

# Jefferson County Agricultural Newsletter

## Welcome to the first edition of the Jefferson County Agricultural Newsletter!



**Volume 1, Issue 1  
Spring 2015**



For those of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet or who have not heard, my name is LaVern Georgson and I'm the Agriculture Agent with UW-Extension, Jefferson County.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education and my Masters of Science in Agriculture Industries, Business Management from UW-Platteville.

I taught high school agriculture for six years in the Iola Scandinavia school district and 27 years in the Jefferson school district. I also spent several years in industry as a feed and seed consultant and as a feed mill manager. Prior to coming to Jefferson high school, I had worked for UW Extension as an interim agriculture agent and consultant.

Some of my most rewarding moments as an agriculture teacher were actually after my students graduated. It was always nice to have students return to my classroom and say hi. As the conversation continued, they would relate how their preparation and participation in the classes that I had taught had enabled them to be successful and transition to the next level of their education or profession.

The Jefferson high school agriculture program was very active and well respected in the community. We had numerous collaborative and joint efforts to promote agriculture, leadership and community service. It was important to me that students were not just successful in the classroom, but also could recognize a need, respond appropriately and contribute to the success of their home community. By being involved this way, students developed both team and personal skills would benefit them for the rest of their life. The individual is stronger when the team prospers.

The support of the community, businesses and organizations that I have had the privilege to be part of has been invaluable to me throughout the years. I now look forward to continuing and further developing those relationships and partnerships in my new role as Agriculture Agent.

My greatest encouragement and support comes from my wife, Lynn, and the support of our children Amanda and Andrew. Their time and effort contributes to the growth and development of Windview Farms, our family's grain and livestock business.

No one is successful on their own. Success is much better when it is earned and shared with others. We are better off with more bridges and less islands. Looking forward to working with you!

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## WELCOME BACK KIM!



My name is Kim Buchholz. Yes! I'm back! Some of you may recognize my name while others of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet or work with yet.

In my position as Administrative Specialist, I work with

the agriculture and community and natural resources programs as well as office administration. Of course, with only Stephanie and me in the front office, I may assist you for any of the program areas/questions that are handled through the office!

I live in Jefferson with my husband, Dean, who is a teacher at Jefferson High School, and our three children; Kayla, Matthew and Breanna. I have worked for Jefferson County since March of 1999.

For the last five years, I worked in the Parks and Emergency Management Departments. I thoroughly enjoyed my work and am thankful for everything I learned and the people that I worked with. Prior to that, I worked for the UW-Extension office with the agriculture and Rock River Basin programs and office administration for 10 years.

In March of 2014, I had the opportunity to rejoin the UW-Extension Office team. I am excited to be back and am looking forward to working with you all!

Please feel free to contact me at 920-674-7297 or [kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov).

## FARM SUCCESSION SURVEY



Farm Succession has, by many local and statewide experts, been identified as one of the most urgent issue affecting farmers in

Wisconsin. Nearly 6,000 Wisconsin dairy farm operators (or two of every three) do not have a successor identified, leaving families, communities and local economies in a state of financial insecurity.

This UW-Extension Farm Transition and Succession Planning Survey was created to support Wisconsin farm families and address an educational need. It is intended to inform future UW-Extension programming and outreach. Not all questions may apply to the situations of individual respondents and no question is required to be completed. Primary operators, those with knowledge of the day-to-day operations and those who own farm land are encouraged to participate in the survey. We welcome any farm type, as classified according to IRS definitions (\$1,000 gross sales).

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary and

respondents may end the survey at any time.

Confidentiality of survey results is assured and all results will be aggregated to ensure no individual respondents can be identified.

This UW-Extension Farm Transition and Succession Planning Survey was developed in collaboration with Kenosha, Walworth and Racine Counties Cooperative Extension offices with financial support from the UW-Extension Farm Team and Center for Dairy Profitability.

Specific inquiries about this project can be directed to the survey development team of UW-Extension educators listed below.

For a hard copy of the survey, please contact Kim at [kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov) or 920-674-7297. If you prefer to take this survey online, it can be found at:

<http://goo.gl/oa0CFG>

Questions:

Peg Reedy, [peg.reedy@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peg.reedy@ces.uwex.edu), 262-741-4961

LaVern Georgson, [lavern.georgson@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:lavern.georgson@ces.uwex.edu)  
920-674-7197

**HOLD THE DATE—March 17, 2015**  
**READY, SET, GO! FARM SUCCESSION WORKSHOP**  
More information at: <http://walworth.uwex.edu>

## GRAZING WINTER SEMINAR



**March 4, 2015**

**9:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**841 Brewhouse  
(Formerly Randy's Restaurant &  
Funhunters' Brewery)  
841 E Milwaukee St, Whitewater**

**Registration Fee: \$20.00**  
*(includes resource materials and lunch)*

**Registration Deadline: February 27, 2015**

**For more information:**  
<http://walworth.uwex.edu/>  
**262-741-4951**

## AGENDA

**9:45 am Sign In and Welcome**

**10:00 a.m. Planning for Success - Altfrid Krusenbaum.** Developing a grazing plan by setting realistic production and management goals and then using your resources to get the most out of managed grazing.

**11:15 a.m. Using Managed Grazing to Achieve Conservation Goals - Brian Pillsbury, NRCS Grazing Specialist.** Prevention of soil erosion, decreasing runoff, improving water quality, reducing pesticide use, and providing pollinator and wildlife habitat.

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:30 p.m. Karen Luchterhand, Clark County Dairy and Livestock Agent.** Stress-free animal handling, including use of the "bud box".

**2:30 p.m. Jeff Swenson, WI DATCP.** Body condition scoring of beef cattle and culling decisions.

**Producer Panel – Coping with outwintering challenges, including energy supplementation, windbreaks, watering, etc.** Area producers share their strategies for winter cattle management.

## EMERALD ASH BORER—HELP—WHAT DO I DO?

Emerald Ash Borer, a serious pest of ash trees has been confirmed in Jefferson County and several other counties of Southeast Wisconsin last year. It was one of the hot topics for myself as well as the Plant Health Advisors (Master Gardener Volunteers) during the growing season. Homeowners can take steps to provide their trees with a measure of security but it must be done proactively. From determining if you have an ash tree, to advising on what to replace one with, the UW-Extension and Master Gardener Volunteers are here to help. Take a look at our [Ash Tree Identification](#) publication for help in identifying your tree. Now the question is what should homeowners do? Please see [Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments](#) and [Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating for Emerald Ash Borer?](#)



If you have any questions about the Emerald Ash Borer, identifying your ash tree, or to receive a fact sheet with this information, please call the Jefferson County UW-Extension office at (920)674-7297 or email [kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov). You can also visit [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov)

## AGRICULTURE ASSESSMENT FOR JEFFERSON & WAUKESHA COUNTIES

In order to better serve the agricultural community, an agricultural survey was sent to local producers in early November to survey what they see as agricultural needs within our communities. If you did not complete your survey, I would greatly appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to complete the survey and mail it back. Or you may complete it electronically by going to: <http://jefferson.uwex.edu/agriculture/> and clicking on 2014 Needs Assessment. Please feel free to contact Kim at 920-674-7297 or [kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your input to Jefferson and Waukesha County agriculture! Results will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

## PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING DATES SET FOR 2015



The UW-Extension, Jefferson County will be offering two Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) sessions for individuals whose certification has expired or first-time applicators. Successful completion of the training that includes the state certification exam will provide individuals with their general farming private applicators license.

The first session is on Wed., February 18 at the Watertown Senior Center, located at 514 South First Street in Watertown, WI. The second session is being held on Thurs., March 5 at the UWEX, Jefferson County Office located at 864 Collins Road in Jefferson. Each program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the state certification exam is taken in the afternoon. The \$30 registration fee covers the

training manual, training session, test and certification. The training manual includes suggestions on how to study for the exam and information that is important to review before attending the training session. Participants may bring a lunch and eat in the classroom or there are several restaurants in the area.

If these dates and times do not fit your schedule, local UW-Extension Offices in surrounding counties are also offering programs. Visit the PAT website at: <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat> for a listing of the training dates and locations. Waukesha County will host a training session on Friday, February 20. There is a self-study option. However, the vast majority of applicators have indicated that the time spent in class is significantly worth it.

Registration and fee payment of \$30 must be done in person at least one day prior to the training/testing date. Registration may be done at the UWEX, Jefferson County Office located at 864 Collins Rd in Jefferson. Phone and mail registrations are not accepted.

The PAT Course will assist individuals in learning how to handle pesticides correctly to protect themselves, coworkers, the general public and the environment from adverse effects of pesticides. The course will focus on understanding and applying Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. IPM is the coordinated use of multiple pest control methods. It encourages the use of all available techniques where practical and does not rely on a single method approach. A sound IPM program can help ensure that you apply pesticides only when necessary. IPM is based on a scientific and systematic approach. Applicators must be familiar with the site, the pest, and all available control tactics to develop and implement an effective IPM program. The PAT program will also include a discussion of pesticides and the law, reading the pesticide label, safety and emergencies, calibrating spray equipment and other topics.

This course is offered by the UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Other private applicator training for Greenhouse and Nursery, Fruit Crops and Commercial Applicator courses are offered by DATCP. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact either LaVern or Kim at the UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office at 920-674-7297.

## MACHINERY WEIGH IN!



With the new implements of husbandry law that will take effect shortly, there has been much discussion on weights of certain vehicles, tractors and/or implements. Therefore, the Jefferson County UW-Extension office is offering a SCALE DAY! We have the scales and will bring them to your farm where you can weigh your equipment. In order to participate in this event, please contact Kim at 920-674-7297 to schedule your appointment time during that day!

## 2014 FARMER'S TAX GUIDE

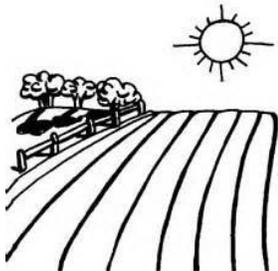
The UWEX Jefferson County office has the 2014 Farmer's Tax Guide, Publication 225, available for producers that are interested. Simply stop by the office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to pick up your copy. Pick up one or several!



## LAND RENTAL AGREEMENT

It is that time of year when we receive a number of questions regarding land rental agreements and the going rate per acre. For information on lease agreements, go to <http://aglease101.org/>. For the going rate per acre, you may go to <http://jefferson.uwex.edu/files/2013/01/survey-result-summary.pdf>. This information is still pretty accurate although it is a few years old.

## WISCONSIN CUSTOM RATE GUIDE



Every three years, UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service team-up to publish a farm custom rate guide. The figures are based on reports from custom operators who perform the work, farmers who hire custom work, and machinery dealers who rent out equipment. Over the years, this has been one of the most popular publications available from our office.

Most custom rates printed in the publication include the cost of hiring the machine with fuel and operator, but exclude the cost of any materials (for example, the cost of seed, fertilizer, etc.). There is no attempt to distinguish between rates charged by individuals who perform custom operations as a primary income source and those farmers who occasionally do custom work as a sideline. Typically, rates charged by professional custom operators and implement dealers justifiably trend to the higher end of the rate range.

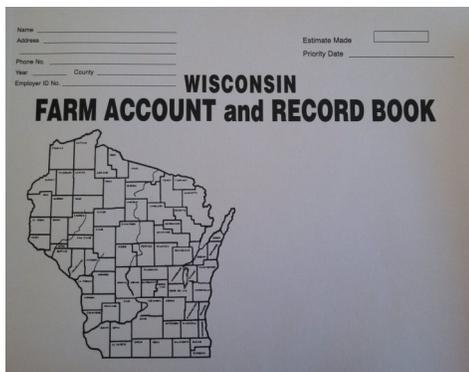
Within the guide, there are both average rates and numerical ranges given for different custom farm operations. In many cases, rates are also given by region of the state. There are many different factors that impact the rate charged in a given situation. These include: availability of equipment; soil conditions; topography; field size; and the type, age, size, and condition of the equipment used. In some cases, rates are reported in units of dollars per acre and dollars per hour.

Rates reported in the guide for machinery, fuel, and labor reflects 2013 prices and conditions. As the guide is used in over the next three years, prices for these inputs may need to be adjusted accordingly. A copy of the Custom Rate Guide can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Wisconsin/Publications/custom\\_rates\\_2013.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/custom_rates_2013.pdf)

## 2016 FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

The 2016 Farm Technology Days committee is searching for a large number of volunteers to help make the event successful. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please go to the UWEX Walworth County website (<http://walworth.uwex.edu/agriculture/2016-farm-technology-days/>) for additional information. You may also email Colleen Lesniak, Walworth County Volunteer Coordinator, at [clesniak@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:clesniak@co.walworth.wi.us).

## RECORD BOOKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE!



It is that time a year when the calendar has changed to another year! That also means that you will be “starting over” on your operation’s financial records. The UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office has Farm Record Books available for purchase for \$7 plus tax (\$7.39). Please feel free to stop by during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8-4:30 p.m. to purchase your copy! You may also order them by calling Kim at 920-674-7297 and a copy can be mailed for an additional charge to cover shipping fees.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

- Feb 18 - Pesticide Applicator Training- Watertown, WI
- Feb 19 - Advanced Workshop on Organic Management of Root and Tuber Crops, Micheal Fields Ag Institute
- Feb 19 - Implements of Husbandry Informational meeting - Dodge County UWEX
- Feb 20 - Pesticide Applicator Training, Waukesha County
- Feb 20-21 - Wisconsin Cattlemen’s Winter Conference, Wisconsin Dells
- Feb 21- Stateline Equine Education Program, Kenosha County Center, Bristol, WI
- Feb 21 - Midwest Hop Growers Seminar & Trade Show, Warrens, WI
- Feb 24-25 - Midwest Manure Summit, Green Bay, WI
- Feb 25 - Implements of Husbandry Informational meeting, Whitewater, WI
- Feb 26-28 - MOSES Organic Conference, LaCrosse, WI ([mosesorganic.org/organic-university](http://mosesorganic.org/organic-university))
- Mar 4 - Grazing Winter Seminar, Whitewater, WI
- Mar 5 - Pesticide Application Training, Jefferson, WI
- Mar 7 - Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, Marshfield, WI
- Mar 7 - 6th Annual Seminar for Barley, Hops & Brewing, Bloomer, WI
- Mar 12 - Jefferson County Master Gardener Meeting, UWEX Jefferson County
- Mar 13-14 - 5th Annual Wisconsin Ag Women’s Summit, Middleton WI ([wiagwomensummit.com](http://wiagwomensummit.com))
- Mar 14 - 7th Arlington Sheet Day, Arlington Agricultural Research Station
- Mar 17 - Ready, Set, Go! Succession Planning, Elkhorn, WI (<http://walworth.uwex.edu/>)
- Mar 17-19 - Midwest Poultry Federation Convention, St. Paul, MN
- Mar 18-19 - PDPW Annual Meeting,
- Mar 24-26 - WPS Farm Show, Oshkosh, WI
- Apr 30 - Wisconsin Dairy & Beef Conference, Kimberly, WI (with Dr. Temple Grandin)
- May 30 - Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast, Jefferson FairPark, Jefferson, WI
- July 8-12 - Jefferson County Fair, Jefferson, WI
- Aug 25-27 - 2015 WI Farm Technology Days, Dane County, WI



**“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to the real wealth, and good morals, happiness.”**

**- Thomas Jefferson**

## WEB ENABLED MAPPING UPDATES



The County now has updated the public web mapping application. The application runs on Microsoft Silverlight technology and may require the end user to adjust internet search engine settings. With this application the public will find a wide range of land based information. The user may print or save maps, bookmark areas of interest, measure, draw and sketch planning concepts and share information with other users. The data retrieved is constantly updated and allows for minimal lag time between the County's internal database systems and presentation to public users. To access, go to the Jefferson County website; go to the Land Information Department and select maps, interactive mapping. For assistance, you may contact the Land Information Department at 920-674-7254.

## UW-EXTENSION NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Periodically, UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension takes steps to assure that our partners know and understand our policy of nondiscrimination. This letter is to remind or notify you that the University of Wisconsin-Extension does not discriminate in the treatment of individuals, in the admission or access to its programs and activities, in the provision of services, or in employment.

Further, UW-Extension, an institution receiving federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cannot participate with or partner with organizations that discriminate on the basis of any of the legally prohibited categories of discrimination, based on Civil Rights laws. Categories of prohibited discrimination include race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest or conviction record, or membership in the national guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military service.

Consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons who need materials in alternative format or other accommodations are encouraged to write or call the UW-Extension contact person for the specific program or call the main telephone number of the Jefferson County Extension Office, (920) 674-7197, as early as possible prior to the event so appropriate arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential. Individuals who need special access due to hearing impairment may contact the Jefferson County Extension Office by calling the relay service for the hearing impaired by dialing 711.

On behalf of Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, I want to thank you for collaborating with UW-Extension on educational programs. We appreciate your support and partnership as we provide education designed to meet the needs of the diverse residents of Jefferson Country.

Sincerely,

LaVern Georgson, Agriculture Agent



**This Agricultural Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly to producers and business professionals in Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. In an effort to reduce costs, we would like to electronically distribute as many newsletters as possible! Please help us!**

**Send your name, contact information and email address to [kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov)!**

**Jefferson County  
UW-Extension Office  
864 Collins Road  
Jefferson, WI 53549-1976**

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Hours 8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
920-674-7295**

**LaVern Georgson, Agriculture Agent**  
lavern.georgson@ces.uwex.edu

**Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist**  
kimb@jeffersoncountywi.gov; 920-674-7297

**Kathleen Eisenmann, Family Living Agent**

**Steve Grabow, Community Development Agent**

**Stephanie Hardin, Administrative Specialist**

**Sarah Torbert, 4-H Youth Development Agent**



## **UW-Extension in YOUR Community!**

“An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. 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 make such requests as early as possible by contact the Jefferson County Office at 920-674-7295 so proper arrangements can be made.”