**UW-Extension Education Committee Jan. 8th – Feb. 9th 2016 Trisha Wagner Agriculture Agent**

**Becoming the Employer of Choice – two-day pilot program, in two NW region locations**

Becoming the Employer of Choice is pilot program I lead and co-developed with agriculture agents in the NW UW Extension region. The program is for current and future dairy farm managers/owners looking to improve their human resource management skills. The program included activities to engage managers to increase management awareness and ability. Inter-active sessions were designed to build skills related to hiring, training, motivation, conflict management, communication, and leadership. The program included the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® personality inventory. This inventory provides the opportunity for participants to view their personality in relation to leadership and management styles. The program also included discussions on legal aspects of human resource management and farm manager/owner responsibilities, as well as Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) related to dairy farm worker safety and training.

**UWEX Grain marketing meeting series**

Area farmers attended the grain marketing meeting, hosted by UW-Extension and area agribusiness.  The first session was held in Melrose.Nathan Frise of Cargill and Brenda Boetel of UW-River Falls discussed the grain and livestock market, providing an update of market forces –domestic and international, and outlook for 2016.  Shawn Conley, UW small grains specialist discussed with growers the Soybean Yield Gap project.  The Yield Gap project will identify the key factors that preclude the State’s Soybean Producers from obtaining yields that should be potentially possible on their respective individual farms, and how farmers can participate in the program. (35)

**IoH/WI Act 377 update meetings**

By the request of the Jackson County Sheriff Patrol I organized a training for all patrol members on the new laws pertaining to farm implements of husbandry and agriculture commercial motor vehicle operation. New laws have been passed related to lighting and marking of agricultural equipment based on width and length, as well as changes to permitting for overweight equipment. The new laws are in large part due to current law being out of date, and a proactive approach to bigger equipment being used. UW-Extension Ag Safety and Health specialist Cheryl Skjolaas and Lt. Michael Klingenberg provided the presentations for the Sheriff’s Dept. and a separate training session for farmers in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties. (20, 45)

**Farm Succession farmer roundtable discussion group**

The recent farm succession peer group discussion focused on fair vs. equal in the treatment of farm heirs, focusing on examples used to treat heirs fairly however not necessarily equally, while ensuring that the successor has the opportunity to continue the farm business. Chuck Steiner, manager of the Pioneer farm at UW-Platteville shared examples, and tools to help farmers analyze the business value at the time a succession joins the operation.

**Add’n programs/projects:**

* NW region HRM plan meeting, 1/12
* Dairy Partner newsletter – article author (skidsteer safety near manure storage) 1/14, 15, 27
* Map of Jackson County Produce Farms mtg 1/18
* Ag financial advisor (AgFA) program update meeting 1/20
* UWEX/ANIMART collaboration – cold weather calf care podcasts 1/18, 25
* JC Fair beef weigh-in, tags, forms etc. 1/25
* HCN community gardens planning mtg 1/29
* HRM workgroup planning mtg 2/3, 4

**Add’n meetings/programs attended:**

-UW Crop Mgt conf. 1/13

-JC Dairy Promotion cmt mtg 1/21

-JC livestock edu mtg 1/27

-Faculty Senate teleconf. 2/2

-Farm market mtg. 2/4

-CPAG 2/5

-Small animal project mtg 2/9

**Farm visits/consults:**

* Janke, haylage pricing 1/08, 12
* Brauner, tomato pollination 1/08, 12
* Schultz, HRM 1/11
* Lien, town edu resources 1/11, 13
* Stetzer, Wi farm center 1/14
* Gearing, pasture rental 1/14
* Boehm, contract laws 1/15
* Row/Hagedorn, facility rental 1/19
* Boice, land values 1/20
* Hunter, hort proj. 1/21
* Kinning, nutrient mgt 1/25, 2/9
* Wagner, nutrient mgt 1/29, 2/1
* Laufenberg, Burnett, livestock programs 1/29
* Hoefer, fruit tree pruning 2/1
* Lasiter, custom rates, CRP 1/22
* Nick (northbend) beg. agribusiness 1/22
* JIA Schwietzer, farmers market surveys 1/22,27
* Laufenberg, Janke, misc. committee work 1/25
* Call, CRP custom rates 1/25