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary's traveling Birds of Prey exhibit. Attendees will learn about and experience wildlife, insects, soil, and plants.

Summer Squash Spectacular (August 15, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm)

Summer squash are one of the most nutritious and versatile vegetables. Experience the surprising taste differences between the various types and cultivars of summer squash in many different recipes, and also learn more about managing these magnificent veggies.

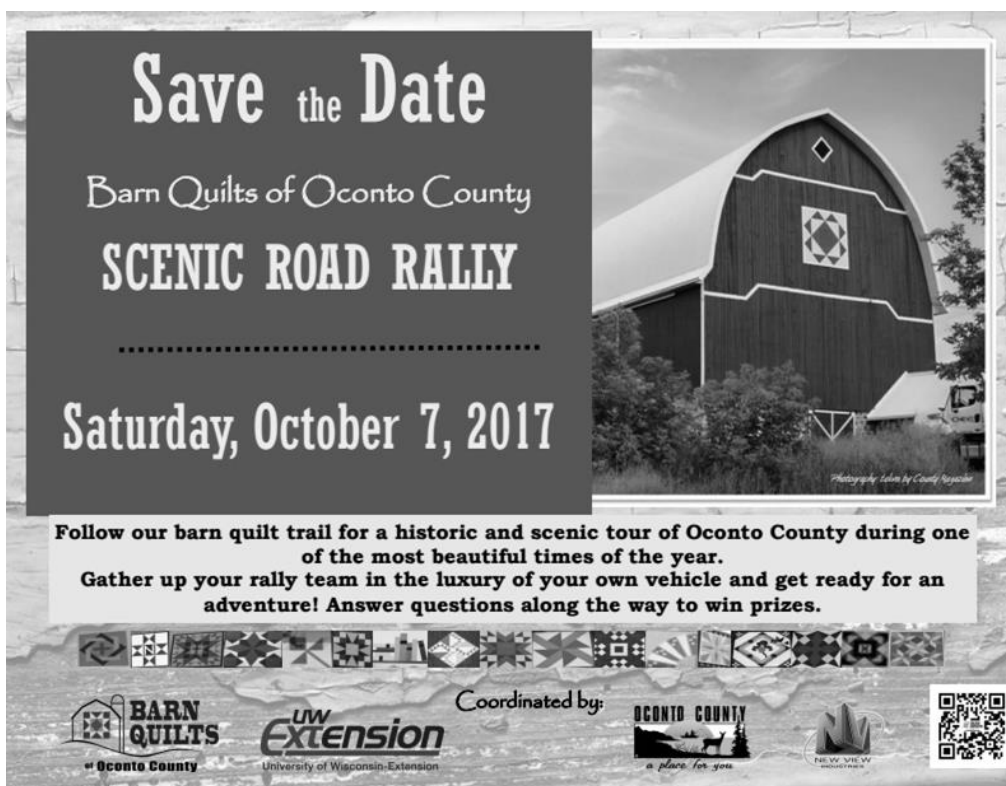
Prairie Walk (August 16, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm)

Stroll the 17-acre prairie at Harmony Arboretum with local native plant enthusiasts. Spend an evening learning what constitutes a prairie and why people are creating or restoring them.

Harvesting and Storing Tree Fruits (August 31, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm)

We'll answer the two most common questions about this topic: How do I know when to pick the fruit on this tree? How can I store them to keep them in great eating shape? Along the way, we'll also talk through pest identification and other issues.

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Save the Date

Barn Quilts of Oconto County

SCENIC ROAD RALLY




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Saturday, October 7, 2017

Follow our barn quilt trail for a historic and scenic tour of Oconto County during one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Gather up your rally team in the luxury of your own vehicle and get ready for an adventure! Answer questions along the way to win prizes.

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  Coordinated by:  

Corn Silage Field Day

(Held in conjunction with the soil health field day in the morning.)

Tuesday, August 29

Noon to 3:15 PM



Kuchta Farms

Marinette County Hwy M, 2.5 miles west of County W, or 5.5 miles east of 141.

\$5 Registration Fee – includes lunch

12 PM–1 PM: Registration, transition from soil health field day site, lunch

1:00 PM: Dr. Joe Lauer, UW–Extension Corn Agronomist

- Corn grain and silage yield responses to crop rotation
- New corn hybrid developments
- Season update, preparation for harvest

2:30 PM: Sarah Mills–Lloyd, UW–Extension Agriculture Agent Oconto County

- Financial considerations
- Budget tools and phone apps

2:50 PM: Kuchta Farm & Implement Dealer

- Chop length and processor settings
- Inoculant considerations
- Proper packing techniques
- Financial considerations

Dairy Heifer Feed Cost Budget

Today's successful dairy operators recognize that heifers are an important investment in the future of the dairy business. The cost of raising dairy calves and replacement heifers is very significant on Wisconsin dairy farms, representing 15 to 20 percent of the total cost of milk production.

Feed costs as the largest expense in raising dairy replacements, contributing over one-half of the total cost. Calculating and understanding the costs associated with raising dairy calves and heifers is an essential part of dairy business management. To help better monitor the feed costs associated with raising dairy replacements, UW–Extension Dairy Management Specialist **Bruce Jones** and Dairy Heifer Management Specialist **Matt Akins** have updated **Dairy Heifer Feed Cost Budget** (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/dairy-heifer-feed-cost-budget/>) worksheet to assist farmers and managers in estimating feed costs of replacement dairy heifers. For more information regarding dairy replacement management or costs, please visit **UW–Extension Dairy Calf & Heifer Management** (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/heifermgmt/>).



FALL BEEF MEETING

Saturday, September 16, 2017

1 PM until 4 PM

Cedar Barn Cattle Company

Terry & Julie Yonker and Family

11413 North Flat Rock Lane, Gillett, WI 54124

12:30 PM Registration

Farm Tour & Pasture Walk

Presentations:

Feeding Beef Cows and Finishing Feeder Cattle

Daniel Schafer, Professor, UW-Madison, Department of Animal Science

Finding your Foothold on Digital Dermatitis

Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, Agriculture Agent, UW-Extension Oconto County

\$5 Registration Fee for printed materials

RSVP REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 8, 2017 BY CALLING
THE OCONTO COUNTY UW-EXTENSION OFFICE (920) 834-6845

A SEMINAR SERIES FOR:

- ◆ Registered stocker producers ◆ Commercial cow/calf producers
- ◆ Small hobby farm beef producers ◆ Agriculture professionals
- ◆ Educators ◆ Youth livestock project participants

An EEO/Affirmative Action Employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements.

***FEATURED AGENDA ITEM* - COME SEE THE BRAND NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART
NRCS RAINFALL SIMULATOR TRAILER IN ACTION!**

Oconto-Marinette County Soil Health Series - Part II

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 9:30am-12pm

Kuchta's Polzin Farm - W6041 County Rd M, Coleman, WI — Watch for signs



Tentative Agenda:

1. **Welcome/Soil Health Principles:** Jeff Maroszek - NRCS District Conservationist
2. **NRCS Rainfall Simulator Trailer-** New in Wisconsin! See how different cover types effect runoff and infiltration rates. This is a MUST SEE!
3. **Soil Health "Friendly" Farm Equipment Demonstration:** Local implement dealer showcase
4. **Cover Crop Plot Walk-Thru:** Get up-close with different cover crop species and planting methods. Seed representatives will be on-hand to explain mixtures and benefits of cover crops.
5. **Soil Pit Demonstration—** See what's going on beneath the soil surface. Jamie Patton from UW-Extension will explore roots, soil features, and causes for potential compaction and drainage issues you may have on your

Registration Information:

\$5/person (payable the day of event) to offset cost of lunch

Please register by August 23rd to get head count for lunch (Walk-ins still welcome)

Registration will be handled in conjunction with Corn Silage Afternoon Program

****Contact UW-Extension at (715) 732-7510 to Register****

Cooperatively Sponsored by:



Dairy Situation and Outlook July 20, 2017

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Increased milk production this past spring resulted in higher cheese production that lowered cheese prices. Compared to a year ago, the production of cheddar cheese in May was 6.9% higher and total cheese production 4.0% higher. Cheese sales have been running higher than a year ago, but the increase has been lower than a year ago. Cheese exports have increased with May exports 48% higher than a year ago and year-to-date exports 22% higher. But, stocks of cheese have grown with May 31st stocks of American cheese 11.8% higher than a year ago and total cheese stocks 7.3% higher. On the CME cheddar barrels declined \$0.18 per pound from the start to the end of June and averaged \$1.3972 for the month. The 40-pound block price declined \$0.2125 per pound from the start to the end of June and averaged \$1.6022 for the month. The good news is both barrels and blocks have increased during July. July 20th prices were \$1.41 and \$1.705 respectively for barrels and blocks. But, the stock of barrels have been much longer than blocks resulting in an unusual long period with a price spread between blocks and barrels of 20 cents or more.

Dry whey averaged \$0.4488 per pound June and have weakened some to \$0.43. Butter averaged \$2.5688 per pound in June and has ranged from \$2.585 to \$2.645 during July with the current price of \$2.61. Nonfat dry milk averaged \$0.89 per pound in June, but was as low as \$0.84 in July with the current price at \$0.86. Both May 31st dry whey and butter stocks were lower than a year ago respectively by 1.4% and 3.5%. But nonfat dry milk stocks were 21.6% higher. May exports of all three products were higher than a year ago with dry whey exports up 7%, butter up 178% and nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder up 31%.

Milk prices have been running higher than a year ago. For the January through June period Class III averaged \$16.17 compared to \$13.48 a year ago. The Class IV price averaged \$15.08 compared to \$13.18 a year ago. The Class III price had fallen from \$16.77 for January to \$15.22 for April, but increased to \$16.44 in June. The Class IV price had fallen from \$16.19 in January to \$14.01 for April, but increased to \$15.89 in June. With the weakness of cheese and dry whey prices the end of June and first part of July the Class III price for July will decline to around \$15.55. But, relatively strong butter prices more than offsetting lower nonfat dry milk prices will increase the July Class IV price to near \$16.75.

After July both the Class III and Class IV price should start to increase again driven by a slower growth in milk production and continued improvement in exports. Extreme heat in the West has negatively impacted milk production in California. Very wet conditions in the Northeast and Midwest has made the harvesting of hay difficult lowering its quality. Lower forage quality may dampen the increase in milk per cow this fall and winter. If the increase in milk production stays below 2% and exports continue to improve milk prices will strengthen.

USDA estimated June milk production to be 1.6% higher than a year ago. This makes two consecutive increases of less than 2% with May up just 1.8%. Milk cow numbers have been increasing each month starting back in October of last year. June milk cow numbers were 78,000 more than a year ago, an increase of 0.8%. The slowdown in milk production is due to a relatively low increases in milk per cow. Compared to a year ago milk per cow was just 0.7% higher.

Compared to June a year ago, milk production declined 2.1% in California. California had 13,000 fewer cows and milk per cow was 1.3% lower reflecting heat stress on cows. But, milk production was higher in other Western/Southwestern states with Arizona up 3.8%, Idaho up 1.9%, and New Mexico and Texas again leading all states with increases of 9.8% and 15.0% respectively. Since a year ago New Mexico has added 22,000 cows and Texas 40,000 cows. Compared to increases a year ago the growth in milk production has slowed in both the Northeast and Midwest. June increased were: New York 0.4%, Pennsylvania no change, Michigan 2.8%, Iowa 1.7%, Minnesota 1.4%, South Dakota 2.9% and Wisconsin just 0.2%. Other states with relatively strong increases were Colorado 8.1%, Kansas +4.1% and Utah +6.1%.

If milk continues to increase less than 2% and exports continue to improve, the Class III price could be back to near \$16.50 by August and reaching the low \$17's for October and November with an average for the year \$16.45 to \$16.75 compared to \$14.87 in 2016. The August Class IV price could be near \$16.60 and in the \$17's September through November and averaging \$15.90 to \$16.10 for the year compared to \$13.75 in 2016. But, any changes in milk production or exports could push these prices either higher or lower.

**Dairy & Livestock Program
Evaluation**

Please return to:
Sarah Mills-Lloyd
301 Washington Street
Oconto, WI 54153

Your provided information is anonymous and will guide ag programming for Oconto and Marinette residents.
Please return completed survey by August 30th in the enclosed envelope.

1. What is your county of residence? ☐ Marinette ☐ Oconto

2. Have you utilized or accessed Oconto County UW-Extension educational resources since 2013?
 ☐ No
 ☐ Yes --Please check all that apply...
 - ☐ Attended a local or regional UW-Extension agriculture meeting/seminar/workshop
 - ☐ Read the Oconto/Marinette UW-Extension agriculture monthly newsletter
 - ☐ Utilized the Oconto County UW-Extension website
 - ☐ Listened to WOCO's UW-Extension agriculture radio show
 - ☐ Read Oconto UW-Extension articles in the Oconto County Times Herald
 - ☐ Had a personal farm visit by Oconto County Agriculture Agent
 - ☐ Participated in a UW-Extension on-farm research project
 - ☐ Other: _____

3. As a result of educational programs or resources from the Oconto County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, did your knowledge of University recommended farm management practices increase?
 ☐ No
 ☐ Yes --Please check all topics where you experienced increased knowledge or understanding.
 - ☐ Importance of developing and following standardized milking procedures
 - ☐ Importance of developing and following written treatment protocols and/or records
 - ☐ Managing grazing for improved cow health
 - ☐ Current deworming protocols to improve cow health and reduce parasite resistance
 - ☐ Importance of developing standardized calf feeding equipment cleaning protocols
 - ☐ Importance of proper barn ventilation on calf and cow health
 - ☐ Current veterinary feed directive rules
 - ☐ Developing strategies for direct marketing beef
 - ☐ Process for developing a farm succession plan
 - ☐ Strategies for improving communications regarding farm succession
 - ☐ Services provided by UW-Extension
 - ☐ Other: _____

4. After attending an educational program or utilizing resources from the Oconto County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, did you implement or make any changes on your farm?
 ☐ No
 ☐ Yes --Please check all resulting changes made on your farm...
 - ☐ Developed standardized milking procedures
 - ☐ Developed written treatment protocols
 - ☐ Developed treatment records
 - ☐ Identified pasture management concerns regarding cow health
 - ☐ Modified existing deworming protocols
 - ☐ Developed standardized cleaning protocols for calf feeding equipment
 - ☐ Installed a ventilation system
 - ☐ Discussed the veterinary feed directive with an agriculture professional/consultant
 - ☐ Altered strategies for direct marketing beef
 - ☐ Started the process for transferring your farm to successor
 - ☐ Completed a will/estate plan
 - ☐ Improved family communications regarding farm succession
 - ☐ Other: _____

5. As a result of implementing the management changes identified above, have you experienced an increase in farm productivity?

☐ No / Not applicable

☐ Yes --Please check all which apply to your farm...

☐ Increased milk production (estimated increase _____ lbs/day/cow)

☐ Decreased cow or calf mortality (death loss) (estimated decrease _____%)

☐ Decreased cow or calf morbidity (animals getting sick) (estimated decrease _____%)

☐ Decreased hours worked per week (estimated _____ hours)

☐ Decreased farm input costs (estimated \$ _____ per year)

☐ Increased farm worker efficiency (estimated increased productivity _____%)

☐ Increased profitability of beef marketing (estimated \$ _____ per head)

☐ Other _____

6. What are your current farm demographics? Please write the appropriate number in the provided blank.

_____ Number of Milking Cows

_____ Number of Dry Cows/Replacements/Heifers

_____ Number of Calves (On-Farm or Custom Raised)

_____ Number of Acres Cropped

_____ Number of Acres Pastured

_____ Average Milk Production (lbs/cow/day)

_____ Average SCC (last 6 months) _____

2x 3x _____ Milking per Day (please circle)

_____ Total Full-time Employees

_____ Total Part-time Employees

_____ Total Number of Family Members Working on Farm

7. What are your current farm facilities? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Tiestall/Stanchion Barn ☐ Freestall ☐ Milking Parlor ☐ Grazing System

8. Please provide additional comments or suggestions to improve UW-Extension agricultural programming in Oconto and Marinette Counties.

Thank you for your responses!

Demographics of Individual Completing Survey ~ UW-Extension asks that you voluntarily respond to the questions below.

Gender

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Prefer not to respond

Age

☐ Adult (19 years or older)

☐ Youth (18 years or younger)

☐ Prefer not to respond

Ethnicity

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Non-Hispanic or Latino

☐ Prefer not to respond

Race

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black/African American

☐ White

☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

☐ Two or more races

☐ Prefer not to respond