

EXTENSION VIEWS

A Product of Extension Clark County

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Extension

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CLARK COUNTY

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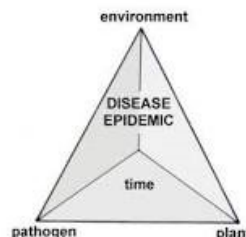
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Questions from My Desk

*Richard Halopka, CCA
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Tar spot was identified in cornfields in Clark County in the fall of 2021. So does that mean tar spot will be a concern in 2022 and beyond?

Before we assume tar spot will be a problem in 2022, we need to understand how a disease causes economic damage in a crop. For a disease to infect and cause economic loss, four factors must be present. This is called a disease pyramid. See diagram below.



UC ANR

From the diagram, four factors must be in place before a disease will cause economic loss in a crop.

1. There is a need for a virulent pathogen.
2. The plant must be susceptible to the pathogen.
3. There is a need for correct environmental conditions to support the pathogen.
4. The pathogen and plant need time for the disease to infect the plant.

After reviewing a number of publications on tar spot, I will reference an article in the March-April issue of Crops & Soils, "Tar Spot: A New Fungus Amongus".

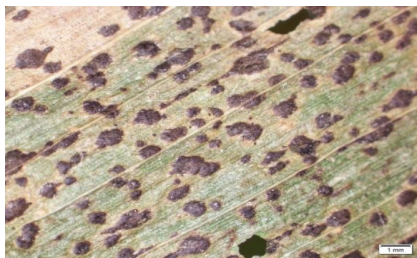
To begin the conversation will tar spot be a concern in 2022. No one will know until the 2022 growing season is completed. Chances are there will be tar spot in Wisconsin. Remember the four components that allow the disease to infect the crop. Tar spot can reduce yields up to 60 bushels per acre in severe cases.

Continued on page 2

This newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,400 farmers and agriculture businesses in Central Wisconsin at a cost of .70 per newsletter. County budgets are tight and each department has been asked to reduce expenses. If you would like to view the Extension Views newsletter online versus receiving a paper copy please contact the UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5121 / mariah.stange@co.clark.wi.us. You can view the newsletter on our webpage at: <https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/extension-views/> Thank you for considering this option!

Continued from page 1 "Questions"...

Tar spot has brown raised spots on leaves that will not wipe off the leaf, like tar. Other diseases look similar, so positive identification is crucial. See picture below.



Iowa State education tar spot

How can a farmer reduce the risk of tar spot reducing yields in 2022?

1. Prevention: Select high resistant hybrids with a good disease package.
2. Scout fields: Don't assume you have a disease because you read about it in the area; scout the field, identify the disease, and make management decisions with information you have. Tar spot requires about three weeks to display symptoms after spores are released from crop residue.
3. Download an app: Dr. Damon Smith and a group of colleagues have developed an app located at this link: <https://ipcm.wisc.edu/apps/tarspotter/> download the app and depending on current weather conditions will help make management decisions related to if or when to apply fungicides.
4. Apply the right fungicide: If applying fungicides, use the "2ee" here is a link for fungicides: <https://crop-protection-network.s3.amazonaws.com/publications/fungicide-efficacy-for-control-of-corn-diseases-filename-2021-07-14-205804.pdf>
5. Only use a fungicide after consulting the previous data and then determine if there will be an economic gain.

Using a fungicide is the last choice after evaluating and identifying the disease in the field.

What could a farmer consider going into 2022 and beyond to reduce or prevent tar spot?

1. Reduced "wetness" length of time will help prevent tar spot. This may only happen if you are under irrigation.
2. Rotate crops: If a field has a history of tar spot, an alternative crop may be a good option.
3. Residue management: Burying residue will not eliminate disease spores.
4. Consider early harvest: Corn may lodge when infected and harvesting earlier and paying some drying cost may be cheaper than delaying harvest and taking lodging losses.

To summarize tar spot concerns going into the 2022 growing season:

1. Be aware of the disease presence and monitor reports from your area.
2. Scout fields for disease.
3. Download the app to help make management decisions.
4. Don't just spray a fungicide, fungicide should be used only when conditions favor an infection in the corn crop.
5. Weather patterns may prevent tar spot infection in 2022, we will not know until harvest.

Moving forward if you have questions or concerns talk with your agronomist or agriculture extension educator, my information: richard.halopka@wisc.edu.

Four locations in Clark County will be observed for alfalfa quality measurements in 2022. Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) stick measurements estimate the current relative feed value of the growing alfalfa so farmers can estimate when harvest should begin.

The results will be reported to our county webpage <https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/peaq-stick-results/> or you may call (715) 743-5124 and listen to the message for the current PEAQ stick results that week. Depending on weather conditions, PEAQ stick reporting will probably begin about May 16, 2022 and will be updated at least twice during the week.

If you have questions about PEAQ stick measurements, please call Richard Halopka, at (715) 743-5121 or email: richard.halopka@wisc.edu

Missed out on the in-person PAT sessions and still need to renew your PAT license? The self-study option is still available to do at the Extension office. For more information or to set up a date and time, call 715-743-5121.

Estimating Alfalfa RFV in the Field Using PEAQ

Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality



Step 1: Choose a representative 2-square-foot area in the field.

Step 2: Determine the most mature stem in the 2-square-foot sampling area using the criteria shown in the table at right.

Step 3: Measure the length of the tallest stem in the 2-square-foot area. Measure it from the soil surface (next to plant crown) to the tip of the stem (NOT to the tip of the highest leaf blade). Straighten the stem for an accurate measure of its length. The tallest stem may not be the most mature stem.

Step 4: Based on the most mature stem and length of the tallest stem, use the chart at the right to determine estimated RFV content of the standing alfalfa forage.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1 to 4 in four or five representative areas across the field. Sample more times for fields larger than 30 acres.

NOTE: This procedure estimates alfalfa RFV content of the standing crop. It does not account for changes in quality due to wilting, harvesting, and storage. These factors may further lower RFV content by 10 to 25 units, assuming good wilting and harvesting conditions. This procedure is most accurate for good stands of pure alfalfa with healthy growth.



PEAQ Stick

| Height of Tallest Stem (from soil surface to stem tip) | Stage of Most Mature Stem | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | LATE VEGETATIVE | BUD STAGE | FLOWER STAGE |
| | Vegetative (>12") No buds visible | 1 or more nodes with visible buds. No flowers visible | 1 or more nodes with open flower(s) |
| -inches- | -----Relative Feed Value----- | | |
| 16 | 237 | 225 | 210 |
| 17 | 230 | 218 | 204 |
| 18 | 224 | 212 | 198 |
| 19 | 217 | 207 | 193 |
| 20 | 211 | 201 | 188 |
| 21 | 205 | 196 | 183 |
| 22 | 200 | 190 | 178 |
| 23 | 195 | 185 | 174 |
| 24 | 190 | 181 | 170 |
| 25 | 185 | 176 | 166 |
| 26 | 180 | 172 | 162 |
| 27 | 175 | 168 | 158 |
| 28 | 171 | 164 | 154 |
| 29 | 167 | 160 | 151 |
| 30 | 163 | 156 | 147 |
| 31 | 159 | 152 | 144 |
| 32 | 155 | 149 | 140 |
| 33 | 152 | 145 | 137 |
| 34 | 148 | 142 | 134 |
| 35 | 145 | 139 | 131 |
| 36 | 142 | 136 | 128 |
| 37 | 138 | 133 | 126 |
| 38 | 135 | 130 | 123 |
| 39 | 132 | 127 | 121 |
| 40 | 129 | 124 | 118 |
| 41 | 127 | 122 | 115 |
| 42 | 124 | 119 | 113 |

Secure Milk and Beef Supply Planning

By Sandy Stuttgen, DVM
Extension Taylor County Agriculture Educator

Biosecurity means keeping your herd secure from biological threats, including the bacteria and viruses that make cattle sick. It involves recognizing and identifying common (or endemic) biological risks associated with the introduction of new cattle and the movement of cattle and traffic within your operation. The goal is to prevent, reduce, control, or eliminate each risk identified. Work with your advisors to learn about the common risks in your area and evaluate your herd's resistance to control or eliminate them.

Protect your herd by setting receiving vaccination and nutrition protocols, and a receiving pen location for those cattle that are coming on to the operation with either known or unknown health histories. Isolation is key to reduce the spread of disease by eliminating the direct nose-to-nose contact between incoming cattle and the farm's resident cattle for 30 days. Ask for disease test results before purchasing animals and/or plan to test all stock entering the herd for diseases that could jeopardize your resident cattle. All transport trucks and trailers should be clean and follow a designated path within your operation. The loading/unloading areas, including the dead stock removal, should be located on the perimeter of the operation.

Use signs to label the entrances to your property and designate the parking areas. Keep a record of all visitors to the farm. Limit people's access and have a designated path to cattle housing and treatment areas, and to feed mixing and storage areas and feed bunks.

This process of limiting access is known as maintaining a Line of Separation (LOS). A LOS is a clearly defined boundary around and within the premise that separates on-farm traffic from off-farm traffic. It's used to prevent disease from entering or moving about the farm on vehicles, equipment, and people. Now we cannot always control where the animals, rodents, wildlife, dogs, and cats will move about the farm; but we can control people movement. Shoes, tires, clothing, equipment, all these things associated with people, pose movement risks for spreading disease on your operation.

Think in your mind's eye or use satellite imagery (such as Google Earth) to view an aerial map of your operation. Now draw the outside line of separation around the perimeter of your property. Then draw the internal lines of separation to restrict access and designate travel within your operation to your youngstock areas, feeding areas, hospital pens, etc. Maintaining these lines of separation should be part of your daily biosecurity plan against the common diseases in your area.

It's also important to work to prevent your herd from uncommon things including a foreign animal disease. Controlling the spread of a foreign animal disease will require stopping all movement of animals and animal products including milk, semen, embryos, manure, from an infected premise and the farms nearest that premise.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) serves as the example that Secure Milk Supply and Secure Beef Supply use for controlling the introduction of a foreign animal disease in the United States. Controlling FMD will involve the use of Movement Permits issued by the State Veterinarian once you file your Enhanced Biosecurity Continuity of Business Plan with the State Veterinarian.

You can begin your biosecurity planning by first obtaining your Wisconsin Premise Identification Number from <https://datcp.wi.gov/>. Next, visit <https://securemilksupply.org/> or <https://securebeef.org> to learn more about FMD and writing operation specific enhanced biosecurity and continuity of business plans.

Buying & Selling Standing Hay

Richard Halopka, CCA
Senior Outreach Specialist
UW-Madison Division of Extension Clark County

A common question this time of the year is what is standing hay worth? Before just giving an answer, some questions need to be considered before an answer can be determined. For this transaction to occur, both parties need to agree on some guidance to arrive at a price for standing hay.

1. Both parties must agree on a price per ton of dry matter (DM) forage.
2. Both parties must agree on a yield of DM per acre.
3. Both parties must agree on harvest costs if the purchaser is harvesting the forage.
4. Both parties must agree on if it is the price for all the crops for the season or if it is a single crop.

First, average yields in central Wisconsin are 3.5 - 4 tons of DM per acre for the season.

Second, both parties must agree on a price per ton of DM. A good guideline is the hay market report found here:

<https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/hay-market-report/>.

Third, harvest costs generally run \$50.00 to \$60.00 per acre.

Fourth, we need to know how many crops the purchaser is buying.

After these four items are determined, we can now provide an example of how to calculate the price per acre for standing hay. The scenario is both parties agree on \$200.00 per ton for hay, 4 ton/acre DM yield, harvest costs are \$60.00 per acre, and it is for all of the cuttings for the season. Here is the math:

Convert \$200.00/ton to DM price, $\$200.00/0.85 = \$235.00/\text{ton}/\text{DM}$. Now multiply by 4 tons/DM, $\$235.00 \times 4 = \940.00 per acre for the season. Then subtract harvest costs and both parties agreed on 3 cuttings, $3 \times \$60.00 = \180.00 . Now subtract from $\$940.00 - \$180.00 = \$760.00$ per acre for the season on standing hay.

Now, what if they want to only buy a cutting? First crop will yield about 50% of the yield for the season. If our yield is 4 tons/DM, divide $\$760.00/4 = \190.00 per ton. First cutting would be worth \$380.00 per acre and each following cut would yield about 25% or 1 ton DM/acre or \$190.00 per acre.

What if we are weighing the loads as 40% DM haylage coming off the field and all considerations already mentioned are in play? So our price with harvest costs removed is \$190.00/DM ton. Now multiply by your DM percentage, $\$190.00 \times 0.40 = \76.00 per ton of haylage. Now, what if we are baling hay and weighing the loads? Dry hay would be about 80% DM coming off the field, so $\$190.00 \times 0.80 = \$152.00/\text{ton}$ of hay.

If you'd like, you can find an app here (found under the feed pricing tools drop-down box): <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/decision-tools-and-software/> to help you determine a standing hay price.

If you have more questions on pricing crops or other crop production questions, please let me know at richard.halopka@wisc.edu or call 715-743-5121.



Dairy Situation and Outlook, April 20, 2022
By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Milk prices continue well above a year ago. The Class III price being above \$20 averaged \$5.27 higher January through March than a year ago. The Class IV price being above \$23 averaged \$10.30 higher January through March than a year ago. April prices will strengthen more. The Class III price will be near \$24.25, about \$6.60 higher than a year ago and the Class IV price will be near \$25.25, about \$9.80 higher than a year ago.

Higher Class III has been driven by higher cheese prices. Dry whey which was as high as \$0.8575 per pound back in February has been in the low \$0.60's and is now \$0.6350 per pound. This has the effect of lowering the Class III price by about \$1.30. But higher cheese prices have more than offset this. The 40-pound cheddar block price has been higher than March all of April ranging from \$2.2625 to \$2.3975 per pound and is now \$2.3350. The cheddar barrel price also averaged higher than March all of April ranging from \$2.2675 to \$2.44 per pound and is now \$2.3425. The higher Class IV price has been driven by higher butter and nonfat dry milk prices. Butter in April has ranged from \$2.71 to \$2.7825 per pound and is now \$2.72. Nonfat dry milk was \$1.85 per pound early April but has weakened some to \$1.7925.

Domestic sales of butter and cheese continue to run above year ago levels while fluid (beverage) milk sales have been running about 3% below a year ago. Sales are expected to continue above a year ago with food service improving as restaurants continue to return to more normal. However, inflation has reduced consumer spending power and could dampen domestic sales.

While dairy export volume continues to run below year ago levels they remain at a level to support milk prices. The volume of February exports on a milk solids equivalent basis was 1% lower than a year ago, the third straight monthly decline. The decline is due to a 11.5% decline in nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports and a 4.5% decline in whey product exports. Lower nonfat dry milk/skim milk exports were led by lower exports to the two top markets, Mexico and Southeast Asia. Lower exports of dry whey to the number one market, China led the decline in whey exports. While 2022 exports will be hard to match the record 2021 exports, exports should remain relatively strong as all U.S. dairy products are price competitive with Oceania and Western Europe and milk production in these two regions continue to run below a year ago.

But the major driver of much higher milk prices is milk production. March milk production for the U.S. was estimated to being 0.5% lower than 2021, the third consecutive decline from a year ago. The decline in milk production was due to fewer milk cows and slight increase in milk per cow. March milk cows were 87,000 fewer, a decline of 0.9% and milk per cow was up just 0.4%. Milk cow numbers after peaking in May 2021 declined month to month June through January of this year but reversed the decline with 3,000 added cows in February and another 5,000 in March. However, of the twenty-four reporting states just eight of the following states added cows February to March: Texas 7,000, New Mexico 4,000, Ohio and South Dakota 2,000 with Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Washington each adding 1,000. Just two reduced cow numbers February to March, Florida, and Pennsylvania by 1,000 each. By March of the twenty-four reporting states only six had more cows in March than February with fourteen having fewer cows and four with no change.

Of the twenty-four reporting states just seven had higher milk production in March than a year ago. States leading the increase in March milk production over a year ago were South Dakota 20%, Georgia 8.6%, and Texas 6.7%. The other states with increases milk production were Oregon 1.3%, Iowa 0.8%, California 0.5%, and Wisconsin 0.2%. Sixteen states had lower March milk production than a year ago. Decreases in March milk production were led by Florida 10.7%, and New Mexico 9.3% with declines in some other states of 2.9% in Michigan, 2.6% in Minnesota, 1.3% in Arizona and 1.0% in New York.

USDA is forecasting no increase in 2022 milk production over 2021. Milk cows are forecasted to average 78,000 fewer than 2021, a 0.8% decline and milk per cow to increase just 0.9%. Milk production could increase some second half of the year. But higher feed costs, labor costs, building costs, cost to plant and harvest this year's crops and fewer available dairy replacements will curtail increases in milk production. This means milk prices well above a year ago for the remainder of the year. Current dairy futures have Class III in the \$24's through July and then in the \$23's for the remaining of the year. Class IV is in the \$24's and \$25's through November. It is not certain milk prices this high will materialize but it seems unlikely prices would drop below \$20.

Plow It Up In 2022?

Matt Lippert

Input prices are up! Milk and cattle prices are up! Feed costs bought or sold, are up! Many livestock producers are wondering if they should be strategic and make big changes from their normal intended cropping plan. Nationally, planting intentions have shifted strongly to soybeans, but will it really happen? The shift to soybeans is based on exceptional prices available and lower fertilizer costs with beans than for corn. Interestingly, the switch away from corn in planting intentions is not as pronounced in Wisconsin than for other states. Why?

I would suggest as the dairy state we look at cropping plans differently than the rest of the country. Our livestock industry makes a lot of manure. Don't be looking at manure as a waste product this year (really never). Test your manure, incorporate the manure timely, and spread it on the fields that need it most, don't over-apply only to underapply elsewhere. If fertilizer has doubled in value, so has manure. Rising fuel costs make manure application more expensive; still, there may be more opportunities to move it further with its added value. If you are going to be strategic, be strategic with the manure.

If you are in the livestock business for the long term and you need forage, you can only get aggressive about plowing up hay acres if you have enough forage in inventory to feed the cattle.

Things you can do:

- Turn over old and damaged stands that are going to be low yield anyhow. Take the nitrogen credit from legumes or the 15% increase in yield you can expect from first-year corn vs. continuous corn. To determine what is an adequate stand, review: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/alfalfa-stand-assessment-is-this-stand-good-enough-to-keep/> Older crowns, if healthy will have more stems, Halopka recommends 4 crowns or 40 stems minimum to continue the alfalfa stand. The stem count is a more precise indicator of yield potential.
- If you have been growing continuous corn, consider breaking up the rotation with soybeans, perennial, or annual forages. Since corn will be expensive to grow, make sure it all has high yield potential possible with crop rotation. Some will say, "I can't afford to buy corn, so I will not add soybeans to the crop rotation." Do you purchase protein? Is there a real reason to protect corn supplies and not worry about exposure to protein costs?
- Make sure you have legumes providing economical protein in your hay and cocktail mixes. Interseed legumes into stands or start new legume rich stands. If the stand is poor this year you should rotate to corn rather than no-tilling in legumes unless it really is good enough that you want to keep it.
- This spring you could plant moderate maturity corn, follow quickly with winter cereals and get that field to give you high-quality forage and grain in the same year. AND you are protecting your soil over winter by doing so. The very best midseason hybrids give up very little yield to full-season hybrids and drying will be expensive next fall.

Growing your own feed- forage, grain, and protein is one of the most practical hedges against the higher feed costs we are facing this year. Wisconsin dairy producers typically grow feed and milk cows, we grow our own feed more so than any other area of the country. In the West, Midwest corn and protein is purchased, in the South high-quality forage is scarce, in the East nearly all of the corn is purchased. If you have enough feed produced you can also participate in the strong commodity grain market by selling surplus in a year such as this year. Harvest time prices can be locked in today to take that risk away as well. This is not the year to build inventory if your supplies are already adequate. This is not the year to purchase fertilizer to build soil levels either. Manage costs, but not at the expense of yield and quality. If careful, this year could be a great year for livestock producers and grain producers.

When feed commodities are short, you definitely want your A-team out in the field.

CONSERVATION CORNER



Jim Arch, CCA
Clark County Land Conservationist

Greetings from the Land Conservation Department!

I am sure you are ready for spring weather as much as I am. It has been a long winter and everyone is chomping at the bit to get going.

Just some updates on the employees in the department. Shirley Iwanski, the office program assistant, very sadly passed away in January and Sheri Denowski, the engineering technician, has moved on to be the Land Conservationist in Marinette County. Tiffanee Tesmer has replaced Shirley and Hunter Lemler is now the engineering technician for the department.

If you are looking at doing any work this summer requiring engineering services, I'd recommend contacting an engineer soon because from what I am hearing their phones have been busy this spring. Remember for manure storage and transfer systems you will need a private engineer to do soil test pits, a design that meets the standards, a nutrient management plan, and then we need time for our review process.

Reminder: If you are required by the department to do a nutrient management plan (NMP), the deadline to get it to us was April 1st. If we do not have it by May 15th, citations will start being sent out.

The county no-till drill will be available to rent again this year. The reservation list is growing, so it would be a good idea to call to get on the list if you are interested in using it. I also keep a list of other entities in the county that rent out no-till drills in case ours is busy or you would like to use a bigger one.

Oh No! My manure pit is about to overtop, what should I do? This spring should be a reminder that every year the weather in Wisconsin is different, the spring of 2022 is no exception. Do you remember last spring how good soil conditions were for emptying your manure storage? The first thing you do not want to do is let your storage overtop. There is a reason for the one-foot freeboard rule; to give you some time to figure out what to do before your storage overtops. You could try pumping some out onto fields that may allow tankers or draglines to travel; then when soil conditions are better, pump the remainder out of your storage as you normally would. You may also be able to find a neighbor that has some extra room in their manure storage where you can take some of your manure until soil conditions permit field applications. Hauling manure to a municipal treatment facility could be an option but it's not very cost-effective as the costs for treating manure at a treatment plant can be expensive. The bottom line is you should be thinking of a worst-case scenario. Do you remember the spring of 2013? When farmers were hauling manure, planting corn, and making hay all at the same time at the end of June because it didn't stop raining until then? If you are trying to figure out how much liquid per day is added to your manure storage by your cows, you can figure approximately 32 gallons per day, per 1400-pound Holstein cow. This includes manure, urine, and milk house waste. This does not include precipitation from the sky that also ends up in your manure storage unless your manure storage is under your barn of course.

I hope you have a successful growing season and take care!

As always, any questions or concerns, please call the Land Conservation Department at 715-743-5102.

When to Harvest First Cutting of Forages

Richard Halopka, CCA

Senior Outreach Specialist UW-Madison Division of Extension Clark County Crops & Soils

How can I determine when to harvest the first cutting of forages in Wisconsin?

Many farm managers will want to go by a calendar date, however if you look at 10 years of data from my former colleague Mike Rankin (table 1) that date could be prior to May 20th to after June 1st depending on weather conditions that spring and the type of forage in the field.

First, the livestock we are feeding will determine forage quality we need to harvest. If a dairy farm needs 170 relative feed value (RFV) coming out of storage, then harvesting standing forage will begin at 190 RFV.

Second, what type of forage do you have in the field? A grass stand will start growing sooner in spring and will begin to mature based on day length not growing degree days (GDD), while GDD will drive maturity of alfalfa when the stand is a mix of grass and alfalfa. A clover stand can be another consideration.

We need to build a better mousetrap to determine when to harvest forages. Two methods:

1. Scissor clipping: This method works best for grass and alfalfa mixed stands (legume & grass). The key for scissor clipping is to clip the sample about the same height, as you would harvest with your mower to be accurate, collect the sample in a plastic bag remove oxygen, and take it directly to the lab. A cost will be involved to pay for the lab analysis.
2. Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ): OK, this will only work if alfalfa is present in a stand. As a farmer, you could purchase a PEAQ stick from your local forage association council or contact Midwest Forage Association. Understand a PEAQ stick will only determine RFV of alfalfa. The ease of it is once you purchase the PEAQ stick you will have no cost. PEAQ stick measurements are as accurate as scissor clipping results as the crop matures, remember we are determining RFV, not relative feed quality (RFQ), which is a different calculation used to determine feed quality, but RFV is accurate to determine when to harvest first cutting alfalfa. A PEAQ stick has four sides: one is a measuring stick the other three identify alfalfa stage of growth, vegetative, bud, and bloom. Begin early in season using vegetative side, as buds become present turn a quarter turn and measure height, if a bloom is present now turn another quarter turn and measure plant height. The PEAQ stick is accurate to aid you as a manager to harvest your forage to attain the quality forage you desire. Now remember harvesting and storage if mismanaged may not yield the result you desire, even when harvesting at the correct maturity.

As mentioned you will need to begin harvest about 20 points above your desired forage RFV. If you have a mixed stand of alfalfa/grass/clover measure the alfalfa to determine the stage of growth and current RFV estimate of the alfalfa, if the grass has a seed head beginning to move upward in the grass sheath you may want to cut sooner than later.

Now another method to keep you informed of forage quality changes during the spring is to visit this site:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/scissorsclip/>. A number of Extension agriculture educators are collecting data and posting it on this site each week during the spring season. In addition, many will have reports on local radio or web sites with forage changes each week.

To summarize, using a calendar date to cut first crop forage may not be the best method, as there is no correlation between calendar date and RFV of forages. Scissor clipping is a very good method, but will involve more work and some cost each time you would check a sample, but may be the best method for grass or mixed forage stands.

The PEAQ stick will provide a low cost investment alternative to determine harvest timing for alfalfa or you could follow the UW-Extension site for the changes of forage quality each spring.

First cutting of forage will supply about 50% of your forage needs for the year and you know that in the dairy business you need quality forage. If you have questions on PEAQ or scissor clipping, please contact your county Extension Agriculture Educator or myself at

richard.halopka@wisc.edu.

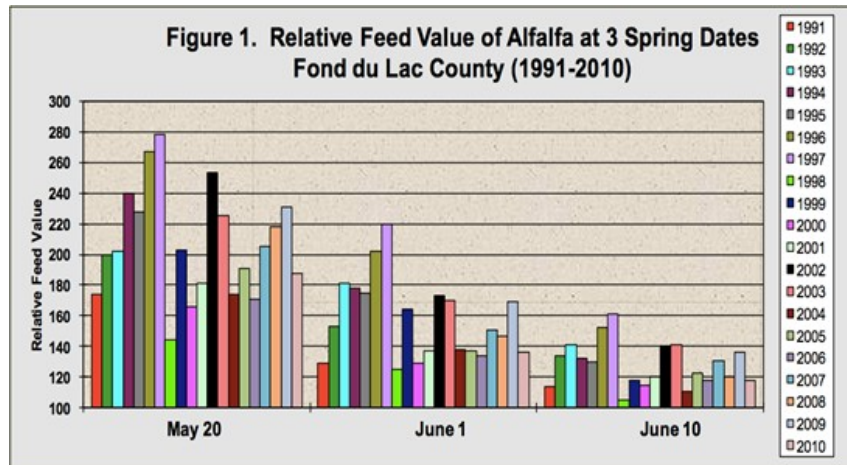


Table 1

UPCOMING WEBINARS

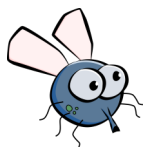


Farm Ready Research

Extension's agriculture winter webinar meeting series for farmers and ag professionals. To see the full list of topics 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 session.

Farm Ready Research webinars continue until May 2022.

May 10 | 7:30 pm—8:30 pm
SRW—All About Arlington



Every single fly controlled in April reduces the number of flies in the season by one million.

Farm Technology Days 2022

July 12th—14th

Roehl Acres Farm of Loyal

Interested in helping out at Farm Technology Days?

Volunteers are needed! There are opportunities to help before, during, and following the show.

Contact Chuck Rueth at 715-255-8387 or 715-613-8387 for more information.



Where Tradition and Technology Meet

NCWCA Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation

Saturday, May 7, 2022, beginning at 8 am at

Equity Stratford, 214910 State Highway 97

RSVP required by May 1 by calling Todd at

715-507-2400 to schedule your appointment:

- Leave your name, a phone number, and the number of bulls you are bringing. You will receive a call back with your appointment.
- Arrive on time for your appointment. For biosecurity and safety, remain in your truck until told by processing crew to do otherwise.

Cost: \$35/bull/NCWCA member, \$45/bull/non-NCWCA member

Checks payable to NCWCA. Same day membership available. Pour-on deworming and vaccinations also available.

Dairy and Beef bulls are welcome! Having pregnant cows is key to the cow/calf herd's bottom line. If your operation uses natural mating, then how well the bull performs is a major factor. One-third of all bulls do not successfully get cows pregnant. Sub-fertile bulls may be worth more at the market than remaining in your herd.

CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) CONFIRMED IN WISCONSIN FLOCKS - On March 14, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced Wisconsin's first confirmed case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), also known as the "bird flu." On March 31, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stated that HPAI has also been detected in wild birds throughout Wisconsin. Wild bird species infected include the Cooper hawk, bald eagle, lesser scaup, red-tailed hawk, Canada goose, and trumpeter swan. As of April 15, 2022, there were seven confirmed HPAI-positive premises in Wisconsin counties within domestic flocks (Jefferson, Rock, Racine, Barron, Columbia, Polk, and Sheboygan).

Avian influenza is a highly pathogenic virus that generally only affects birds. The virus circulates among the wild bird population and can change and mutate like many other flu viruses. Avian influenza can affect various birds, including migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese) and poultry (chicken and turkeys). Birds act as hosts to influenza viruses by carrying the virus in their intestines and shedding it in bodily fluids, such as saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Other birds become infected when they come in contact with these fluids. Humans can become infected through contact with infected poultry or contaminated fluids.

Avian flu can spread from birds to people and cause serious illness and even death. Fortunately, avian influenza has not mutated to a point where it could easily spread from person to person. People who have gotten sick with avian influenza have been in direct contact with infected birds. According to the CDC, HPAI does not present an immediate public health concern, and no human cases of avian influenza have been found in the United States.

HPAI viruses are highly contagious and often fatal to domestic poultry. The virus can be spread by contact with infected birds, equipment, or clothing worn by those working with the animals. Signs of HPAI in infected birds include:

- Sudden death, possibly without clinical signs
- Decrease in egg production or soft-shelled/misshapen eggs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Difficulty breathing
- Stumbling, falling down
- Diarrhea

Birds on properties that are infected with HPAI are depopulated to prevent the spread of disease, and their products do not enter the food system. If an unknowingly infected bird enters the system, proper handling and cooking poultry to an internal temperature of at least 165°F will kill the virus.

DATCP continues to encourage everyone in Wisconsin working with or around poultry to practice enhanced biosecurity measures to protect their flocks including:

- Implement enhanced biosecurity practices on your premises. This includes sanitation and restricting the movement of people, animals, and equipment. The U.S. Poultry & Egg Association's biosecurity checklist and self-assessment can help (www.uspoultry.org/programs/poultry-health/biosecurity/self-assessment/ah-checklist.cfm).
- Discourage co-mingling of waterfowl and domestic birds and poultry; move all birds indoors if possible.
- Prevent access to surface water and the surrounding environment by poultry and prevent wild birds' access to poultry feed, water, and other environments strictly for poultry.

"As avian influenza continues to affect poultry in Wisconsin and throughout the nation, we're reminding flock owners that strong biosecurity is our best defense against this devastating disease," said State Veterinarian Dr. Darlene Konkle. "We urge everyone working around poultry to increase their biosecurity measures and continue reporting signs of illness to help us prevent the spread of the virus."

As a reminder, it is required that any person housing birds, either for commercial practices or in a "backyard" flock have them registered. Premise registration can be completed on the premises registration webpage. For more information on HPAI and, more specifically, biosecurity, visit DATCP's HPAI in Wisconsin page.

- Premises Registration: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PremisesRegistration.aspx
- DATCP's HPAI in Wisconsin: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HPAIWisconsin.aspx

Anyone who observes sick or dead birds should minimize contact with them. Do not touch dead birds or wildlife with your bare hands. If you have to touch a dead bird, wear gloves or use a plastic bag to put it in the garbage. Wash your hands with soap and water after handling and throw away any gloves.

Please immediately report domestic or wild bird **illness and/or death** to the Clark County Health Officer/Director-Brittany Mews at 715-743-5106. For **general questions regarding HPAI**, please contact Dillon Brost, Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian at 715-743-5116.



JUNE DAIRY BREAKFASTS 2022



| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Sunday June 5 7:00 AM—12:00 PM | Abbotsford Dairy Breakfast | Ensign Rolling Acres Evan & Taylor Ensign 107645 County Line Rd Dorchester, WI 54425 | Pancakes, maple syrup, sausages, cheese, butter, applesauce, cookies, juice, coffee, milk, and ice cream | Ages 6 to Adult—\$5.00 Ages 5 and under - Free |
| Sunday June 12 7:00 AM—12:30 PM | Granton Dairy Breakfast | JC Walter Farm Jim & Caroline Walter N5136 Pray Ave Granton, WI 54436 | Pancakes, special eggs, sausage, cheese curds, applesauce, ice cream, maple syrup, milk, juice, and coffee | Adults—\$7.00 Ages 6-11 —\$4.00 Ages 5 and under —Free |
| Sunday June 12 7:00 AM—12:00 PM | Neillsville Dairy Breakfast | Brad & Christine Boon N6634 State Hwy 73 Greenwood, WI 54437 | Pancakes (plain & blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese curds, applesauce, ice cream, milk, coffee, and orange juice | Adults—\$7.00 Ages 6 to 10—\$3.00 Ages 5 and under—Free |
| Saturday June 18 7:00 AM—11:00 AM | Owen-Withee Dairy Breakfast | Withee Days Pavilion | | |
| Sunday June 19 7:00 AM—12:30 PM | Loyal Dairy Breakfast | Roehl Acres W4015 26th Rd Loyal, WI 54456 | Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese curds, applesauce, ice cream, milk, orange juice, and coffee | Adults—\$7.00 Ages 6 to 12—\$3.00 Ages 5 and under—Free |
| Sunday June 26 7:00 AM—12:00 PM | Colby Dairy Breakfast | Gumz Farms Inc. Susan & Duwayne/ Dustin & Cody Gumz 227715 County Rd F Colby, WI 54421 | Pancakes, sausage, applesauce, cheese curds, cookies, and milk | \$6.00 per plate |
| Sunday June 26 7:00 AM—12:00 PM | Greenwood Dairy Breakfast | Jeremy & Hannah Olson N10338 Owen Ave Greenwood, WI 54437 | Pancakes, potato pancakes, eggs, sausage, cheese, cheese curds, applesauce, butter, syrup, milk, juice, coffee, water, and soft serve ice cream | Adults—\$7.00 Ages 5 to 12—\$4.00 Ages 4 and under—Free |



June Dairy Month Recipe Contest
Wednesday, June 22
Loyal City Hall—6:30 pm
Contact MaryAnne Olson for more
information at 715-743-3569

Theme this year
is PIE!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Make sure to listen to WCCN and WAXX for any cancellations

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------|
| May 1– July 1, 2022 | <i>Clark County Fair Registration</i> | fairentury.com | |
| May 7, 2022 | <i>NCWCA Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation</i> | Stratford, WI | By appointment |
| May 10, 2022 | <i>Farm Ready Research Webinar—All About Arlington</i> | Virtual | 7:30 pm |
| June 5—26 | <i>June Dairy Breakfasts</i> | See page 10 for more information | See page 11 |
| June 22, 2022 | <i>June Dairy Month Recipe Contest</i> | Loyal City Hall | 6:30 pm |
| July 12-14, 2022 | <i>Clark County Farm Technology Days</i> | Roehl Acres and Rustic Occasions Loyal, WI | |

Going to the Clark County Fair this year?

Fair Books are now available to view and download at <https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/files/2022/04/FAIRBOOK-2022.pdf>

Or call the Extension office at 715-743-5121 to pick one up in person.

**Clark County 2020 Plat Books
Are Still Available at:**

Abby State Bank - Abbotsford
BP Amoco - Neillsville
Citizens State Bank - Loyal & Granton
Clark County Extension Office
Clark County Treasurer's Office
C Store - Granton
Forward Bank - Greenwood
Thorp Courier - Thorp
Hene Supply - Withee

**Demographic change? No longer wish to
receive your copy of Extension Views?
Want to view the newsletter online instead?**

Please contact the Extension office at
715-743-5121 or email
mariah.stange@co.clark.wi.us to update
your preference.

Thank you!



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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<https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/>

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