EXTENSION
VIEWS
A Product of Extension Clark County

In this issue: ..... September/October 2022

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
CLARK COUNTY

Contact Us

Extension Clark County
517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville, WI 54456
715-743-5121

Richard Halopka
Crops & Soils Agent
richard.halopka@wisc.edu

Matthew Lippert
Dairy and Livestock Agent
matthew.lippert@wisc.edu

Questions from My Desk

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

Planting Cover Crops

I would like to plant cover crops, however I am confused with some information I have received from sales persons on seed that is available. Could you provide some unbiased information on cover crops?

A good source of information is available from the Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide here is a link: https://edustore.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=ID-433 .

Soil health and water quality are in the news and many questions are asked about planting a cover crop into or after an annual crop. Benefits are live roots in the soil, which benefits soil health and stabilizes soil particles, reducing chance of soil erosion in fall and into next spring.

Therefore, a short list of cover crops are legumes, grasses, brassicas, and cereal grains. When are you planting your cover crop, is there another propose of the cover crop (example forage) and what is the goal of your cover crop? Do you want the cover to die over winter or grow into the spring? You must first address these questions before planting a cover crop in a field.

If a cover is for a delayed planting and you need forage a mixture of grasses, legumes, and brassicas may be an option if planted in June or July. They will provide cover stabilize soil and provide an emergency forage and will normally die overwinter.

Once the end of August rolls into to view, some of these crops may not be the best option. These combinations may not have enough growing degree-days to germinate and produce enough growth for forage.

August may be the month to consider some of the cereal grains. Early to mid-August, oats or other spring cereals may be a good option for a cover and possible forage. They will die before next spring as the fore mentioned group of cover crops.

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"...

Once beyond September 1 your best option may be winter cereals (example rye, wheat, and triticale). The good news is they will grow into the winter and grow into the spring and could provide early forage crop or be terminated when planting another spring crop.

With our limited growing degree-days in central Wisconsin, starting a cover crop before canopy has been removed is of interest. If you used an herbicide to control weeds, it will be in your interest to read the label and know the replant as some residual herbicides may not allow you to interseed a cover crop because of label restrictions or the herbicide may reduce or kill your cover crop. In addition, some cover crops may not be used as a forage in the spring of 2023 unless allowed on the herbicide label. You should also check with your crop insurance provider to avoid possible termination of coverage from interseeding a cover crop.

Brassicas, most of legumes, and grasses work best when planted before the end of August, which may require interseeding cover crop before harvest. It is important also to be aware of what you are buying. It is best to use cultivars of the species of cover crops you select. You want to avoid cover crop seed that is VNS (variety not stated) unless purchasing cleaned and germination tested cereal grains (example winter cereal rye).

Cover crops are a very important management tool to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health. Farmers must make tough management decisions on which crops to plant on their farm and then develop the best management practices to terminate and/or incorporate cover crops into their growing crops or after harvesting crops.

Here is some advice:

1. Understand what pays the bills. Focus on the best management of the crop you are planting to provide an economical return.
2. If you purchase crop insurance, understand the policy and manage your farm to avoid policy cancellation (including termination, harvesting or interseeding cover crops). Cover crops do work and can add to your farms bottom line. Avoid risk protection cancellation by practices not allowed in your policy.
3. Read herbicide labels. Follow replant guidelines when terminating a cover crop. Controlling weeds with multiple modes of action may be more important than the early establishment of a cover crop. Understand the pre-harvest intervals if you decide to harvest a cover crop for livestock feed when planting the previous fall.

There may be many more questions. Ask someone for advice. Your extension agent or an agronomist can help you make management decisions related to crops and planting cover crops. Crop insurance providers can provide you with valuable crop risk protection advice, but maybe not agronomy advice. It will take a team on your farm to develop the crop, cover crop plan, and risk management. Remember you are the manager of that team. If something goes awry, the manager must take on the responsibility.

Any crop questions please contact: richard.halopka@wisc.edu or 715-743-5121.

Artificial Insemination Training

When and Where

Online: Sept. 27th and 29th, 7—9 pm

In person: Oct. 6th, 4—6:30 pm

and

Oct 7th, 9 am—Noon

at

Bach Farms
W861 Co Rd A
Dorchester, WI 54425

ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO FIRST 15 PAID REGISTRANTS

Pre-registration Required with payment by SEPT. 16th, 2022

$95/Person

For more information, please reach out to Heather Schlesser at 715-261-1239 or heather.schlesser@wisc.edu or Sandy Stuttgen at 715-748-3327 ext. 1 or sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu.

Water Hemp on Your Farm 2022

Richard Halopka, CCA
Senior Outreach Specialist—Extension Clark County

I was sitting in a meeting with UW-Extension weed specialist Vince Davis, I remember his words, "It is not if you find herbicide resistant weeds, it is when you find them".

Herbicide resistant water hemp has been identified in many fields across Clark County. Farmers must take note of weeds in their fields and identify the weeds or have someone identify the weed.

Why water hemp and why now? Water hemp is not an invasive weed and it is native to Wisconsin. Why the concern? Water hemp has an unique ability to develop resistance to many herbicide modes of action. Currently it is believed to have developed resistance to six modes of action.

Why do you mention water hemp now? Water hemp will germinate later in growing season and then grows rapidly and develops a tremendous seed crop. Farmers if you are not going to scout your fields hire someone. If you notice, a weed taller than the growing crop have it identified. Resistant water hemp will take over a field or a farm.

Understand herbicide resistance can occur with all herbicide modes of action. Currently Roundup is the major concern as farmers and agronomist have relied heavily on the herbicide. The purpose of this article is not to inform you how a weed became resistant, but rather how to manage your crops to reduce the economic impact from weed competition. One point that must be made is the resistant weed does not have a gene in the plant DNA like a Roundup Ready (RR) crop. Rather, the plant develops a method to avoid death from the mode of action of an herbicide.

The herbicide resistant water hemp began as a misidentified weed. If you have a "tough" weed on your farm, identify the weed. As an agronomist or farmer, contact your local county extension agriculture educator for help to identify weeds. If the county agent isn't able to identify the weed we have a group of weed specialist's to help.

Moving forward, what can a farmer do to manage crops once an herbicide resistant weed is identified?

1. Use herbicides only when necessary. With annual crops it may be difficult to avoid the complete use of herbicides. A management change may be living with a few weeds that are not an economical drain on the crop to avoid a second herbicide pass.
2. Mode of action of an herbicide. Review A3646, Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops. Today many herbicides have generic trade names. Know the active ingredient and the herbicide's mode of action. Remember, it is important to incorporate multiple modes of action to prevent herbicide resistant weeds. The day of using one herbicide to control all weeds is history. Understand herbicide mode of action and rotate herbicides. Use different modes of action and change modes of action in future years to reduce potential herbicide resistance.
3. Develop a two-pass system of weed control. A good example would be applying a pre-emerge herbicide to soybean crop to help prevent the germination of weed seeds, follow by a multiple mode of action application post emergence.
4. Crop rotations. Many farmers have two crops in a rotation. Bringing a third or fourth crop into a rotation may provide another commodity to sell and reduce the possibility of herbicide resistance. Adding a perennial crop may reduce soil erosion compared to annual crops and reduce herbicide use. Consider the use of cover crops. Summer or fall seeded cover crops compete for nutrients, preventing weed seeds from germinating and help prevent soil erosion.
5. Integrated pest management (IPM). IPM combines the use of mechanical, cultural practices, and herbicides to control weeds. Scouting is the most important element of IPM and will identify a problem or injury and determine if there is a need to implement a pest control. If you don't have time to scout your fields, hire someone. Scouting will pay dividends every year by preventing unnecessary pesticide applications and applying pesticide only when there is a potential economic loss. With tight margins a farmer can't justify applying pesticides unless there is an economical loss from a pest.
6. Clean equipment. Unusual weed seeds arrive on farm fields from purchased equipment, livestock feed, migrating wildlife and move to other fields via equipment. Currently if there is only one field with an identified herbicide resistant weed: till, plant and harvest that field last then clean your equipment. If that is not an option, clean the equipment after working that field to prevent moving the weed seed to another field. If you are purchasing equipment clean the equipment before it is used on your farm. Purchased used equipment from other states or areas has brought some interesting weeds onto farms in Clark County. If you do custom work or use a custom operator remember to ask questions and clean equipment before the field work begins and after you're done to avoid spreading resistant weed seeds.

Herbicide resistant weeds are here. Herbicide resistance is not new, as it has happened in the past. Herbicide resistant weeds can be managed to prevent an economical loss on the farm. As a farmer, don't be afraid to ask for help, your county extension agriculture educator is a phone call away. Email me at richard.halopka@wisc.edu or call 715-743-5121.

Weed of the Month: Wild Cucumber

Richard Halopka, CCA

One weed that is visible this growing season is the growth of wild cucumber along roadsides and around building sites. Why is wild cucumber so visible in 2022? Not sure, but it may be related to weather conditions this past spring and summer that provided favorable conditions for wild cucumber to germinate and grow.

Wild cucumber is an annual native forb. Wild cucumber reproduces from seed and develops alternate triangular or lanceolate lobed leaves on a vine stem that is nearly smooth with an angular groove that may exceed 26 feet long. It will climb and spread along fence lines or into bushes or trees. It produces a greenish to yellowish-white corolla flower with a seedpod that is covered by sharp prickles containing four seeds.

Wild cucumber is valuable to game/song birds providing cover and seed. It may hinder harvest if it invades a grain crop field. Generally, wild cucumber is seen along roadways or undisturbed building site areas. Wild cucumber has been mistaken for the perennial field bindweed that is on the noxious weed list in Wisconsin. Other than limiting sunlight for the plants that it will vine over, wild cucumber will not normally cause injuries to desired plants and it will die with the first killing frost of fall.

Beef x Dairy Calves Can Be More Than Just Black

Matt Lippert, Dairy Educator

At Farm Technology Days, UW-Madison Division of Extension had on display 400 pound beef x dairy crossbred calves and week old beef x dairy crossbred calves. We wanted to show that these calves can retain varying degrees of dairy and beef characteristics. Dairy producers are enjoying better returns from marketing these calves than full blood dairy calves. To the extent that the calves have more beef traits the more value they command. Using the cheapest semen to settle a dairy cow and paint her calf black not only result in less valuable calves but depress the value of all crossbreds to the extent that poor or average performance and variability becomes the expectation.

If you feed these animals on your own farm you are also interested in maximizing the feedlot performance by creating genetically superior calves. The industry has rapidly switched over to increased beef semen use. In five years use of beef semen on dairy cows has more than doubled and is the fastest growing segment of the US AI market. Although the change has been swift, we still are learning how to make these calves as good as possible. Some things that seem to make sense:

The right beef bull for a dairy cow, on average is not the same bull for beef cows. Holstein cows have frame, height, and scale in excess, the corrective mating for this cow is different from what is best for your average Angus based cow. Jerseys however need more frame and scale, even more than the average beef cow, yet it is a common practice for AI technicians to inventory the same bull for dairy cows, Holstein or Jersey- all the same. This is not a best practice!

Dairy cows in general do well for carcass traits, such as marbling, but more internal body cavity fat than is preferred. The mating should not be to create poor marbling genetics, just be aware the dairy cow is a good component in the cross for marbling characteristics. With heavier use of AI in dairy, the national dairy herd has become more uniform than their beef counterparts. Uniformity is a great trait to optimize a slaughter facility or a feedlot.

If you open a beef sire directory from an AI company to try to figure which breeding patterns are best for your dairy cows there is a steep learning curve. Beef evaluations are calculated by each respective breed. Breeds offer similar traits but each is defined slightly differently and not with standardized terms. This is a change for a dairy producer that can expect similar procedures for a trait as calculated by the Council for Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) for all the dairy breeds. CDCB builds on a long history of USDA and DHI information to calculate their sire proofs. One thing is in common. A breed average Holstein and a breed average Jersey may both have the same proof for fat percentage and milk production but they are on different bases, and we understand that. A -0.01 PTA butterfat Jersey sire will average offspring that test 4.8, while the same PTA for a Holstein will be about a 3.8.The difference is the base level of each breed.

A nice resource to understand Beef AI sire information can be found at:

https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/understanding-beef-sire-summaries/

Dairy Situation and Outlook, August 22, 2022
By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Milk prices are moving lower. The Class III price peaked in May at $25.21, fell to $22.52 by July and August will be around $20. The Class IV price peaked in June at $25.83, declined to $25.79 in July and August will be around $24.70. Slightly higher milk production and inflation and a slowing economy dampening domestic demand are factors for the decline. Milk production which was 0.9% below a year ago January through May was just 0.1% lower in June with a 0.2% increase in July. Inflation and a slower economy have reduced restaurant traffic softening cheese and butter sales.

Dairy product prices weakened the last half of July going into August with some strengthening since then. Both lower cheese and whey prices lowered the Class III price. The 40-pound cheddar block price averaged above $2 per pound March through July with a high of $2.3399 for April. The block price started August at $1.7850 per pound, moved up and down since with today at $1.82. Cheddar barrels also average above $2 per pound March through July with a high of $2.3567 for May. Barrels started August at $1.7959, moved up and down since with today at $1.8950. The dry whey price averaged $0.5373 per pound for May, declined to $0.4694 for July and has been $0.44 to $0.45 since then.

Higher butter prices offset some of lower nonfat dry milk prices to hold up the Class IV price. Butter averaged $2.9546 per pound for June and $2.95 in July. Butter got as high as $3.06 per pound early August, declined to $2.9350 but today it was $3.02. Nonfat dry milk averaged $1.8286 per pound for June and decline do $1.6984 for July and today is $1.5325. With milk production declining seasonally and good holiday butter and cheese sales butter and cheese prices could rally some pushing up both the Class III and IV price in October and November. Butter stocks are tight. July 31st stocks were 21% below a year ago and had declined 5% since June. July 31st cheese stocks, however, were 5% higher than a year ago and had increased 1% from June.

Higher dairy exports have supported milk prices. June exports on a volume basis were 9% higher than last year and on to set a new record with the January through June volume 17% higher. June cheese exports were up 23% and butter 63%. Lower milk production in Western Europe, New Zealand and Australia and U.S. prices competitive on the world market were key factors for the increase.

Milk prices are likely to average lower in 2023. The level of milk production, domestic sales and dairy exports will determine how much lower. With last year's milk production below a year ago milk production for the remainder of this year will run higher and into next year. The 0.2% increase in July milk production was the net result of 67,000 fewer milk cows, down 0.7% and 0.9% more per cow. Milk cow numbers increased each month January through May but declined by 4,000 in June with a 1,000 increase in July. Of the twenty-four reporting states just ten had more milk cows than a year ago led by 25,000 more in Texas and 20,000 more in South Dakota. Milk production compared to a year ago for the five top states was: +2.2% for California with 4,000 more cows, Wisconsin -0.3% with 6,000 fewer cows, Idaho +1.5% with 2,000 more cows, Texas 6.0%, and New York no change with 7,000 fewer cows. South Dakota led all states with an increase in milk production of 13.1%.

High feed prices and other input costs, increased cost of building materials, labor shortages and fewer dairy replacements will hold down the increase in milk production next year. USDA forecasts a 1.1% increase in milk production from an average herd size of 15,000 more cows or a 0.2% increase and 1.0% increase in milk per cow. This level milk production would be supportive of milk prices. Uncertainty exists as to economy and the level of inflation as both can impact domestic demand. Dairy exports are forecasted to increase next year, Milk production is expected to show no growth or very limited growth in Western Europe with some possible improvement in New Zealand leaving open export opportunities for the U.S. U.S prices should remain competitive on the world market. There is uncertainty whether the world economy will slow and as to exports to China. As now while milk prices are likely to be lower next year prices should stay relatively strong. Dairy futures could be a little optimistic. Currently Class 111 futures start the year in the $20's and holding in the $19's the rest of the year. Class IV futures are in the $20's to September then in the $19's. USDA is also optimistic. Their forecast if for an average Class III of 21.60 this year compared to $17.08 in 2021 and an average of $19.70 next year. Class IV is forecasted to average $23.95 this year compared to $16.09 in 2021 and $20.35 next year. But a lot can change as we move through next year.

Silage and Hay Safety: Accidents are Preventable

Matt Akins - University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences

A farm's forage management program is a key to profitability for all dairy producers; however safety is not always at top of mind when busy harvesting, storing, and feeding forages. Hay-related fires occur each year which results in significant loss of life (especially animals) and property, but are preventable using good hay harvest and storage management. Also, numerous people have been injured or killed by silage-related accidents. Many of these accidents have been documented by Ruth Bolsen and her late husband Dr. Keith Bolsen with these being preventable if a safety plan was in place and followed. You can find some of the testimonials and silage safety information on the Bolsen Safety Foundation website (www.silagesafety.org). Remember, we have nothing to lose by practicing safety, but everything to lose by not practicing it! The following provides information on hay and silage safety to help minimize fire and injury risks.

Hay Harvest and Storage Management to Prevent Fires

Proper hay harvest moisture is key to minimizing risk of a hay fire caused by internal heating. Harvesting in humid conditions often make dry hay harvest challenging with moisture levels above 18% for small bales and 16% for large bales allowing microbial activity in hay for several weeks after harvest. Typically, moist-hay temperatures will increase slowly the first few days then rapidly increase as microbial activity increases. When stacked tightly, the heat is trapped in the hay mass allowing the temperature to continue to increase which can result in a fire. Larger bales packages which are stacked in piles outside are also at risk as they have a large mass which retains heat.

The following are options to help reduce hay heating and risk of fire:

- For dry hay, harvest at moistures less than 18% for small bales and 15% for large bales to minimize microbial activity and heating.
- Use an organic acid preservative (usually a propionic acid blend) to help control microbial activity. Refer to acid and applicator manufacturer recommendations as these may differ. Larger bales may not respond as favorably to acid application at recommended rates (0.5-1% of bale weight) according to Coblentz et al. (2012), especially for hays >25% moisture. Increased acid rates may be needed for large round bale packages (4-5 ft. bales).
- Wrapping of wet acid-treated hay has potential to control microbial activity through both chemical control and limiting oxygen. Recent work at Marshfield ARS (Coblentz et al., 2021) showed good results with minimizing heating and quality losses when wrapping acid treated moist-hay (25% moisture).
- Do not store suspect wet bales in barns or outside stacks as this will not allow heat to dissipate and increases fire risk. Allow bales to heat for a few weeks until bale temperatures reach environmental temperatures.
- If suspect bales were stored inside or in a stack, check internal temperatures often to monitor heating. Temperatures <120 F are normal, 120-140 F are in a caution range, and >160 F are at high risk of fire (Ball et al., 1998). Consider removing bales from barn or stack if temperatures are high to allow heat to dissipate.

Training Is Key

Training of any person (employees, nutritionist, veterinarian, custom operator, etc.) working as part of the silage program is necessary so all persons understand proper management and safety around silage equipment and storage areas. Also, family members must be educated about the dangers related to the silage program. A safety plan should be reviewed with all persons before working in the silage areas, along with frequent reminders of the hazards to help staff and family remember these dangers.

Silage Avalanches or Collapses

Silage avalanches occur no matter how well-managed. Areas that look to be solid may have a fissure behind it that is about to collapse. The following guidelines can reduce risks of injury or death by a silage avalanche:

- Work with another person around silage structures in case of a collapse or fall
- Do not approach the silage face for any reason, such as sampling or removing fallen tires. Sample during feed-out with silage pushed away from the face
- Do not fill bunkers or piles above the height that unloading equipment can reach easily. This will limit undercutting of the silage face.
- Plan your silage inventory and storage structures to fit that inventory. If excess forage is harvest, it is better to use additional land for silage storage than attempt to put extra forage into too small of space.
- Do not stand closer to the silage face than 3 times the face height because collapsing silage travels a considerable distance.
- Never undercut the silage face by digging the loader bucket into the bottom of the silage.
- If a new crop of silage is put against a previous crop, mark where the 2 crops meet as this is more likely to collapse.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Fall from Heights

Falls from silage piles, bunkers, or tower silos, can result in severe injury or death. Guidelines to reduce fall risk accidents include:

- When going on top of a silage pile or bunker, do not work closer to the face than the silo's height. Remove more tires and plastic than needed (equivalent to the silage face height) to avoid getting close to the edge. Having a small amount of additional surface spoilage is better than risking serious injury or death. A safety harness tethered with a heavy rope or cable across the bunker or pile is recommended to minimize fall risk.
- Do not "fork off" spoilage from the top of a face as it not worth the risk of falling off the edge.

A worker dangerously close to the silage face edge removing spoilage.

Run-over by or Entangled in Equipment

With more people working in a silage program and larger equipment with more blind spots, the risk of accidents increases. These accidents can be avoided by:

- Keep all shields in place to protect from moving parts and do not cross over the PTO shaft.
- Do not allow non-working persons near harvesting equipment, especially children.
- Workers should wear highly visible clothing to be easily seen by operators.
- Ensure operators are well rested and nourished so they are alert during operations.

Tractor or Truck Overturn

Pack tractor overturns in a bunker silo or silage pile lead to injury or death, even with protective equipment. These accidents can be avoided by:

- Not filling bunker silos above sidewalls or silage piles with steep slopes (more than 1 foot rise for each 3 foot of run), especially on the side-slopes.
- Ensure equipment has a functional rollover protective system and all employees use seatbelts.
- Install sight-rails on bunker walls so operators can see the edge.
- Use low center of gravity pack tractors with ample weight, and back up slopes to reduce risk of rollbacks or flip overs.

Silage Gas

Silage gases are dangerous and can overcome a person quickly. Nitric oxide forms during the first few weeks of ensiling, especially days 1 to 3. It is a reddish-orange to yellowish-brown gas that accumulates on the silage surface. Nitric oxide changes to nitrogen dioxide when it contacts oxygen which is highly toxic and burns the mouth, throat, and lungs and can lead to death. Carbon dioxide is odorless and colorless and gives little or no warning before asphyxiation. Carbon dioxide forms in the first 3 weeks and accumulates in closed spaces (unventilated rooms at bottom of tower silos). Feed rooms should be ventilated by opening windows and outside doors, but doors leading to livestock areas should remain closed. When it becomes necessary to enter a tower silo, run the blower for 30 minutes with the top open to ventilate. Use of a rescue-breather and lifeline going to someone outside the silo is recommended. Remember to use the buddy rule!

Take Home Message

Schedule regular meetings with your forage team to discuss safety and include all employees whether or not they work in the forage program. Reward employees and forage team members for safety compliance and accident-free periods.

References:

Ball et al. 1998. Minimizing Losses in Hay Storage and Feeding. National Forage Information Circular 98-1.

Coblentz et al. 2012. Effects of a propionic acid-based preservative on storage characteristics, nutritive value, and energy content for alfalfa hays packaged in large-round bales. J. Dairy Sci. 95:340-352.

Coblentz et al. 2021. Storage characteristics of baled alfalfa-grass forages treated with a propionic-acid-based preservative or wrapped in stretch plastic film. App. Anim. Sci.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Partnering with You to Protect Our Soil & Water

Jim Arch, CCA
Clark County Land Conservationist

Hello from the Clark County Land Conservation Department.

Here are some updates and information from our department.

Cover Crops

I know I have preached about the benefits of using cover crops before and now I have another good reason why you should try them. Land Conservation can now pay $25 per acre, per year for you to do cover cropping. There are no acre limits but you must already have a nutrient management plan (NMP). Call the Land Conservation Department for more information if you are interested. We have a limited amount of funds we can spend, so it's first come first serve.

Cover Crop Demo Plot Project Update

By the time this newsletter comes out our August field day will have come and gone. This is the first time we demonstrated an aerial drone operator applying cereal rye into standing corn. Some of the advantages of applying a cover crop this way are:

1. No corn is rundown by using a ground rig
2. The cover crop will have a jump on growing versus waiting for the crop to come off first
3. The cover crop may help carry the harvesting equipment if it is a wet fall
4. The cover crop is applied and you don't have to worry about finding time to plant after harvest
5. Cover crops have been applied using crop duster planes for years but require a set number of acres to come into an area

This is the last year of our grant that we have been using the last four years for the Demo Cover Crop Plots. I am trying to find another source of funding to keep the project going. If you want to provide moral support then please do so; or if you think things should have been done differently then please let me know as well. Some things I'd like to think we accomplished is we proved you can inter-seed a cover crop in corn on the surface with success of both the cover and the crop. Slugs under the right conditions will destroy rye seed applied on the surface. Fall seeded triticale will provide a good cover in the fall and then provide a good high yielding quality forage next spring. You don't need big expensive equipment to do cover cropping and you can hire someone to apply it for you if you don't have the time nor the equipment.

No Till Drill

Again the County no-till drill will be available for fall use. Call now to get on the list, first call, first serve.

I hope you have a plentiful and safe harvest this fall. If you have any questions about anything above, please don't hesitate to call the Land Conservation Department at 715-743-5102.

2022 Clark County Farm Technology Days

What We Know

There were:

* Over 46,000 attendees
* 1,600 volunteers
* 5,000 people participated in farm tours
* About 500 exhibitors
* Renewal of field demonstrations
* First ever Farm Tech Fest

All from a county of 34,000 people!

So what do you think was the economic impact of Clark County FTD 2022??

This question will be answered in the following issue(s).

Clark County 2022 WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS July 12-14
Where Tradition and Technology Meet

Fall Checklist for Alfalfa

Richard Halopka, CCA
Extension Clark County Crops & Soils Agent

How should an alfalfa stand be managed in the fall? Here is a management checklist to review that will allow a farmer to make decisions for their current and future alfalfa stand. Fall is a very important time of the year to begin management assessment for the next season's crop.

1. Fall harvest: should that last crop be harvested or left in the field? Depending on the local environment and the fall dormancy of the alfalfa variety, this is a good question. Do you need the feed? If yes, then harvest, but harvest close to or after a killing frost or when there is a probability of accumulating less than 200 GDD. Remember, a late harvest may stress the alfalfa going into winter and decrease yield the next year. Every fall is different and results from a late harvest will be different.
2. Fall fertilization: should fertilizer be applied in fall? Review soil test and yields from the field that season. Was potassium (K) fertilizer applied during the growing season? After reviewing the soil test, if K is low to optimum, the alfalfa will benefit from a fall application of potassium fertilizer to help "winter harden" the alfalfa plants (K aids in accumulation of carbohydrates in the root structure). Remember each ton of dry matter harvested removes 50-60 pounds of K_2O and low testing soils may lack soil available K to efficiently "harden off" alfalfa plants for winter survival.
3. Soil test: fall is a good time to soil test. If fields have not been soil tested in the previous 4 years, fall is a good time to collect a soil sample and update your soil test file.
4. Stand health and viability: should the stand be kept for another year? How is stand health and viability determined? You will need a 1 ft. square and a shovel. First, estimate yield potential of the field by assessing stand counts from representative areas of the field. Using a 1 foot square count the alfalfa stems present or count the alfalfa crowns per square foot. If there are less than four crowns or stem counts are below 40, the field may best be rotated. Next dig some plants and split the crown and root to determine the health or viability of the alfalfa plant. Review A3620 "Alfalfa Stand Assessment: Is this Stand Good Enough to Keep" at http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/forages/growth-and-development/winter-injury-of-alfalfa/docs/umn-ext-alfalfa-stand-assessment.pdf. If stem and crown counts are low or crowns have injury or disease present, will this stand survive winter? Many producers want to extend as many years as possible from an alfalfa stand, this is understandable. It may be more profitable to rotate the alfalfa stand, rather than harvest reduced forage yield stand next year. Rotating the field allows the farmer to take advantage of the 90 pound nitrogen credit, from a poor stand, which is beneficial in reducing purchased nitrogen in the rotated crop.

Fall is the time to take a physical count and visual assessment of your existing alfalfa stands. It is also a good time to review a checklist for spring alfalfa establishment.

1. Soil test: as mentioned above, fall is a good time to soil test.
2. Does the field require pH correction? Alfalfa establishment is best when the pH is near neutral, 6.8 – 7.0 pH. If the soil test pH is low, fall is a good time to apply lime to prevent the application backlog in spring and lime will start reacting in the soil. If K is low in the field it may provide an opportunity to apply K in the fall.
3. Seed selection: late fall early winter is a good time to decide on an alfalfa variety and consider the management options for weed control. Select varieties that will match your cutting schedule (3 or 4 cuttings). Select a variety with a dormancy rating matching your cutting schedule, a variety with good disease resistance (30 out 30 preferred) and adequate winter hardiness for your environment.
4. To establish a good stand select a seeding rate that will provide adequate seeds per square foot. Seed companies will coat alfalfa seed so determine the pounds of pure live seed in a bag. Deduct the coating per cent and germination to determine pure live seed in a bag and use a seeding rate to provide 10-12 pounds of pure live seed per acre, which equates to 50 - 60 seeds per square foot.

As an example: Your seed has:

- 20% coating
- 90% germination
- 98% purity

1. Subtract 20% coating from 98% purity =78% pure seed
2. (90% germ x 78% pure seed)/100 = 70% pure live seed (pls)
3. 70% (pls) x 50 lb. bag seed = 35 lb. pls/bag
4. Planting 12 lbs. pls/acre x 199,000 (seeds per lb.) = 2,388,000 seed/acre
5. 2,388,000 seeds/acre/43560 sq. ft./acre = 54 seeds/sq. ft.

For reference one year after seeding our goal should be around 20 plants per sq. ft., so after seeding and germination survival of the fittest is the rule for alfalfa plants.

5. Adjusting seeding equipment. This may be a late winter rather than a fall job. It is important that the seeding equipment is set to provide adequate seeds per acre to establish good stands. Check over equipment during the winter rather than assuming they are ready for spring planting. It is amazing how much equipment has a "breakdown" while stored in a machine shed during the winter. Over or under planting seed can impact seed cost per acre and final stands.

Fall is a good time to review alfalfa management and to consider the establishment of alfalfa for next spring. Incorporating the above checklist will reduce spring management stress and field work.

If you have any crop questions please call Clark County Extension office at 715-743-5121.

2022 Chocolate Dessert Recipe Contest Winners–Adult and Youth Divisions

White Chocolate Strawberry Swirl Cheesecake

Jean Langreck

Ingredients

18 Oreo cookies, finely crushed (about 1 1/2 cups)

2 tablespoons butter, melted

3 packages (8 oz. each) Philadelphia cream cheese, softened

2/3 cup sugar

2 packages (4 oz. each) Baker's white chocolate, broken into pieces, melted and slightly cooled

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs

2 tablespoons strawberry preserves

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Mix crushed cookies and butter. Press firmly into the bottom of a 9 inch springform pan. Bake for 10 minutes.

Beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla in a large bowl with a mixer until blended. Add the white chocolate and mix well. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed just until blended. Pour over the crust. Drop small spoonfuls of the preserves over the batter. Swirl with a knife several times for a marble effect.

Bake for 50-60 minutes or until the center is almost set. Run the knife around the rim of the pan to loosen the cake. Cool before removing the rim of the pan. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Store leftover cheesecake in the refrigerator.

Just before serving, garnish with fresh strawberries, if desired.

Chocolate Peanut Torte

Makenna Erickson

Ingredients

Crust

1/2 cup cold butter

1 cup flour

2 tablespoons sugar

1/4 cup baking cocoa powder

3/4 cup chopped dry roasted peanuts

Filling, first layer

1 cup powdered sugar

1–8 oz. cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

2 cups whipping cream

2 teaspoons vanilla

1/2 cup sugar

Filling, second layer

1–3.9 oz. instant chocolate pudding

1–3.9 oz. instant vanilla pudding

2 3/4 cups cold milk

Grated chocolate for decoration, optional

Directions

Crust

Mix flour, sugar, and cocoa powder, cut in butter until crumbly, stir in peanuts. Press into bottom of 9x13 inch greased pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees, cool completely.

Filling, first layer

In a medium bowl, beat powdered sugar, cream cheese, and peanut butter until smooth. In another bowl beat whipping cream, vanilla, and sugar until stiff peaks form. Fold one cup of whipped cream mixture into cream cheese mixture and spread over crust.

Filling, second layer

Combine pudding mixes and milk, beat at low speed for 2 minutes, until thick. Spread over first layer. Top with the rest of the whipped cream and decorate as you like.

Cover and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Purchasing Private Applicator Training Manuals for 2023

As it goes every day there are changes. Private Applicator Training (PAT) is changing. No longer will farmers be able to come into the Extension office and pick up a training manual or wait until the day of the training to walk in and purchase a training manual.

For training in 2023, there are a couple of methods to order a training manual.

1. Order directly online here: https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/default.asp
   Cost is $40.00 and the manual will be mailed to your address. When ordering or filling in order form circle **100 General Farming.**
2. Next is to go online and print out the order form:
   https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/pat/files/2019/05/Private-Order-Form.pdf
   You then mail in the completed form to the Madison address with $40.00 payment and your manual will be mailed to your address.
3. Contact the Extension office and we can give you an order form or mail it to you, and then you can fill in information and send it to Madison address with $40.00 and a manual will be mailed to your address.

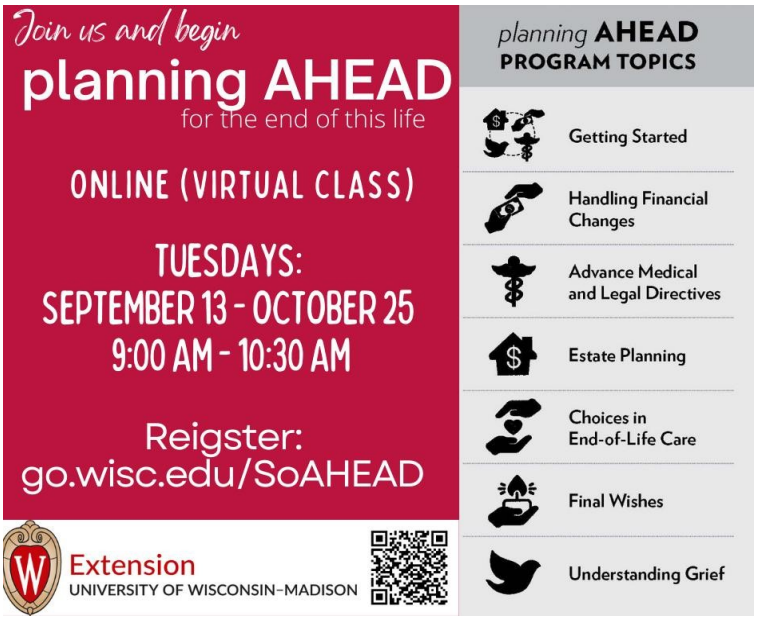
This will be much different from in the past.

In our January newsletter, we will reprint this notice with a copy of the order form.

Please understand these changes were made and our office and office staff are following new guidance. We will work with anyone to help them get manuals and training in 2023 to the best of our abilities.

Currently there are three dates reserved in the county for training, the first and second week of March 2023, unless there are changes made before training begins.

If you have questions about PAT, ordering training materials, or training dates please call the Clark County Extension office at 715-743-5121 or email richard.halopka@wisc.edu.



Upcoming Meetings/Events

Make sure to listen to WCCN and WAXX for any cancellations

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 13– Oct. 25	***Planning Ahead***	Virtual (see page 11 for more information)	9:00—10:30 am
Sept. 27 & 29 October 6 & 7	***Artificial Insemination Training***	See page 2 for more information	See page 2
Sept. 28—Dec.21	***Aging Mastery Program***	Virtual & In-person Call the Extension office for more information!	1:00—3:00 pm
October TBD	***Pasture Walk***	TBD	TBD

Aging Mastery Program®
National Council on Aging

Join the adventure!

Mark your calendar... the Aging Mastery Program® (AMP) will be coming to your area soon! Brought to you by Barron, Rusk, & Washburn County ADRC, Clark County ADRC, UW Division of Extension Clark County & INCLUSA. SIGN UP TODAY!

Build your own personal playbook for aging well. This fun, innovative program empowers you to take key steps to improve your well-being, add stability to your life, and strengthen ties to your community. Feel better today and stay healthy for your future. Join the adventure. We are committed to supporting lives well lived in communities across Wisconsin!

Register Today Limited Spots Available

WHAT: Aging Mastery Program® (AMP) 12-Week Workshop
WHEN: September 28 – December 21, 2022
TIME: Classes Held Wednesdays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
WHERE: Zoom Video Platform – Training Available.

REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:
AMP Registration Form or,
RSVP Coleen Hillskotter (877-622-6700)
Coleen.Hillskotter@Inclusa.org

Local Experts Present

- Navigating Longer Lives
- Caregiver Perspectives: Assessing Needs
- Exercise and You
- Sleep
- Healthy Eating and Hydration
- Financial Fitness
- Medication Management
- Advance Planning
- Healthy Relationships
- Falls Prevention
- Community Engagement
- Caregiver Playbook: Planning Connecting, and Doing

Offered FREE of Charge ($290 VALUE)

Click here for more program information.

ADRC Aging & Disability Resource Center

INCLUSA

ncoa National Council on Aging

www.ncoa.org/AMP

Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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!

If you would like a copy of the June Dairy Month or Chocolate Dessert Recipe Contest winners, via email or mail, please contact the Extension Office at 715-743-5121.

Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Phone: 715-743-5121
Fax: 715-743-5129
https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/

Richard Halopka	Crops & Soils Educator	*richard.halopka@wisc.edu*
Matthew Lippert	Dairy/Livestock Educator	*matthew.lippert@wisc.edu*
Jason Hausler	Area Extension Director	*jason.hausler@wisc.edu*
Melissa Kono	CNRED Educator	*melissa.kono@wisc.edu*
Nancy Vance	Family Living Educator	*nancy.vance@wisc.edu*
Seth Harrmann	4H Program Educator	*seth.harrmann@wisc.edu*
Open	*FoodWIse*	
Valerie Wood	Administrative Assistant	*valerie.wood@co.clark.wi.us*
Mariah Stange	Program Assistant	*mariah.stange@co.clark.wi.us*