

April 2016



UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

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Patty Percy
Urban Garden Coordinator

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4-H Youth Development Educator

Kris Schaeffer
WI Nutrition Program Educator

Shelley Tidemann
Family Living Educator

Diana Tscheschlok
Community Resource Development
Educator

Mike Winkler
Entrepreneur Educator

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Ann Kaiser Gloria Kelroy

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.

Spring is in the air and I hope the snow is done, but we should see those April showers bring May flowers! With the spring planting soon to get underway, this month's Dairy Moos & News is heavy with agronomy insight. For more information, please visit Team Forage at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage!>

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


Cleanliness is Next To...

The old adage says "cleanliness is next to godliness," but the reality in most calf operations is cleanliness is next to impossible. To minimize disease transfer in calves from feeding equipment, calf raisers should follow a **clearly defined set of cleaning procedures** with regard to temperature, time and sanitizing agents.

Temperature is critical in the cleaning process. Using the proper temperature allows us to remove milk residues without it becoming sticky. Using the proper sanitizer helps to dissolve fat and protein residue as well as change the pH, inhibiting bacteria from growing.

Need a defined sanitation SOP? In the following box, Dr. Don Sockett provides a detailed cleaning procedure



for cleaning and sanitizing feeding and management equipment for calves. 

Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures

1. **Rinse** using warm, 90°F, water.
2. **Soak** in hot water, greater than 130°F, with 1% chlorinated alkaline detergent for 20-30 minutes.
3. **Wash** in water greater than 145°F. Use a brush to help eliminate residue.
4. **Rinse** in a cold water solution containing 50 parts per million (ppm) of chlorine dioxide.
5. **Dry** by letting the equipment drain and dry completely before reuse to prevent the growth of bacteria.
6. **Final preparation** of equipment including spraying the inside and outside of calf equipment with a 50 parts per million (ppm) chlorine dioxide solution two or less hours before the next use.

Source: Donald Sockett, DVM
Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

What Should I Do With Alfalfa Residue from Last Fall on Fields?

Many growers leave fall alfalfa growth in the field rather than taking a late fall cutting to enhance winter survival and rate of spring greenup. The stems from this fall growth remain in the spring and some farmers wonder if they should remove it to increase forage quality. **The short answer is no – the cost of removing the residue is greater than the value received.**

When residue is left in the fall, most of it goes away over winter (leaf loss, grazing by deer, rabbits, etc). In fact, when we measured alfalfa loss over winter we found with as much as 4,000 DM lbs/acre forage in the late fall, less than 600 lbs/acre remained in spring harvested forage. This amount of residue in spring forage is visible and looks bad but is a small amount compared to the 2 tons/acre or greater first cutting yield.

In one trial, residue was either knocked down in April by one of two methods or left standing for first cutting (control). The two methods of knocking down the residue were either by pulling a spike-tooth drag across the field with the teeth in the “up” position to avoid damaging alfalfa crowns or by flail chopping with chopper set 2-inches above soil surface and chopped material blown back onto the field. The three treatments (two residue knockdown plus control) were applied at two different locations in the field. Forage quality was measured when alfalfa was harvested at mid-bud stage.

The effect of residue removal on first cutting forage quality (means of the two locations) is shown in table 1. Forage harvested from the control (with residue) had about 0.6% less protein, 1.5 to 2% more NDF and 5 to 8 pts less RFV due to the inclusion of low quality residue from fall. Thus, while some of the residue from fall growth is in the spring harvested forage, the change in forage quality is small and not worth the expense in labor, fuel, and wear and tear on equipment to make it economic to do anything with the residue.

The effects of fall aftermath growth on forage quality is greater when first-cut alfalfa is harvested at early stages of maturity (as in table 1) versus post-flower stages because the same amount of aftermath is present but

yield is less from the earlier cutting. At early maturity stages, the dead material (primarily stems) would make up a greater percentage (but still less than 15%) of the total dry matter harvested.

Table 1: Effect of early spring chopping or dragging fall aftermath on first cut alfalfa forage quality.

Treatment	Forage Quality			
	CP	ADF	NDF	RFV
	% of DM			
Control	19.2	30.2	42.1	145
Drag	19.9	30.2	40.5	150
Chop	19.8	28.8	39.2	158

Source: M. Rankin, UW-Extension, 1990

Driving on alfalfa stands in the early spring can cause crown damage if fields are frozen or wet. In many years, weather conditions result in a small time frame to flail chop or drag alfalfa fields. The wheel traffic on alfalfa early in the spring can often cause yield loss which is why fertilizer is usually applied after first cutting when fields are drier.

Thus, while removing fall residue in the spring may result in slightly higher forage quality, the economics of chopping residue or driving a spike-tooth drag across alfalfa fields in the spring are questionable. Any increase in forage quality must pay for the field operation. Flail chopping will be a more costly alternative than dragging. Value for knocking down or removing fall residue may be present for marketed hay (where appearance is important) but is not likely to be economic for farmers growing and feeding their own forage.



Assessing Your 2016 Winter Wheat Crop Stand

As the snow begins to melt and we finally put the 2015/16 winter behind us, many growers and consultants alike are beginning to venture out to their winter wheat fields to assess winter injury and nitrogen timings. Though it is a bit premature to make any rash decisions regarding crop destruction here are a few considerations for assessing your spring 2016 winter wheat stands.

1. As you look across your wheat landscape vibrant green patches will be interspersed with drab brown



areas. The brown areas do not necessarily indicate those plants are dead.

Growers and consultants can either reassess in a week or pull plants from the field and place in warm environments. Milk houses and kitchens work perfect. Root regrowth will appear from the crown and will appear as vibrant white roots as shown below.



If plants do not recover our critical threshold for turning over a field is 12 to 15 live plants per square foot. Below this threshold is an automatic replant.

2. Hot off the press ...the N timing decision just got easier. New research from Dr. Carrie Laboski's program indicates the optimal time to apply nitrogen to wheat in WI is green-up regardless of tiller count.

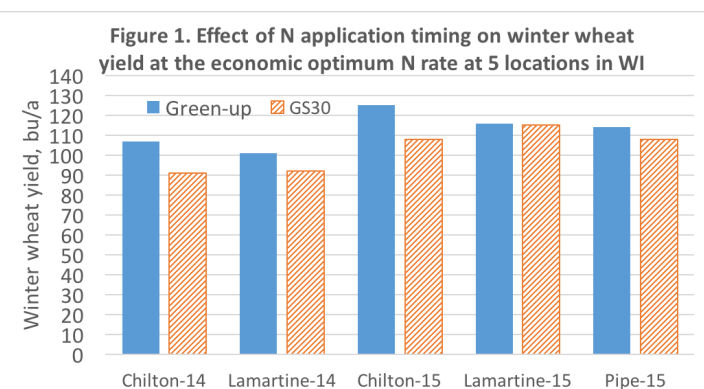
Lastly remember wheat grain in itself is only part of the revenue you capture with winter wheat. The price of winter wheat straw remains strong so please consider revenue stream before any replant decisions are made.

Source: Shawn Conley, UW Extension Soybean & Wheat Specialist

Spring N Application Timing Maximizes Winter Wheat Yield

Proper timing of spring N application can significantly increase winter wheat yield. Figure 1 shows the yield obtained at the economic optimum N rate (EONR, N rate where profitability was maximized) when N was applied in spring at green-up or at growth stage 30 (GS30, hollow stem – just prior to first node). At all sites except Lamartine-15, yield was greater when N was applied at green-up compared to GS30. Averaged over all sites, there was a 10 bu/a advantage to applying N at green-up.

Applying additional N can not compensate for the yield loss caused by applying N at the later timing. To maximize yields, growers should try to apply N as soon as possible in the spring, taking into consideration soil physical conditions. Applying N when the ground is barely trafficable will likely result in rutting, compaction,



and possibly yield loss if plants are damaged. One tactic to accomplish early N application might be to apply N in the morning before the top few inches of soil have re-thawed. Care should be taken to insure N does not runoff the field before it has a chance to move into the soil.

Source: Carrie Laboski, UW Extension Soil Specialist



Fond du Lac County

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UW-Extension Agriculture Calendar of Events

APRIL 2016

- 14 Heart of the Farm-Farm Women in Agriculture Conference, Millhome Supper Club, Kiel, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- 18 Fond du Lac County Market Livestock Sale Swine, Sheep & Meat Goat Initial Weigh-in & ID, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

MAY 2016

- 14 Fond du Lac County State Fair Dairy Round-Up, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, 10 am
- 14 Fond du Lac County Jr Holstein Fitting & Showing Workshop, Fond du Lac Co Fairgrounds, 10 am to 11:30 am
- 18 Youth Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Meeting, UW-Fond du Lac, 7:30 pm
- TBA Fond du Lac County Forage Council's Alfalfa Quality Watch Program

JUNE 2016

- 15-16 Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference, Grand River Center, Dubuque
- 24 District 10 Holstein Show, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds
- 19 Ripon FFA Alumni Country Breakfast
- 26 Fond du Lac AC Agri-Business Council Breakfast on the Farm, J & J Pickart Dairy, LLC, Johnsburg, 7 am to 11 am



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

Heart of the Farm

Women in Agriculture Conference



**Thursday
April 14, 2016**

Millhome Supper Club
16524 Lax Chapel Road
Kiel, WI 53042

9:00-2:45 pm

Sponsor by:



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Sheboygan
Counties

Financial support provided by:



If you have any questions, please contact:

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Jenny Vanderlin, jmvander@wisc.edu,
608.263.7795

Cancellations after the registration deadline will not be refunded. Call
920.929.3171 to cancel your registration.

In case of inclement weather: Call 920.929.3171 regarding the status
of the conference.

Registration Form Registration due by April 8, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State: _____

Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pls. indicate dietary and/or accessibility needs:

Registration Cost: \$25.00 per person

Send Registration form and check to:

Fond du Lac County—Extension Office
c/o HOF-Kiel
Room 227, Administration/Extension
400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-2998

Please make checks payable to:

UW-Extension

Heart of the Farm – Kiel

Mission

Farm Management and Production Education for Women

Improving Farm Business
Decision-Making

Agenda

- 9:00 am** **Registration—Light
Breakfast**
- 9:25 am** **Introductions**
- 9:30 am** **Balancing Act? Or is it a
three ring circus**
- 10:15 am** **Water Quality and
Nutrient management**
- 10:45 am** **Using Baler Twine &
Barn Lime to Live the
Life You Deserve**
- 11:30pm** **Lunch (Provided)**
- 12:30 pm** **Is Your Family or Team
Pulling in the Same
Direction?**
- 1:15 pm** **What are you serving?
Using Technology &
Research to Improve
Successful Calf Raising**
- 2:00 pm** **WMMB Beverage and
Cheese**
- 2:30 pm** **Evaluations, Doors Prizes
Adjourn**

Speakers

Balancing Act— Or Is It a Three-Ring Circus.

This will be a fun, facilitated discussion on balancing farm, family, and personal priorities. Learn how others “do it all” or how they avoid feeling guilty if they don’t!

Water Quality and Nutrient Management

101. Eric Ronk, Agriculture Agent, UWEX Calumet County. What’s the deal with nitrogen, phosphorus and water quality? Eric will provide a brief overview of local water quality issues and how management practices can help reduce the environmental impact of farms.

Measuring Success: Using Technology & Research to Improve Successful Calf Raising.

Sarah Mills-Lloyd, Agricultural Agent, UW-Extension Oconto County. Heifer calves are an investment in the future of your dairy herd. The attention to detail is imperative when raising calves as small missteps can lead to large problems with health. At the end of this session, you will leave with tips, technology and techniques which will help you increase your potential for healthier calves.

Beverage and Cheese Pairings

Sara Hill, Manager-Cheese Education and Training, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

Everyone knows wine and cheese is a match made in heaven, but have you considered switching things up and trying beer and cheese? As craft beer continues to make its grand entrance into society, the diversity of beer is growing fast; yet many people haven’t explored styles beyond their safe canned favorites. Challenge your friends to try new beers and pull out the flavors inside with an equally diverse selection of cheese.



Please contact us for special assistance regarding our programs. Requests are confidential. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA.

Goal

The *Heart of the Farm — Women in Agriculture* addresses the needs of farm women by providing education on pertinent topics, connecting them with agricultural resources, and creating support networks.



Laura Daniels

*Mother, Wife, Farmer, Consultant and Ag Advocate
Heartwood Farm, Cobb, WI*

Using Baler Twine & Barn Lime to Live the Life You Deserve.

Laura will show you how common items on the farm are really tools to help you get the most out of your crazy busy life. You’ll enjoy Laura’s refreshing honesty about life’s ups and downs, because it isn’t all sunshine and roses. Sometimes it’s thistles, deep fertilizer, and the cows are out! You will leave this session proud of who you are, and what you do, but also more prepared to deal with those other days.

Is Your Family or Team Pulling in the Same Direction?

Just like draft horses our “teams” accomplish more if they work together. Laura will share stories about farmers who have made small changes with big results in communication, morale and productivity. She will help you identify the culture of your farm or group, and think about how subtle shifts can make positive impact.