

# **Richland County AG News & Notes**

**Agricultural Newsletter of the Richland County Extension Office**

**Fall 2005**

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## **Calendar of Events:**

### **October**

- 4-8 World Dairy Expo – Madison**
- 4 Pasture Walk- Jim Munsch – Coon Valley – 10:30 am**
- 4 Temporary Storage Workshop – Grant County**
- 5 Multi- Flora Rose Meeting – Don and Beth Heubner Farm- 1-3 pm**
- 12 Pasture Walk – Wade Loesch- Richland Center – 1 pm**
- 18 Pasture Walk – Gene Schriefer – Dodgeville – 10:30 am**
- 27 Small Producers Workshop – 7pm Pippin Center**

### **November**

- 1 Premises Registration Due**
- 2-3 Dairy Beef Seminar - Rochester, MN**
- 11-12 Return to the Farm – Platteville**

### **December**

- 1 Producer SARE Grants due**
- 6 Beef Quality Assurance Program – 7pm, Pippin Center**

**Richland County Ag Fact:** Richland County agriculture provides 3,160 jobs. That's over 33 percent of Richland County's total workforce of more than 9,460 people.

## **Grazing Corn Stalk Residue to Reduce Forage Inputs**

By Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Professor and Extension Beef Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension,

With the fall harvest underway we are certain of one thing, winter is soon to follow. Pastures will soon go dormant and forage reserves will have to be accessed. Stockpiled forage in pastures may be low in some areas of the state this year due to low precipitation. Hay reserves may also be lower and one may be thinking about alternatives. As the corn is harvested from fields, one might consider making use of the available residue to extend forage reserves and lower feed costs.

Corn residues, or stalks as it is sometimes termed, can offer the opportunity to lower feed input costs as the expenses associated with planting and harvesting the corn are charged to the grain production enterprise. The quantity and quality of crop residue available will vary. As a general rule of thumb, however, one can assume the quantity of residue available is approximately equal to the grain yield for corn (Thompson, 1997). For example, a field yielding 120 bushels/acre of grain would be expected to have approximately 6,700 pounds of crop residue. Cattle will consume approximately 25% of the available residue or 1,675 pounds in our example. Dry cows may consume 22-25 pounds of corn residue (dry matter basis) per day with gains between 0.05-0.55 lb/d (Ward, 1978). Using our example field, one acre of crop residues would provide enough forage for two cows for

approximately 30 days or 60 days for one dry cow.

The quality of the corn residues is near the nutrient requirements for maintenance of a dry, gestating beef cow, but will be altered as grazing progresses. Cattle will select the higher quality, more digestible residues first. In vitro organic matter digestibility of available corn residues decreased from 72% in the fall to 59% in the spring as the proportion of grain, husks, and leaves decreased (Lamm and Ward, 1981). Utilization of residual grain, cob, leaf+husk, and stem were reported to be 96-100%, 39-61%, 53-56%, and 0-20%, respectively (Klopfenstein et al., 1987). Later studies revealed that residual grain availability declines rapidly during the first 35 days of grazing and availability is expected to be limited thereafter and the leaf sheath and stem is not consumed by growing calves (Gutierrez-Ornelas and Klopfenstein, 1991). These factors along with weather should be considered when implementing a supplementation program. The energy requirements for a dry cow in mid-gestation grazing stalks in November and December can be met by the grain and husk under normal weather conditions. Protein needs may be met early after turnout but can become limiting as the grazing period progresses. As the gestation period progresses nutrient needs increase while the quality of residues available declines making supplementation necessary. Supplementation strategies might be designed to stretch the crop residues by offering higher quality hay at a rate of 8-12 pounds per head or to balance the nutrient supply from crop residues and requirements by feeding protein and energy supplements. A mineral and

vitamin mixture should also be provided ad libitum to cows grazing crop residues.

The costs associated with grazing corn residues are primarily associated with fencing and watering systems and will vary depending on fencing materials used and design. Depending on the type of fencing materials used, costs per foot may be approximately \$0.10/ft. In order to fence in a 40 acre corn field with four strands of high-tensile wire, one would be looking out approximately \$2,000-\$2,500 initially. This cost should be spread out over the expected life of the fence and related to the number of years the area will have residue to graze which may vary depending upon crop rotations. Additional costs to consider should include watering systems. Costs for feeding alfalfa hay, corn silage, or grazing stalks were estimated to be \$11.78, \$9.73, and \$8.40 per animal unit month, respectively (Ward, 1978). Feed costs are the largest expense for the annual cow maintenance expenses and one should constantly be investigating methods for reducing feed costs while maintaining animal performance and health. Grazing stalks can be a viable option for reducing cow feed costs.

When grazing stalks, be sure to provide adequate fresh water, a balanced mineral/vitamin supplement, and protein and energy supplementation as needed. Those considering corn residues in drought stricken areas should be concerned with nitrate poisoning potential and have residues tested.

### **References and Additional Reading Material:**

Gutierrez-Ornelas, E. and T.J. Klopfenstein. Changes in availability and nutritive value of different corn residue parts as affected by early

and late grazing seasons. *J. Anim. Sci.* 69:1741-1750.

Klopfenstein, T., L. Roth, S. Fernandez Revera, and M. Lewis. 1987. Corn residues in beef production systems. *J. Anim. Sci.* 65:1139-1148.

Lamm, W.D. and J.K. Ward. 1981. Compositional changes in corn residues grazed by gestating beef cows. *J. Anim. Sci.* 52:954-958.

Thompson, Curtis. 1997. Forage Facts: Estimating crop residue available for grazing. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service Publication.

Ward, J. K. 1978. Utilization of corn and grain sorghum residues in beef cow forage systems. *J. Anim. Sci.* 46:831-840.

## **Beef Quality Assurance**

One of the most challenging factors, all beef producers across the county face is making a comfortable living off the land, while yet producing safe and wholesome beef. The task of producing beef that will provide a positive eating experience for all who consume beef is the goal of all beef producers.

To meet this goal the Beef Quality Assurance program was started in 1987 to assist producers with husbandry practices, feeding, and harvesting high quality beef. The beef quality assurance program uses science, research, and educational initiatives to identify production practices that can be implemented in a practical manner every day in the operation. Beef Quality Assurance takes a holistic approach to beef production and, with this approach, implementation of these practices can

have an impact on the producer's bottom line.

Topics that are covered in a Beef Quality Assurance training session are feedstuffs, feed additives, medication, processing/treatment, record keeping, injection site management, care & husbandry, and other industry issues.

Wisconsin is launching an updated Beef Quality Assurance program. To become BQA certified in Wisconsin you must first get a Veterinarian/Client relationship form signed, participate in a BQA training session, and sign a BQA contract to follow the practices outlined in the program.

There will be a BQA training held on **November 26, 7pm., Pippin Center, in Melvill Hall, UW-Richland Campus.** There is a \$15 charge for materials and certification. Please register with the Extension office prior to the meeting.

For more questions about beef production or Beef Quality Assurance contact Adam Hady, UWEX Agriculture Educator, at 647-6148 or e-mail: [adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:adam.hady@ces.uwex.edu).

### **Dairy Beef Seminar**

People who work in the dairy beef industry - producers, consultants, and higher education and extension educators -- can mark their calendars now for a valuable conference to be held **Nov. 2 and 3 in Rochester, MN.**

According to Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, this meeting will focus on academic research related to dairy beef production and

expertise from industry professionals and producers. Extension and industry representatives are working together to offer this program.

Topics will include an overview of nutrient requirements for dairy beef steers, amino acid nutrition of the young dairy calf, forage to concentrate ratios, ethanol co-product utilization, implant strategies, Optaflexx, meat quality from dairy steers, market aspects related to Holstein steers, grazing Holstein steers, impact of colostrum and milk replacer on immunity and more.

The meeting will be at the **Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, MN.** It is sponsored by the North Central Region 206 Feedlot Committee and the 4-State Dairy Management members. Lehmkuhler and Robert Tigner, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialist, co-chair the planning group.

### **Premises Registration**

Don't forget to register your premises. Under the Wisconsin Premises Registration Act, anyone who keeps, houses or co-mingles livestock must register their premises by the **November 1, 2005** deadline. Premises registration is being conducted through the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) in cooperation with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

What is Premises Registration? Well it is the first step in establishing a national ID system. Through the registration process, a database of locations that keep or co-mingle livestock will be created to shorten the time it takes to track animal

diseases. Livestock include cattle and bison, sheep, swine, poultry, goats, horses, deer and elk, and llama.

There is no cost to register your premises, and it is easy to do. There are three options to register, online at [www.wiid.org](http://www.wiid.org) and clicking on the WLIC Premises Registration link; call WLIC at 1-888-808-1910 to request a form; or write to Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, 135 Enterprise Drive Suite ID, Verona WI 53593.

### **"Returning to the Farm" Workshop Helps Farm Families Plan for Farm Succession**

UW-Extension, UW Center for Dairy Profitability, UW-Platteville and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will host a workshop to help farm families plan for a son, daughter or partner to return to the farm and eventually take over the farm business. The four-day workshop will be Nov. 11 - 12 and Feb. 10 - 11, 2006, at the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm's Living and Learning Center.

Families looking toward the future of their farming operations have many issues to consider. Two issues of extreme importance to the future life of the business is the development of a son, daughter, or partner to be the future manager of the business and creation of a management succession plan. The workshop, called "Returning to the Farm" will help families make these plans.

"Returning to the Farm" targets college juniors and seniors who are considering returning to their family farm within five

years after graduation. However, the program is open to all farm families who want to learn more about planning for farm succession. Families are expected to participate in both sessions. At the end of the February session, families will have completed the framework of a working succession plan.

Through this program, students and their families will

- Determine if an existing operation is large enough to support an additional partner.

- Uncover alternatives for the transfer of farm assets.

- Recognize personalities and learn to work with each individual's strengths.

- Write long- and short-term business and family goals.

- Learn how to address major issues that can lead to failure in a multiple generation farm business.

- Hear the current issues and information on the tax implications of farm transfer.

- Understand the tools of estate planning and business succession planning.

- Receive business succession and estate planning resources.

The registration fee for this four-day program is \$140 per farming unit (up to four people per farm). This covers materials, meeting room costs, refreshment breaks and lunches. If you **register before Sept. 23**, you are eligible for the early-bird price of \$110 per farming unit. If you have more than four people in your farming unit, \$30 will be charged for each additional participant.

Limited lodging is available at the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm's Living and Learning Center. In addition, a block of

rooms has been reserved for the Friday nights of the workshop weekends at the Country Inn, Platteville at \$72 + tax per room.

For more information about the program, registration and lodging availability contact Joy Kirkpatrick, UW Center for Dairy Profitability Outreach Specialist at 608-263-3485 or by email [joy.kirkpatrick@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:joy.kirkpatrick@ces.uwex.edu).

### **Grants for Innovative Agriculture Projects Available So Farmers Can Be Bold!**

Farmers and ranchers are born innovators. Most have a wealth of ideas for improving their profits and the health of their farms, ranches, and communities. But, turning those ideas into reality requires access to information and finances. Both resources are available through the North Central Region (NCR) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.

Sustainable agriculture grants are available for on-farm research, demonstrations and education projects. Individuals can apply for grants of up to \$6,000. Groups of three or more can apply for grants of up to \$18,000. Grant recipients have up to 21 months to complete their projects. They are expected to share their findings with others through reports and outreach activities such as field days and presentations.

Wisconsin farmers have received grants from the SARE program for a variety of projects including studying the effects of compost on soil-borne diseases, monitoring special nutritional characteristics of milk from grass-fed

cows, and improving pasture management. Recent SARE-funded projects in the state include establishment of a hatchery for organic chicks, investigation of microbial inoculant treatments to control disease in viticulture, organic maple syrup production, and marketing lamb and goat to culturally diverse families and communities.

"There are always lots of ideas floating around or adaptations you'd like to try if you can get someone to try them with you," said Dodgeville farmer and SARE grant recipient Gene Schriefer said:

In 2004, NCR-SARE received 171 proposals and funded 51 grants totaling \$391,678. About \$400,000 will be available in 2005 for farmers and ranchers who live in the 12 states of the North Central Region - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Call for Grant Proposals is available by contacting NCR-SARE at 1-800-529-1342 or [ncrsare@unl.edu](mailto:ncrsare@unl.edu). Proposals are due in the NCR-SARE office by **Dec. 1, 2005**.

For local assistance writing grants or exploring grant ideas that are ecologically sound, profitable and socially responsible, contact: Diane Mayerfeld, UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, (608) 262-8188, [dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu](mailto:dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu). A workshop on identifying and applying for funding sources for innovative agricultural projects will be held in **Camp Douglas on Oct. 17**. For more information contact Diane Mayerfeld at (608) 262-8188 or [dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu](mailto:dbmayerfeld@wisc.edu).

## TEMPORARY GRAIN STORAGE WORKSHOPS

Some farmers may harvest more grain than they have room to store or may want to delay marketing because of unfavorable prices and will be looking to temporary storage.

Additional storage that can be used include: grain piles, and adapting existing buildings for use as temporary storage. Without proper management, significant quality losses can occur in less than ideal storage conditions. To help grain producers evaluate storage options and manage stored grain, UW-Extension will conduct temporary grain storage workshops at two locations in Grant County on **Tuesday, October 4**. Workshops will run approximately two hours. There is no cost to attend the workshops.

- The first workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Jack Kinney Farm near Blue River. The Kinney farm is just south of Blue River on County T.
- The second session will run from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Youth & Ag Center, 916 East Elm Street on the fairgrounds, in Lancaster.

Speakers Brian Holmes and Scott Sanford, UW-Extension agricultural engineers, will cover the following topics:

- An overview of the grain transportation problem...the hurricane and beyond
- Options for existing structures (sheds, bunkers and silos) for grain storage
- Site selection, preparation and sizing of piles
- Economics of different storage

- options
- Management for keeping grain in condition
- Options for reducing energy costs when drying grain

For additional information contact: Ted Bay at 608-723-2125.

## Getting Small Producers Together

Do you have small acreage? Do you have just a few animals? Would you like to know more about handling, feeding, and general care of small numbers of animals, OR would you just like to meet other hobbyist and animal enthusiasts through out the county? Please join UWEX Agriculture Educator, Adam Hady for an organizational and informational meeting on the creation of a Richland County Hobbyist Network. Who can attend? Anyone who is a small producer or hobbyist and wants to share and gain knowledge about small and diversified producers. What species you ask? Well, this group will be open to all small producers with beef, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, llama, horses or any other livestock.

The creation of this network is to bring together a group of small producers to share ideas on management and husbandry practices with a guided resource in the University of Wisconsin Extension System. All small producers and hobbyist are welcome to attend this meeting **October 26, at 7:00 pm., Pippin Center**, in Melvill Hall. Please contact the extension office at 608/647.6148 if you plan to attend.

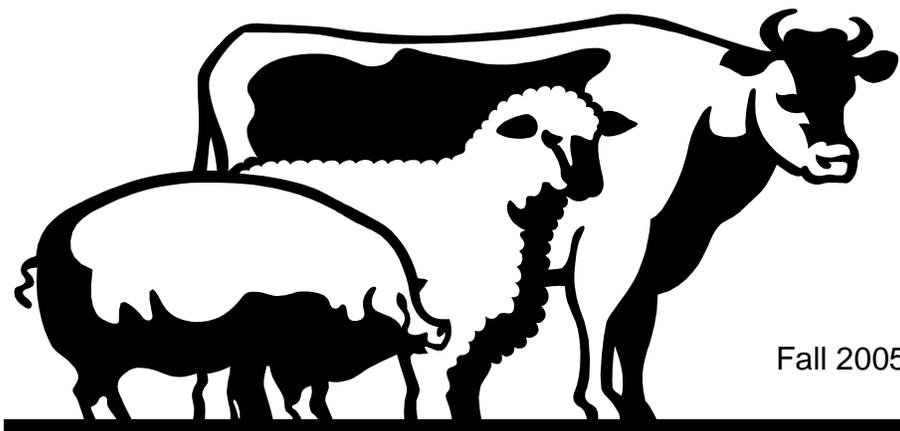
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