



EXTENSION CENTRAL NEWS

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Heart of the Farm: Coffee Chats

Submitted by Sandy Stuttgen, DVM
Taylor County

As University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension's Heart of the Farm - Women in Agriculture Coffee Chats will be held the first Thursday of the Month thru February 3rd, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Upcoming speakers and dates: Thursdays, January 6th, Stephanie Plaster and February 3rd, Sam Zimmerman, On-Q Holsteins, Marathon County. There is no charge for attending the series, but you must register at: <https://bit.ly/2ZcxoMx>

Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation containing information about joining the meeting. Registered participants will only need the meeting website link or phone number to participate.

The Heart of the Farm - Women in Agriculture online Coffee Chat series is a University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension program that addresses the needs of farm women by providing education on farm business topics, connecting them with agricultural resources and creating support networks.

For more information on the Coffee Chats Series or the Heart of the Farm Program, please go to the HOF Website: <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/programs/heart-of-the-farm-women-in-agriculture/>, call your local UW-Madison Division of Extension County office, or contact Jenny Vanderlin, jenny.vanderlin@wisc.edu, 608-263-7795.

“Strategic Thinking: Using a SWOT Analysis for Personal and Business Growth”

On January 6, from 12:00-1pm, Stephanie Plaster, Extension Regional Farm Management Educator, will walk through how to assess yourself and your business for strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats and use them to develop strategies to achieve your goals and improve decision-making. Coffee Chats are free, but you must register at: <https://bit.ly/2ZcxoMx>



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

2022 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Classes Offered

Submitted by Ken Schroeder
Agriculture Agent, Portage County

Private Pesticide Applicator Training classes will once again be offered by your local UW-Extension office. Anyone who intends to purchase, mix, load, apply, or direct the use of restricted use pesticides as a private applicator must be certified. Certification is good for five years. There are two ways to become certified. Purchase and study the training manual and attend an all-day training class offered by your local UW-Extension office. These classes consist of presentations followed by a written exam at the end of the day. If you are unable to attend one

of the classroom sessions, the second option is to self-study and schedule time through the UW-Extension office to take the exam on your own. Training manuals are available at your local UW-Extension office and must be purchased prior to exam day.

Please register at least one week prior to the exam date at the Extension office where you will be taking the exam. Call the office where you plan to take the exam for more details on start and finish times.

DATE	COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
1/20/2022	Adams	Adams County Community Center	608-339-4237
1/25/2022	Green Lake	Dalton Community Center	920-294-4032
2/1/2022	Marathon	Marathon County Extension	715-261-1230
2/2/2022	Marathon	Marathon County Extension	715-261-1230
2/4/2022	Portage	Portage County Annex	715-346-1316
2/8/2022	Marathon	Athens, Johnson Town Hall	715-261-1230
2/9/2022	Marathon	Athens, Johnson Town Hall	715-261-1230
2/11/2022	Wood	Marshfield Ag Research Station	715-421-8440
2/15/2022	Lincoln	Lincoln Co. Extension Merrill	715-539-1072
2/16/2022	Green Lake	Dalton Community Center	920-294-4032
2/18/2022	Wood	Marshfield Ag Research Station	715-421-8440
2/22/2022	Taylor	Taylor County Community Ed Center	715-748-3327
2/25/2022	Portage ~ Testing Only	Portage County Annex	715-346-1316
3/2/2022	Clark	Abbotsford City Hall	715-743-5121
3/4/2022	Clark	Thorp Fire Hall	715-743-5121
3/4/2022	Portage	Portage County Annex	715-346-1316
3/11/2022	Clark	Neillsville	715-743-5121
3/11/2022	Portage	Portage County Annex	715-346-1316
3/16/2022	Green Lake	Dalton Community Center	920-294-4032
3/17/2022	Adams	Adams County Community Center	608-339-4237
TBC	Juneau	TBD	608-847-9329

For other training and testing options including online Zoom webinars call the Pesticide Applicator Training Program Office 608-262-7588.

30th GrassWorks Grazing Conference

Celebrating the Resilience of Grazing

January 20-22, 2022

Chula Vista Resort - Wisconsin Dells, WI

We are excited to be planning a live, in person conference again for 2022. We have learned a lot this past year and are looking forward to incorporating some amazing new networking opportunities with this conference in addition to the great content we have brought to you in the past. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and this website to learn what's coming up at the 30th Conference! So much to celebrate! To register: grassworks.regfox.com/grassworks-2022

Your Grazing Resource





Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2022 Agronomy Update VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The 2022 Agronomy Update Meetings will be virtual this year due to COVID-19. The meetings will present the latest information on hybrid/variety performance, an analysis and discussion of last year's growing season, and updated recommendations for field crop production. CEUs will be offered in Crop Management for Certified Crop Advisers. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required. There are two sessions to choose from, both sessions will present the same information. Please choose the one that best fits your schedule.

Presentations:

Joe Lauer, UW Corn Agronomist

- The 2021 growing season
- ✓ How did we get so much yield with so little water?
- ✓ How did the late May frost affect corn yield?
- 25+ years of Transgenic (GMO) corn: Are we making progress?
- Maximum corn yields: How do we set the bar?

Shawn Conley, UW Soybean & Small Grain Agronomist

- Soybean and Wheat Performance Trial Results
- Planting Soybean Green Pros and Cons
- Soybean Yield Response to Sulfur in WI
- Something Else that is Totally #Coolbeans...Trust Me!

John Grabber, USDA-ARS DFRC Research Agronomist

- Forage Focus: Alfalfa establishment techniques in corn silage

Please make your online registration by January 3, 2022

Tuesday
January 4th
9:00 am-11:50 am

OR

Thursday
January 6th
1:00 pm-3:50 pm

Registration link:

<https://go.wisc.edu/aqnh77>

FREE EVENT!

**3 CEU Credits in Crop Management
have been approved for each session!**

This program is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Nutrient Management Planning

This course is designed to develop a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 Standard requirements. Participants will enter soil test information into the software program, SNAP Plus, and will develop a plan using the data. Subjects include conservation plans, field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management and crop selection and requirements.

It is highly recommended that you have current soil tests no more than four years old, sampled on a one sample per five acre basis and analyzed by a DATCP approved lab.

Soil Testing Payments: Participants will receive reimbursement for up to \$750 of eligible soil testing costs. (Please contact your local County's Conservation Dept. with questions.)



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These courses are in partnership with the Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor and Wood county UW-Extension offices and the county conservation departments from Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor and Wood counties.

COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Please register for the Full Course if you are new to Nutrient Management Planning. If you have already taken the Full Course in the past, please register for the Refresher Course.

Additional family members and/or farm employees may attend with a registered attendee at no additional charge.

Students planning to bring their own computer to complete work on Snap Plus must meet the following minimum computer requirements:

- Windows 7 or later, 10 is recommended
- Memory: 250 MB for software
- Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge

GET STARTED TODAY
To register call
715.675.3331 and press "1"
or visit
www.ntc.edu/ce

Questions? Contact Continuing Education at (715) 803-1034 or email ce@ntc.edu

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL

6—2-HOUR SECTIONS

Thursdays, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17
Time: 7-9pm
NTC Spencer Campus
\$260.00

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL

3—4-HOUR SECTIONS

Fridays, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28
Time: 10am – 3pm
NTC Medford Campus
\$260.00

Wednesdays, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2
Time: 10am – 3pm
NTC Wausau Campus
\$260.00

Thursdays, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3
Time: 10am-3pm
NTC Spencer Campus
\$260.00

Tuesdays, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22
Time: 10am – 3pm
River Block Building (Wisc. Rapids)
\$260.00

REFRESHER COURSES

8 HOURS TOTAL

Fridays, 1/14 & 1/21
Time: 10am – 3pm
NTC Medford Campus
\$130.00

Wednesdays, 1/19 & 1/26
Time: 10am – 3pm
NTC Wausau Campus
\$130.00

Thursdays, 1/20 & 1/27
Time: 10am – 3pm
NTC Spencer Campus
\$130.00

Thursdays, 1/13, 1/20 & 1/27
Time: 7-9pm
NTC Spencer Campus
\$130.00

Tuesdays, 3/8 & 3/15
Time: 10am – 3pm
River Block Building (Wisc. Rapids)
\$130.00

**Participants will receive a \$130 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

***Participants will receive a \$260 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

Focus on Forage

Optimizing forage production in Wisconsin

Upcoming Webinars in 2022

All webinars
run from
12:30 pm
to 1:30pm

January 26th (1 CM CEU Available)

Silage Additives for Conventional and Alternative Forages: Cost and Benefits

Dr. Luiz Ferreratto, UW Madison Extension Ruminant Nutrition Specialist

Disease and Mycotoxin Considerations when Making Corn Silage

Dr. Damon Smith, UW Madison Extension Field Crop Pathology Specialist

February 2nd (0.5 CM and 0.5 NM CEU Available)

Are Forage "Cocktail Mixes" a Reasonable Alternative? Research Updates on 2021 Yields & Quality

Dr. Matt Akins, UW Madison Extension Dairy Specialist

Mike Ballweg, UW Madison Extension Crops and Soils Educator, Sheboygan County

Dairy Farmer Perspectives on "Cocktail Mixes" and Annual Forages

Brody Stapel, Double Dutch Dairy- Cedar Grove, WI

Profitability of N Management for Alternative Forages - Preliminary Results

Kevin Jarek, UW Madison Extension Crops and Soils Educator, Outagamie County

Dr. Carrie Laboski, UW Madison Extension Soil Fertility Specialist

February 9th (1 CM CEU Available)

Benefits of Incorporating High NDFD Grasses into Dairy Rations

Dr. Debbie Cherney, Cornell University Professor of Animal Science

Feeding Winter Cereals and Other Alternative Forages Update

Kimberly Schmidt, UW Madison Extension Crops and Soils Educator, Shawano County



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Registration Information found at:

<https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/>



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Farm Ready Research

Extension's agriculture winter webinar meeting series for farmers and ag professionals.

To see the full list of topics, including Focus on Forage, and **to register visit:**

<http://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/>.

There is no charge to participate but pre-registration is required to allow access to each live and recorded session.

- **January 7 | 11 am – 12 pm**
Farm-gate Economic Outlook
- **January 11 | 1- 2:30 pm**
Animal Care Starts with the Calf
- **January 11 | 7:30 – 8:30 pm**
SRW A New Year, a New Ewe Perspective
- **January 21 | 11 am – 12 pm**
Farm Pulse Program, Make Sense of Financial Management
- **January 25 | 1 – 2:30 pm**
Diving Into Dairy Data Projects
- **January 28 | 11 am – 12 pm**
Don't Gamble the Farm Away, Take Charge of Your Future Today!
- **February 4 | 11 am – 12 pm**
Build Effective Training Programs that Engage Your Team
- **February 8 | 1 – 2:30 pm**
Silage Quality—From Pricing to Feeding Behavior
- **February 8 | 7:30 – 8:30 pm**
SRW – Strategic and Cost-Effective Mineral Nutrition in Sheep
- **February 18 | 11 am – 12 pm**
Employee Trust & Engagement through a Culture of Safety

Wisconsin Corn Soy Expo

WHEN

February 3-4, 2022

WHERE

Kalahari Conference
Center, Wisconsin Dells



The Wisconsin Corn•Soy Expo is Wisconsin's premier grower event where the Wisconsin Soybean Programs, Wisconsin Corn Programs, and the Wisconsin Pork Association bring together over 1,200 corn and soybean growers and pork producers. It is held each year in January or February at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The trade show hosts over 120 companies in 155 booths. A two-day educational program is filled with informative sessions led by University and industry specialists.

annual CAFO update series

hosted by UW-Madison Division of Extension in collaboration with WI Department of Natural Resources



2.15.22 | 9:30-11:30 am
nutrient management



2.15.22 | 1:30-3:30 pm
engineering



2.16.22 | 9:30-11:30 am
regulatory updates



2.16.22 | 1:30-3:30 pm
groundwater



4 sessions offered virtually February 15-16 | 9:30 and 1:30 pm

Register today at <https://go.wisc.edu/x88dg2>

\$15 for one session or \$25 for series if registered on or before February 10. Additional \$20 late fee beginning February 11.

For more information: Kevin Erb | kevin.erb@wisc.edu | 920.391.4652. CCA CEUs pending & PDH Certificates available for Professional Engineers.

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Beef Cow Calf Workshop Scheduled for February

UW-Madison Division of Extension will host its Beef Cow Calf Workshop virtually and at three locations in February 2022. The workshop focuses on selection and development of replacement heifers, management and care of calving heifers, and secure beef supply planning. One Wisconsin BQA Continuing Education Credit is provided for those currently BQA certified in Wisconsin from attending this workshop.

Pre-registration is required by calling the location you wish to attend; walk-ins are not allowed. Social distancing and other COVID-related recommendations will be followed. Extension reserves the right to cancel due to low enrollment or location-specific issues. All pre-registered individuals will be notified if the event is canceled. Call the location you plan to attend to verify the meeting status.

Wednesday, Feb. 16: in-person, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Beezer's Bar and Grill Conference Room, 1235 Water Ave, Hillsboro, WI 54634. RSVP by calling the Vernon County Extension Office at 608-637-5276 by Friday, February 11.

Thursday, Feb. 17: in-person, 6.30-9 pm Abbotsford City Hall, 203 N. First St., Abbotsford, 54405, no cost to attend, refreshments provided by the North Central WI Cattlemen's Association. RSVP by calling Taylor County Extension 715-748-3327 ext. 3

From the convenience of your own computer, you may join the **Feb. 17 workshop by ZOOM**. To register for the link to join over ZOOM visit <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/events/> and search for 'beef'.

Thursday, Feb. 24: in-person, 6.30-9 pm. Crawford County Administration Building, Rm 236, 225 N Beaumont Rd. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821. RSVP by calling Crawford County Extension, 608-326-0223.

Skyrocketing Input Cost for Crop Production in 2022

Richard Halopka, CCA
Senior Outreach Specialist
UW-Madison Division of Extension Clark County
Crops & Soils Educator

How can I save money in 2022 with skyrocketing input cost? First, you must understand you will never save enough to be prosperous. You as a manager will have to look at economics and make decisions to be profitable in 2022. Second, I know input cost have increased, but to use the term skyrocketing may be extreme.

I would recommend the manager of the farm take a look at your current method of input purchases and determine what is necessary and what is not for crop production on your farm.

Begin with your current soil test taken within the past four years, if they are older than that then take new samples this fall. Many will say soil testing is expensive, if the cost is \$15.00 per five-acre sample and you use them for four years that equals \$0.75 each year per acre.

Now review the samples and apply fertilizer to crop need when prices are high. Make sure to credit your "on farm" fertilizer, which is previous crop and possibly livestock manure applied. When fertilizer is high, manure is very valuable. Livestock manure value went from \$10.00-\$12.00/1,000 gallons, based on book values for dairy manure, to exceeding \$20.00-\$23.00/1,000 gallons now compared to six months ago. That is just reflecting the increase in costs of commercial fertilizer. Remember, always credit on farm nutrients, to reduce fertilizer expense.

Many of these questions do revolve around corn production and nitrogen applications. First, after taking "on farm" fertilizer credits review maximum return to nitrogen guidelines (MRTN). Currently, nitrogen (N) is near \$0.88

Continued on page 8

per pound of N and corn is near \$5.00 per bushel (formula is cost of N per pound/corn price) $0.88/5 =$ a ratio of 0.176, by reviewing the MRTN chart on medium yield potential soil if more than 125 pounds of N is applied you will be losing money. Now everyone will say we can't grow corn with such a low N application. Understand your soil's organic matter will supply a large amount of N depending on climate during the growing season. In a good year, microbiology in soil may mineralize adequate N to provide a good yield. If growing season has weather challenges, it may not make any difference how much N is applied to your corn crop. The data collected to develop MRTN also has determined that exceeding 160 pounds or units of N on a corn crop may actually reduce yield. For more detailed information, check out the publication [A2809: Nutrient application guidelines for field, vegetable, and fruit crops in Wisconsin](#) by Carrie Laboski and John Peters, University of Wisconsin.

Next is the concern on crop protection products. Yes, they may increase some, but calculate cost per acre, they you can determine if you need to consider a change to your crop protection.

To summarize what you the farm manager can do with increasing input prices:

1. Soil test will be your most valuable tool to provide crop needs.
2. Run a crop budget using your farms numbers here is a link: <https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/crop-budget-analyzer-2017/>
3. Understand MRTN and use it to determine nitrogen applications on corn.
4. Credit your "on farm" fertilizer.
5. Scout your fields and apply crop protection according to what you see in the field when there is a chance for economic loss.
6. Resist temptation to buy "yield" don't buy add on inputs, but just what you need.
7. Don't buy "miracles in a jug or bag". They may just cost.
8. If you need help, ask someone with a non-biased opinion. A county agriculture educator may be a good start.

Remember this is not the first time there have been increases in crop inputs. I would recommend working with a trusted supplier. If you feel prices will decrease over time consider protecting some early season inputs and they play the wait and see for the rest. It is best though to have a plan and go forward with the plan.

If you have questions on developing a crop budget, determining MRTN in your crop or other crop, questions contact richard.halopka@wisc.edu or 715-743 5121.

2022 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference

February 24, 2022 • Rothschild, WI

Farmers and agricultural professionals from around the state are coming together to share & learn about all things cover crops. Whether you're a seasoned cover cropper or an absolute beginner, there will be something for everyone!

Topics include maintaining soil health while managing manure, easy points of entry for beginning cover croppers, assessing soil health, using cover crops as an alternative forage, and soil health systems & extreme weather events. Many of the presenters will be Wisconsin grain and livestock farmers speaking from experience about what has worked and hasn't worked in their Wisconsin conservation cropping systems.

Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference Registration

Deadline to register: February 17, 2022

Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference Only: \$75.00

Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference Only + Cover Crop Networking Dinner: \$100.00

To register go to: <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/events/wisconsin-cover-crops-conference/>

Keynote Speaker is Dr. Abbey Wick, North Dakota State University

Dr. Abbey Wick, North Dakota State University Extension Soil Health Specialist and Associate Professor, has experience working with farmers on soil health building practices like incorporating cover crops into rotation and transitioning to no-till systems. Since 2012, she has had her hands in over 75,000 acres of soil and influenced management on over 300,000 acres of farmland in the northern plains just with the personal relationships she's developed with farmers. There are many other farmers she influences through her bi-weekly magazine articles and television segment along with discussion-based Extension programming. She focuses on goal-oriented approaches so that farmers can maximize the benefits while reducing the risk associated with incorporating new practices. She has been featured in Successful Farming Magazine Q & A and Bonus Sections for her work with cover crops and ability to connect with farmers. She was also Senator Hoeven's selection to represent North Dakota for the Senate Ag Republicans "Women in Agriculture" campaign in 2018.



UW-Extension Annual Cattle Feeders Workshops Slated for Feb. 28 through March 2, 2022

Submitted by Bill Halfman
Monroe County, Agriculture Agent

The University of Wisconsin-Extension will be holding the annual Cattle Feeders Workshops at locations around the state February 28th through March 2nd. In person workshops and virtual options are available. This year's workshop includes useful information for farmers finishing both dairy and beef breed steers and allied industry representatives.

Dr. Galen Erickson, University of Nebraska Extension Beef Feedlot Specialist, will present information on two different topics. The first is a discussion on using Enogen corn hybrids in feedlot rations. Dr. Erickson has conducted several trials evaluating Enogen corn use in feedlot rations. Enogen corn hybrids were initially developed for use in ethanol production to improve the efficiency of ethanol production. There has been an increased interest in how its use influences cattle performance in growing and finishing rations. The second topic he will discuss is management considerations for cattle feeders when feed prices are high.

Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW-Extension & UW-River Falls Livestock Economist, will present a market outlook for 2022 feed prices and cattle markets.

Following are the dates, locations, and local host offices for the Workshop Series. To register or for additional information for each location contact the host county. Pre-registration is required, walk-ins are not allowed. Social distancing and other COVID-related recommendations will be followed. Extension reserves the right to cancel locations and those registered will be contacted in case of a cancelation at that location.

In person workshops are as follows:

Monday, February 28, 2022

- 6:30 p.m. - St. Croix County Agricultural Service and Education Center, 1960 8th Avenue, Suite 140, Baldwin, WI. Call the St. Croix County Extension Office at 715-531-1930 or e-mail Ryan Sterry at

ryan.sterry@wisc.edu. Participants may register online for the Baldwin location at this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/9o1k9m>

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. - Equity Coop Sale Barn, 455 N. Cecil Street. Call the Bonduel- Shawano County Extension Office at 715-526-6136 or e-mail Kim Schmidt at Kimberly.schmidt@wisc.edu.
- 5:15 p.m. - Roadside Grill, N5575 Hwy 57, Plymouth, WI. Call the Fond du Lac County Extension Office at 920-929-3170 or e-mail Tina Kohlman at tina.kohlman@wisc.edu.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

- 1:00 p.m. - Youth and Ag Center, 916 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI. Call the Grant County Extension Office at 608-723-2125 or e-mail Amanda Cauffman at amanda.cauffman@wisc.edu.
- 6:00 p.m. - Sparta American Legion, 1116 Angelo Rd (State Hwy 21), Sparta, WI. Call the Monroe County Extension Office at 608-269-8722 or e-mail Bill Halfman at william.halfman@wisc.edu or Vicky Kast vicky.kast@wisc.edu.

Virtual options are available on March 2nd starting at 1:00 p.m. via a live Zoom broadcast of the Lancaster workshop. The Taylor and Green County Extension Offices will be hosting the broadcast at their offices. Registration is required to attend these locations and can be done by contacting the Taylor or Green County Office as follows:

- Taylor County Extension Office, phone 715-748-3327 ext. 3 or email Sandy Stuttgen at sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu. The location for attending the broadcast will be the Taylor County Community Education Center, 624 College St, Medford, WI.
- Green County Extension Office, phone 608-328-9440, or e-mail Jackie McCarville at jackie.mccarville@wisc.edu. The location for attending the broadcast will be the Green County Justice Center, 2841 6th St., Monroe, WI.

People too far from the live locations and the two broadcast host sites can sign up to watch from home at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz26bx9>

Remaining Beef Quality Assurance Certification Trainings

The remaining BQA Certification In-Person Trainings will be held in January and February. In-person sessions are intended for those who cannot complete the online certification available by going to <https://www.bqa.org/> and clicking on 'Certification'. BQA certification is valid for three years, so producers who certified in 2018-2019 will need to be recertified. To register for an in-person session, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2hr5karf> or call the Extension offices for the location you wish to attend.

January 11, 2022—5:30 pm, Viroqua Extension Office Meeting Room, 608-637-5276

January 11, 2022—5:30 pm, La Crosse Admin Center, Basement Room, La Crosse, 608-785-9593

January 11, 2022—5:30 pm, Sauk County Extension, Baraboo, 608-355-3250

January 11, 2022—5:30 pm, Marquette County Service Center, Montello, 608-339-4237

February 11, 2022—1:00 pm, Eagles Club Banquet Hall, Chippewa Falls, 715-839-4712

Optimizing Value of Dairy Beef Cross Cattle from Birth to Harvest Webinar Series to be held by UW-Extension

Submitted by Bill Halfman
Monroe County, Agriculture Agent

Many dairy farms have adopted the practice of breeding a portion of their herd to beef bulls to produce calves for the beef production. This has allowed dairy farms to better manage replacement heifer inventories, and in some cases receive market premiums over straight bred baby bull calves. As this practice has become more common, some dairy farms are interested in determining the practicality and profitability of retaining their beef x dairy calves to market as feeder or fed cattle versus marketing as baby calves.

Current observations from cattle feeders and meat packers indicate that these dairy x beef cross animals can be extremely variable in health, growth, performance, and carcass traits, which creates problems for feeders and packers. Survey data indicates that many dairy farms select bulls to be used solely on coat color, semen cost and calving ease with no regard to seeking bulls with complementary genetic traits to dairy cows that will improve carcass qualities and feedlot performance of these calves.

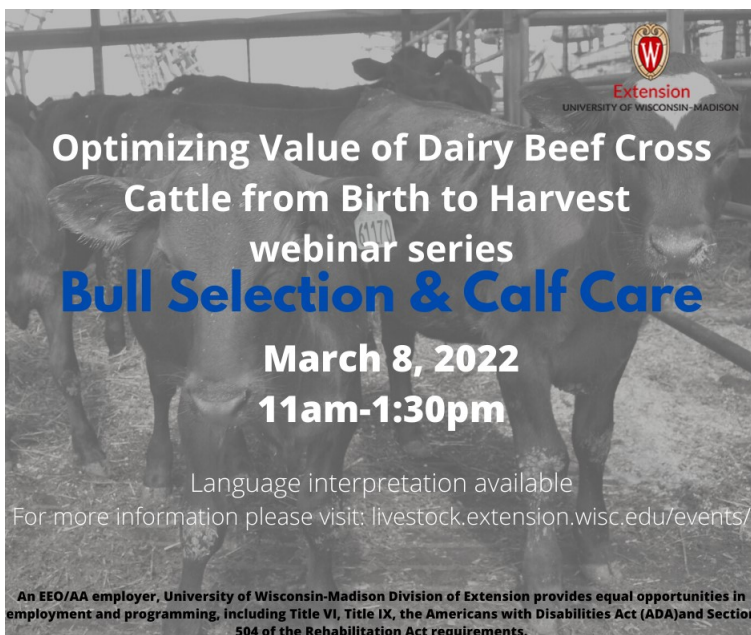
UW Extension will be hosting a webinar series in March to present information on practices that can help optimize the value of dairy beef cross animals. The workshops are slated for March 8th and 22nd with two discussion sessions each day. The first topic session will run from 11:00 am to noon, and the

second from 12:30 to 1:30 pm both days. Each session include a moderated panel format with opportunities for participants to submit questions to the panelists.

On Tuesday, March 8th the first discussion will address selecting beef bulls to best compliment dairy cows to consistently produce cattle with desirable carcass and feedlot performance traits. The second discussion will address how the quality of post-partum and early age calf care impact their health, growth, and performance for their entire lives. Presenters on the first day include Denise Schwab, Iowa State Extension Regional Beef Specialist, and UW Extension Educators Amanda Cauffman, Ryan Sterry, Sandy Stuttgen, Jackie McCarville, Matt Lippert, Sarah Grotjan, Ashley Olsen, and Heather Schlessler. Wisconsin BQA certified participants attending the calf care session can receive one Wisconsin BQA continuing ed credit.

On Tuesday, March 22nd, the first discussion will address feeding and managing dairy beef cross cattle from 400 lbs. to finish. The second discussion will present information on marketing options for dairy beef cross cattle. Presenters include: Jerad Jeborak, Michigan State Feedlot Specialist, Dan Schaefer, UW Professor Emeritus Beef Nutrition, Brenda Boetel, UW Livestock Economist, and Bill Halfman, UW Extension Agriculture Agent. Wisconsin BQA certified participants attending the feeding and management session can receive one Wisconsin BQA continuing ed credit.

There is no charge to participate in the webinar series, but registration is necessary and can be done at the following website: livestock.extension.wisc.edu/events/



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

Optimizing Value of Dairy Beef Cross Cattle from Birth to Harvest webinar series

Bull Selection & Calf Care

March 8, 2022
11am-1:30pm

Language interpretation available
For more information please visit: livestock.extension.wisc.edu/events/

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Extension

Optimizing Value of Dairy Beef Cross Cattle from Birth to Harvest webinar series

Feeding, Management & Marketing

March 22, 2022
11am-1:30pm

For more information please visit:
livestock.extension.wisc.edu/events/

Driftless Region Beef Conference Returns January 27-28

Beef producers from four states invited to attend

DUBUQUE, Iowa –With nearly 2.5 million cattle in four Midwest states, university extension services in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin are teaming together to offer the Driftless Region Beef Conference. The tenth annual event will be held Jan. 27-28, 2022 at the Grand River Convention Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

The driftless region in these states contain rolling hills, streams and karst soil topography. Since soil and water conservation is best accomplished when much of this land is seeded for forage and livestock consumes those forages, the conference will focus on efficient and economic forage and beef production.

The conference will begin at 1 p.m. Jan. 27 with a program concentrating on the future of the beef industry. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ron Gill, professor and Extension livestock specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and Associate Department Head. Dr. Terry Houser, ISU Meat Science specialist, will demonstrate various value added cuts in a meat fabrication demonstration. The final two afternoon topics include alternative meats and consumer trends. An evening discussion on value added opportunities will feature a producer panel. Friday morning will feature Matt Ludlow from Rush Creek Ranch in Wisconsin, who recently won the Nation-

al Stocker Award, and eight breakout sessions for feedlot operations and cow-calf producers followed by a market outlook.

Key speakers include Dan Loy and Denise Schwab, Iowa State University; Bill Halfman and Mark Rens, University of Wisconsin; Bailey Harsh, University of Illinois, and Mary Drewnoski and Elliott Dennis, University of Nebraska Lincoln.

The early registration fee is \$85 per person and must be received prior to midnight, Jan. 14. The price increases to \$115 after that date. More information on topics, speakers and lodging is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/. Online and mail registration forms are available on the conference website.

The Driftless Region Beef Conference is sponsored by ISU Extension and Outreach, University of Illinois Extension, and University of Wisconsin Extension. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact Denise Schwab, beef specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at 319-472-4739.

Related link: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/>



The banner features a silhouette of a cow and a calf on a rolling hill to the left, and a map of the driftless region (Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota) to the right. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with varying font sizes and colors (white, green, red, black) to highlight key information.

**Driftless Region
Beef Conference**
January 27-28, 2022 – Dubuque, Iowa
www.aep.iastate.edu/beef

Presented by:
I ILLINOIS
Extension
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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