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Bringing agriculture information and research to the farmers of Dane County

### A goodbye message from Jennifer

This will be my last e-newsletter in my current position as your Dairy & Livestock Educator. Starting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, I will be taking over as the Director of the Farm & Industry Short Course at UW-Madison. It's a bittersweet goodbye as I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Dane County and having the opportunity to work closely with many of you. I feel very thankful for the rewarding experiences - from one-on-one conversations and farm visits to group discussions during programs and meetings - and what I have learned from, you, the farmers in Dane County. I am happy I am not traveling too far away and it's very important for me to continue to hear from and connect with farmers here and around the state.

In order to ensure we continue to meet the needs of farmers, Dane County UW-Extension has hired a dairy and livestock intern to answer questions and help out with various other on-going projects. Mara Shelley is from a farm near Deerfield and is currently a junior at UW-Platteville, studying dairy science. We are excited to have Mara helping out for the summer. In the meantime, please direct any questions to Heidi Johnson, [johnson.heidi@countyofdane.com](mailto:johnson.heidi@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3716. Thank you again and I wish you all the best! ~Jennifer

## Resources and Event Updates for May 2018

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### Resources

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#### DMPP Deadline Coming Up!

If you weren't able to attend the meeting Dane County offered regarding "Navigating a Challenging Dairy Economy", you can always find the materials presented on our website at this address:  
<https://fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyag/2018/04/24/navigating-a-challenging-dairy-economy/>

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### Upcoming Events

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#### 2018 UW-Extension Summer Hop Field Day

The 2018 Summer Hop Field Day to be held Friday, June 8, 2018 near Elk Mound, WI. Jody and Scott Alne, Hoppertunity Gardens, LLC. will be our hosts, which will begin with registration at 10:00 am and program beginning at 10:30 am. Hoppertunity Gardens LLC is located at 3434 County Highway X, Elk

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## Don't Forget About Pasture Quality this Spring

While everything looks lush and productive during this spring green-up, make sure to keep an eye on pasture quality and production this season. Forage analysis is one of the best ways to determine forage quality of a pasture. Also, if you haven't taken a soil sample in more than 5 years, it's time to do so again! Depending on production and soil type, manure may not be enough to keep your pastures producing through the grazing season. Oftentimes nitrogen fertilizer is needed, in particular for pastures where the majority of the species are grasses.

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## Mobile App for Pricing Standing Hay

To help farmers and landowners better evaluate their options when it comes to pricing standing hay, UW-Extension Waupaca County Agriculture Agent Greg Blonde developed a mobile app for pricing standing hay. It offers quick access to baled hay reference values with projected sale/purchase price for each cutting using your own yield and harvest cost information.

The Android app is free to download at the Google Play store (search for **Hay Pricing**) or by going to: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmappsconsulting.haypricing>.

This free app will also be available for iPhones and iPads later this spring through the Apple App Store.

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## New Smartphone app: Sporecaster, The Soybean White Mold Forecaster

*Damon Smith, Field Crops Extension Pathologist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Roger Schmidt, Nutrient and Pest Management Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Shawn Conley, Soybean Extension Agronomist, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Sporecaster** is a new smartphone application designed to help farmers predict the need for a fungicide application to control white mold in soybean. Here are the links to get the free app. Scroll down to watch tutorial videos and to see some screen shots.

Android install : <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ipcm.soybeandiseasecalculator>

Apple install:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sporecaster/id1379793823?mt=8>

Mound, WI 54739.

This year's program will include:

- **Dr. Amanda Gevens**; UW-Extension Horticulture Plant Pathologist
- **Michelle Marks**; UW-Madison Plant Pathology. Final Review of her Wisconsin Hop Research
- **Dr. Jed Calhoun**; UW-Extension Weed Specialist
- **Bryan Jensen**; UW-Extension IPM (Insect Management Focus)
- Short presentations on "What we see coming the rest of the season", followed by discussions in the field.
- Hop harvester.
- Lunch provided for those that are pre-registered

Cost is \$20 (cash or check) payable at the door. Please register by **June 1<sup>st</sup>** to ensure adequate copies of materials and meals. [carl.duley@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:carl.duley@ces.uwex.edu) or call 608-685-6256 . Program brought to you by the UW-Extension Hop Team.

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## Interested in fiber? Join us for a tour of Blackberry Wool Mill

Owner, Anne, will give us a tour of the mill and talk all about fiber and fleece. Bring your questions! The tour will be on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm.

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## Save the Dates! Dane County Grazing Network 2018 Pasture Walk Schedule

Although it still feels like spring, the grazing season has started and we've got some pasture walks scheduled for 2018! These are only a few and there are plans to host more, so stay tuned!

\*Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm – Hogs; also received a SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant for silvopasture – Jess Bernstein, Mount Horeb

\*Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm – Sheep; Converting CRP to pasture and utilizing county cost-share funding – Nancy Frank of Mary Fritz Farm, Belleville

Don't worry dairy & beef farmers, there are plans to host pasture walks for you too!

Check out the Dane County Grazing Network

## Wisconsin Crop Manager Newsletter

The Wisconsin Crop Manager Newsletter is now available at: <http://bit.ly/2wW3w8a>.

### Articles include:

- Soybean Emergence and Germination Issues
- Despite the Weather 2018 Weed Emergence Only One Week Behind
- Strategies for Late Termination of Cereal Rye Cover Crop
- Black Cutworm
- True Armyworm
- Seedcorn Maggot
- Alfalfa Weevil

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### Adjusting your seeding rate, not your maturity group, for late May planted soybeans

Shawn Conley, UW Soybean Specialist, recommends not switching your maturity group until after June 1st. [Click here](#) for the complete article.

webpage (<https://fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyag/dairy/dane-county-grazing-network/>) or the Facebook page for updates. Marie Raboin – Dane County Land & Water Resources – will be coordinating these pasture walks this year. You can contact her with any questions at 608-224-3742 or [Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com](mailto:Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com)

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### Save the Date! Dairy Heifer Grazing Farms Bus Tour – August 8th

Two large-scale dairies (a CAFO and another with 500 cows) will host us in Northeast Wisconsin to show off their different approaches to grazing dairy heifers. Come and learn why these large farms chose to raise their heifers on grass and what benefits they are seeing from it.

The tour will be by coach bus and we will meet at a Park and Ride in Sun Prairie at 9:30am. We anticipate to be back at the Park and Ride at 6:30pm. Lunch will be at one of the farms. We also are inviting UW-Extension experts along to discuss reproduction and nutrition for dairy heifers. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover lunch. Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dairy-heifer-grazing-farms-bus-tour-tickets-46295641510>

Contact Marie Raboin, Dane County Land & Water Resources, at 608-224-3742 or [Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com](mailto:Raboin.Marie@countyofdane.com) with any questions.

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(Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact Heidi Johnson or UW-Extension office building.

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