UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

June 2016

UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

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Entrepreneur Educator

Program Assistants:

Tina Engelhardt Angela Folske
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.

The New Crops and Soils Area Agent has Arrived!

Let me introduce myself. I am Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, the new UW-Extension Crops and Soils Area Agent with 50% responsibilities in each of Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. Both counties have such a rich agricultural history that will let me utilize my diverse background which includes a B.S. in agronomy (crop protection), an M.S. in forestry (soils), and a Ph.D. in crop sciences (plant pathology).

My long agricultural career has allowed me to gain experience working in academia, industry, government, and most importantly doing extension and outreach in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and now Wisconsin. My previous extension positions have had statewide, regional, or county responsibilities for agronomic and horticultural crop systems and vegetable pathology; mainly I assisted conventional, sustainable, and organic producers with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and other production issues. I worked closely with diverse stakeholders and grower groups. In Indiana, my county was the number one dairy producing county in the state. More recently, as a retired Assistant Professor of Crop Science with the University of Wisconsin in River Falls, I taught students about Organic Production Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, Weed Control, and IPM. As a former Research Scientist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, I wrote Best Management Practices for Pollinators and facilitated outreach for water quality and pesticide management statutes.

In addition to my extension, outreach, and teaching background, I have conducted applied research and published on topics such as IPM for crops, prophylactic insecticide and fungicide applications, bioherbicides for herbicide resistant weeds, cover crops, and biological interactions between plants and disease organisms in conventional, organic, and sustainable production systems.

I am eager to meet and work with folks in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties. I want to learn and hear how I can best utilize my skills to assist with and find solutions for your production needs and challenges.

Please feel free to contact me and introduce yourself. Have a great day.

Loretta

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing
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Best Handling Practices Foster Animal Health, Productivity

The synergy of genetics, rations and milking routines work in harmony to optimize a cow's productivity. Yet, another factor - stockmanship - is often ignored. Stockmanship plays a key role in animal health and thus productivity.

"Stockmanship is a term used to describe best practices in animal care and, in particular, good cattle handling practices that use the cows' natural behavior to effectively move them," explained Ulrike Sorge, University of Minnesota, during her National Mastitis Council Annual Meeting presentation. "Although often underestimated in its impact, cattle handling can have a long-term lasting impact on cattle behavior, stress levels, production, health and reproduction."

Like humans, cattle react differently to stress. Their environment, past experiences and genetics shape their behavior (Arave & Albright, 1980). Temperament, which is heritable, describes differences in behavior/fear response. Temperamental animals are more susceptible to stress than calm animals (Sutherland et al., 2012), leading to higher cortisol baseline levels and higher cortisol surges than calm animals (Hopster et al./ 1998).

Benefits of low-stress cattle handling:

- ***Fewer injuries to livestock and their handlers***
- ***Calmer animals that socialize more quickly and show less aggressive behavior***
- ***Increased feed consumption and, therefore, healthier and more productive animals***
- ***Less frustration from animal handlers, since animals respond correctly and more quickly***
- ***Improved job satisfaction and employee retention***
- ***Lowers workers' compensations rates***

Why is it important to understand temperament? Studies have shown cattle with high temperament/high baseline cortisol levels ruminate less (Bristow and Holmes, 2007), grow less (Cooke, 2014) and give birth to calves with lower birth weights and reduced growth over seven months (Turner et al., 2013).

While a cow's genetics can't be changed, cattle handlers can use best stockmanship practices to minimize stress and avoid injuries (for the animal and handler). When experiencing stress, cattle try to escape, kick, defecate and/or urinate, potentially leading to injuries. Cattle-related injuries represent the majority of non-fatal injuries on dairy farms (Sorge et al., 2014).

Sorge explained stressed cattle excrete alarm substances in urine, which herdmates smell (Boissy et al., 1998). Stress-induced urination/defecation impacts cow flow into the parlor of subsequent cattle. A recent study showed the more urination that occurred in the parlor, the longer it took for cattle to enter the parlor (Sorge et al., unpublished).

With cattle being very noise sensitive, handlers often underestimate how noise negatively impacts cattle. Waynert et al. (1999) demonstrated shouting human voices are more stressful to cattle than being slapped, hearing banging metal gates or having their tail gently twisted. It has been documented physiological acute stress response can last 20-40 minutes (Grandin, 2007).

As stress increases, milk production decreases. This occurs due to increased residual milk and inhibited milk letdown. Through cattle handling studies, Sorge et al. (2014) found herds that trained their employees in stockmanship, on average, had a 1,786 (±833-pound) higher rolling herd average than those without stockmanship training.

Stress also influences somatic cell count (SCC). Whittlestone et al. (1970) showed milk SCC increased within 15-45 minutes in cows exposed by a stressor (chased by a dog), which could also explain higher SCC in more roughly handled herds (Ivemeyer et al., 2011).

To foster healthier and more productive cattle (and workers), Sorge encourages positive and gentle human-cattle interactions. Also, consider handling and acclimating heifers prior to milking. This practice reduces heifers' stress response during the first few milkings and makes parlor experiences more pleasant for animals and milkers. Bertenshaw et al. (2008) and Das & Das (2004) showed less defecation, fewer kicks and better milk production in heifers that received brushing or udder massages before calving, compared to no additional handling.

Sorge concluded cattle handling is an important part of cattle and people welfare. The stress of improper handling impacts milk production and quality, and leads to more cattle-related injuries."

Source: NMC Newsletter, June 2016

A Current Update on Baleage

Baleage is a practical method to harvest and store either wet hay (25 to 50% moisture) or to make haylage (50 to 70% moisture). If the harvested forage is less than 50% moisture, preservation is primarily by maintenance of anaerobic (oxygen limiting) conditions. If harvested forage is 50 to 70% moisture, preservation is due both to anaerobic conditions and acids produced in the fermentation. Below are take home messages from Dr. Wayne Coblentz, a forage scientist from the USDA-Dairy Forage Research Center (Marshfield, WI):

- Well-made baled silage will often exhibit better forage quality characteristics than corresponding hays.
- Hay usually loses more leaves and requires more wilting time, which increases cell respiration and exposure risk to rain damage.
- Baleage has little or no spontaneous heating and less storage loses related to weathering (outdoor storage).
- The goal of baleage is to obtain a good anaerobic fermentation with a quick decrease of pH to ensure conservation of nutrients.
- The quality of the fermentation is related to the type of forage, as there are differences in sugar concentrations (corn and sorghum > small grain crops > legumes) and buffer capacities (legumes> small grain crops> corn and sorghum).
- Promote conditions that promote growth of desired bacteria (lactic acid producing bacteria, LAB) and reduce conditions that promote growth of undesired bacteria (Chlostridium sp.).
- The best fermentation occurs when the forage has high concentrations of moisture. However, ensiling too wet forages (>70% moisture) can lead to clostridial fermentations, which are not desired. Target for a moisture concentration range between 45 and 55%.
- Increasing the bulk density also enhances the anaerobic fermentation. For this, reduce the ground speed and decrease the window "Thickness", which will increase the revolutions per bale.
- Consider the operative capacity of your baling equipment when mowing your pastures. Exceeding the baling capacity will increase waiting time (due to waiting), therefore increasing losses and limiting fermentation.
- The fermentation for chopped haylage is typically better than for non-chopped baleage (there is greater exposure of sugars in chopped haylage, which enhances the fermentation). Because of this, using inoculants is more important for baleage than it already is for haylage.
- Adequate wrapping is critical to obtain good quality haylage. Wrap as quickly as possible (within 2 hours since baling) and use at least 4 layers of 25– microfilm. In southern states (higher temperatures) or for long-term storage increase wrapping to 6-layers.

Source: Gonzalo Ferreira, Extension Dairy Scientist
Virginia Tech Dairy Pipeline, June 2016

Natural Beauty Council Seeking Nominations for Beautification Awards

Fond du Lac County Natural Beauty Council is accepting nominations for outstanding efforts by homes, businesses, farms, institutions, and churches that contribute to beautification and preservation through landscaping and outside property improvements in Fond du Lac County. Area 4-H clubs can be nominated for planting flowers and shrubs. Eligibility for a Beautification Award is every 10 years.

Nominations will be accepted until Monday, July 11, 2016. To submit a nomination, call the University of Wisconsin Extension Office at 920.929.3173 or send a written nomination to Beautification Awards, UW-Extension, 227 Admin/Extension Building, 400 University Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935. Please include your name and phone number, as well as the name, address, and phone number of the nominated site.

Awards will be presented at a fall session of the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors. Winners will receive a Fond du Lac County Natural Beautification Award plaque and 4-H Clubs will receive a gift certificate.

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

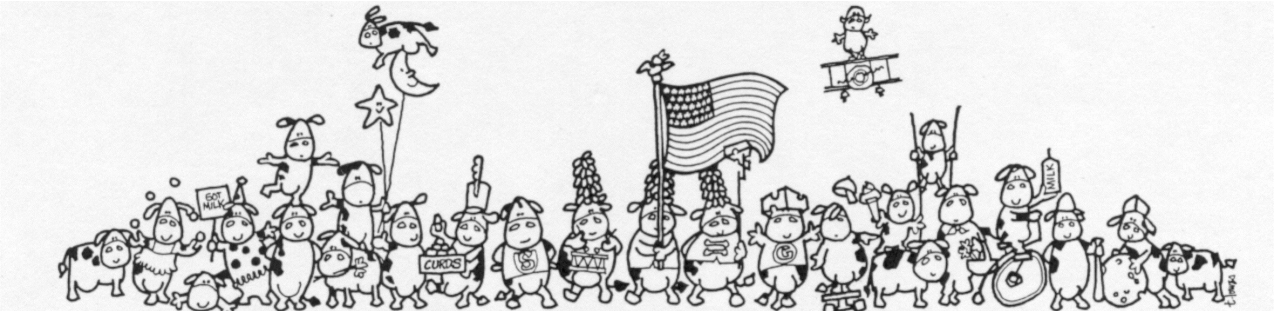
UW-Extension Agriculture Calendar of Events

JUNE 2016

1	**WELCOME OUR NEW CROPS & SOILS AGENT!**
15-16	Four-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference, Grand River Center, Dubuque
19	Ripon FFA Alumni Country Breakfast, Retzlaff Farms-Chris & Ruth Retzlaff, 9 am—1 pm
22	Dodge County Forage Council Twilight Meeting, RCI Engineering, Mayville, 7:00 pm
24	District 10 Holstein Show, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds
26	Fond du Lac AC Agri-Business Council Breakfast on the Farm, J & J Pickart Dairy, Malone, 8 am - noon

JULY 2016

19-21	Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Snudden Farms, Lake Geneva, WI
20-24	Fond du Lac County Fair



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

The Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association (LWQIA) is publicly recognizing Fond du Lac County farmers that have made significant contributions in implementing good management and conservation practices that protect soil and water quality.

The water quality award, *(named for Lynn Mathias and Erv Lesczynski, who have dedicated their careers to promoting sound agricultural practices)*, seeks to recognize and reward farmers who share the same commitment.

LAKE WINNEBAGO
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
of Fond du Lac County

The Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association of Fond du Lac County is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the improvement of Lake Winnebago for the benefit of the general public and natural habitat.

Membership is open to all individuals, families, businesses and organizations that care about Lake Winnebago.

LAKE WINNEBAGO
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
of Fond du Lac County

PO Box 1716
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1716
www.lwqia.org

1st Annual Mathias-Lesczynski Water Quality Award for Fond du Lac County Farmers

Entry Details Inside

ANNOUNCING

The 1st ANNUAL MATHIAS-LESCZYNSKI WATER QUALITY AWARD

for Fond du Lac County Ag Producers - 2016

Being a good steward of the land has its own award.

HOW TO ENTER

The award application and complete entry instructions can be found on the *Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association* website at **www.lwqia.org**

Applicants will document how their method improved upon typical agricultural practices, and how they worked with soil, water, plant and wildlife systems to benefit surface water quality, along with the leadership roles they have assumed.

Award applications covering the 2016 growing season are due by December 1, 2016.

AWARDS

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of experts in the agricultural field working outside of Fond du Lac County.

Three awards will be presented at the 2017 Fond du Lac County Fair:

1st Place	$1000 cash prize
2nd Place	$250 cash prize
3rd Place	$100 cash prize

In addition to the cash prizes, achievement plaques and gift certificates from area restaurants and local businesses will also be awarded.

CREATE A POSITIVE IMPACT

What can Ag producers do to improve:

- Winnebago water quality
- Our local economy
- Quality of life
- Agricultural lands

Set goals/make plans to go beyond minimum good management practices that:

- Manage nutrients and fertilizers
- Reduce/prevent runoff
- Retain sediment
- Select cover crops

Dodge County Forage Council

2016 TWILIGHT MEETING

Wednesday, June 22 @ 7:00 PM

RCI Engineering

208 River Knoll Dr. Mayville, WI

"Making Better Forage, Faster"

Randy Clark, Owner of RCI Engineering

"Understanding of Implements of Husbandry - IoH Law"

Presented by Dodge Co. Sheriff Dept.

Free NIR analysis onsite at the event. Producers may bring haylage, corn silage and snaplage in a sealed bag. Fresh or ensiled.

This event is hosted by the Dodge and Fond du Lac County Forage Councils, and the Midwest Forage Association in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and area agribusinesses. Early sponsors of the program are Schraufnagel Imp. Inc., Knowles Produce & Trading Co., Waupun Equipment, Jacobson Supply, Farmers' Implement, United Cooperative, BMO Harris, Ballweg Implement and other supporters recognized at the meeting.

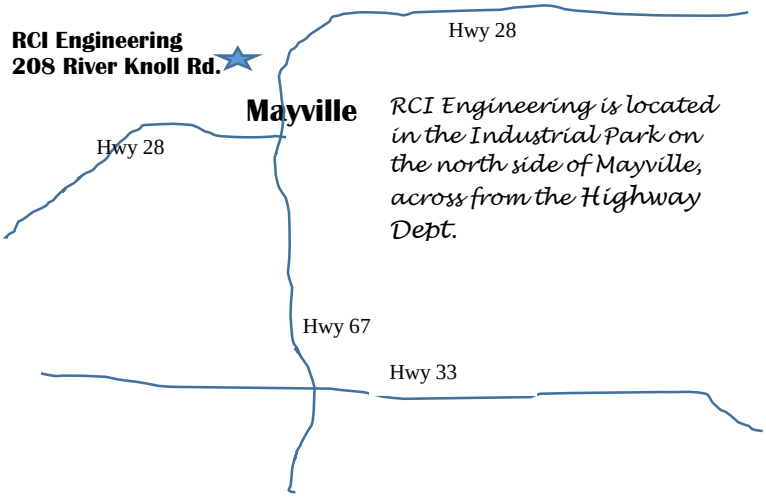
Food & Refreshments will be provided.

CCA credits applied for and ARPAS 1 CEU approved.

Host Information:

RCI Engineering LLC is a firm specializing in providing complete engineering and manufacturing services for hay, forage, and research plot equipment.

For further information, contact Dodge County UW-Extension at (920) 386-3790 www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dodge or Fond du Lac County UW-Extension at (920) 929-3170 http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/.



UW Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension

MFA
Midwest Forage Association

DODGE COUNTY FORAGE COUNCIL

FOND DU LAC CO. FORAGE COUNCIL

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

County Committee ELECTIONS 2016

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

June 15, 2016	The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections
Aug. 1, 2016	Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center
Nov. 7, 2016	Ballots mailed to eligible voters
Dec. 5, 2016	Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
Jan. 1, 2017	Newly elected county committee members take office
2016 Voting Townships	Friendship, Lamartine, Fond du Lac, Oakfield, Byron, Empire, Taycheedah

FSA COUNTS ON YOU:

NOMINATE AND VOTE!