

# Dairy Moos & News

October 2015

A dairy newsletter from UW-Extension Fond du Lac County



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Fond du Lac County  
227 Admin/Extension Building  
400 University Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

#### Fond du Lac County Educators:

Tina Kohlman  
Dairy and Livestock Agent  
Amanda Miller  
Wisconsin Nutrition Coordinator  
Pam Nelson  
Wisconsin Nutrition Educator  
Araceli (Shelly) Oswald  
4H Youth Development Assistant  
Patty Percy  
Urban Garden Coordinator  
Denise Retzleff  
4-H Youth Development Agent  
Kris Schaeffer  
Wisconsin Nutrition Educator  
Shelley Tidemann  
Family Living Educator  
Diana Tscheschlok  
Community Resource Development  
Mike Winkler  
Entrepreneur Educator (Special)  
Vacant Position  
Crops and Soils Agent

#### Program Assistants:

Tina Engelhardt  
Angela Folske  
Ann Kaiser  
Gloria Kelroy

#### Telephone:

Dairy & Livestock/Crops & Soils  
920-929-3171  
Ripon— 920-748-7565  
Waupun— 920-324-2879  
Wisconsin Relay 711

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. Requests are kept confidential.

Fall is in the air! This is one of my most favorite times of year with the color of the trees and fields. It is also a time of change as we wind down the productive growing season to harvest the feed for the cows and prepare for winter.

With fall, we are preparing for the winter meeting season. Many of your traditional meetings will still be held in the absence of a crops and soils agent: Pest Management Update, Agronomy Update, Dairy Forage Day and Pesticide Applicators Training. Please check the calendar often for updates of dates and locations.

This winter we will also be offering a series of farm succession meetings which will incorporate farm business structure, estate planning and retirement planning. Regardless of where you are in your farming career, please take advantage of these offerings as you plan for your dairy future!

Continue to have a safe fall harvest!

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



## Fond du Lac County Holstein Association Scholarship

The Fond du Lac County Holstein Association Scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be given out to a student enrolled in a four-year, one or two year short course or ag-related program. All Fond du Lac County Jr Holstein members are encouraged to apply. Students majoring in agriculture degrees are given highest consideration. Applications are available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fldairyouth/2015/10/08/fond-du-lac-county-holstein-association-scholarship/> due December 15th and winners are announced at the annual Holstein Banquet. For more information, please

contact board member Joseta Halbur at [josetarhalbur@yahoo.com](mailto:josetarhalbur@yahoo.com).



Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders Association

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## New Wide IoH Lighting and Marking Requirements Take Effect November 1st

As we become deeply involved in the harvest season and day light hours become less and less it is important to be thinking about safety and making sure our ag vehicles are visible to others when we operate them on the roads. This is not only for their safety but ours as well. This is a reminder that new Implements of Husbandry lighting requirements put into law by 2014 Act 377 and 2015 Act 15 take effect November 1 of this year. Here is a brief listing of what the requirements are, please go to <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh/> for a pdf copy of the new regulations or use the post <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh/2015/08/18/lighting-and-marking-of-implements-of-husbandry/>.

### Current Lighting and Marking Requirements for *all* IoH:

Lights or lamps must be activated when operating on the road or parked in the right-of-way during **hours of darkness**. New wide IoH requirements for lighting require lights to be activated at all times vehicle(s) are operated on the highway.

### What is a wide IoH?

Any IoH **exceeding 15 feet in total width or that extends over the center** of the roadway into a lane intended for the opposite direction of travel. Width is determined by the widest measurement of the equipment in a highway transport configuration. A town road may have a roadway of 18 feet. This means at 9 feet an IoH vehicle or vehicle combination meets the definition of a wide IoH. Standard lane width for a county or state roadway with a marked center-line is 11 feet. It is important to know your route and roadway factors that may require additional considerations for wide IoH.

*In addition to the current requirements for lighting and marking, the following requirements apply at all times when wide IoH vehicle or vehicle combination is operated or parked on a highway.*

### Self-propelled IoH including farm tractors in excess of 12 feet:

Must be equipped with a 360-degree yellow or amber rotating strobe or beacon light, mounted at the highest practicable point **or** 2 flashing amber lights visible to the front and rear. **Note:** Any attachment to a self-propelled IoH or farm tractor is included in the vehicle's width.

### Wide IoH must have:

- At least 2 amber flashing warning lamps, visible from both the front and rear. Must be mounted, as nearly

as practicable, to indicate the extreme width but not more than **16 inches** from the lateral extremities.

- Red retroreflective material, visible to the rear and mounted within **25 inches** of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH, spaced as evenly as practicable.
- At least 2 strips of yellow retroreflective material visible to the front. On left and right sides of IoH, the outer edge of this material shall be mounted within **16 inches** of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH.
- At least 2 red tail lamps mounted to the rear of the IoH, or as close to the rear as practicable. These lamps are not required to be wired to light when headlamps or other lamps are activated. This provides for the use of battery powered tail lamps.
- A slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem.

**IoH wider than 22 feet**, must have all wide IoH lighting and marking. In addition, when traveling greater than 0.5 miles, an escort vehicle with hazard lights activated, is required.

On a highway with:

- one lane of travel in each direction, the escort vehicle shall operate ahead of the wide IoH.
- more than one lane for travel in each direction or on a 3-lane highway, escort vehicle shall operate behind wide IoH.

For full details and additional requirements for Agricultural IoH Train (3 IoH vehicle combination) and Trailering IoH, please go to <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh/> for a pdf copy of the new regulations or use the post <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh/2015/08/18/lighting-and-marking-of-implements-of-husbandry/>.



*Have a safe and productive harvest season!*

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## Top Ways to Tweak Dairy Nutrition Management

Sound nutritional programs for lactating dairy cows must start with correctly and consistently accomplishing the basics as part of daily or seasonal routines. These basics include but are not limited to:

- **Harvesting or purchasing high-quality forages** that are stored correctly to prevent feed shrink. For most forages, the recommended stage of maturity at harvest has changed over the years, with forages harvested at an earlier stage of maturity to improve the amount of nutrients and NDF digestibility which can support an improved milk production.
- **Collecting representative forage samples** on a regular basis, testing these samples for nutrient content, and using these results to rebalance rations.
- **Feeding these rations as designed by your nutritionist.** To account for variations in dry matter content, samples of wet feeds should be dried when changes are detected in dry matter content of feeds being fed or when changes are seen in dry matter intake. These results then are used to adjust amounts of each ingredient fed.
- **Ensuring that lactating cows have access to feed 20**

**hours or more daily.** Fresh feed should be:

- available upon return from the milking parlor
- pushed up between feedings so cows can reach feed
- distributed evenly throughout the feedbunk with approximately 1% to 2% of delivered feed left after a 24-hour feeding period.
- **Adjusting feeding time** to account for the amount of feed left in the bunk (when the bunk is empty, feed cows earlier than normal).
- **Providing adequate bunk space**, especially for fresh (ideally 30 inches bunk space/cow) and high-producing groups (24 inches/cow) of lactating dairy cows.

Source: *eXtension.org*



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## Managing Dairy Calves During the Winter Months

Attention to dairy calf and heifer management is important for maintaining growth rates, minimizing health problems, and optimizing current and future profitability of the dairy farm.

Dairy heifers account for about 30% of the feed costs on a dairy farm, and the most costly period for raising heifers is during the preweaning period. The animal's susceptibility to disease is greatest during this period, and the cost per unit of dry matter (DM) consumed is the highest. The energy requirement for calves housed in unheated facilities increases during the winter months due to cold stress (lower critical temperature for newborn calves of 48°F versus 32°F for older calves), and the cold stress can increase the risk for disease.

Different feeding strategies for optimizing growth of dairy calves during the winter months include:

- If utilizing milk replacer, it should be at least 20% fat.
- Solids content of the liquid from milk replacer can be increased from 12.5% to 16% (from 17 to 22 oz per gallon).
- Increase feedings per day from two to three times while holding the amount per feeding the same.

- Feed more milk per feeding, e.g., increase from 2 to 3 quarts two times a day.
- Use a combination of these strategies so that small breed calves consume at least 1.3 lb of DM and large breed calves consume 2.0 lb DM per day.

These strategies should be used while also offering a high-quality calf starter free choice and plenty of water.

Hypothermia is a major risk for neonatal calves, and housing, feeding, and hydration are key considerations for minimizing hypothermia. Consider these strategies to reduce the chance of hypothermia:

- **Position hutches** used for calves in a well-drained area. Make sure prevailing wind is not blowing into the front of hutch. A windbreak upwind can help reduce the wind chill on calves.
- **Bed hutches** with dry, organic bedding, preferably straw, so the calves can nestle in the bedding for warmth and reduce heat loss by conduction that would occur with sand bedding. Wet bedding also greatly increases conductive heat loss.
- If **calf coats** are going to be used, check the inventory and have all of them cleaned for use.

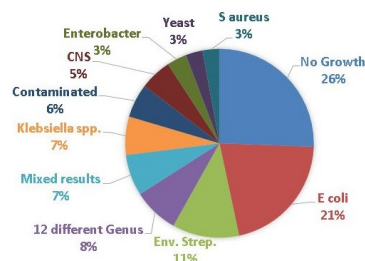
Source: *eXtension.org*

## Responsible Use of Antibiotics for Treatment of Clinical Mastitis

Mastitis is the most common disease of dairy cows and the most common reason cows are treated with antibiotics. Most clinical mastitis cases are mild and cannot be detected unless foremilk is examined; a study in over 50 Wisconsin farms found 50% of cases only had abnormal milk, 35% of cases had abnormal milk and swelling of the quarter, and only 15% of cases had systemic symptoms. Treatments of mild and moderate mastitis are not medical emergencies. Treatment protocols should allow time to review the history of the cow to determine if antibiotic treatment is necessary.

### What Types of Bacteria Cause Clinical Mastitis?

Milk samples collected from cows on WI dairy farms clearly demonstrated environmental bacteria are the most common causes of clinical mastitis. Not all of these cases require antibiotic therapy, some may respond to therapy, but cure rates for mastitis caused by pathogens such as yeasts, *Pseudomonas*, *Mycoplasma*, and *Prototheca* are essentially zero.



### What Should We Consider Before Treating Mastitis?

Dairy farmers should work closely with their veterinarian to develop treatment protocols, provide oversight for appropriate drug use and to monitor success of treatment.

Intramammary antibiotic tubes are the most common treatment for mild and moderate cases of mastitis and are usually given without knowing the type of bacteria causing the infection. Mastitis cases where the immune system has already cleared the bacteria from the cow (culture negative), often do not benefit from the use of antibiotics. However, bacteria-negative samples can occur when the cow remains infected but the number of bacteria shed is less than the detection limit of the lab. In some of these cases, antibiotic treatment may be beneficial.

In the U.S., only 2 intramammary products are labeled against *E. coli*. Most mild and moderate *E. coli* mastitis cases spontaneously cure (without treatment) and is difficult to justify across-the-board use of antibiotics. Additionally, there is usually no difference in cures in cows with *E. coli* mastitis between untreated and antibiotic treated cows. A New York study found a greater bacteriological cure for clinical mastitis caused by

a variety of Gram-negative pathogens that were treated using intramammary ceftiofur (Spectramast LC™), however treatment did not alter SCC or milk yield in the remainder of the lactation. Although treatment of Gram-negative bacteria is not likely to be effective in most herds, there may be herds where treatment is beneficial.

### Guidelines for Responsible Antibiotic Use For Treatment of Mastitis

1. Milkers should be trained to detect cases early and collect milk samples. These samples should be used for a diagnosis (no growth, Gram positive or Gram negative) to guide therapy. Culturing with selective medias can be done on-farm or at local vet clinics. Cows affected with mild or moderate cases of clinical mastitis should be isolated and milk discarded for 24 hours until culture results are known. If the farmer wishes to immediately initiate treatment, treatment can be modified after culture results are known.
2. Treatments should be administered only after a herd owner or manager, who works closely with the veterinarian, has reviewed the medical history of the cow and evaluated the chances for therapeutic success. Cows 3<sup>rd</sup> lactation or greater, have a history of previous clinical cases, or have a history of chronically elevated SCC are often poor candidates for routine therapy. Treatment decisions for these cows should be based on culture results and review of treatment outcomes from similar cases on each farm. In many instances, “watchful waiting” (isolation of the cow and discard the milk from the affected quarter) will be an appropriate therapy. In other cases, culling, drying off affected quarter, or extending therapy may be preferred.
3. Extended duration therapy is appropriate for some cases of mastitis, but should be reserved for cases that will likely have improved outcomes.
4. Except for rare cases, antibiotic treatment should not be administered to cows infected with pathogens unlikely to respond, or for most non-severe cases that yielded no bacteria on negative.
5. The use of antibiotic treatment for mild cases of *E. coli* mastitis should be considered if review of the herd history suggests a chronic strain is involved. In the absence of other data, a thumb-rule is to initiate therapy if the cow has had increased SCC for at least 2 months or if the cow has other risk factors (first weeks of lactation, severe heat stress, very high production etc.).

## Pricing Wet Corn? An App Makes it a Snap!

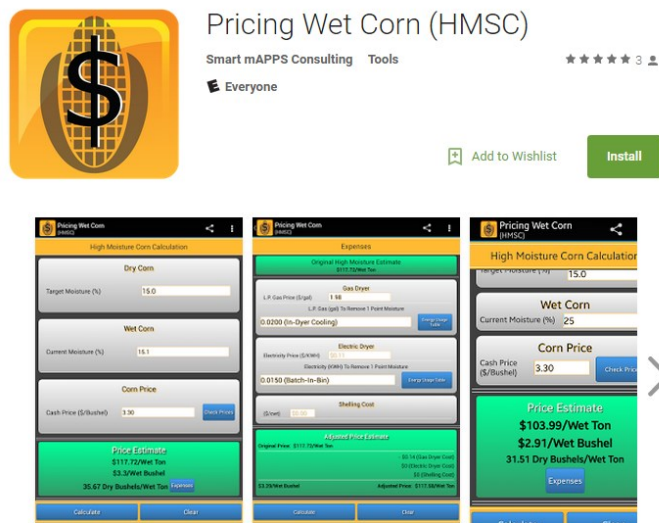
It will soon be that time of year when Fond du Lac County dairy and beef producers and corn growers explore their options of buying and selling high moisture shell corn (HMSC).

To help farmers better evaluate their options, the University of Wisconsin-Extension has developed a Smartphone app to provide a simple way to help estimate the market value of HMSC based on three main variable-dry moisture corn, current corn moisture and price per bushel.

The HMSC\$ app is free and available for Android smartphones and tablets on the Google Play store by searching for "HMSC" or go to: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmapps.corncalculator&hl=en>

Farmers can use this app to help determine value for wet shell corn when compared with dry shell corn price – a link to current elevator dry corn bid prices is built into the app. The equivalent wet price is then calculated and displayed in both price per ton and price per bushel.

Additional costs for drying and/or shelling can be evaluated under the expense tab. The app also features the ability to email the results directly to others.



Pricing Wet Corn (HMSC)...an Android tablet or smartphone application to help price wet shelled corn compared with a dry shell corn price equivalent (\$/ton & \$/bu). For field pricing, additional harvesting and/or drying cost must also be deducted. Buyers and sellers assume all responsibility for final pricing, including any quality adjustment.

## Wisconsin Manure Management Advisory System

### Check Wisconsin's Online Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast

[www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov](http://www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov)



**If it's RED  
Don't SPREAD**

Working together to keep manure out of lakes and streams



The fall harvest and soil sampling is off to a good start.

#### Wisconsin Manure Management Advisory System:

The Manure Run Off Risk Advisory Forecast maps shows day-to-day risk of runoff occurring across Wisconsin using National Weather Service forecast methods that consider precipitation, soil moisture, and individual basin characteristics. The site is a good reminder to work in and store manure in the soil profile or leave a buffer area for the no till area well ahead of inclement weather events. Keep nutrients from flushing down and/or flowing off site. Visit the link below for daily forecasts. <http://www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov/app/runoffrisk>

#### Manage Applications of Nutrients Using Reliable Equipment:

It is no surprise to anyone that there have been equipment failures resulting in spills in the past, therefore, just a quick reminder to inspect all hauling equipment frequently and review emergency response plans ahead of the hauling season with your hauling team.

For more information regarding nutrient management plans, please contact Becky Wagner at [becky.wager@wi.nacdn.net](mailto:becky.wager@wi.nacdn.net) or 920.923.3033, ext 120.



Fond du Lac County  
227 ADMINISTRATION/EXTENSION BUILDING  
UW CENTER 400 UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
FOND DU LAC WI 54935

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

Return Service Requested

*Time-Sensitive  
Material*

## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

- 12 Agri-Business Council's Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows, Fond du Lac,
- 16 Pest Management Update, UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-113/114, 9:30 am registration, 10 am-3 pm meeting
- 26 Thanksgiving Holiday, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County Office closed

### DECEMBER

- 4 Fond du Lac County Forage Council Dairy-Forage Day, UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-114/115, 11am to 3 pm
- 7 Area Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting, UW-Extension Dodge County, Juneau, 10 am to 3 pm
- 8 Area Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting, Millhome Supper Club, Kiel, 10 am to 3 pm
- 9 UW-Extension Dairy Team "These Hooves Are Made for Walking", Liberty Hall, Kimberly
- 10-11 SNAP+ Software Nutrient Management Training, UW-Fond du Lac Room AE-205/206, 10 am to 3 pm
- 15 Fond du Lac County Holstein Association Scholarship Applications due
- 24-25 Christmas Holidays, UW-Extension Offices Closed
- 31 Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders Association "Herd Builder" Applications due to UW-Extension
- 31 New Year's Eve, UW-Extension Offices Closed

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day, UW-Extension Offices Closed
- 2 Fond du Lac Co Market Livestock Project Initial Beef Weigh-in, Fond du Lac Co Fairgrounds, 10 am-12 noon
- 5 Agronomy Update, UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-114/115, 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

*UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment & programming, including Title IX requirements.*

# Pest Management Update Meeting

## Monday, November 16, 2015

UW Fond du Lac, University Center Room 113/114, Fond du Lac, WI

This year's Pest Management Update Meeting hosted by UW-Extension will be streamed lined to focus on new pesticide registrations, pest updates, and highlight important issues from 2015. Topics will be more focused on specific updates and diagnostic training to include:

### Integrated Pest Management Updates for Field Crops

Managing Corn Rootworms

Soybean Stem Disease Identification

Herbicide Resistance Update & Identification



### Speakers:

#### UW-Extension Crop Production Specialists

Mark Renz  
Weed Scientist

Damon Smith  
Plant Pathologist

Bryan Jensen  
Entomologist

Dan Heider  
IPM Specialist

4.0 CCA CEU Pest Management Credits Available

**Registration: 9:30 am**  
**Meeting: 10 am to 3 pm**

### Registration Fee:

\$40 per person in advance  
(includes lunch & materials)

\$5 "Walk-in" Fee will be charged  
after November 10<sup>th</sup>

Additional packets: \$20 each

### For more information:

Tina Kohlman  
Dairy & Livestock Agent  
920.929.3171  
[tina.kohlman@uwex.edu](mailto:tina.kohlman@uwex.edu)

### 2015 Pest Management Update Meeting Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for a direct mailing in future years): \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ People x \$40.00 per person (includes packet & lunch) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Packets: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of packets x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Walk-in/Late Fee after November 10<sup>th</sup> x \$5 per person** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: **Fond du Lac County UW Extension**

Your completed form may also be emailed to:

[tina.engelhardt@uwex.edu](mailto:tina.engelhardt@uwex.edu) with payment due at the meeting.

**Mail to:** Fond du Lac County UW-Extension  
400 University Drive, Room AE-227  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**Registration due Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> or Walk-in/Late fee will be added**