

December 2015



UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

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Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made.

December Greetings!

The year is quickly winding down! Meeting season will ramp up after the holidays, so keep an eye out for upcoming meetings through our monthly newsletters or visit the Fond du Lac County Extension Agriculture Website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fdlag>.

As we approach the beginning of a new year, you may be looking into the future of your dairy operation and the next generation of farmers. Farmers and farm businesses have some unique characteristics that may not be addressed in general financial planning or retirement/estate planning workshops. A well farm succession plan should be designed to address not only the transfer of ownership and assets, but also planning for the financial sustainability of the farm business and all parties involved.

Save the dates for a 3-part series addressing the topic of farm succession, retirement and estate planning which will be offered late January and early February. It is never too early to start planning for the future!

May your Christmas season be joyous and many blessings for a new year! See you in 2016!

Tina Kohlman
Dairy & Livestock Agent
UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

Moving Forward

Farm Succession, Retirement, and Estate Planning for the Family Business Series

Save the dates!

January 20
Shifting Gears in the Later Years

January 28
Transferring the Farm in a High Stakes Era

February 2
Making Decisions Now So Your Family Doesn't Have To

Details forth coming in the next newsletter or visit <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fdlag/>



OSHA LEP “Dairy Dozen” Continues for 2015-16

OSHA programmed inspections of Wisconsin dairy farms will continue October 1-September 30. Local Emphasis Program (LEP) inspections focus. Inspections are to include facilities and operations where farm employees are engaged in the dairy farm operations including but not limited to: milking parlor, cattle barns, equipment maintenance sheds (shops), storage sheds (commodity sheds), manure storage and handling facilities, bunkers and piles, vertical silos, and grain storage structures.

Dairy Dozen for OSHA Field Inspection

The [OSHA Dairy Farm LEP](#) identifies 12 items for inspection. However, the Dairy LEP is a comprehensive safety review and additional items may be added. If during a safety inspection, the OSHA Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) identifies potential health hazards, the inspection may be expanded to include a health inspection. Additionally, outside contractors that are performing work on the dairy operation may be incorporated into the scope of the inspection.

1. Manure Storage Facilities and Collection Structure

Fatal or serious drowning hazards where farm vehicles are operated near waste storage facilities without measures to prevent or restrict accidental entry of machinery, vehicles and personnel across outdoor manure storage; exposure or inhalation of manure gases by employees.

2. Animal Handling/Worker Positioning

Hazards where employees not trained in proper animal handling interact with bulls or cows; work in areas where employee could be caught between animal and a fixed or moving structure (e.g. gates, crowd gates). Hazards may also exist when animals are not properly restrained (crushed or needle sticks) for medical procedures and artificial insemination.

3. Electrical Systems

Electrocution and electrical shock hazards from direct contact with improperly installed, maintained or damaged electrical systems on equipment; or from indirect contact with overhead or buried power lines with farm equipment (e.g. tractors, portable augers, ladders, irrigation pipes).

4. Skid-Steer Loader Operation

Employees not properly trained on operating, servicing or maintaining skid-steer loaders and failure by employees to use appropriate safety features.

5. Tractor Operation (29 CFR 1928.51)

Employers are required to provide tractors with ROPS and seatbelts to be worn by employees; and employees must be trained regarding how to properly operate, service or maintain tractors on an annual basis.

6. Guarding of Power Take-Offs (29 CFR 1928.57)

Requires proper guarding for PTOs and other related components of farm equipment (augers, conveyors).

7. Guarding of Other Power Transmission and Functional Components (29 CFR 1928.57)

Employers are required to provide proper guarding of power transmission components on farm equipment. Annual training of employee on machinery required.

8. Hazardous Energy Control while performing servicing and maintenance on equipment

Employer must provide a means to prevent one person from starting a piece of equipment while another person is performing maintenance or servicing.

9. Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1928.21(a)(5) refers to 1910.1200)

Requires a written program by employer, inventory of chemicals, (materials) safety data sheets (M)SDS, training of employees and evaluation of personal protective equipment (PPE). Global Harmonized System (GHS) implementation required training on SDS and labeling by December 1, 2013.


10. Confined Spaces (e.g. grain storage bins, vertical silos, hoppers, milk vessels or tanks, manure collection systems)

Requires a written program including an assessment of confined spaces and hazards present. Must address safe entry procedures and rescue requirements.

11. Horizontal Bunker Silos

Employers should assess engulfment or other hazards when employees perform facing activities; evaluate fall hazards to determine control measures when placing or removing protective covering.

12. Noise

Evaluation of hearing loss hazards when working around or operating agricultural equipment. 



Winter Strategies to Enhance Teat Health



With the temperatures dropping below zero many farmers are concerned with teat end cracking and increased incidence of mastitis. Year round we need to be applying germicide and moisturizers to the teat end to help

promote health and prevent mastitis, but in the winter it becomes even more important.

When choosing a winter dip to use there are several choices:

1. Normal lactating cow dips which contain 5-10% conditioners
2. Barrier dips require 20 minutes to dry and tend to be harder to get off at the end of the winter
3. Winter dips (For use in cold temps when there is a threat of the teats freezing or dehydrating quickly).

There are two main types of winter dips:

- Dry powder – hard to apply, can wick moisture on teat. Need to cover the teat completely to fully protect and moisturize the teat.
 - High emollient dips have > 50% skin conditioner (like antifreeze). These dips minimize initial freezing risk post milking because they are slow to evaporate. However the teat is oily/ wet for 2-6 hours.
 - With both types of winter dips you need clean stalls because they can wick bacteria onto the teat and they cost 2-3 x more than normal lactating cow dips.
 - Keep in mind winter dips are only more effective than normal lactating cow dips when temperatures are really cold.
4. Chlorine Dioxide must be mixed daily and creates a drop on the teat end that keeps the teat end soft and hydrated. Chlorine Dioxide is a very effective germicide, but it is very costly.
 5. Quit dipping – Not a very good option. The teats are still wet after milking and have no contagious mastitis control. Without skin conditioner, the teats dehydrate quicker as well.
 6. Salves – usually do more harm than good. Salves lead to a higher colonization with Staph aureus, coat or

trap infection, provide for spreading of contagious mastitis. Salves also lead to greasy hands and equipment. The grease attracts dirt and debris. They are water based, therefore offering little or no protection. If you must use salves use ones with a proven germicide, use them sparingly applying to the teat end only. Remember that teat cracking is due mostly to changes in temperature, if you can minimize temperature changes you can minimize cracking. Teat end cracking can occur very rapidly, usually within two to three days. Temperatures don't have to be less than 0°F to see teat end cracking. Even the "best dips" have variable effectiveness depending on the situation or conditions in which they are used. Therefore it is important to take into consideration your circumstances when choosing a dip and making changes.

To help minimize cracking of teats:

- Windbreaks: if wind < 5 mph, -20°F can be tolerated
- Feed and house indoors where possible
- Avoid drafts/humidity
- Avoid direct wind chills post milking if possible
- Temperature changes are devastating
- Remember even the best machine is an irritant/stressor to the cow-so want to maximize let down and avoid over milking.

If cracking does occur:

- Minimize other stressors that exacerbate problem
- Keep teat disinfected/health/soft
- Minimize secondary bacterial infections
- Do not use salves-can help breed bacteria

Keep in mind Staph aureus love wounds. Having cracked teats amplifies the chances of getting Staph aureus by 100% even if you do not have any cows with Staph aureus. Good teat health depends on excellent nutrition to support the immune system. Fluctuating temperatures lead to fluctuating intakes, so if you can minimize temperature changes you can minimize fluctuations in feed intake and teat end cracking. 🐄



Source: Heather Schlessner, Dairy & Livestock Agent
UW-Extension Marathon County

How Much Feed Do I Have?

The good news in 2015 is many producers had an opportunity to “restock the shelves” when it came to their forage supplies. After a drought in 2012, widespread alfalfa winter kill in 2013, and a cool, wet, late spring in 2014, we were due for something closer to “normal” weather for the 2015 growing season. This past year provided just that, with early planting dates and the ability to harvest four (and some cases 5) cuttings across the board.

Do you know how much feed you have in inventory? Feed costs are the single largest expense on most dairy farms comprising between 40 and 60 percent of the total cost of producing milk. The reasons to conduct feed inventories are to:

- project future needs
- determine if you need to obtain feed or can sell feed
- allocate existing feed inventories over a period of time
- determine what to plant for upcoming cropping season
- give an indication of future storage needs.

Feed inventories are a simple method that enhances feed management decisions. Take the time to conduct a feed inventory to help you be a better feed manager.

Additional feed inventory resources can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage>.



Estimating Feed Inventory in Specific Storage Structure

Bunker Storage

Corn Silage

Length x Width x Height x 42 lbs/cubic foot*

Divided by 2,000 lbs = tons of 65% corn silage

**This value can vary from 22 lbs to 67# per cubic foot depending on compaction*

Haylage

Length x Width x Height x 17 lbs/cubic foot**

Divided by 2,000 lbs = tons of dry hay equivalent

***Caution this value can vary from 9 lbs to 32 lbs per cubic foot depending on compaction*

8' diameter bag

Haylage	.38 tons dry hay equivalent per foot
Corn silage	.95 tons per foot of 65% corn silage
Ground ear corn	21.5 bushels per foot
Ground shell corn	34 bushels per foot

9' diameter bag

Haylage	.44 tons dry hay equivalent per foot
Corn silage	1.1 tons per foot of 65% corn silage
Ground ear corn	26.5 bushels per foot
Ground shell corn	42 bushels per foot

10' diameter bag

Haylage	.54 tons dry hay equivalent per foot
Corn silage	1.35 tons per foot of 65% corn silage
Ground ear corn	32.6 bushels per foot
Ground shell corn	51.7 bushels per foot

12' diameter bag

Haylage	.85 tons dry hay equivalent per foot
Corn silage	2.1 tons per foot of 65% corn silage
Ground ear corn	46.9 bushels per foot
Ground shell corn	74.45 bushels per foot

Adapted from: Kevin Jarek, UW-Extension Outagamie County Crops & Soils Agent

Cold Weather Safety

A good starting place is to implement a cold weather safety program is [OSHA's Cold Weather Stress Guide](#). OSHA does not have a specific standard that covers working in cold environments, but under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act \(OSH Act\) of 1970](#) employers have a duty to protect workers from recognized hazards, including cold stress hazards, that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm in the workplace.

Employers should train workers regarding cold stress. Training should include:

- How to recognize environmental and workplace conditions that lead to cold stress.
- Symptoms of cold stress, how to prevent cold stress, and what to do to help those who are affected.
- How to select proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions.

Employers should:

- Monitor workers physical condition.
- Schedule frequent short breaks in warm dry areas, to allow the body to warm up.
- Schedule work during the warmest part of the day.
- Use the buddy system (work in pairs).

- Provide warm, sweet beverages. Avoid drinks with alcohol.
 - Provide engineering controls such as radiant heaters.
- To determine items you should cover in training your workers, think about a day last winter on your farm during a snowstorm or ice event. What tasks on your farm required employees to be working outside or in other cold environments? Feeding calves in hutches, removing plastic from horizontal silos or silage piles, starting tractors or skid steers in cold weather, or unthawing frozen pipes and equipment are a few situations to consider. List the factors for each of task that have safety concerns in cold temperatures. Discuss those concerns with your workers as well as how to report any cold weather injuries such as potential frostbite. Be prepared and plan for severe winter storms that may make it impossible for employees to leave work or get to work. Post reminders about cold weather safety procedures in advance of winter storm events. Share information with them on safe winter driving and having winter weather kits in vehicles.

Discussing cold weather safety and plans for winter storms now, will help prepare everyone for a safe winter ahead. Be ready for winter! 🐮

Pesticide Applicator Training

Pesticide applicator training will be administered through UW-Extension Fond du Lac County.

- ⇒ Certification for private applicators is required by law for crop producers to handle, mix, or apply "restricted use" pesticides. Private applicator certification is valid for five years and participants must be 16 years of age or older.
- ⇒ Pre-registration for the pesticide session is required. Individuals are charged \$30 for the training materials and state certification. Lunch is not included and is on your own.
- ⇒ Study materials may be picked up one week prior to the training session at UW-Fond du Lac County. Materials will not be mailed. Please have your social security number available when registering.

- ⇒ A minimum exam score of 50% is required if individuals complete the training session. A minimum exam score of 70% is required if individuals chose self-study option.



- ⇒ For more information or to register, please contact UW-Extension Fond du Lac County at 920.929.3171. 🌾

Training Dates:

Tuesday, February 9

Tuesday, February 23

Thursday, March 10

Location: UW-Fond du Lac County

Time: 9:45 am to 3:30 pm



Fond du Lac County

227 ADMINISTRATION/EXTENSION BUILDING
400 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
FOND DU LAC WI, 54935

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FOND DU LAC WI 54935
PERMIT 110

Return Service Requested

UW-Extension Agriculture Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 15 Fond du Lac County Holstein Association Scholarship Applications due
- 17 Fond du Lac County Forage Council Dairy-Forage Day, UW-Extension Fond du Lac, 11 am to 2:30pm
- 31 Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders Association "Herd Builder" Applications

JANUARY

- 2 Fond du Lac County Market Livestock Project Initial Beef Weigh-in & Identification, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, 10 am to 12 noon
- 5 Agronomy Update, UW-Extension Fond du Lac, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- 12-14 Dairy Business Association Dairy Strong Conference, Monona Terrace, Madison
- 12-14 Wisconsin Crop Management Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
- 20 Shifting Gears for Your Later Years Farm Retirement Meeting, Pizza Ranch, Waupun, 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- 25-27 Midwest Forage Association Conference, Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells
- 28 Transferring the Farm in a High Stakes Era, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

FEBRUARY

- 2 Making Decisions Now So Your Family Doesn't Have To-Estate Planning, UW-Extension Dodge County, 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- 4-5 Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells
- 9 Private Applicators Training (PAT), UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
- 11 Annual CAFO Meeting, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 12 noon to 3 pm
- 16 Raising Quality Dairy Heifers, Liberty Hall, Kimberly, 10 am to 3 pm
- 23 Private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT), UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

We are on the web! Visit us at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fdlag>
