

October 2018



From Field to Barn

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.

October 8, 2018 Hay Market Report

The hay market this week was a few dollars less than previous. Top quality hay continues to bring good prices. Round bales and lower quality hay are discounted. Weather is a concern in many areas as clouds and wet has been common this week.

In Wisconsin, quality alfalfa hay is in demand, just not much available at the auctions. Wet weather is delaying some fall harvest operations and pastures have begun growing again allowing stockpiling of forage or some late season pasture, which may delay hay purchases. The next Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on Monday, October 22, 2018. 🐮

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$250.00	\$220.00	\$300.00
	Large Square	\$195.00	\$95.00	\$250.00
	Large Round	\$133.00	\$110.00	\$150.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$180.00	\$160.00	\$260.00
	Large Square	\$153.00	\$75.00	\$205.00
	Large Round	\$120.00	\$75.00	\$170.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$165.00
	Large Round	\$91.00	\$59.00	\$128.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Round	\$73.00	\$55.00	\$98.00



Photo Credit: Team Forage Hay Market Report.

Reports available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Fond du Lac County Farmer Soil Health Meeting

Farmers across the state have been gathering together to form Producer-Led Watershed Groups within their communities. These farmer groups explore ways to improve farm productivity through soil health principles by using practices such as no-till, cover crops, and low-disturbance manure applications. Farmers within the group talk about how to do these different practices on their farms in ways that make sense economically and conservation-wise.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in joining ongoing efforts in Fond du Lac County to start a producer led group with a soil health focus? If so, please join other Fond du Lac County farmers and agriculture industry representatives, along with Fond du Lac County LWCD over lunch (lunch cost on your own) to informally discuss and brainstorm about the possibility of forming a group in Fond du Lac County. The group is already planning a March 6, 2019 speaker event featuring Nebraska farmer Keith Berns speaking about soil health and Carbonomics.

Location:

Rolling Meadows Restaurant (meet in the back room)
947 S. Rolling Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac, WI

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Tuesday, November 13th, Noon-2 pm

If you have any questions, please contact Dana Christel, FDL LWCD (dana.christel@fldco.wi.gov) at 920-906-4679.

Furthered Reading: Other Successful Producer-Led Groups

Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers

http://www.agupdate.com/agriview/news/crop/sheboygan-river-farmers-eye-long-term-testing/article_ef866ba4-f708-5140-8c28-c4f70f00e578.html

Cedar Creek Farmers

http://www.agupdate.com/agriview/news/crop/stars-align-for-cedar-creek-farmers/article_6e47cf73-a752-56be-8730-73922bc71e26.html

Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soils Healthy Water (Dodgecountyfarmers.com)

http://www.agupdate.com/agriview/news/business/farmer-led-model-working-for-future/article_e9055d8c-af87-5ccd-a660-aa9a86b4ffe1.html 



Changes in the Face of UW-Extension Agriculture



The restructuring of UW-Extension has brought about many changes in personnel, appointment types, roles, and organization and operational structure. As a result of some of these changes, the probationary faculty position for the Crops and Soils Area Agent that I was hired for no longer

exists in the new model. My faculty contract ends October 31, 2018, and I will be leaving UW-Extension. It has been a pleasure working with you all in both Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. I hope your future is bountiful.

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing

Area Crops and Soils Agent

UW-Extension Fond du Lac & Dodge Counties

Email: loretta.ortizribbing@uwex.edu

Identifying Signs of Stress in Farm Families


Farm families are experiencing higher levels of financial and emotional stress due in part to several years of low commodity prices. This is an especially difficult time for dairy farmers because regional conditions in dairy markets have further reduced farm revenues. Farm families can also experience stress as the result of a sudden event—such as crop loss, an accident, a personnel change, or family death. In other instances, it may be a gradual change from a prolonged physical illness, excessive working hours, or relationship difficulties.

Warning Signs of Stress:

- **Change in routines:** Farmers or members of the farm family may change who attends a market, stop attending regular meetings or religious activities, drop out of other groups, or fail to stop in at the local coffee shop or feed mill.
- **Decline in the care of domestic animals:** Livestock or pets may not be cared for in the usual way.
- **Increase in illness:** Farmers or farm family members may experience more upper respiratory illnesses (cold, flu) or other chronic conditions (aches, pains, persistent cough, migraines).
- **Increase in farm accidents:** The risk of farm accidents increases with fatigue or loss of ability to concentrate. Children may be at risk if there isn't alternative child care.
- **Decline in appearance of farmstead:** The farm family no longer takes pride in the way farm buildings and grounds appear.
- **Signs of stress in children:** Farm children may act out, show a decline in academic performance, or be increasingly absent from school. They may also show signs of physical abuse or neglect, or become depressed.
- **Decreased interest:** Farmers or farm families may be less willing to commit to future activities, sign up for gatherings, or show interest in community events.

Signs of Chronic, Prolonged Stress

When farm families are under stress for long periods of time, members of the family may exhibit:

- Headaches, backaches, etc.
- Irritability
- Depression
- Ulcers
- Anger
- Passive-aggressiveness
- Frequent sickness
- Exhaustion
- Loss of humor
- Memory loss
- Self-judgment (e.g., “I blew it.”)
- Sadness
- Lack of confidence (e.g., “Why can't I...?”)
- Bitterness
- Withdrawal
- Sleep disturbances
- Loss of spirit
- Substance abuse
- Violence
- Lack of self-confidence (e.g., “I'm a failure.”)
- Lack of concentration
- Difficulty making decisions 

Selected Resources to Support Stressed Farm Families

Wisconsin Farm Center

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/FarmCenter

[Overview.aspx](#)

800.942.2474

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

1.800.273.TALK (8255)

Fond du Lac County Crisis Line:

920.929.3535

Hopeline (national text line):

Text TALK to 741741

**“It's not the load that breaks you down,
it's the way you carry it.”**

-Lou Holtz

Source: NY FarmNet Extension Associate Daniel Welch & Extension Support Specialist Kate Downes

Know the Tendencies of the Tile Systems on Your Farm

UW Discovery Farms has been monitoring the water flow from 24 tile monitoring sites in northeast Wisconsin since October 2017. The goal of this project is to understand how farming practices and management systems influence tile water quality. We are monitoring flow rates and collecting water samples from tile systems to analyze nutrient and soil concentrations. There are three levels of monitoring in this project. Four *intensive* sites have 24/7 monitoring equipment that continuously measure tile flow rates and automatically take water samples. Nine sites are *intermediate*, that continuously monitor flow, but have water samples collected bi-weekly by Discovery Farms staff. Eleven *basic* sites have bi-weekly flow measurements and water samples taken at tile outlets by Discovery Farms staff. Flow data from the intensive sites and bi-weekly tile checks are providing a look at when tiles flow in Northeast Wisconsin.

Huge variability in flow frequency

The biggest surprise so far is the extreme variability in the frequency of tile flows. In the seven months we have monitored, we have seen tiles that flowed only 3 or 4 days, tiles that have only stopped flowing for 3 or 4 days and everything in between. How often and for how long a tile system flows is extremely site specific. For example, there are two sites in Manitowoc County a half mile apart from each other. One site has flowed every day, and the other has only flowed a handful of times after heavy spring rains. We have not observed a relationship between frequency of tile flows and the tile system size or density. It comes down to the site conditions including; What kind of soils are tiled? Is there a perched or high water table? What is the field slope? How much precipitation has the field received? All these conditions, and many more, play a role in how often a tile system will flow.

Frequency of checks

This project has reaffirmed the value of having 24/7 monitoring to collect water data. Without having continuous monitoring, valuable information might be missed. The Shawano County intensive site is an

excellent example. We take a water sample and flow measurement at the intensive sites during the bi-weekly tile checks. The Shawano County intensive site has only had water flowing through it twice during a bi-weekly check, both in the spring. If those bi-weekly checks were all the data we had, we would say that this tile system only flows in the spring. However, the constant flow monitoring equipment tells a different story. This tile system has flowed for short periods throughout the winter and spring. It is only during late April and into May that it has flowed consistently enough for us to witness. Continuous flow data provides a more accurate picture of flow patterns.

Frozen tiles

Another interesting find has been the variability of tiles freezing during winter. We had a fiercely cold winter, but even during more typical stretches of winter weather, multiple tile systems froze at the outlet. One tile was frozen for 10 weeks straight, while others flowed straight through the winter. Tile systems that run constantly tended not to freeze solid, while tiles that flow on and off were more likely to freeze.

The big takeaway is that there is extreme variability in how often and for how long a tile system will flow. Even on the same farm, and even the same field, tile systems will behave differently. Get to know the tendencies of the tile systems on your farms, as this is important information to consider when managing your fields. 🐮

Source: Aaron Pape, UW-Discovery Farms Tile Drainage Education Coordinator



Photo Credit: fyi.uwex.edu/drainage

2018 Crop Land Rental Rate Survey

Each year UW-Extension Fond du Lac County receives several questions about farmland rental rates from farm operators as well as non-farm landowners. To better answer these questions, a farmland rental rate survey was conducted in the winter of 2017-2018. The survey is intended to provide township level rental rate information for landlords and tenants who negotiate farmland rental contracts in the many townships of Dodge and Fond du Lac counties.

Respondents were asked to report what they paid for cash rent on the farmland they operate or the rent received for land they lease to others. Data was collected through an anonymous survey, with returned information on 190 parcels of rental land.

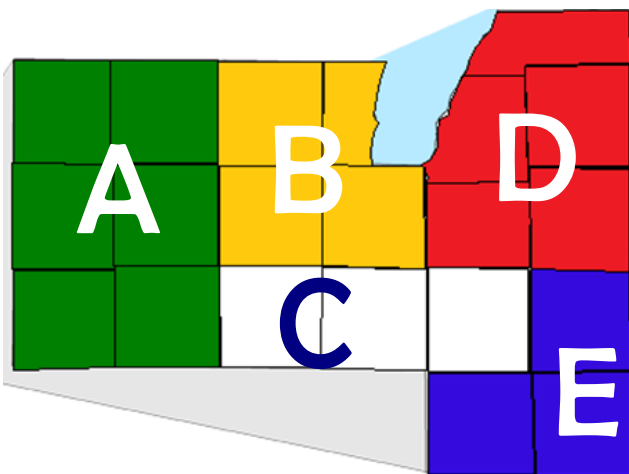
The price range per acre for non-irrigated cropland ranged from \$50 to \$325 per acre for the two counties. The average price for Dodge County was \$172 per acre

and Fond du Lac averaged \$148 per acre. According to the United States Department of Agriculture – National Agriculture Statistics Service, the average cash rent price per acre for Dodge County in 2017 was \$199.99 and \$173 for Fond du Lac.

The data collected from our surveys is to help farmers better understand the diversity of cash rent prices within the county.

The rental rate survey should be used as a guide, rather than an absolute, when determining rental rates. Rental rates in various areas may be impacted by several factors, including but not limited to: competition for the land, commodity prices, input costs, land ownership costs, distance to operator, size of field, productivity of soil types, and slope of the land. These averages and ranges are presented only as a starting point for negotiations between the landowner and renter. 🐄

Rental Rate Survey Price in Fond du Lac County: \$148 per acre NASS Cash Rent Price in Fond du Lac County (2017): \$173 per acre



(A) Ripon, Rosendale, Metomen, Springvale, Alto, Waupun

- Data from 20 unique farmland parcels
- Average acres: 79
- Average cash rental rate: \$192 per acre
- Average corn yield: 193 bu per acre

(B) Eldorado, Friendship, Lamartine, Fond du Lac

- Data from 11 unique farmland parcels
- Average acres: 115
- Average cash rental rate: \$149 per acre
- Average corn yield: 151 bu per acre

(C) Oakfield, Byron, Eden

- Data from 17 unique farmland parcels
- Average acres: 125
- Average cash rate: \$140 per acre
- Average corn yield: 161 bu per acre

(D) Ashford, Auburn, Osceola

- Data from 20 unique farmland parcels
- Average acres: 122
- Average cash rental rate: \$142 per acre
- Average corn yield: 165 bu per acre

(E) Empire, Forest, Taycheedah, Marshfield, Calumet

- Data from 21 unique farmland parcels
- Average acres: 65
- Average cash rental rate: \$117 per acre
- Average corn yield: 123 bu per acre



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

Mark Your Calendars for Up Coming Agricultural Events

November 2018

- 8 F Beef Quality Assurance Training**
12 noon | Equity, N11579 Industrial Drive, Lomira
- 13 Tu Fond du Lac County Farmer Soil Health Meeting**
Noon to 2 pm | Rolling Meadows Restaurant, 947 S. Rolling Meadows Drive, Fond du Lac
- 15 Th Pest Management Update Meeting**
9 am to 12 noon | UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-113/114

December 2018

- 20 Th Fond du Lac County Forage Council Dairy Forage Day**
11 am to 2 pm | UW-Fond du Lac, Room UC-113/114



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