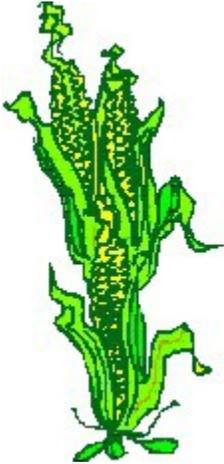


Courthouse  
1926 Hall Avenue  
Marinette, WI 54143  
Phone: 715-732-7510



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

Scott Reuss  
715-732-7510  
1-877-884-4408  
cell 715-923-0807  
[sreuss@marinettecounty.com](mailto:sreuss@marinettecounty.com)

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## September, 2020 Agriculture Newsletter

If you chop any corn silage, make sure you optimize its value by chopping at the right moisture for your storage situation, packing well, and covering quickly. Corn silage is our most valuable per acre field crop and we always need to ensure we get the most out of it, but particularly this year. See page 4 for moisture monitoring project dates and other silage management information.

Send me your e-mail address. If you want me to be able to send you anything in this newsletter electronically, let me know and I will get it to you. Or, if you simply want to be able to get immediate updates, send your e-mail address to me at either [scott.reuss@wisc.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@wisc.edu) or [sreuss@marinettecounty.com](mailto:sreuss@marinettecounty.com) so that I can add you to my system.



Scott Reuss

### Table of Contents

Page 2	Farm Service Agency Program notes; Agricultural Women's Health webinar
Page 3	Crop Management Notes
Page 4	Silage Monitoring Project 2020

### Calendar of Events:

Badger Crop Connect Webinars: Every other Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., contact Reuss to get information or monitor Extension websites or WI Crop Manager.

Aug. 27 noon	Women in Ag Health Webinar (page 2)
Aug. 27-30	Marinette County Fair in Wausaukee. Extension will not have a display this year
Sept. 1, 8 & 15	Corn Silage Moisture Monitoring Project (page 4)
Sept. 11	CFAP Deadline (page 2)

### Marestail Herbicide Resistance Screening Project

If you are experiencing problems managing marestail (AKA horseweed) with your conventional herbicide programs, there is a state-wide project collecting seed from problem fields to conduct resistance screening. If you have such a field and are either interested in collecting seed yourself, or having me do so, contact me (see side) and I will either get you the details of collection and sending seed or get the field details from you and arrange a time to collect seed from them.

# Farm Service Agency Notes & Deadlines

+ If you haven't completed your 2020 crop report that was mailed to you and gotten it back to the FSA office, make sure you do so soon. Although an official deadline hasn't been announced, you usually need to have this report done to be eligible for other programs and there are late fees if you do miss the deadline, whatever it ends up being.

+ September 30, 2020 is the official final day for PLC yield updates, however FSA personnel really want this done by Sept. 15. On 9-15, records move to new fiscal year and it will double their work load if done the last 2 weeks of Sept.

+ Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) safety-net signup for 2021 coverage will begin October 12 and will run through December 11, 2020.

+ WHIP+ does not have an official deadline at this time. As crop reporting winds down, local office staff plan on ramping up the work on this program, so make sure you have communicated with them about losses and appropriate data.

## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Changes Announced

+ Deadline extended to Sept. 11.

+ Producers with approved applications will receive the final program payment (20% of originally calculated payment).

+ Commodities were added to the program which may affect some operations in our area, including dill, horseradish, kohlrabi, maple sap, pumpkins, rutabagas, turnips, Sheep (only lambs and yearlings were originally eligible), some fish species, and nursery crops and cut flowers.

**Applying for CFAP:** Producers, especially those who have not worked with FSA previously, are recommended to call 877-508-8364 to begin the process. An FSA staff member can help producers start their application during the phone call. The local office number is 920-829-5415. You can also do most of the work by going to [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap),

Download the AD-3114 application form and manually complete the form to submit to their local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to their local office or office drop box. Complete the application form using the CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.

If producers have login credentials known as eAuthentication, they can use the online CFAP Application Portal to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

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## **Reducing the Risk of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Perinatal Illness for Female Agricultural Producers**

Free Webinar, Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, noon to 1 pm

E-mail Scott at [scott.reuss@wisc.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@wisc.edu) and he will send you the registration link. Objectives of this webinar are to help participants understand the following:

- = Identify unique exposures/risks associated with farm tasks.
- = Identify reproductive health and safety issues for women.
- = Be able to locate and use agricultural health, evidence based resources.
- = Develop a Hazard Map of work exposure opportunities on your farm or workplace.
- = Select appropriate Personal Protective Equipment for farm tasks that reduce or eliminate exposures and risks.

# Crop Management Notes

## **Fall Alfalfa/Perennial Forages Management Considerations**

September is the time to analyze your alfalfa (and mixed perennial forages) fields and formulate plans for the rest of this year and going into next year. There were a lot of marginal fields kept for 2020 that definitely need analysis and decision making. First question you need to answer is regarding stand density. Alfalfa needs at least 55 stems per sq. ft. consistently throughout the field to maximize yield potential. 40 to 55 stems per sq. ft. can often be justifiably maintained, as long as the consistency is good or you have some other forage species in there, as well. If less density than this, you need to either supplement the stand or rotate.

The other big question is how much forage do you need? Have you conducted a good feed quantity assessment for your operation, preferably with your nutritionist? If you need more higher quality alfalfa, fall harvests are a strong option, but you do need to keep some harvesting recommendations in mind.

1. Try not to harvest alfalfa between about Sept. 10 and 30. In our area, that is the most dangerous time frame for alfalfa, as it is still too warm for it to go dormant, but too cool for it to have enough growth capacity to fully recharge roots/crowns after a harvest event.
2. For stands you really want to have survive winter, try to harvest before Sept. 10. This allows for sufficient regrowth to help keep snow cover on the field and minimize winter hardiness risk.
3. If harvesting in October, maximum yield is going to be achieved by cutting a couple days prior to a killing frost. Of course, this requires either believing weather forecasts or being your own best prognosticator. The big point here is that quality and yield are maximized if you are able to cut while it is still alive and growing. If cutting after a freeze, try to do so as soon after the event as you can.

## **Winter Wheat Establishment Recommendations - paraphrased from Dr. Shawn Conley**

1. Variety Selection Matters. Use data, especially the 2020 WI Winter Wheat Performance Test data, at: [https://coolbean.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/07/A3868\\_WIWinterWheatTrials\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://coolbean.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/07/A3868_WIWinterWheatTrials_2020_web.pdf)
2. Plant new, good quality seed. Saving seed is usually not the best approach for either yield or diseases.
3. Fungicide seed treatments are recommended.
4. Plant between 1 and 1.5 inches deep, regardless of planting date.
5. Plant between September 20 and October 10 for optimum yield potential. Later planting can work, but is riskier, and you have to make sure about your crop insurance coverage.
6. Target seeding rate is 1.75 mil seeds per acre until Oct. 1. As planting date gets later, optimum seeding rate increases, due to reduced fall growth and tillering.
7. Crop rotation matters. Just think of diseases and the moist conditions of the last few years.

## **Selling/Buying Crops with other Producers**

If you are considering either selling or buying corn for dry grain or for high moisture, corn silage, corn snaplage, hay, haylage, straw, or any other crop sales situation, there are a few things to keep in mind as you are getting ready for the transaction. I do need to say that I am a proponent of such sales, as it helps keep both farms involved in the transaction profitable, as long as things are done well.

Of course, first you need to find a willing partner. Especially for forages, neighbors are the place to start, as transportation logistics limit distances which buyers are usually willing to work around. But, letting extension agents, nutritionists, crop insurance personnel, feed mills, agronomists, etc... know that you have crops which you would be willing to sell can get the word out, as well. There are also opportunities to do newspaper ads, use commercial internet sites, or the state-wide farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu web site. Finding a partner and giving yourselves time to work out details makes everything simpler in the long run and can hopefully prevent misunderstandings caused by time crunches and the stress of harvest season.

Figure out sales contract points ahead of time. Making a handshake deal and saying 'We'll figure it out after the fact.' might work for some situations, but it also creates many opportunities for problems. Make up a (simple) written contract. Include data points such as how it is being sold, price per unit, who is doing what regarding harvest operations, date ranges, payment methodology, etc... You don't need to hire a lawyer to get this done, but getting a second opinion from someone (Extension, agronomist, nutritionist) is probably well worth it. Pricing starts with current hay/straw prices and current grain prices, but there are other quality/quantity factors that you need to take into account. Call me and I will gladly help you think through possibilities, assist with contract wording, and can also do yield estimates.

# Corn Silage Moisture Monitoring for 2020

As with most of the rest of 2020 agricultural programming, the normal corn silage moisture sampling is not going to be normal. Most noticeably, I will not be able to conduct any sample collection at Oconto County sites this year. Also, I will not be utilizing host farms for the sample collection sites. Instead, we are using public areas which have larger parking areas, to ensure minimized risk and adequate spacing. The sampling dates we are having this year are meant to coincide with the observation that most corn tasseled between July 19 and 25. For most on-farm silage storage situations, corn silage is at optimum harvest moisture approximately 50 days after the corn tassels, although soil moisture can change that up to 1 week.

## **2020 Sampling Dates will be Tuesdays, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> at these 4 sites:**

Middle Inlet Town Hall from 10:30 to 11:15, west side of Hwy. 141 at Cty. Hwy. X

Crivitz Feed Mill from 11:30 to 12:15, 504 Wilbert St., Crivitz, just south of Cty. Hwy. W

Beaver Town Hall from 12:30 to 1:30, west of Hwy. 141 ½ mile on Cty. Hwy. P

Grover Town Hall from 1:45 to 2:45, east of Cty. Hwy. W 1.5 miles on Town Hall Road

Additional 2020 procedures: Please try to call or text my cell phone, 715-923-0807, to let me know you are bringing samples to a particular site on a given day. If we are going to have a large number of producers coming to one site, I may need to ask you to stagger your arrival time. We will have information on an easel and a sign in station, please make sure to follow posted information while at the site.

These opportunities are meant to be a chance to get your silage, snaplage, or early HMC samples tested in a relatively convenient manner. Also take advantage of other opportunities that you may have through your agronomist, nutritionist, or by conducting your own sampling and testing. If doing the testing on the farm, just make sure you take the time to calibrate your methodology and to do the methods properly.

Collecting a Good Sample Sample collection is very important to getting good test results. The first step to collecting a good sample is to think about all the different fields and/or varieties that you want tested. Each variety will mature and dry-down differently, and there are always differences from field to field, so plan on sampling most of the fields that you are thinking about ensiling this year. When collecting the actual sample plants, collect your sample according to the variability in the field. If the field is pretty consistent, collect at least five plants in a W-shaped pattern from the area being sampled. If the field is variable, collect more plants and collect at least one or two from each size of plants found in the field. Wrap the plant stems in wet paper and bring all your separate samples to the collection site nearest you. If in doubt, collect a few more plants for each given sample, or collect more than one sample according to field variability, whether it be soil type, variety, or whatever else. Lastly, collect them as soon as possible before you leave for the collection site. Call Scott's cell phone at 715-923-0807 if you are running behind so that we can wait for you or arrange a meeting point.

Storage considerations for corn silage High-quality corn silage can be produced in many different types of storage structures. However, each structure type - bunker silo, silage bag, upright silo, or silage pile - needs to have the corn silage at a certain range of whole-plant moisture to achieve the best possible results. The recommendation is to hit the following ranges:

Silo Type	Recommended Moisture %
Upright	60-65
Upright, oxygen-limiting	50-60
Horizontal silos	65-70
Silage bags and piles	60-70

Packing Capacity – When packing silage into a bunker silo, you must have enough packing weight to adequately handle the forage coming into the bunker. If you do not pack adequately, you will lose dry matter and forage quality. A quick rule-of-thumb is that you need about 800 lbs of weight per delivered wet ton per hour. For example, 80 tons delivered per hour requires 64,000 lbs of packing capacity. Stated Simply: Pack or Lose! If you do not take the time to pack correctly, you will have lost 2 to 5 times as much silage to spoilage as you should. So do your best by: 1. Use the heaviest tractors you can. Total weight has shown to be more important than per tire weight. 2. Unload the silage in thinner layers. This will allow each layer to be more properly packed. 3. If feasible, slow down your delivery rates. The single most important variable to final silage density in a significant study a few years ago was delivery rate. If the rate was less than 60 ton/hour, the final density was sufficient, if more than that, the density decreased.