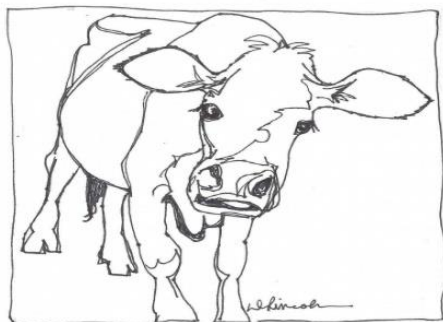


**Oconto & Marinette County**

# Agriculture Newsletter



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

According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, Northeast Wisconsin was classified as an area with no drought. As of the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>, the State of Wisconsin had 0.83% land area classified as abnormally dry with the counties of Sheboygan and Fond du Lac as being affected.

As I drive throughout both counties, crops appear healthy and growing. However, there has been some concern over the appearance of armyworms in fields. These pests are concerning as they can decimate crops in a short period of time. For more information see the article from Bryan Jensen on True Armyworms on page six of this newsletter.

Watch for the September edition of the Oconto & Marinette County Agriculture newsletter the end of August. This edition will contain numerous events and dates related to corn silage and UW-Extension upcoming meetings. Scott will provide information on corn silage dry-down locations and dates to assist in corn silage harvest planning, with the first tentatively occurring the early part of September. A cover crop field day will be scheduled in September at a farm in southern Oconto County. Please consider attending, if you are not harvesting corn silage.

As always, if you have questions about how I 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**  
**Sarah Mills-Lloyd**  
(920) 834-6845  
[sarah.millsllloyd@uwex.edu](mailto:sarah.millsllloyd@uwex.edu)  
Fax: (920) 834-6853  
Relay: 711 for Wisconsin

**Marinette County  
Agriculture Agent**  
**Scott Reuss**  
(715) 732-7510  
Toll Free: (877) 884-4408  
[scott.reuss@uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@uwex.edu)  
Fax: (715) 732-7532  
Relay: 711 for Wisconsin

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.

## NEWSLETTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2	Calendar of Local & Regional Events
Page 2	Hay Price Report
Page 3	Events, Deadlines and Notes
Page 4	True Armyworms
Page 5	Dairy Heifer Grazing Farms Bus Tour
Page 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Queen Bee Event
Page 7	Corn Hybrid Trial & Management Field Day
Page 8 & 9	Soybean Flowering Fallacy
Page 10	Cleaning of Expired/Out-Dated Veterinary Medical Products
Page 11	Dairy Situation and Outlook by Bob Cropp
Page 12	Tools for Pricing Freezer Beef and Pork

## CALENDAR OF LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

August 1	Lena	Deadline for FSA County Committee Nominations
August 2	Rhineland	Rhineland Agriculture Research Station Field Day
August 4	Marinette	Art in the Garden
August 8	Bondel	Dairy Heifer Grazing Tour
August 9	Cecil	Queen Bee: Legacy & Transition
August 11	Gillett	Oconto County Fair—Horse Show
August 12	Gillett	Oconto County Fair—Small Pet and Caged Bird Show
August 14	Omro	Beef Grazing Field Day
August 15	Marinette	Prairie Walk
August 16-19	Gillett	Oconto County Fair
August 22	Arlington	Crops Day at Arlington Agriculture Research Station
August 23-26	Wausaukee	Marinette County Fair
August 28	Stephenson	Corn Hybrid Trial & Management Field Day
August 30	Marinette	Victory Gardens: Yesterday and Today

### Resources for Wisconsin Farmers

#### Wisconsin Farm Center

[www.datcp.state.wi.us](http://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 9, 2018

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	\$320.00	\$260.00	\$375.00
	Large Square	\$234.00	\$150.00	\$375.00
	Large Round	No Reported Sales		
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$226.00	\$200.00	\$280.00
	Large Square	\$162.00	\$120.00	\$230.00
	Large Round	\$133.00	\$95.00	\$168.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$143.00	\$100.00	\$205.00
	Large Round	\$96.00	\$75.00	\$130.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$98.00	\$95.00	\$100.00
	Large Round	\$75.00	\$40.00	\$109.00

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## **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.

#### **Art in the Garden (August 4, 9:00 am-Noon)**

Enjoy a morning at Harmony creating unique arts and crafts for your home and garden. Join Master Gardner Volunteers and partake in the make-it and take-it table, tours, workshops for adults and youth, and an up-cycled yard and garden art contest. Registration required—find the form at the UW-Extension office, website, or NLMGA Facebook page.

#### **Prairie Walk (August 15, 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.

#### **Victory Gardens: Yesterday and Today (August 30, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm)**

Join us at Harmony's own Victory Garden, a re-creation of a WWI era War Garden. Learn about the history of such gardens, how they were this nation's first local food movement, and how they contributed to the defense of the nation. We'll discuss vegetable varieties, planning for maximum production, preserving the harvest, and the government's contribution to the education of the nation. We'll also discuss how the Victory Garden concept and techniques can be applied today.

#### **Peppers: Are you Sweet or Spicy? (September 6, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm)**

Tasting peppers can become an adventure in taste bud trauma if you don't know what you are sampling. This evening will give you the chance to knowingly sample a wide array of mild, warm, or spicy (if you so desire) pepper cultivars and possibly a few dishes made from them. We'll also review plant care, proper harvest and storage procedures, and some ways you can preserve them for later use.

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## **Upcoming Crops, Soils, and Water Programs**

### **Corn Silage Sampling**

Harvesting of corn silage will be here in a few months. Scott Reuss, Marinette County Agriculture Agent is currently in the process of planning the schedule, times and locations for sample drop-off. Please see the September edition of the Agriculture Newsletter for dates, times and locations.

Sample collection is important to attaining good test results when testing your corn silage. Consider the different fields and/or varieties you want to test. Each variety will mature and dry-down differently, and variances exist in each field, so sample the field you are planning to ensile this year.

Collect your sample according to the variability in the field. If the field is consistent, collect at least five plants in a W-shaped pattern from the sample area. If the field is variable, collect more plants and at least one to two from each size of plant found in the field. Wrap the plant stems in wet paper, and bring all the separate samples to the collection site nearest you. Lastly, collect the sample immediately before driving them to the collection site. If you have questions on the process of collecting a sample, call Scott Reuss at the Marinette County UW-Extension office (715) 732-7510 or his cell phone (715) 923-0807.



Photo Courtesy of UW-Madison CALS

### **Manure and Water Quality in Oconto County**

Manure is one of nature's most perfect fertilizers, but can create surface and ground water quality issues in some situations. Join one of these conversations to learn more about manure usage, manure management laws in Wisconsin, and the current water quality situation in Oconto County. Sites are hosting the same topic, although it is likely that questions will cause discussion to differ slightly. The schedule of these meetings will be listed in an upcoming newsletter. Stay tuned!

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## True Armyworms

*By Bryan Jensen*

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Integrated Pest Management Program



No worries just yet. More of a feeling than anything else. Based on a few calls and emails, be on the lookout for armyworms. The summer generation can be cryptic. Corn is tall and unless you are actively scouting populations can “magically appear”. Wheat is not out of the woods until combined and oats could be an excellent habitat for the summer generation. Throw pastures on the list as well.

Based on your location in Wisconsin, you may be at the tail end of the spring generation or starting the summer generation now. Infested fields are hard to predict so spot checking all field is a good idea especially if you have grassy weeds that have escaped control.

Armyworm larvae have tan heads with a net-like pattern of lines, yellow belly, faint orange stripes on sides and darker striping on back. The intensity of striping can vary from those which are faint to those which are so dark colored that lines are not easily visible. Base your identification by looking at several individuals.

Economic thresholds and guidelines for corn is to treat when either 75% of the plants have one armyworm/plant or 25% of the plants have two or more larvae AND the larvae are 1 inch or less in length. Treating in small grains is suggested if there are 3 or more armyworm/sq ft. But be careful of head clipping.

Just the name “armyworms” conjures up images of defoliated corn fields. Well, this summer they are living up to their names in isolated fields. To be sure, there has been a range of damage from the curiosity, to economic damage to near complete defoliation.

Armyworm do not overwinter in Wisconsin. Migrating adults usually arrive early spring and this migration is usually not a single event but rather a sequence of arrivals over a period of time. Armyworm larvae have tan head yellow belly with faint orange stripes on their sides and darker striping on the sides and back. Overall color intensity may range from individuals which may have faint coloration to those which are extremely dark colored.

Right now we appear to be in the middle to end of the second generation which is sometimes called the summer generation. Some references suggest the possibility of a third generation but I think that is doubtful for Wisconsin.

Typically, armyworms are attracted to grassy areas to lay eggs and this may explain some of the infestations. However, it doesn’t explain all of them. Wheat and other small grains are at risk until harvest. Before considering an insecticide application look at the PHI to make sure that the insecticide fits with your harvest plans. Many if not most insecticides have along PHI which may prevent timely harvest. Pastures should also be monitored. If larvae run out of a food source they can move to adjacent crops and/or lawns. They may also move from adjacent marshes into fields.

Feeding in corn fields above the ear zone is particularly of economic concern. If you find signs of armyworm feeding, check five sets of 20 plants at random. Record the number of damaged plants and the number of worms per plant. Spot treat, if possible, when you find two or more armyworms (0.75-1.0 inch or smaller) per plant on 25% of the plants or one per plant on 75% of the plants. When making a treatment decision think about damage you can prevent. Don’t focus on how much damage is currently there. Large larvae will be feeding for a much shorter period of time. However, from the reports and pictures I have received many fields had a range of different sized larvae making control decisions more difficult. Do not assume corn planted with an above ground Bt trait(s) will not have damage. Traits packages vary in their insect control spectrum and may not provide adequate control under heavy infestations.

For specific insecticide recommendations please consult [A3646, Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops.](#)



# Dairy Heifer Grazing Farms Bus Tour



**Wednesday, August 8, 2018**  
**9:30 am to 6:30 pm**

Join us on a bus tour to visit two large-scale dairies in Northeast Wisconsin. Come and learn why these farms raise their heifers on grass and hear about the economic and health benefits they are experiencing.

**Tauchen Harmony Valley Dairy** currently milks around 750 cows. Al Tauchen has used prescribed grazing for six years and is in the process of expanding his current grazing acreage. Al has seen great results with his bred heifers on pasture and is excited about expanding his grazing operation. Heifers are rotated daily, which maximizes dry matter intake and keeps pastures producing at high levels.

**VandeWettering Farms LLP** currently milks around 350 cows. They recently started grazing their dairy heifers. This past year, in addition to traditional grass/clover pastures, heifers grazed standing corn and cover crops prior to and after main crop harvest. Heifers were on cover crop pastures until mid-December. Grazing cover crops allowed the farm to increase dry matter production per acre while developing a healthy dairy animal.



Park and Ride:  
American Center Lot  
3601 Eastpark Blvd  
Madison, WI 53718

**Matt Akins**, UW–Madison Dairy Management Specialist, and **Heidi Johnson**, Dane County UW–Extension Crops and Soils Educator, will be on hand to answer questions.

Pre-registration is required by end of day on August 1. The bus will depart the American Center Park & Ride at 9:30 am. The fee of \$10 can be paid through registration or on site. Lunch will be provided.

For more information contact **Marie Raboin**, Conservation Specialist, (608) 224-3742 or email [Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com](mailto:Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com).

Registration: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyag/events/heifergrazing>



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Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

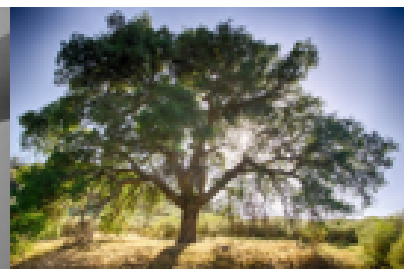
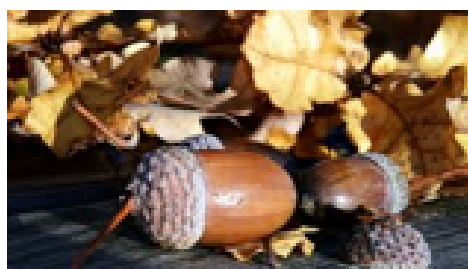




## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Queen Bee Event**



### **Legacy and Transition**



**When:** Thursday August 9th, 2018, at 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Where:** Windswept Acres Specialty Cut Flowers in Cecil, WI

**Who:** Female landowners and farmers (current or future)

**What:** Join female resource professionals from the Farm Service Agency, UW-Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, and Peshtigo National Bank for an evening of conversation and education on farm legacy and transition.

- Part 1: Question and answer learning circle with resource professionals
- Part 2: Light dinner and networking
- Part 3: Guided informational tour of a specialty cut flower operation including greenhouses, pollinator habitat, and wildlife pond

**Why:** Network with like-minded women and share goals for your land or farming operation and explore ways to accomplish them.

**Cost:** Meal provided by Bubba's BBQ Co. and Fannita's Bakery of Shawano. Through the generous donations of Peshtigo National Bank, UWEX, and these businesses, there will be no cost to attendees.

**Special Considerations:** Tour of the property will last approximately an hour on uneven terrain, so please dress accordingly. Space is limited, and registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

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*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." – Nelson Henderson*

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**If interested in attending this event or for additional questions, please contact Myha Hart at the Oconto-Marinette County Farm Service Agency at 920-829-5406 Ext. 2 or [myha.hart@wi.usda.gov](mailto:myha.hart@wi.usda.gov) by August 2nd, 2018.**

*The learning circles method of conservation outreach to women, farmland owners, and the activities used, were developed by Women, Food and Agriculture Network for its Women Caring for the Land™ program.*

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Nancy Swenty at 920-829-5406 Ext. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by August 2, 2018.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



Join MSU Extension, University of Wisconsin-Extension, local corn producers, and seed dealers at Pleasant View Farms for a tour of our hybrid trial sponsored by Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and Project GREEN. This research project is a cooperation between the Michigan Corn Performance Program and the University of Wisconsin Corn Hybrid Performance trial.

### **Field day includes:**

- ◆ **Touring hybrid plots**
- ◆ **On-farm variety selection**
- ◆ **Intercropping and cover crops in corn**

- ⇒ Free event with lunch provided!
- ⇒ **Please call 906-786-3032 Ext. 106 to register by Wednesday, August 22nd.**
- ⇒ Meet at the field: J 2nd Rd Stephenson, Michigan (between County Rd G 12 and Wery Road) look for signs
- ⇒ Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling 906-786-3032

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### **Pricing Standing Hay App Now Available for iPhones & iPads** By Greg Blonde, Waupaca County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent

The UW-Extension pricing standing hay app is now available in both Android and IOS versions. iPhone and iPad users can find the free app at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/hay-pricing/id1381165835?mt=8> or search the App Store for "Hay Pricing". The IOS version also includes links to the latest edition of the Alfalfa Management Guide and 2017 WI Custom Rate Guide. The Android version is available on Google Play at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmappsconsulting.haypricing>.





## Soybean Flowering Fallacy

LINDSAY CHAMBERLAIN, JIM SPECHT AND SHAWN P. CONLEY



### In a bean pod...

- There is an old rule-of-thumb that soybean does not flower until after the summer solstice — the longest day of the year occurring on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Northern Hemisphere — yet many of us have seen soybean flower much earlier.
- Early planted soybean experience shorter days before June 21<sup>st</sup>, so floral induction and the subsequent appearance of flowers may occur ahead of the summer solstice.
- Soybean management decisions depend on proper identification of reproductive stage R1 (1<sup>st</sup> flower), which means relying on scouting to observe flowers, not calendar date.

### Soybean is a 'short-day' plant.

Nearly all plant species depend on seasonal change in day/night length as a cue for initiating flowering so that it occurs at a seasonally optimum time. In both natural and cultivated systems, this ensures successful pollination, seed fill, and dispersal/harvest. In crop species, breeders can genetically develop cultivars that have specific adaptation to latitudinal zones of north-south variance in day/night photoperiod. This is a major reason that different soybean maturity groups are grown at different latitudes (Mourtzinis and Conley, 2017).

There are two main types of plant species photoperiod dependency, known as 'long-day' and 'short-day'. These historically assigned names are misleading; we now know plants actually measure the length of the night, not the day. For both types, there is a critical night length that varies between species and among wild ecotypes or crop cultivars adapted to different latitudes. For most short-day plants (like soybean), exposure to a few successive nights longer than the critical length will induce flowering. Long-day

plants require the successive nights to be shorter than the critical night length to flower (Taiz et al., 2015; Figure 1).

There are two cyclic processes at play in the mechanism of photoperiod sensitivity: 1) the solar 24-hour cycle of day and night, and 2) a within-plant circadian rhythm. This circadian rhythm also keeps time, but because it does not precisely do so, it must be entrained to keep 'plant time' close to 24-hour solar time.

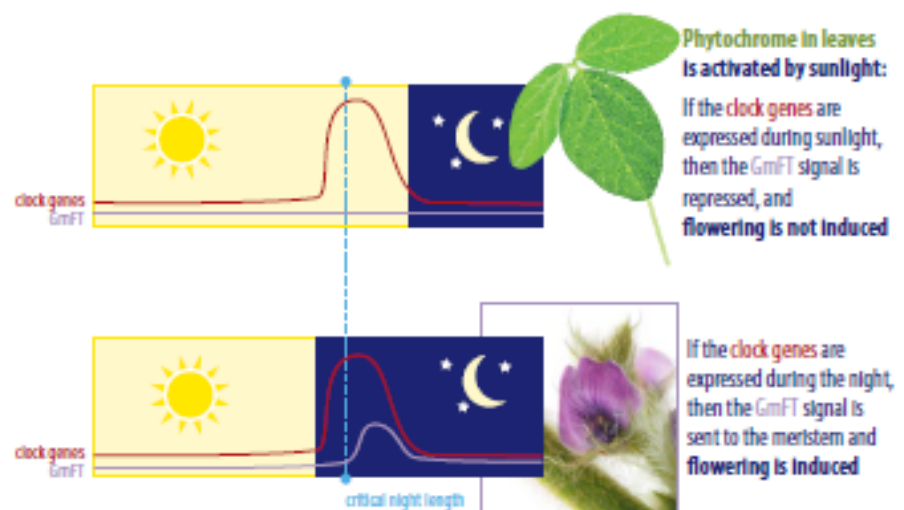
A protein found in plant leaves called phytochrome is responsible for photoperiod detection. This protein is converted into an active form by sunlight and returns to an inactive form in the dark. Expression of certain genes in the plant are controlled by circadian rhythm, increasing expression at specific time intervals. When expression of these 'clock' genes occurs in the daylight, a signal that induces flowering (GmFT) is repressed, so flowering does not occur (Taiz et al., 2015; Cao et al., 2016). This model is consistent with the mechanism that controls flowering in rice, which is

a model short-day plant. These mechanisms in soybean are less well understood than in rice, in part because there are multiple, redundant genes in soybean, which may allow some soybean cultivars to have reduced photoperiod sensitivity (Cao et al., 2016). The molecular mechanisms that control soybean photoperiod sensitivity and flowering induction are areas of ongoing research. The exact mechanism of perceiving night length and floral induction is complex, but the main idea is that longer nights, which is perceived by the leaves, induce flowering in soybean (Figure 1).

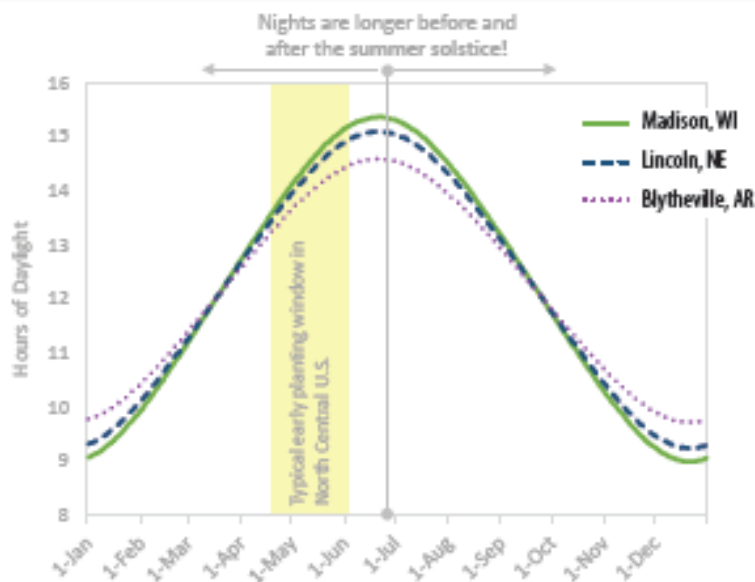
### Nights are long before the solstice, too!

Research on this subject has shown that in soybean, the unifoliate leaves are able to perceive night length. If the night is long enough, those leaves will transmit a signal to leaf axil vegetative meristems that induces them to become floral meristems (Wilkerson et al., 1989). If soybean are planted early enough, flower induction can occur before the summer solstice when nights are long (Bastidas

**Figure 1.** Nights longer than the critical length (dashed line) induce flowering in 'short-day' plants like soybean. This is a schematic representation of the process and not intended to show actual measurements.







**Figure 2.** Hours of daylight at three U.S. locations throughout a year. The highlighted box indicates a typical planting window for the North Central U.S., which occurs before the summer solstice.

et al., 2008). Typical planting dates in the North Central U.S. occur well before the shortest-night of the year (e.g., solstice), generally providing unifoliate leaves opportunity to perceive long nights as soon as they emerge (Figure 2).

### Floral Induction, does that mean R1?

**Induction** of flowering occurs long before your eyes can observe flowers on the plant. This refers to the very first chemical signals in the plant that cause the meristematic tissue to begin forming a flower instead of a branch in each leaf axil. In soybean, those signals are photoperiod dependent, requiring long nights. Flower **evocation** refers to the growth of that differentiated tissue to result in a visible flower. The speed of that growth is temperature dependent, much like growth of vegetative tissue. In general, higher temperatures result in faster growth. The first reproductive growth stage (R1) is only noted after the human eye can see flowers (Fehr and Caviness, 1977). Therefore, both **induction** and **evocation** are required to reach R1, meaning that photoperiod and temperature will impact the timing of R1. Perception of an inductive night length is needed to initiate flowering, but temperature increases can speed up flower evocation. A very warm late spring could lead to hastened R1 timing, which was observed in the Midwest in 2018.

### Maturity group is a reflection of photoperiod sensitivity.

Night length changes over the course of the year, but the magnitude of this change is latitude dependent. Higher latitudes experience a longer period of sunlight on the longest day, and therefore a shorter night. Soybean grown at higher latitudes are able to flower under these shorter nights because maturity groups adapted for these locations have reduced photoperiod sensitivity (Cao et al., 2016).

For example, Madison, WI (latitude 43.0°) experiences a night length about 15 minutes shorter on June 21<sup>st</sup> than Lincoln, NE (latitude 40.8°) and about 45 minutes shorter than Blytheville, AR (latitude 35.9°) (Figure 2). Soybean maturity groups II and III are best suited to southern Wisconsin and Nebraska, respectively, and are less photoperiod sensitive than the maturity group IV or V soybean typically grown in Arkansas (Mourtzinis and Conley, 2017).

### Why does early flowering matter?

In future growing seasons, increasing frequency of extreme warm and cool temperature fluctuations during the floral evocation period can result in increased variability of R1 timing after V1. Since early planted soybeans are able to perceive long nights before the solstice, we cannot count on June 21<sup>st</sup> as the typical R1 date in the North Central U.S. The best way to identify the timing of R1

is to regularly scout soybean. Crop models like SoySim predict growth stages by using planting date, maturity group, photoperiod, and temperature data, plus projection of coming temperatures. Predictors like this can be useful management tools but should be validated in the field. Identifying R1 is important for effective weed and disease management. Several common post-emergent herbicides are not labeled for use in soybean after R1. The legal application window for these products refers to the growth stage present in the field, regardless of the calendar date. For disease management, earlier white mold risk comes with early flowering soybean. Sporecaster, a white mold predictor app, can aid in white mold management but only with accurate information about the presence of flowers. Relying on the calendar for R1 determination increases your risk for missing the window for an effective fungicide application.

The advances in agricultural production in the last century have allowed increased food production on less acres, and this pattern needs to continue in order to feed a growing global population. New technologies and modern crop management strategies (like planting earlier) along with extreme weather patterns becoming more frequent, will challenge us to be wary of old rules-of-thumb that may not hold up to farming in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

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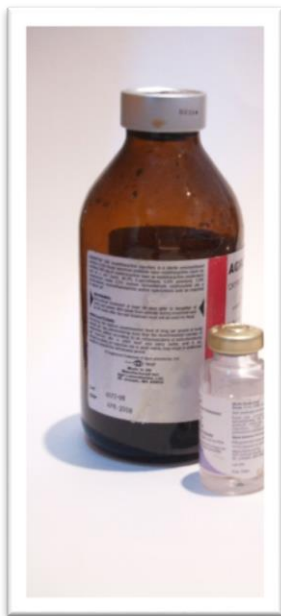
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## **Cleaning of Expired/Out-Dated Veterinary Medical Products**

**By Sarah Mills-Lloyd, UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent**

It is time for a pop quiz. If you have a carton or gallon of store-bought milk in your refrigerator, without looking—what is the product's expiration date? (No, you cannot perform the “sniff” test to check to see if it is still okay for human consumption.) There are expiration dates on certain products which we, as consumers, need to be aware of—whether or not we realize it. As farmers, you especially should be concerned about the expiration of animal medical products you use on your farm operation.

Now is a great time to organize your veterinary medicine cabinet. It is time to see if any of the medications should be discarded because they are too old or no longer needed. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the late 1970's began requiring expiration date labeling on prescription and over-the-counter medication. The expiration date is deemed as the date which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full efficacy and safety of the medication. On prescription medication bottles, the label will often tell you when the medications should be discarded. On over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, the expiration date (the date it should be discarded) is often printed on the label under “EXP,” or stamped without ink into the bottom of the bottle, carton, or the crimp of a tube. As time passes, medications lose their effectiveness, especially if they have been exposed to a range of temperatures or UV radiation leaving you with a medication, which may not be effective for treating a specific disease condition.



The FDA has developed guidelines for the proper disposal of medications. Although these guidelines have been developed for human medications, you can also follow the guidelines for the proper disposal of animal medications. There are many options, depending on the type of medication you will discard. If you are unsure how to properly discard the medication, consult your veterinarian or a local pharmacist. The FDA guidelines for proper disposal of unused medications can be found at:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm>.

Spend some time every few months, performing a medication clean-up to protect the health and safety of your animals and to provide consumers with a safe and wholesome product. Remember there are certain animal medications that should never be found on a farm operation and are strictly prohibited by the FDA in food-producing

animal. For a list of these specific medications, please view the FDA Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 21, Section 530.41 accessible by visiting the website:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/CFRSearch.cfm?CFRPart=530&showFR=1&subpartNode=21:6.0.1.1.16.5>.

Take time today to clean your farm medication cabinet. If you are in doubt how you should dispose your expired or unused medications first read the label then talk to your local veterinarian, if they are animal products, or a pharmacist.

## **Dairy Situation and Outlook**

**July 20, 2018**

*By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus*

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

About six weeks ago the outlook for improved milk prices for the last half of 2018 was optimistic. After the Class III price hit a low of \$13.40 in February it looked like the Class III price could improve to the high \$15's by July and in the \$16's from there on with even reaching \$17 a possibility. The Class IV price was a low of \$12.87 in February but was forecasted to reach near \$15 by June and in the high \$15's for the remainder of the year. But, forecasts for this much price improvement has disappeared. U.S. placed tariffs on aluminum and steel from Mexico, China, Canada and the EU. In response Mexico, China and Canada placed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. cheese and other dairy products. It is unknown the extent these retaliatory tariffs will have on U.S. dairy exports. But, while these retaliatory tariffs were not effective until early July both U.S. and international buyers of cheese, butter and nonfat dry milk appeared to reduce orders in anticipation that these retaliatory tariffs would reduce U.S. exports resulting in lower prices months ahead. The dairy markets have been trying to assess the impact of retaliatory tariffs. Prices have been moving up and down on the CME with a lot of trading activity. But, since early June butter has dropped about \$0.15 per pound, barrel cheese \$0.25, 40-pound blocks \$0.10 and nonfat dry milk \$0.04. The exception has been dry whey which has held close to \$0.40 per pound.

It now looks like the July Class III price will fall to near \$14.25, almost a \$1 lower than the \$15.21 in June. The July Class IV price will fall to near \$14.15 about \$0.75 lower than the \$14.91 in June.

Not helping milk prices is a continued decline in fluid (beverage) milk sales and a rather weak increase in butter and cheese sales. The result is high stocks of dairy products. The latest stock report showed butter stocks building April to May with May 31<sup>st</sup> stocks 8.0% higher than a year ago. Both American cheese stocks and stocks of other than American cheese also increased April to May. But, May 31<sup>st</sup> stocks of American cheese was 1.4% lower than a year ago with other than American cheese stocks 17.9% higher bringing total cheese stocks 5.9% higher. While still at a high level May 31<sup>st</sup> nonfat dry milk stocks were 3.3% lower than a year ago and dry whey stocks were 10.1% lower.

On the positive side dairy exports have been well above a year ago. April exports on a volume basis were at an all-time high and on a total solids basis equivalent to 18.8% of U.S. milk production. May exports were the third-highest ever and equivalent to 17.2% of U.S. milk production. Compared to a year ago all May exports showed a smaller increase than in April except for lactose. In fact cheese exports which had a 22% increase in April actually had a 15% decrease in May lead by a 35% drop in exports to Mexico, U.S. largest cheese export market.

With a somewhat weak domestic sales and some anticipated weakening of dairy exports where milk prices will end up for the remainder of the year and into next year depended heavily on milk production. If the growth in milk production stays at or below 1% milk prices will improve in the months ahead. USDA's milk production report estimated June milk production to be 1.2% higher than a year ago with no change in cow numbers from May or a year ago and a 1.2% increase in milk per cow. Of the 23 reporting states 7 had lower milk production from a year ago. Florida's production was down 3.7%, Minnesota 0.6% and Pennsylvania 0.2%. Increases were New York 1.4%, Michigan 1.3%, Wisconsin 1.2%, California 0.5%, Idaho 1.0%, Arizona 0.9%, New Mexico 1.4% and Texas 6.6%. The strongest relative increase continue in Colorado 10.7%, Kansas 7.4% and Utah 6.3%. Reports are hot July weather has negatively impacted milk per cow. Milk cow numbers could also start to decline. Thus, the increase in July milk production could be closer to 1%.

As of now the Class III price could improve to near \$15 by August, the low \$15's by September and the high \$15's for the remainder of the year and averaging about \$14.90 for the year compared to \$16.17 in 2017. The Class IV price is likely to stay in the \$14's reaching the high \$14's by November and averaging for the year about \$14.10 compared to \$15.16 in 2017. But, these prices could easily change depending heavily upon how dairy exports actually do turn out. Milk prices in 2019 will be an improvement but the extent of improvement at this time is difficult to forecast. How dairy exports are performing and the level of milk production will be key factors. USDA has lower their forecast of milk production in 2019 to just a 1.3% increase from a 0.1% decrease in the average number of milk cows and a 1.3% increase in milk per cow. This lower increase in milk production will be a positive for improved milk prices.



## Tools for Pricing Freezer Beef and Pork



Photo Courtesy of UW-Madison CALS

Have you ever asked how much a freezer full of beef or pork will cost? Do you struggle to convert the live animal value to a carcass based price? Michigan State University-Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Extension have developed a spreadsheet worksheet and video to answer these questions.

The Freezer Beef Pricing Worksheet is available to assist beef producers and buyers in determining the price of direct marketed beef. This tool also has a video available to give producers additional information in using the worksheet. Both are free to use, available at: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic/direct-marketing-information/>. Although examples are given, producers are encouraged to enter

actual costs and information based off of their own operation into the worksheet. Monthly average price values reported by the USDA Economic Research Service can be used to create figures to share with customers for overall savings value when purchasing beef by the whole, half or quarter. A link to the USDA data is included with the spreadsheet. Many of the same principals apply to pricing whole, half, or quarters for pork, and are incorporated into the Freezer Pig Pricing Worksheet. This worksheet is available for free at: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/swineextension/tools/>.

While buying freezer beef or pork can pose a large upfront cost for the consumer, it can offer many benefits and savings in the long run. It allows buyers to have a greater connection to where their food comes from, insight into the practices used to raise that animal, input into how they want their meat processed, and more. In many cases, both the buyer and the farmer can benefit. By buying and selling in bulk and avoiding retail markups, sellers can ask for a higher price, while the buyer still saves compared to retail prices.

**August 11, 12 & 16-19 2018**

Zippel Park E. Park St.  
Gillett, WI 54124

**Oconto  
County  
Fair**



## **Marinette County Fair**

**2018 Dates:** August 23-26, 2018  
Wausau, WI



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