**UW Extension Education Committee Aug 17th - Sept 4th 2015 Trisha Wagner Agriculture Agent**

**Dry and Transition Cow Management program for farms and consultants 8/19**

Transition cow management has gained attention in recent years as herds have increased or invested in facility upgrades for milking cows and have realized the need for better transition cow management.  The dry period and the first two weeks postpartum (transition period) are the two most critical times in a dairy cow’s life. This program was designed to help farms rethink dry cow and transition cow care and provide some tools to help. This program went very well with over twenty farms attending the day program in Blair and twenty-five consultants attending the evening program (vets, nutritionists, etc.) in Hixton.

Speakers included Dr. David Kammel, UW-Extension, livestock facilities engineer - dry cow and transition cow housing, pen, stall and equipment design and how we can enhance the environment to minimize metabolic disorders in fresh cows.  Dr. Garret Oetzel, UW-Madison school of veterinary medicine - the latest research about ketosis in dairy cows.

Dr. Paul Fricke, UW-Extension dairy reproduction specialist – effects of gain or loss of weight during the dry period and the effects of mastitis on re-breeding performance in dairy cows. Taliah Danzinger, CRI Agsource - the Keto Monitor program from Ag Source & UW Vet School.  Steve Okonek, UW-Extension Trempealeau County - effects of moldy feed during the dry and transition periods.

**Dairy employee training DVD**

Through a grant from the Profession Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, myself and Brown County Agriculture Agent have worked on a project for dairy farm employee training in English and Spanish. We have developed the scripts for first topics including feed and bedding management. We will record the audio/visual components next month.

**Farm Succession Peer Discussion group**

The regional farm succession peer discussion group met for a third in September on the topic of legal issues/concerns for farm succession. I invited Bruce Brovold, attorney with Kostner, Koslo & Brovold LLC of Arcadia, who has many years of experience working on farm succession topics with farm families and has served as a speaker for various UWEX farm succession programs. The group plans to meet again this winter to discuss the topic of fair vs. equal in the treatment of farm family heirs.

**Add’n programs/projects:**

* Fall Ag newsletter 8/17, 24, 25, 26
* MGVs – BRF Public Library US F&WS partners program/monarch habitat @ community garden 8/17
* JC Boys&Girls Club/Community Garden weekly lessons 8/20 (final program)
* UW Farm & Industry Short Course plan mtg. 8/28, 8/31
* Corn silage dry down day with Fed Co-op 9/1
* Dairy Partner newsletter 9/2
* TV13 news – soil testing 9/3
* WI Horticulture update host 9/4

**Farm visits/consults:**

**Add’n meetings/programs attended:**

-Regional ag agent program mtg. 8/18

-Lunda center program plan mtg 8/28

-International programs – 9/1

-Faculty Sentate mtg – 9/1

-MGV training program plan mtg 9/2

* Rogstad, Japanese beetles 8/17
* Verken/Weiroch, straw value 8/19
* Burnett poultry regulations 8/20
* Durkop, EAB 8/21
* Steponik oak wilt 8/24
* Bahnub, Shmid facilities follow-up 8/24, 25
* Shmid, Foust dairy facilities 8/27
* Brooke, employee mgt/Spanish 9/2,4
* Haas, soils 9/3
* Giese, w. wheat/SB relay crop 9/3,4
* Horticulture, numerous (insect management, plant disease, weed/plant ID/management)