

October 2017



# From Field to Barn

## UW-Extension Fond du Lac County

227 Admin/Extension Building  
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Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
Phone: 920.929.3171  
Web: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fdlag>

### Fond du Lac County Educators:

- Tina Kohlman  
Dairy & Livestock Agent
- Amanda Miller  
FoodWise Coordinator & Family Living Educator
- Pam Nelson  
FoodWise Nutrition Educator
- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing  
Area Crops & Soils Agent
- Araceli (Shelly) Oswald  
4-H Youth Development Assistant
- Patty Percy  
Community Garden Coordinator
- Denise Retzleff  
4-H Youth Development Educator
- Shelley Tidemann  
Family Living Educator
- Diana Hammer  
Community Resource Development Educator
- Cindy Sarkady  
Area Extension Director

### Program Assistants:

- Tina Engelhardt     Angela Folske
- Ann Kaiser         Kelly Lamb

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.

## Top 10 Farm Safety Tips

With harvest season in full force, take time to be safe! Even during this busy time of year, the smallest things can have an impact on farm safety. Extension Agricultural Safety & Health Specialist John Shutske shares these top 10 farm safety tips for the busy harvest season!

- Buy a rollover protective structure (ROPS) for older tractors. If an approved ROPS is not available, avoid using that tractor or consider trading or selling it through a local dealer.
- Replace all missing power take-off and rotating equipment shields. Shut off power equipment before leaving the operator's station.
- Check that lights, flashers, and reflectors on machines work properly. Always use them when traveling on roadways.
- Replace "slow moving vehicle" emblems that aren't clean and bright.
- Inspect and repair farm machinery before the busy season. A well-maintained machine will operate more efficiently and reduce the chance of an injury.
- Use proper equipment and procedures when hitching and unhitching implements.
- Never enter a manure pit, grain bin, or silo without following confined space entry procedures. The gases and materials in these structures kill farmers every year.
- Ensure that all workers receive specific instructions on their tasks and the machines they are operating. Be sure they read and understand all operational procedures in the owner's manual.
- Take time to learn basic first aid, CPR, and emergency response.
- Do not assign jobs to children unless they are physically, mentally, and legally ready to perform the job safely, follow directions, and can respond to unexpected situations. This may mean waiting until kids are at least 16 years of age.

Have a safe and productive harvest season! 

**Tina Kohlman**  
Dairy & Livestock Agent  
UW-Extension Fond du Lac County  
Email: [tina.kohlman@uwex.edu](mailto:tina.kohlman@uwex.edu)

**Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**  
Area Crops and Soils Agent  
UW-Extension Fond du Lac & Dodge Counties  
Email: [loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu](mailto:loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu)

## 2017 Pest Management Update Meeting



Mark your calendars for the upcoming University of Wisconsin-Extension Pest Management Update meetings scheduled Nov. 9, 2017 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fond du Lac, WI at UW-Fond du Lac, in Rm

114 University Center, 400 University Drive.

Presentation topics include pest management information for Wisconsin field and forage crops. Speakers include Drs. Mark Renz, UW-Extension Weed Scientist at UW-Madison, Damon Smith, UW-Extension Plant Pathologist at UW-Madison, Dan Heider UW-Madison IPM Specialist and Bryan Jensen, UW-Extension Entomologist at UW-Madison.

This morning meeting will run for three hours beginning promptly at 9 a.m. and running to 12 p.m. Other locations with morning or afternoon sessions are available. For more information about alternate locations contact Dr. Damon Smith, at 608-286-9706, [damon.smith@wisc.edu](mailto:damon.smith@wisc.edu).

## Report a Pigweed

Be a first detector for two species of pigweed (weeds in the *Amaranthus* genera) that are or may become problems in or around agricultural fields or in rural or urban areas. Weed scientists with the University of Madison want to document the locations of these weeds around the state, so control measures can be implemented to help prevent their spread.

One of these problem pigweeds is called common waterhemp, and it HAS been found in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties (Photo 1). The other is Palmer amaranth which has NOT been found in Fond du Lac or Dodge County yet, but has been found in Waushara, Dane, Sauk, Rock, Iowa, and Grant counties. Both weeds are herbicide resistant and difficult to control but Palmer amaranth is even more of a concern than waterhemp, and the desire is to keep it from getting established.

The first two hours will focus on research updates and important highlights from the 2017 field season. The last hour of the session will be an interactive diagnostic troubleshooting exercise based on issues observed in the 2017 field season.

A packet of information will be supplied to all registered participants. The packet includes handouts and a copy of the 2018 Pest Management in Wisconsin Field crops (A3646) guide.

Please register with the host agent at least one week prior to the meeting at the location you wish to attend. Please attend the meeting location at which you registered. Each meeting in the series is a separate county-based event and host agents cannot interchange registrant fees or meal counts.

Three hours of CCA CEU pest management credits are requested and available at each location.

Registration fee will be \$50 before the November 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$60 with late fee after Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Program fee includes lunch, a resource packet, 3 hours of CEU credit, and great information. See enclosed flyer. 🌿

Anyone suspecting they have found waterhemp or Palmer amaranth in their field, yard, or garden should go to <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/report-a-pigweed/> to Report a Pigweed. This site also provides a video created by Dr. Mark Renz that provides an easy method for identifying if the pigweed might be common waterhemp or Palmer amaranth. If you suspect that the plant is Palmer amaranth, Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing also wants you to contact her at [loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu](mailto:loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu). 🌿

Photo 1



# Non-Enclosed Manure Storage Safety Tips


Injuries and fatalities occur in confined space manure storages that are enclosed, such as beneath animal quarters; or below-ground reception and pump out pits; and in non-enclosed earthen, synthetic, or concrete lined manure storages. Nonenclosed manure storages are open to the atmosphere but may meet the definition of a confined space in terms of occupational safety and health based on storage design and employee exposure to hazards.

In the case of non-enclosed manure storage, hazards may include:

- A thick liquid and floating crust that make swimming, buoyancy, or even moving around very difficult.
- Steep and slippery slopes that can make getting out of manure storages difficult or impossible.
- An acceleration of hazardous gases (primarily methane, hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and ammonia) released from manure due to movement, agitation, removal, or addition of manure to storage.
- Localized layers of hazardous gases existing above manure surfaces, especially on hot, humid days with little to no breeze.
- Not having sufficient oxygen to breathe if a person is 'treading' in manure because of inability to get out.
- Not being able to see into depths of manure like you can with clear water.
- A slow response time for adequate emergency actions because of site isolation and remoteness.
- Potentially hazardous equipment in and around the manure storage.

Safety guidelines to follow:

- Make sure everyone near manure storage structures understands the hazards that exist, including symptoms and effects that the various manure gases have on their health.
- Explosive gas may settle in pockets near where agitation or pumping is occurring. No smoking, open flames, or sparks should be allowed.

- Make sure the non-enclosed manure storage has a fence installed around the perimeter and access gates are locked to keep unauthorized personnel from entering the area.
- Post warning signs including manure drowning hazard signs and "Danger Manure Storage" or "Danger Keep Out," or "Danger Keep Away." on all sides of non-enclosed manure storage. If possible, these signs should be located by gates.
- Keep bystanders and non-essential workers away from non-enclosed manure storage during or other accessible areas during when pump out operations are in progress.
- Wear a safety harness with life-line attached to a safely located solid object or anchor at any time you enter the fenced in area of non-enclosed manure storage. If retrieval is needed, this equipment will improve the possibility of a successful rescue.
- Never work alone. The second person's role is to summon help in an emergency and assist with rescue without entering the manure storage.
- Move slowly around unenclosed manure storages as the ground can sometimes be uneven and may cause a person to trip or stumble.
- Understand equipment being used and have emergency shut-down procedures prepared.
- If equipment malfunctions or maintenance is required during agitating or pumping of the manure, shut all equipment off and remove it from the manure storage before servicing or repairing.
- If you feel unsure or uncomfortable with what you are getting ready to do near the manure storage; wait a moment and reconsider the action, contact a supervisor or farm manager, and review the situation before proceeding.
- Be prepared to call 911 in case of an emergency. Being prepared includes providing specific directions to the site of the emergency, accurately describing the incident, and number of victims. 

Source: Cheryl A. Skjolaas, UW-Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist



*Non-enclosed manure storage should be assessed to determine employee exposure to safety and health hazards.*



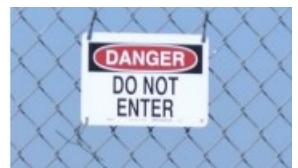
*One potential hazard is someone falling into the storage and being engulfed in the manure slurry.*



*Agitation accelerates the release of hazardous gases. Employees should know the signs and symptoms of these gases.*



*OSHA requires warning signs to be posted in English but a recommended safety practice is to post in additional language based on your workforce.*



*Warning signs should be placed near gates and posted on all sides of the non-enclosed manure storage.*

# The Ideal Footbath

A footbath is one of the most important tools used on farms to prevent lameness and maintain hoof health. When used properly and paired with a disinfectant, a footbath can prevent and control foot rot and digital dermatitis on dairy farms. Recently, the recommendations for footbath dimensions have changed after new research was conducted at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

This fact sheet will focus on the proper installation and use of foot baths on dairy farms and the prevention of lameness in dairy cattle. Specific topics covered on the following pages include:

- ◆ New footbath recommendations
- ◆ Footbath location
- ◆ Retrofitting your current footbath

## Updated Footbath Recommendations


Recent research has concluded many of the previous footbath recommendations should be disregarded.

- ◆ The updated footbath recommendations features side walls that are sloped outwardly at a 70° angle to ensure cattle are getting their feet in the treatment bath with each step. Another innovative feature put into the new footbath design is the high walls that are put on the sides. These walls are three feet high and ideally one side would be hinged and able to drop down as a precaution, acknowledging the possibility that a cow may go down while going through the footbath.
- ◆ The recommended length of footbaths has increased to 10-12 feet, based on a behavioral trial that was recently conducted. The goal when using a footbath is to have at least two immersions per hoof. The likelihood of this increases from 53 percent in a footbath 6 feet long, to 84 percent in an 8 foot long footbath, and to 96 percent in a 10 foot long footbath. In conclusion, a footbath must be 10 feet long in order to evenly transfer our chemicals onto each hoof as the cattle walk through.
- ◆ In the same study, step-in height was also evaluated. A trial was done with a 5-inch step in height and another with a 10-inch step in height. The cows responded well to the deeper step, and

using a 10-inch step-in height will help retain more of the chemical. With a 10-inch step, baths can be filled with three to four inch depths and still have enough chemical left when the last cow passes through, which is not possible with a five inch step-in height.

- ◆ Another dimension that was looked at in this study was width of bath. It was determined cows will pass through a footbath with a minimum of 20 inches of width, but it is still recommended footbaths be at least 24 inches wide just to keep the traffic flowing through the bath.
- ◆ In conclusion, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine's Dairyland Initiative Footbath Blueprint recommends a footbath 12 feet long, 24 inches wide, with a step-in height of 10 inches. If this footbath is filled to the most desirable level, which is 3.5 inches, then this bath would hold approximately 52 gallons of solution, which is the same as the traditional footbaths. Side walls should be sloped from a height of three feet above the floor of the bath to the upper edge of the bath, and the sides should be enclosed to create a tunnel.

## Footbath Location

The best possible place for footbaths to be located in a free stall or bedded pack/compost barn set up is transfer lanes between the holding area and the pens and in the return lanes on either side of the holding area. If a footbath is located in the return lane, it should typically be about two-thirds of the way down the return alley to prevent cows from causing a jam after exiting the parlor. In a tie stall barn set up, the footbath should be located where the cows exit the barn or a location where cows must pass through the footbath safely. 

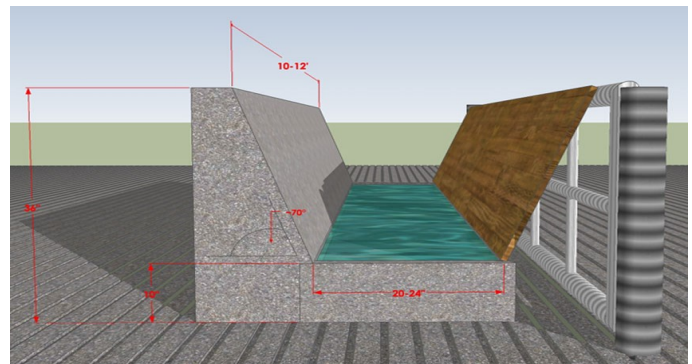


Image Source: UW School of Veterinary Medicine's Dairyland Initiative  
Source: Zen Miller, UW-Extension Outagamie County

## ROAD to Farm Financial Analysis Success

Reviewing and understanding farm financials are an important part of running the farm business. The financial aspect of the farm should be woven into the fabric of daily farm life, not just tax time or when securing or restructuring a loan. Using core financial information will help improve the business decision making process, and allow you to analyze the farm business's profitability and efficiency. While financial analysis is not a fun part of farming, doing so can lead to insights that will help you secure your farm business over the years and help ensure profitability.

UW-Extension Farm Business Management Specialist Kevin Bernhardt tells farmers to develop a **ROAD** map for farm financial analysis success:

**R Records:** Records are an integral part of the financial analysis. What type of records do you have? The most basic financial statement is the balance sheet. The balance sheet provides information about the liquidity and the solvency of the farm. It is a great tool for tracking changes in wealth from one year to the next. Other financial statements include the income statement, annual statement of cash flows, and IRS Tax Returns. Checkbooks can also be a form of record keeping (if all items are purchased with a check) as well as credit card statements, or other financial record keeping software. The key to records is the information is as useful and as accurate as you make it. The old saying goes: Garbage in, garbage out.

**O Organization:** Good management of the records is essential for financial analysis. Are they all in a central location, or easily accessible?

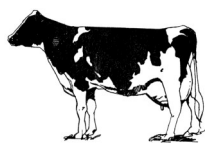
**A Analysis:** Once we have records, it is important to analyze and interpret your records. What are your financial records telling you? While profitability and liquidity are essential for any farm business to succeed, solvency can provide a good indication of the farm business's ability to withstand financial challenges over time. How much owner/equity does the farm business process? Is cash flow limiting? Are the assets valued appropriately? A balance sheet can indicate the value of your business today, while an income statement can show how the business got where it is today. Are you getting a return on assets or return on equity as you would hope?

**D Decision:** Based on the records and the financial analysis, many informed decisions can be made. Is your farm financially efficient and why or why not? Can you move forward with a farm expansion or major equipment and/or land purchase? Do you have enough working capital to carry you through the challenging years. Will the farm business support multiple households?

Farm finances are never fun, but are an important part of the farm business. Following the ROAD to farm financial success will help you to better position your farm business for the future. 🐮



## Fond du Lac County Holstein Association Updates



Fond du Lac County Holstein Association will once again offer a \$1,000 interest-free loan to any Fond du Lac County 4-H, FFA, or Jr. Holstein member to purchase a registered

Holstein calf. When the calf is 24 months old, or has calved, the \$1,000 loan is to be paid back to the Fond du Lac County Holstein Association.

Also, a 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.

To receive a loan or apply for the scholarship, please complete the application at

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/flddairyouth/forms/>.

Scholarships are due December 31st. 🐮



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

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## Mark Your Calendars for Up Coming Agricultural Events

### November 2017

9 Th **Pest Management Update Meeting** - 9:00 a.m. to noon, UW-Fond du Lac, Rm UC-114 (See flyer.)

### December 2017

4 M **Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management Meeting** - CEU's applied for, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., Juneau, WI. Call Dodge County Extension Office at 920-386-3791 for costs and registration information.

TBA **Fond du Lac County Forage Council Annual Meeting**

14 Th **Intro to Snap+** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, Room AE-205/206 (See flyer.)

15 F **Advanced Snap+** - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, Room AE-205/206 (See flyer.)

31 Th **Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders' Association Scholarship Applications due**

31 Sa **Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders' Association "Herd Builder" Applications due to UW-Extension**

### January 2017

3 W **Agronomy Update Meeting**- CEU's applied for, UW-Fond du Lac, Rm UC-114, Cost: TBA

31 W **Pesticide Applicator Safety Training in Spanish**, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, Room AE-205/206

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**For additional dates and information, visit <http://fyi.uwex.edu/fdlag/calendar>**

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# Pest Management Update Meeting

## Thursday, November 9, 2017

UW-Fond du Lac, University Center Room 114, Fond du Lac, WI

**Registration: 8:30 am**  
**Meeting: 9 am to 12 pm**

**Registration Fee:**

\$50 per person in advance  
 (includes lunch & materials)

\$10 "Walk-in" Fee will be  
 charged after November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Additional packets: \$25  
 each

**For more information:**

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing  
 Crops & Soil Agent  
 920.929.3171

[loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu](mailto:loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu)

The first two hours will focus on research updates and important highlights from the 2017 field season. The last hour of the session will be an interactive diagnostic troubleshooting exercise based on issues observed in the 2017 field season.



# IPM



**Speakers:**

**UW-Extension Crop Production Specialists**

Mark Renz      Damon Smith      Bryan Jensen      Dan Heider  
 Weed Scientist   Plant Pathologist   Entomologist   IPM Specialist

3.0 CCA CEU Pest Management Credits Available

**2017 Pest Management Update Meeting Registration**

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

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

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

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

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ People x \$50.00 per person (includes packet & lunch) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Addit'l Packets: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of packets x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Walk-in/Late Fee after November 2<sup>nd</sup> x \$10 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Your completed form may also be emailed to:  
[tina.engelhardt@uwex.edu](mailto:tina.engelhardt@uwex.edu) with payment due at the meeting.

If paying by credit card (convenience fee), please call 920-929-3171.

**Registration due Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> or Walk-in/Late fee will be added**

*UW-Extension provided equal opportunities in employment & programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and ADA requirements.*



# Fond du Lac County

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
PHONE (920) 923-3033 Ext. 101

Agricultural Service Center  
W6529 Forest Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Dear County Farmers and Crop Advisors,

October 9, 2017

Registration is now available for the annual SNAP+ Training Classes which are being held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at UWFDL, Room AE 205/206.

SNAP+ is a computer program designed to help build and maintain your nutrient management plan. The most recent version of the software is free and can be downloaded prior to the training at [www.snapplus.wisc.edu](http://www.snapplus.wisc.edu) or you may download it onto your own laptop at the training. We encourage participants to bring their own laptop, but there will be laptops available for use during the training. The classes are separated into two days for your convenience:

### **INTRO TO SNAP+**

Day one will be an introductory training for those new to SNAP+

**December 14, 2017**

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(one-hour break for lunch on your own)

### **ADVANCED SNAP+**

Day two of training is for those who have used the software before and would like to learn a little more about what it can do.

**December 15, 2017**

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact: Becky Wagner, Agronomist  
Fond du Lac County LWCD  
920-923-3033 (ext. 4659) or  
[becky.wagner@wi.nacdnet.net](mailto:becky.wagner@wi.nacdnet.net)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

You may register by filling out and detaching the portion below and mailing it to LWCD, W6529 Forest Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI 54937. Or you may email the form and/or your information to the Land & Water Conservation Department: [kimberly.ruelle@wi.nacdnet.net](mailto:kimberly.ruelle@wi.nacdnet.net).

Address

City

State

Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

Day Attending	Bringing my own Laptop?	Please return to LWCD no later than December 7, 2017
Intro SNAP+ December 14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Advanced SNAP+ December 15 <input type="checkbox"/>		



# Directions to SNAP Plus Training Classes

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension  
Room 205/206  
Administration/Extension Bldg  
400 University Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-2998  
Phone: 920-929-3170  
Fax: 920-929-3181

