

October 2016



Dairy Moos & News

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.

Prepare for the Veterinary Feed Directive

There is only one thing for certain in our lives: change. And if you are a producer who uses antimicrobial medicated feed for prevention or treatment in livestock, a modification to how you currently purchase this feed is looming.


Antimicrobials have been used for years for the treatment of diseases in food production animals; those same medications are also used for treatment of human diseases. The use or overuse of antimicrobials may have human health concerns as they may lead to the development of resistance of once susceptible organisms, making the medication ineffective.

January 1 begins the implementation of the FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Established in April 2012, the VFD was developed to protect public health and limit the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Under the veterinary feed directive rule, all medically important antimicrobial feed medications will be used with veterinary supervision.

Medically Important Antibiotics		
Penicillins	Glycopeptides	Cephalosporins
Tetracyclines	Macrolides	Quinolones
Sulfas		Fluoroquinolones

Producers will need a written and valid VFD issued from their valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) veterinarian in order to purchase proper feed-additive medications from their feed supplier and/or distributor.

Take time now to prepare for the future. Start the conversation now with your veterinarian and feed mill for a smooth January 1st transition and minimal delay in your management practices. 

Tina Kohlman

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Adapted from Veterinary Feed Directive, Sarah Mills-Lloyd

Sampling & Evaluating Total Mixed Rations



Regardless of where milk prices are, it is key to manage better to have return on profit. One simple way to manage better is knowing what you are feeding the cows. Is the ration on paper the same as the ration the cows eat?

Laboratory tests are now available to evaluate total diet NDF digestibility (NDFD) and provide laboratory energy estimates for total mixed rations (TMRs). Laboratory TMR evaluation can be used to cross check possible errors associated with formulating and mixing TMRs or can be used to assess possible assumptive errors in formulating ration energy density. Nutrients in TMRs are generally measured using wet chemistry laboratory procedures and energy estimates (TDN, NEL) are made using coordinated bio-nutrient summative models (NRC, 2001). Because accuracy and precision are paramount to estimate TMR energy content, laboratory TMR analysis requires excellent sampling procedures.

What does the laboratory measure in a TMR?

- CP
- NDF
- Fat
- NDFd
- Ash
- Ca
- P

What is the utility of a laboratory TMR analysis?

The utility of a laboratory TMR analysis is to re-evaluate the nutrient composition of a TMR that was actually fed to animals. The values from the TMR report can be compared to the ration formulation and potential inconsistencies can be identified. If the formulated nutrient content of a TMR does not closely match laboratory one of three reasons exist: 1) The TMR was not mixed to ration formulation specifications. 2) The ration formulation process lacked information or contained false information (e.g., inaccurate forage test). 3) An unrepresentative sample of the TMR was sent to the laboratory. The main utility of a laboratory TMR

analysis is to evaluate if the TMR actually contained the desired nutrients as per diet formulation and were properly mixed and delivered to the animals. Laboratory evaluation of TMRs can also provide insight into nutrient management programs especially pertaining to phosphorus. Total dietary phosphorus levels can be checked and monitored to avoid over-supplementation and corresponding elevations in manure phosphorus levels.

What are the limitations of TMR evaluation in the laboratory?

Laboratory TMR analysis only measures the chemical or nutrient densities in a TMR diet. Animal performance may be influenced by dry matter intake, physical factors (particle length, grind size) and qualitative factors (mold, fermentation) in a TMR, which are not routinely evaluated. In addition TMRs that are not homogeneous are extremely difficult to sample and laboratory evaluation is discouraged. Conditions making laboratory analysis of TMRs difficult include, partial TMRs which are top-dressed, TMRs containing frozen chunks of silage and TMRs containing excessive amounts of long dry forage.

How is a TMR Sample Taken? One of the keys to a successful laboratory TMR analysis is taking a good TMR sample. The following procedure should be used to take a good TMR sample:

- Mix TMR as per normal procedures.
- Distribute TMR in bunk to appropriate group.
- Immediately after distribution, fill a 5-gallon bucket with handfuls of TMR from the top, middle, and bottom of the TMR windrow from the entire length of the TMR windrow.
- Quickly tip the 5-gallon bucket upside down on a large clean surface and lift bucket up.
- With a thin piece of wood or sheet metal, cut the coned TMR sample in half.
- Discard one-half of the sample and submit the remaining one-half of the TMR (~2-2.5 gallons) to the laboratory for analysis. 🐄

*Adapted from Focus on Forage Factsheet
P.C. Hoffman, Extension Dairy Specialist*

Mathias-Lesczynski Water Quality Award

The Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association (LWQIA) is launching the first annual Mathias-Lesczynski Water Quality Award to publicly recognize Fond du Lac County farmers that go beyond the government minimum good management practices to prevent runoff of sediment, nutrients, and harmful chemicals. The quality of Lake Winnebago,

and other surface waters in Fond du Lac County, has a tremendous impact on our local economy and our quality of life. Agricultural runoff is a significant factor affecting surface water quality. LWQIA believes that agricultural practices that effectively manage nutrients, fertilizers and runoff not only promote clean waters but protect valuable agricultural land. This 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 a commitment to these ends.

Three awards will be presented in the amounts of \$1,000, \$250, and \$100. The 2016 award will

acknowledge improved water quality practices that were implemented in 2016. The financial portion of the awards will be sponsored by a select group of corporate citizens or organizations with connections to the agricultural community and/or an interest in the health of Lake Winnebago. The awards will be presented to the recipients in July 2017.

Award applications covering the 2016 growing season are available at <http://www.lwqia.org/water-quality-award.php> and are due by December 1, 2016. Applicants are asked to document how they have exceeded minimally required or recommended agricultural practices, how their operation works with soil, water, plant and wildlife systems to benefit surface water quality, and leadership roles they have assumed. The award applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of experts in the agricultural field working outside of Fond du Lac County.

For additional information about the award, contact Earl Witte at 920-922-3669.


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.

Healthy Soil-Healthy Water-Let's Do It!

Healthy soil, healthy water and healthy profits are on the minds of many folks living, working, and farming in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties and within the Rock River Watershed. Since joining UW-Extension and working in both Counties, I have been facilitating the Dodge County Rock River Non-Point Source Water Runoff Workgroup. This workgroup has two current goals; 1) to develop and provide educational programs which foster implementation of conservation practices to build healthy soil; and 2) to support the formation of a producer led watershed council that can steer efforts exhibiting and implementing farm best management practices.

However, water quality concerns within the Rock River Watershed are not limited to Dodge County. I invite interested producers and those who farm near or in both counties to contact me if they are willing to participate

and take a lead in the formation of this producer led effort.

In addition, please mark your calendars for the upcoming Healthy Soils-Healthy Water workshop on February 8, 2017. The workshop will be at the Juneau Community Center in Juneau, WI. Cost is \$10. We are pleased to announce our key note speakers will be Ray Archuleta and Justin Morris, both Regional Soil Health Specialists with NRCS. In addition, the workshop will feature Jim Harbach, a PA Dairy Producer, and local producers and their farms' best management practices. On February 9th, Ray and Justin will hold a Follow-Up at the Farm Shop event. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information about this workshop and follow-up. Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing (FDL - 920-929-3171 or Dodge - 920-386-3790 or Loretta.OrtizRibbing@ces.uwex.edu). 

SnapPlus Training Classes-Register Now-See Flyer

What is the purpose of a nutrient management plan? It is simply and exactly as stated... a plan for nutrients and their management.


Managing nutrients on crop production fields involves two components. One component involves managing the application of nutrients at the right rates and right times; logging the application of nutrients, and crediting those nutrients towards crop needs for achieving realistic yield goals. The other component of Nutrients and Management is knowing your soil. Soil is the number one resource that nurtures, protects, and stabilizes crop plants so they can grow to full maturity. Managing the soil is critical for reaching agronomic and economic goals of the farm. Managing nutrients within the soil system also has other benefits. Preventing soil erosion keeps the soil where it is needed to provide healthy plant growth and helps reduce movement from the field into water systems or other possible areas of concern.

A free, downloadable computer program, called SnapPlus, is available to assist you with putting your nutrients and management plans together. This free program is available at snapplus.wisc.edu. The SnapPlus program originated in a small room of the Land and

Water Conservation Department in Waupaca County in 1999, and now is currently being maintained and updated by faculty at the University of Wisconsin Soil Science Department. Using the



SnapPlus computer software tool allows farmers to meet crop production goals and also certify compliance for NR590 Nutrient Management Code or the NR 243 Wisconsin Administrative Code for concentrated animal feeding operations. SnapPlus is an interactive program where each farmer can customize their own agronomic, economic and resource protection needs. Whether farmers choose to write their own plans or have it written by a certified crop adviser, it is encouraged that farmers still attend a SnapPlus training so they can make the most informed agronomic decisions for their farm.

See the enclosed flyer for information on registering for two SnapPlus Training Classes being held on December 8th and 9th. More information or questions can be directed to Becky Wagner, Agronomist, Fond du Lac County LWCD, 920-923-3033 ext. 120. 

Mark Your Calendars for Up Coming Crops and Soils Events for Fond du Lac and Dodge

November 2016

2016 Pesticide Management Update (See enclosed flyer) - 3 CEU credits

Thursday November 10th, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-113/114, Cost: \$50

Master Gardener Orientation Meeting

Monday, November 14th, 6:00 p.m., Fond du Lac County UW-Extension, Room AE-205/206

Want to be a UW-Master Gardener? Then come and find out how?



December 2016

Ag Update: Town Hall Meet and Greet for producers in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties

Wednesday, December 7th, 7:30 p.m., Auburn Town Hall, W1728 Sunset Dr., Campbellsport

Speakers: Paul Tollard, LWCD Director and County Conservationist - Farm Construction Permitting; Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, UW-Extension Crops and Soils Area Agent - Introduction and Conservation; Alison Volk, DATCP Land Management Section Chief - Agricultural Enterprise Zones; and Tina Kohlman, UW-Extension Dairy & Livestock Agent - current issues, Cost: Free

Intro to SnapPlus Version 16.0 (See enclosed flyer)

Thursday December 8th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fond du Lac County UW-Extension, Room AE-205/206, Cost: Free

Advanced SnapPlus Version 16.0 (See enclosed flyer)

Friday December 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fond du Lac County UW-Extension, Room AE-205/206, Cost: Free

Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management Meetings - CEU's applied for

Friday, December 9th, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (program begins promptly at 10)

Dodge Co. UWEX, County Admin Bldg., 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI

Cost: Early registration is \$45 until December 1, after Dec. 1 late/'walkin' registration is \$50

(Program cost includes lunch and resource packet) Registration: call Dodge County UW Extension at 920-386-3790

Dairy Forage Day & Fond du Lac Forage Council Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 14th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Registration and coffee begins at 9:30 a.m.)

UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-113/114, Cost: \$15 - speakers TBA

January 2017- Save the Dates.

Agronomy Update Meeting - 3 CEU's applied for

Wednesday, January 4th, Noon, UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-114, Cost: \$45 registration; add \$5.00 "late/walk-in" fee after Dec. 28th

WI Area Soybean Conference

Wednesday, January 18th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac, Cost: TBA

Dodge County Nutrient Management Farmer Training (Writing your own plan)

Wednesday January 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Dodge Co. UWEX, County Admin Bldg., 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, Cost: Free

Dodge Fondy Corn Growers Meeting - Tentative

Thursday January 26th, Time: TBA, Location: TBA, Cost: TBA

Pesticide Applicator Safety Training in Spanish

Tuesday, January 31st, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fond du Lac County UW-Extension, Room AE-205/206, Cost: \$30

January 2017- Save the Dates - More information to follow

Feb. 1- Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Juneau

Feb. 8- Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Workshop - Juneau, with Ray Archuleta and Justin Morris, Cost: \$10

Feb. 9- Follow-Up at the Farm Shop - with Ray Archuleta at Condon Farm in Dodge Co.

Feb. 13- Private Pesticide Applicator Training - Fond du Lac



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

October 2016

27 Fond du Lac County AC Agri-business Council Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm, Holiday Inn-Rolling Meadows

November 2016

10 Pest Management Update Meeting, 9 am - 12 noon, UW-Fond du Lac Room UC-113/114

December 2016

- 1 Mathias-Lesczynski Water Quality Award 2016 Entry due
- 1 Making Manure Into More Biogas/Anaerobic Digester Tour, 9 am - 4:40 pm, UW-Oshkosh, Oshkosh
- 6 Raising Quality Dairy Calves Calf Management Seminar, 10 am - 3 pm, Liberty Hall, Kimberly
- 7 Producers'/Farmers' Town Hall Meeting, 7:30 pm, Auburn Town Hall, Campbellsport
- 8 Intro to Snap+ Version 16.0 Training, 10 am - 3 pm, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Room AE-205/206
- 9 Advanced Snap+ Version 16.0 Training, 10 am - 3pm, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Room AE-205/206
- 14 Dairy Forage Day & Fond du Lac Forage Council Annual Meeting 10 am - 3:00 pm, UW-Fond du Lac Room UC-113/114
- 15 Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders' Association Scholarship Applications due
- 31 Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders' Association "Herd Builder" Applications due to UW-Extension

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