

EXTENSION VIEWS

A Product of Extension Clark County

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
CLARK COUNTY

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Extension Clark County

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Questions from My Desk

When Will You Retire?

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

I first heard this question a number of years ago when a county supervisor asked the question. I asked why he was concerned. I want farm tech days in Clark County and I want you involved. What year are you considering, 2022 was the response, and I'm in for that project.

The second time was when a colleague asked and he wanted to know if I would help with Manure Expo 2023 in Arlington so I committed to that project. You know the difference between being involved and committed don't you. Best example is breakfast, the chicken is involved, but the hog makes a commitment.

Therefore, here we are January 2024, I'm retiring finally. I wanted to reflect on my 50 years in agriculture and some of my background as many of you know I didn't divulge much over the years.

So Key moments in life are when you turn sixteen and have freedom to drive. In my day, eighteen was when you became an adult and had all the privileges of an adult. Next, I guess, for me is marriage and the birth of my children. Then there are many years of just stuff. Then you approach and exceed retirement and the golden years, which are not always golden, but I have the privilege of being on this earth beyond 67 years.

I always said I learned more from experience than education, but education was the foundation of my experience. Therefore, here is my education background. I received a farm management certificate from Northcentral technical college while I was dairy farming. Then on advice of doctors, because

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!

of knee issues that began in my youth and continued from abuse of sports and dairy farming, I made a career change. I went back to college at UW-River Falls as a non-traditional student and completed my degree in Broad Area Agriculture. I took a position as a counter sales person for a family feed/farm supply business, developed an interest in ginseng production, and completed my certified crop advisor certification. After nine years in that position, I then took a management position with a local coop and after five seasons applied and was hired as Crops and Soils Agent in Clark County.

This began a completely new career. I had five years to complete my master degree. I applied at Iowa State University, was accepted, and completed a Master of Science in Agronomy.

Now, after fifteen years in Clark County, I really want to slow down and smell (drink) coffee with no timeline each day.

Growing up my dad and my mentors threw lines at me, and I'm sure I've used them many times in presentations. Two have always hit home for me. The first was my dad: one day when I was telling him what the neighbors were doing, his response "son worry about what you have to do rather than worry about the neighbors". The second was a mentor in my early years: when people would comment you couldn't do that, his response "the only thing we can't do is put gloves over mittens". With that in mind, there isn't anything we can't do in life, but there may be things we chose not to do.

Extension work was very rewarding and I enjoyed every day. A wise man once said "if you enjoy what you do, you will never work a day in your life". I can tell many stories and there were many successful changes in Clark County over fifteen years. Now some of the success may have begun with disappointment.

My frustration is that many times I was involved too late in the game to have the ideal outcome. I really enjoy working with farmers and visiting, listening to success and sometimes failure. Remember in life we may learn more from failure than with success.

Looking to the future. If you value the work extension provides, I encourage you to visit with county board members as the county does make an investment in the extension position. Some of the work I did is considered service; however, I always provided education with

service. That, I believe, is the value of a UW-Madison Division of Extension Crops & Soils Educator. I tried to answer every question and if unable attempted to direct the person on a path to find an answer. The other most important aspect of this position is understanding the needs of the county/community and adapting programs and presentations to the people in the area I served.

I'm sure I will miss the people I worked with and the people I visited each day and the many major projects over fifteen years. The big ones with extension: Farm Tech Days, Manure Expo, fall forage field days, nutrient management classes, visiting with high school students providing a peak at occupations available in agriculture, produce auction group, and I can't remember all of them.

The people were many and too many colleagues/co-workers to mention, and people who attend many a meeting THANK YOU as I would not be where I'm today without anyone of you.

What I will not miss is driving 35,000 to 40,000 miles a year, having to be in the office at 8:00 am, and worry related to the success of programs.

My goal is to make my coffee in the morning relax and do a few things I was not able to do the past fifty years.

God Bless, this is not Good-bye, but until we meet again.

Farewell

Richard Halopka, CCA

A quote: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step" **Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu**

My last word of advice is, life is a journey not a destination, you must enjoy the journey of life.





CLARK COUNTY SESSIONS

Self Study is always an option.
Call to schedule your test.

IN-PERSON

Taught by Richard Halopka

- February 7th @ Thorp Fire Hall
- Taught by Glenn Nice
- March 15th @ Abbotsford City Hall

LIVE ZOOM TRAINING

Led by Test Proctor

- Feb 27th @ Clark County Courthouse



2024 PAT SESSIONS PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING & TESTING

PAT Manuals must be ordered from the state online or by mail. Contact your local Extension office for a paper form if online ordering is not an option for you.

QUESTIONS?
Clark County Extension
715-743-5122

EMAIL ADDRESS:
richard.halopka@wisc.edu
valerie.wood@co.clark.wi.us

PAT WEBSITE:
(Visit website to see all training dates, sign up & order manual)
<http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/pat/private-applicator-training/>



ALL TRAININGS BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.
TESTS BEGIN AT 1:00 P.M.

Other Live In-person PAT Test Dates and Locations Taught by Glenn Nice (PAT Program Manager)

Jan 18—Stem Center, Green Bay

Jan 24—Metropolis, Eau Claire

Feb 7—Cranberry Station, Black River Falls

Feb 20—Arlington Ag Research Station, Arlington

Feb 29—Portage County Annex, Stevens Point

March 5—La Sure's Banquet Hall, Oshkosh

March 21—UW-Whitewater Community Engagement
Center, Whitewater

If you need the PAT training and testing, but you do not have internet access to sign up and order your manual...

Please contact us at the Clark County Extension Office and we will help you.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!!

If you would like to self-study, you need to order a manual and then call our office when you are ready to take the test.

Pass/ Fail for self-study is 70% correct to pass

Pass / Fail for attending a training and test date is 50%

Clark County Extension Office
715-743-5122

How to Plan for 2024?

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

In 2023, the weather was wet early, and then to dry, some areas had rainfall and a few miles away nothing. Overall, grain crops did well in 2023; forages were short in some areas of the county. What can I do to have a better result in 2024?

The 2023 growing season was on the low end of moisture across much of the county. Thus, the grain crops responded to moisture we received and a timely rain when corn pollinated benefited the crop. Some areas of the county had adequate to excessive rainfall at times, while other areas were short of rainfall.

Did you scout your fields during the growing season and take notes of problem areas in a field or in a crop? If you did scout fields, it will make your job easier in 2024. I would not concern myself if we will have a La Nina or El Nino, focus on what you can control and weather is not something we can manage.

Many farmers ask how I can prepare for the next growing season. Currently prices for grains have been less than last year. Tight margins are the norm even if inputs have leveled off. Inputs include fertilizer, crop protection, and equipment parts. A farm manager needs to wade through a lot of information to make decisions on crops to be grown and then market the crop. Here are thoughts how to prepare for the 2024 growing season.

So what can you, as a farm manager do for a profitable 2024 growing season?

1. First yields are important, but high yield doesn't mean high profit. You really need to develop a crop budget and determine if you can produce a profit with your input cost and current market prices.
2. If your soil samples are four years old, I hope you did pull new samples this past fall. It will provide a baseline of information to make nutrient purchase decisions. Remember to manage you need numbers to manage, current soil test provide those numbers.
3. Don't make decisions based only on 2023 growing season. Base crop decisions on your management goals by selecting hybrids and cultivars based on local data for what is a normal growing season. It is best to base this decision on what is normal for the area you farm. Don't revert to only early or later hybrids/cultivars based on one-year data. Select hybrids and cultivars for your area with good resistance to disease and select maturities you would use in a normal year.
4. Manage what you can manage. You can't manage weather or climate. So don't assume the weather will be the same in 2024 as it was in 2023. Manage for what is "normal" in your area.
5. Don't buy a program. Crop protection programs purchased before scouting a crop may just be an expense. Scout your crops, if you need crop protection then purchase protection not a program of multiple crop protection products that may just be a cost.
6. Marketing crops is a twelve month, 365 day a year job. What is your market? Cash price, livestock feed, or some other market. Know your market before purchasing seed.
7. With tight margins focus on the greatest bang for your dollar. Don't purchase additional products unless it is confirmed you need the product. Example, focus on primary nutrients before considering secondary or micros, unless confirmed by soil and a tissue test.
8. Remember, a crop plan or market plan may change during the season. Example, if planting is delayed you may need to consider hybrid or cultivar change, change to a different crop or a different market for your crop.
9. Currently speaking with agronomy suppliers' prices of crop protection products have leveled off some and fertilizers prices while stable may have movement. Get current numbers from suppliers and make good decisions. Don't assume and use the same prices from last year's crop budgets; get current numbers for all input products.

So, what weather conditions can we expect during the 2024 growing season? Will it be El Niño or La Nina? A crystal ball approach doesn't work. Each growing season will have some quirks.

So, how should farmers plan for the 2024 growing season? Focus on the normal. Weather extremes can occur during any growing season. Have a plan A, but also B and C. If we have to go to plan D, we are all in trouble.

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Therefore, for 2024 growing season plan on a normal year, but consider the following points.

- * Develop a crop budget to determine your cost of production. You cannot sell a crop unless you know your cost of production, even if when fed to livestock on your farm. Once you have a cost of production then start marketing the crop. Remember this will include forage crops.
- * Select hybrids and cultivars that match your management goals along with your soils and environment. Don't select seed based on what might happen. Select seed based on yield information and your management. If you had a problem in 2023, consider selecting a hybrid or cultivar that has a resistance to a disease or insect or alter your management to reduce the risk of repeating the problem. You can select non-GMO if you prefer.
- * Apply fertilizer (commercial fertilizer products, bio-solids, or livestock manure) required by the growing crop from your current soil test information, crops require nutrients to grow and yield. Don't expect yields if nutrients are not supplied. Over applying fertilizer doesn't guarantee increased yields. Unbelievably over application of nutrients can reduce yields. Remember, environment "Mother Nature" will influence yields to a greater degree than additional fertilizer.
- * Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scout fields during the growing season and apply a pest control or additional fertilizer only when required to prevent an economical loss in crop yield.
- * If there is a crop injury from disease or insect identify the cause or pest (IPM), don't just spray a control.
- * Remember to manage what you can manage on your farm. You cannot manage the weather. To manage something you will need numbers.

Everyone hopes that 2024 will be a normal weather year, but every year has uncertainty. If you have, questions related to crop planning or crop budgets please contact your local county UW-Extension office or email richard.halopka@wisc.edu.

SOIL HEALTH



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
CLARK COUNTY

Meeting

Please register by
January 23rd
by calling the
Clark County
Extension Office
at 715-743-5122



A free will offering
lunch will be
provided for
attendees

(please RSVP for an
accurate head count)

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 At 10:00 am to 2:30 pm
CAM Center W8872 Pine Rd Thorp, WI 54771 *Corner of Gorman and Pine*

Speakers &
Topics

Matt Lippert

Potassium Forages

Dan Marzu

Biologicals

Richard Halopka

Fixing a "Sick" Soil

Jim Arch

Clark County Project at Clark Turner's Farm



Calf Recumbency aka Early Onset Muscle Weakness Syndrome

By: Heather Schlessner, UW – Madison Division of Extension Marathon County

Reviewed by: Lyssa Seefeldt and Jackie McCarville, UW-Madison Division of Extension

In 2020, calves unable to stand at birth or shortly after were seen by veterinarians in Pennsylvania. Researchers determined that a genetic defect on chromosome 16 caused this issue. Researchers determined that affected animals had two copies of a mutation in the CACNA1S gene on chromosome 16.

The CACNA1S gene makes the main piece of a calcium channel found on the outside membrane of muscle cells. The job of these CACNA1S calcium channels is to transmit the signal from the nervous system to the interior of the muscle to other calcium channels that cause muscle contraction, allowing the body to move. Without CACNA1S calcium channels, the signal is not “forwarded” to the interior calcium channels, preventing the muscle from contracting and resulting in muscle weakness.

These researchers identified Southwind Bell of Bar-Lee as one of the earliest known carriers of the mutated allele. In a 2009 article by Schlessner et al. they identified Southwind Bell of Bar Lee (bull 12 in the article) as having a bimodal distribution of his offspring for perinatal survival. This means that some of his offspring were likelier to survive than others. Southwind’s most prominent descendants Roylane Socra Robust and Seagull-Bay Supersire have also been identified to have the mutated gene. While the prevalence rate of the mutated gene in the Holstein population is currently unknown, it is important to realize that the mutation has been traced back to some influential family lines.

Currently, bull studs are testing their AI bulls for the presence of this mutation. Some bull studs still use bulls identified as having this mutation, while others have eliminated these genetics from their herds. If a bull stud decides to maintain bulls with this mutation, they are publicizing this information so producers can make informed decisions about bull use (Table 1)⁵. If you have cows and heifers with similar pedigrees as the affected bulls, then it is not recommended to breed with affected bulls.

Table 1: List of bulls and their Muscle Weakness genetic status.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| HO840M003238827499 | 1HO16249 | PEAK HARVIN-ET | N |
| HO840M003235933377 | 1HO16252 | T-SPRUCE PK LYDFORD-ET | Carrier |
| HO840M003231545344 | 1HO16253 | PINE-TREE BEAUTITUDE-ET | N |
| HO840M003238220391 | 1HO16254 | BOMAZ MATCHMAKER-PP-ET | N |
| HO840M003224928455 | 1HO16258 | PEAK FORREALZ-ET | N |
| HO840M003235932902 | 1HO16270 | PEAK DREAMMAKER-ET | N |
| HO840M003235932956 | 1HO16271 | PEAK NEXTLEVEL-ET | N |
| HO840M003240482103 | 1HO16277 | PEAK WOLFMAN-ET | N |
| HO840M003235933458 | 1HO16281 | PEAK MEMBERSMARK-ET | N |
| HO840M003235933468 | 1HO16282 | PEAK STARVOYAGE-ET | N |
| HO840M003235933484 | 1HO16284 | PEAK REIMA-P-ET | Carrier |
| HO840M003245966227 | 1HO16291 | PEAK MRRIGHT-ET | Carrier |
| HO840M003239114872 | 1HO16292 | PEAK OLYMPUS-ET | Carrier |
| HO840M003247843046 | 1HO16293 | PROGENESIS TRIFECTA-ET | N |
| HO840M003236650904 | 1HO16297 | WINSTAR GEOMETRIC-P-ET | Affected |
| HO840M003247843097 | 1HO16300 | ADAWAY PEAK TIPTOP-ET | N |
| HO840M003238827446 | 1HO16305 | PEAK MAJORMODE-ET | N |
| HO840M003214541242 | 1HO16309 | WELCOME-TEL BOLDRULER-ET | N |
| HO840M003229908326 | 1HO16311 | PEAK OPTICALILLUSION-ET | N |
| HO840M003248055809 | 1HO16319 | PEAK PAYDAY-ET | N |
| HO840M003247843117 | 1HO16324 | PEAK SPECTACULARBID-ET | N |
| HO840M003247843309 | 1HO16339 | PROGENESIS REALDEALIO-ET | Carrier |

The unique thing about this defect is that some animals with two copies of the mutated allele survive to adulthood. Winstar Geometric-P (Table 1) is one such animal that has two mutated genes. It is not known why some animals can survive, but management differences between farms is thought to be the reason.

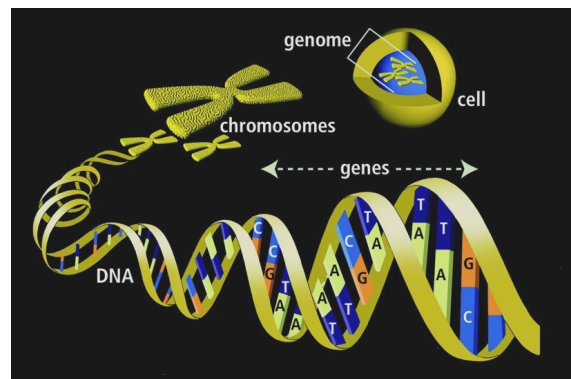


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What does this mean for you and your herd? It means that sire selection decisions are more critical today than yesterday. While genetic testing is available through Feanix Bio for \$10 a test, it can get costly to test your entire herd. Breeding with bulls tested and shown to be free of the mutated gene will allow you to breed your heifers and cows without worry. Keeping records of animals in your herd with either one or two copies of the mutated gene is key to ensuring you make good sire selection choices in the future to avoid offspring with two copies of the mutated gene. If you breed females to a bull with a mutated gene, it is important to ensure the female's pedigree does not also have animals with the mutated gene present. Having different ancestors helps to eliminate the possibility that the female has a copy of the mutated gene. Information on this mutation is still evolving as more animals with the defect are identified.

References:

- Dechow, C. 2023. Mutation sometimes leads to calf recumbency. *Hoard's Dairyman*
- CDCB. 2023. Recumbency in Holstein Calves. <https://uscdcb.com/recumbency-in-holstein-calves/>
- Dechow CD, Frye E, Maunsell FP. Identification of a putative haplotype associated with recumbency in Holstein calves. *JDS Commun.* 2022 Aug 6;3(6):412-415. doi: 10.3168/jdsc.2022-0224. PMID: 36465504; PMCID: PMC9709600.
- Schlesser HN, Shanks RD, Berger PJ, Healey MH. Graphical approach to evaluate genetic esti-



March 18 Goat Field Day

**Mark your
Calendar!**

Where: Lynn Town Hall W1877 Highway 10, Granton WI 54436

When: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Why: Clark County has a growing goat industry, both dairy and meat. Demand and interest in goat products are strong. Come learn about basics in goat production including nutrition, vaccination and health, housing, ventilation and markets.

Morning program will be inside, after a provided lunch, board a bus to visit 3 local goat producers, 2 dairy and 1 meat, farms are within a mile of the town hall.

RSVP: Register by March 12 with the Clark County Extension Office at 715-743-5122

Cost: This program is sponsored to defray expenses. \$5 meeting charge for adults, children welcome.

Clark Dairy Promotion 2024 Annual Meeting and SCC Awards

When: March 16th 2024 @12:00 noon

Where: IGYS Bar & Grill (Corner of Cty X and Cty T) Withee, WI

To Be eligible for SCC award Your SCC must be under 125 for the whole 2023 year

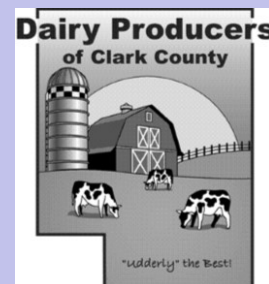
Please Send SCC sheets from milk plant (DHI SCC sheets not eligible) to:

Sara Fischer

W3286 Bridge Road

Owen, WI 54460

RSVP BY: March 1st 2024 to Sara Fischer 715 465 0245 or purplebirdy@live.com



CONSERVATION CORNER



Jim Arch, CCA
Clark County Land Conservationist

From the Land Conservation Department we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! From: Jim, Fred, Hunter and Tiffanee

UW-Extension Dairy Program “Reproduction Roadshow” Meeting February 21, 2024

By Jackie McCarville, Alison Pfau, Heather Schlessner, Ryan Sterry, and Angie Ulness
UW-Madison Division of Extension – Dairy Program Educators

To help Wisconsin Dairy Farmers get the most current and up-to-date research information, the UW-Extension Dairy program has developed the “Reproduction Roadshow.” This roadshow is an update on UW-Madison dairy reproduction research, covering heifer reproduction, sexed semen, the high fertility cycle, and more. The roadshow features Dr. Paul Fricke, Professor and Extension Specialist in Dairy Cattle Reproduction, and Dr. JP Martins, DVM, Ph.D. from the Department of Medical Sciences – School of Veterinary Medicine UW-Madison.

We want to thank Parnell for sponsoring the Reproductive Roadshow.

Farmer specific meetings:

February 21, 2024, 10:00 am Edgar Family Restaurant (127590 Opportunity Ln. Edgar)

Pre-registration by February 5, 2024 is required. For more information and to register for the meeting, visit <https://go.wisc.edu/repro>.

For more information and questions, please contact Heather Schlessner at (715) 261 - 1230 x 3

Buying and Selling Forage and Grain in 2024

The growing season in 2023 has presented many challenges as some farmers may be short of forage or grain and some may have excess. The Farmer-to-Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn website puts Wisconsin farmers in touch with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage. The Farmer-to-Farmer website is a free of charge site for both buyers and sellers. Users can list or search for hay, haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn, corn grain, or other forages (i.e., oats, peas, or Sorghum/sudan). Search just one county or several counties at the same time. UW - Extension assumes no responsibility in the transaction of buying or selling the items listed on this web site. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

Farmer-to-Farmer website is located at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/> or if you need assistance to place an ad, contact your county's UW-Extension office, or Clark County at 715-743-5121, email richard.halopka@wisc.edu to assist you with entering information on the site.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

This course is designed to develop a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 Standard requirements. Participants will enter soil test information into the software program, SNAP-Plus, and will develop a plan using the data. Subjects include conservation plans, field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management and crop selection and requirements.

SOIL TESTING PAYMENTS Participants will receive reimbursement for up to \$750 of eligible soil testing costs. (Please contact your County's Conservation Department with any questions regarding this reimbursement.)

COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Please register for the Full Course if you are new to Nutrient Management Planning. If you have already taken the Full Course in the past, please register for the Refresher Course.

Additional family members and/or farm employees may attend with a registered attendee at no additional charge.



These courses are in partnership with the county conservation departments from Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor, Wood and Portage counties.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Complete form found on reverse side and follow mailing instructions
2. Visit one of the websites below and search by class # found next to each class

NTC Classes

www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/search

Mid-State Classes

<https://courses.mstc.edu/>

3. Call us at 715.803.1965



WORKFORCE TRAINING +
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (THREE 4-HOUR SECTIONS)

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Fridays, January 5 - 19, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| NTC Medford Campus | Class #63433 |
| Wednesdays, January 17 - 31, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| NTC Wausau Campus | Class #63434 |
| Thursdays, January 18 - February 1, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| NTC Spencer Campus | Class #63435 |
| Thursdays, February 15 - 29, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| NTC Spencer Campus | Class #63436 |

REFRESHER COURSES - 8 HOURS TOTAL

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Fridays, January 5 & 12, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$130* |
| NTC Medford Campus | Class #63438 |
| Wednesdays, January 17 & 24, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$130* |
| NTC Wausau Campus | Class #63439 |
| Thursdays, January 18 & 25, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$130* |
| NTC Spencer Campus | Class #63440 |
| Thursdays, February 15 & 22, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$130* |
| NTC Spencer Campus | Class #63441 |



WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (THREE 4-HOUR SECTIONS)

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Tuesdays, March 12 - 26, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| Wood County River Block, Wisconsin Rapids | Class #25902 |
| Thursdays, March 14 - 28, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | \$260* |
| Mid-State Stevens Point Campus | Class #25901 |

**Participants will receive up to a \$260 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Winter - Spring 2024

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Birthdate ____/____/____ Email Address _____

I'm Interested In the following class (insert class number): _____ Mode (Circle one): In-person Zoom Both

Credit Card: _____ MasterCard _____ VISA _____ Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

The following information is not required, but will help us identify your records should you need an official transcript of attendance. It is kept confidential. Aggregate data on race/ethnicity and high school attendance is used for state and federal funding purposes. Though your response is optional, it is very much appreciated.

Social Security Number _____ or Student ID Number _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____ American Indian _____ Asian _____ Black, not Hispanic _____ Hispanic _____ White, not Hispanic _____ Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander

Mail both Mid-State & NTC registration forms with payment to:

Northcentral Technical College
Attn: Workforce Training + Professional Development
1000 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Century and Sesquicentennial Farm Application

Wisconsin State Fair officials are pleased to announce that applications are now available for the **2024 Century and Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award**, a prestigious award given to families who have dedicated their life to Wisconsin farming for 100 or 150 years.

To qualify for the award, families are required to provide proof of continuous family ownership of a property in the state of Wisconsin for either the last 100 or 150 years. All property owners will be honored at a special **Century and Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award Program** held on Tuesday, Aug. 6 in conjunction with the 2024 Wisconsin State Fair which takes place Thursday, Aug. 1 – Sunday, Aug. 11 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis.

Honorees will receive complimentary Fair admission tickets, an invitation to the awards breakfast, a commemorative photo, a certificate, and an outdoor display sign.

The Century Farm and Home Program began in 1948 in conjunction with the State of Wisconsin's Centennial Celebration. There are currently **9,982 Century Farms and Homes** nestled throughout the Badger State. The Sesquicentennial Program similarly originated in 1998 as part of the State's Sesquicentennial Celebration and has since honored **1,044** families.

Applications for the Century and Sesquicentennial Farm and Home Award are available now and must be postmarked by the application deadline **Friday, March 1, 2024**. Only one certificate may be issued per property.

Applications can be found online at:

<https://www.midwestfarmreport.com/century-and-sesquicentennial-farm-application/>

You can also contact your local Extension office to receive an application. Clark County Extension 715-743-5121

Value of Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) Bio-Solids and Gypsum Board Waste

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The past few years I have received questions on the use of bio-solids from cleaning flues at coal powered electric plants and gypsum board from the building industry.

OK, first are the products of any use in agriculture? Yes, they are a bio-solid and I would agree that it might be better to apply on crop fields rather than dispose of in a landfill.

Second, are the supplier claims accurate? Maybe, I not sure what the promise or claim the company has provided.

A former colleague, Dick Wolkowski had done a number of trials using both products and at the end of the day, applying on cropland is a better alternative rather than placing the products in a landfill.

Here is a list of what I know about the two bio-solids:

1. Land application is a good alternative of this bio-solid product.
2. Both products are a good source of calcium and sulfur
3. Neither product will correct low pH fields.
4. Application rates are higher than normal recommended rates for sulfur in crop production.
5. Sulfur may leach through the soil profile.
6. Both products can be sticky and difficult to apply unless very dry.
7. Minimum application rate may be 1000 to 2000 pounds/acre.
8. Application is difficult with equipment designed to spread lime and fertilizer.
9. Review the cost of the bio-solid product and application cost to determine if you want to use either of the bio-solids as nutrients in crop production fields.

High applications will reduce sodic soil conditions. Soils in Wisconsin are not sodic. We receive 30-40 inches of rain per year, which will prevent soils from becoming sodic (salt containing). Research is available from Wisconsin soils.

Therefore, here are my take home message if you are considering using FGD or gypsum board bio-solids.

1. Don't over apply. Some may encourage applications exceeding a ton per acre. Remember excessive applications of a good thing can cause negative effects.
2. The best method to apply may be using a vertical spreader and application rates may not be uniform across a field. It is not like applying lime or fertilizer with accurate application equipment.
3. Both products are a good source of calcium and sulfur, but the rate of application will exceed the majority of crop requirement.
4. Push a pencil, what does the product cost compared to fertilizer products normally used in crop production. Is it economical to apply? I've see where "free" products may be the most expensive.

If you are confused and want more information, ask an Extension educator or Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) agronomist.
Good luck planning for the 2024 crop season.

If you have questions on soil fertility please contact your county's Extension educator or richard.halopka@wisc.edu .
Richard Halopka, CCA, office phone 715

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Make sure to listen to WCCN and WAXX for any cancellations

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| January 30, 2024 | CAFO Meeting | El Norteno Curtiss, WI | TBD |
| January 31 | Soil Health Meeting | CAM Center W8872 Pine Rd., Thorp | 10.00 am — 2:30 pm |
| January-February March | NMP classes | Black River Falls Medford, Spencer Wausau, Marshfield | Varies |
| January - April | PAT trainings | See page 3 | 9:00 am - training 1:00 pm - testing |
| March 16 | Dairy Promotions Annal Meeting and SCC Awards | IGYS Bar & Grill Withee, WI | Noon |
| March 18 | Goat Meeting | Lynn Town Hall W1877 Hwy 10, Granton, WI 54436 | 10:00am—3:00 pm |
| March 20 | CWFC Educational Meeting | TBD | TBD |
| April 9 | Robotics Open House | Dukestead Acres W1217 Willow Road Abbotsford WI 54405 | 10:00 –11:30 am |

Robotic Open House

Where: Dukestead Acres W1217 Willow Road Abbotsford WI 54405

When: April 9th, 2024 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Interest in Robotic milking and dairy automation continues to be strong. The Dukelow's have 7 DeLaval robotic milkers retrofitted into their existing freestall barn. This was accomplished by adding the robots in an addition at the end of the barn in 2022. Other interesting practices include automatic bedding with manure solids, an animal health and location tracking system, and robotic feed pushing. The solids are spread by a robotic shuttle over the stalls so that cows are not disturbed by traffic in the robotic barn. The barn also has alley scrapers.

Production is improved from before the robots by about 10 pounds, while they removed labor units from their operation.

Join us for a barn tour and discussion about dairy automation.



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