

Dairy Moos & News

August 2015

A dairy newsletter from 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. Requests are kept confidential.

It has been a long, but also fast-paced summer with the retirement of our usually friendly crops and soils agent. With the retirement of Mike Rankin, I am now working 100% in Fond du Lac County covering both dairy/livestock and crops/soils.

“Will we fill the vacant crops and soils agent position?” has been the big question of the summer. Our plan is to refill the position, but with the impending budget it is difficult at this time to know if and when we will or what the position may look like. Initial discussions are to share the position with Dodge County. Only time will tell what the future will hold for agriculture-crops programming in Fond du Lac County.

In the meantime, some key programming will continue such as the annual Agronomy Field Day hosted by Country Visions Coop and UW-Extension, Fond du Lac County Forage Council’s Corn Silage Moisture Testing Program and Dairy-Forage Day, and other regional programs we have been able to host in Fond du Lac County.

I thank you for your patience as I work through managing the work-load of two positions and as our office navigates the waters to re-fill our much needed crops and soils position. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or for assistance.

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

Fond du Lac Co Forage Council’s Corn Silage Moisture Testing

Once again corn silage growers will have the opportunity to test standing corn for whole plant moisture. The Fond du Lac County Forage Council’s chopper will be set-up and open for business on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 25 & September 8

Dave Schmitz Family Farm
N5236 Rive Road, Fond du Lac

or

Tuesday, September 1

Agronomy Field Day, Hwy 151, Lamartine

Times for all dates will be 10 am to 12 noon

There is no charge for the testing. Any county resident or crop professional is encouraged to bring stalk samples for testing to any of the listed dates. Bring four stalks with the following information: name; city/town; contact information; hybrid variety and relative maturity; and planting date.

Cut samples from inside the field, to avoid field border and headland effects and cut at chopper height.

Corn stalks will be chopped and taken to the forage lab for analysis. Information will be provided the following day.

Make Sure Your Kernel Processor Is Doing its Job

For cows to digest the starch in corn efficiently, the corn kernels in chopped and processed whole-plant corn must be broken into small particles. Thirty years ago it was thought effective starch utilization occurred if the corn kernel was merely nicked or broken. With today's high-producing animals, we know kernels must be processed into smaller particles for dairy cattle to get adequate starch utilization given the short duration feed resides in the rumen.

The right time to determine adequacy of kernel processing is at time of harvest when harvester adjustments can be made to correct inadequate processing. However, it can be difficult to see how well kernels are processed when they are mixed with the stover fraction of the plant. A water separation technique has been developed that can be used in the field or at the silo to separate the stover and kernel fractions (Savoie et al., 2004). This simple technique exploits differences in buoyancy between the kernels and stover. Simply put, when placed into a water bath, stover floats and kernels sink.

The method is simple, requires very little equipment, and can be done in the field or at the silo:

- **Step 1:** A suitable container is required to hold water and the crop. A conventional dishpan works or a 5-gal. pail can be used. Fill the dishpan about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water or the 5-gal. pail about $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
- **Step 2:** Collect two to three representative handfuls of processed crop and place in water.
- **Step 3:** Gently agitate material to help separate kernels from stover mat. Less than a minute of agitation is required.
- **Step 4:** Skim the floating stover from the water. This can be done by hand or by using a strainer.
- **Step 5:** The water will be quite murky and kernels difficult to see, but they will be at the bottom of the container. To see kernels, carefully drain water from container. Although not necessary, water can be drained through a sieve made of window screen so floating kernels are captured.
- **Step 6:** The kernels can be poured onto a cloth or heavy-duty paper towel and water squeezed from the kernels. The kernels can then be spread out for inspection and evaluation of the degree of processing.

The process works well under most crop conditions and

can even be used to evaluate ensiled corn silage. Post-storage assessment has less value because options to correct processing deficiencies are limited.

Very green corn and very wet corn silage can be more challenging to separate so consider these alternatives to improve the process:

- When the crop is very green, dark green leaves will sink with the kernels. These leaves can be separated by hand after step 5 above.
- Ensiled material, especially if ensiled at high moisture, will not separate well. Thoroughly drying sample in an oven promotes better separation.
- If after draining water from the container (Step 5 above) there is too much stover with the kernels, add some water back to the container, swirl the contents and quickly drain off water. This second iteration helps remove remaining stover.

After separation, the assessment of the degree of kernel processing is subjective. The presence of many whole-kernels is a clear indication processing level is insufficient. If there are almost no whole kernels, but many are simply nicked, cracked or broken, then processing level may be considered barely adequate. Properly processed materials should have almost no whole- or cracked-kernels.



Figure 1. Chopped whole-plant corn placed into water.



Figure 2. Gently agitating material to help the kernels sink to the bottom of the container.



Figure 3. Skimming and removing the floating stover.



Figure 4. Carefully draining the water so only the kernels remain in the container.



Figure 5. Example of separated stover and kernel fractions using the water separation technique.

Pricing Wet Corn? UW-Extension has an app for that!

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.



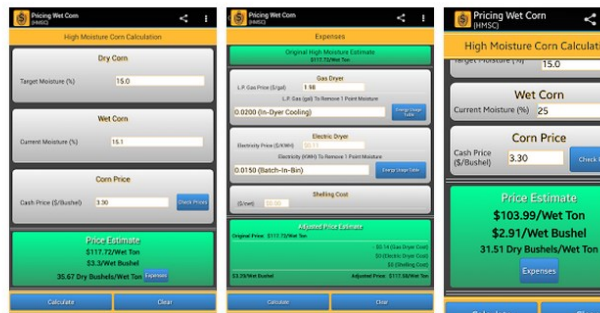
Pricing Wet Corn (HMSC)

Smart mAPPS Consulting Tools
Everyone

★★★★★

Add to Wishlist

Install



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.

Be Sure to Visit Farm Technology Days!



August 25-27

Tues. & Wed. 9 AM – 5 PM • Thurs. 9 AM – 4 PM

This 3-day outdoor event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture... many practical applications of recent research findings & technological developments.

HOST FARM

Statz Bros., Inc.
5707 County Road VV
Sun Prairie, WI 53590



EXHIBITS

- **UW-Extension's Education Station** – Mobile apps for farming, cover crops, LED lighting, dairy and livestock information, and using wood energy.
- **Family Living Tent** – Farm values; family health and leisure; technology in the home
- **Progress Pavilion** – Innovations in Agribusiness; Master Gardeners; UW experts on call
- **Youth Tent** – Family Farm Adventure Area; hands-on experiences; fun through agriculture
- **Arts & Crafts** – Vendors; a unique selection of items in the Country Mercantile
- **Field Demonstrations** – Morning & afternoon demonstrations, weather permitting
- **Commercial exhibitors** – More than 500 commercial exhibitors

www.wifarmtechnologydays.com

Visit the website for more information on exhibitors, demonstrations & directions to the show.



Cooperative Extension

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

*Time-Sensitive
Material*

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 19 UW-Arlington Agronomy Field Day - Tours start at 8:30 am
- 25 Corn Silage Moisture Testing, Schmitz's East Branch Dairy, N5236 River Rd, Fond du Lac, 10 am - 12 noon
- 25-27 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Statz Bros. Inc. Farm, Sun Prairie

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Fond du Lac County Agronomy Field Day, Montsma Farm, Hwy 151 & Co Rd TC, Lamartine
10:30 am - 2:30 pm
- 1 Corn Silage Moisture Testing, Montsma Farm, Hwy 151 & Co Rd TC, Lamartine, 10 am - 12 noon
- 8 Corn Silage Moisture Testing, Schmitz's East Branch Dairy, N5236 River Road, Fond du Lac, 10 am - 12 noon
- 9 Start Them Right, Raise Them Right Calf Management Meeting, Birlings Bovines, Black Creek, WI
9:30 am - 3 pm
- 11 Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals, Liberty Hall, Kimberly, 9:30 am - 2:45 pm
- 22 Fond du Lac Co. Holstein Association Holstein Classic, Great Northern Land & Cattle Company 7:30 pm
- 29-Oct 3 World Dairy Expo, Alliant Energy Center

Agronomy Field Day

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Montsma Farm, Hwy 151 & County Road TC, Lamartine

Field Day Highlights:

Corn Hybrid Variety Plots ▪ Soybean Variety Plots ▪ Herbicide Field Plots

Program:

Session A: offered at 10:45 am and 12:30 pm

- *Brian Madigan, Country Visions Agronomist*
- **Overview of Herbicide Plots**
Jeff Laufenberg, Syngenta Crop Protection

Session B: offered at 10:45 am and 12:30 pm

- **Is it Worth our Time and Money to Develop Prescription Seeding Rates in Soybeans...and other Coolbean Stuff...**
Shawn Conley, UW-Extension Soybean Agronomist
- **When is Yield "Determined" for Corn Grain Production**
Joe Lauer, UW-Extension Corn Agronomist
- **Soil Health in Northeast Wisconsin**
Jamie Patton, UW-Extension Shawano County Agriculture Agent

Session C: offered at 1:30 pm

- **Corn-Soybean-Wheat Marketing Update**
Bryan Doherty, Sr. Marketing Advisor, Stewart-Peterson



Corn Silage Moisture Testing:

The Fond du Lac County Forage Council will have their silage chopper on-site for whole plant moisture determination. Bring along 4 stalks from a silage field (CUT FRESH!) with the following information: name, town, phone (cell or home), email, hybrid, maturity, and planting dates. Samples must be on site by 12 noon. There is no charge for the program.

Provided to you cooperatively by:



**Start Them Right...
Raise Them Right**

More and more farms are investing in newer facilities and technologies to raise pre-weaned calves. With new technologies come new management practices.

Join UW-Extension as we learn more about raising calves in group housing, maintaining cleanliness, and minimizing respiratory disease on the farm.

For more information, please contact:

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UW-Extension Brown County
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Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agent
UW-Extension Fond du Lac County
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Darrell McCauley, Agriculture Educator
UW-Extension Winnebago County
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Zen Miller, Dairy & Livestock Agent
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Sarah Mills-Lloyd, Agriculture Educator
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University of Wisconsin-Extension

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University of Wisconsin-Extension
UW-Extension Fond du Lac County
400 University Drive, Room 227 Admin/Ext Bldg
Fond du Lac, WI 54935



**Start Them Right...
Raise Them Right
Calf Management Seminar**

Wednesday,
September 9, 2015

Birlings Bovines

N8128 Town Hall Road
Black Creek, WI



University of Wisconsin-Extension



Start Them Right... Raise Them Right

Calf Management Seminar

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

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

Birlings Bovines

N8128 Town Hall Road, Black Creek, WI

- 9:30 am** **Registration** (*Coffee, milk, juice and pastries will be available*)
- 10:00 am** **Management of Group Housing**
Amy Stanton, PhD, Dairy Well-being Specialist, UW-Extension
- 10:45 am** **Your Mother Was Right! Cleanliness is Important to Calves**
Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, Agriculture Agent, UW-Extension
Oconto County
- 11:30 am** **Five Steps Towards a Proactive Approach to Achieving Greater Transition Calf Success**
Noah Litherland, PhD, Dairy Youngstock Technical Specialist,
Vitaplus
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch**
- 12:45 pm** **Thoracic Ultrasound and Bovine Respiratory Disease**
Theresa Ollivett, DVM, Department of Medical Sciences, UW
School of Veterinary Medicine
- 1:15 pm** **Interactive Sessions –Rotate through all four sessions**
- *Ultrasounding Respiratory Scoring*
 - *Manual Respiratory Scoring*
 - *Calf Sanitation Audit*
 - *Farm Tour*
- 3:00 pm** **Adjourn**

Start Them Right...

Raise Them Right

Calf Management Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Registration: 9:30 am

Program: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Name(s): _____

Farm/Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration fee: \$35 per person
(includes meal, speaker fees, and materials)

Check payable to: Brown County Treasurer

Registration deadline: September 1, 2015

Please mail registration form and check to:

**UW-Extension Brown County
Agriculture & Extension Service Center
1150 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54302**

Or call: Phone: 920-391-4610

For more information, contact
Eric Ronk, Agriculture Agent,
Calumet County
UW-Extension at
920-849-1450, x2 or
eric.ronk@ces.uwex.edu

**Sponsored by UW-
Extension Offices in the
following counties:**

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Marinette County
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Outagamie County
Ozaukee County
Shawano County
Sheboygan County
Washington County
Waupaca County
Waushara County
Winnebago County



Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals



**Friday, September 11, 2015
9:30 am - 2:45 pm
Liberty Hall, Kimberly**

800 Eisenhower Drive
Kimberly, Wisconsin
(920) 731-0164





Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals

Friday, September 11, 2015

- 9:30 am **Registration, milk, coffee, juice, and rolls**
- 10:00 am **“Human Resource Management on Wisconsin Farms”**
 An overview of the results from a UW-Extension human resource survey conducted on 220 Wisconsin farms
 - *Trisha Wagner, Agriculture Agent - UW-Extension Jackson County*
- 10:45 am **“Hispanic Farm Labor Management”**
 A focus on Labor management skills and immigration issues
 - *Oscar Duarte, DVM - OMMA International*
- 11:45 am **Lunch**
- 12:45 pm **“Precision Agriculture in Crop Production”**
 How the cost of production can be reduced through the use of precision agriculture techniques
 - *Jamie Patton, Agriculture Agent - UW-Extension Shawano County*
- 1:30 pm **Break**
- 1:45 pm **“Robotic Milking Systems”**
 The economic return and lessons learned from a first generation system of robotic milking systems
 - *Pete Knigge - Knigge Farms, Omro, WI*
 - *Paul Berdell, Mlone multi-box robotic milking system expert - GEA Farm Technologies*
- 2:45 pm **Adjourn**



Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals Registration Form

Name(s): _____

E-Mail(s): _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Registration Fee: \$35 per person

Make check payable to: **UW-Extension**

Mail this registration form and check to:

Calumet County UW-Extension

206 Court Street

Chilton, WI 53014

Registration Deadline: September 4, 2015