

**CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION REPORT**

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- Red Cedar Demonstration Farm Open House & Workshop
- 5-6**
- 7** Calf Management Seminar

Chippewa Valley Farmers are stewards:

- ◆ Chippewa County farmers own and manage 384,621 acres, or 59.6% of the county's land.
- ◆ Dunn County farmers own and manage 372,259 acres, or 68.4%, of the county's land.
- ◆ Eau Claire County farmers own and manage 203,705 acres, or 50%, of the county's land.



Upcoming Meetings—contact local Ag Agent for more info:

LOCAL & STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 17 UW-Extension Dairy Modernization Tour**, 10 am at Berseng Family Farms, River Falls and 1:30 pm at Trim-Bel Valley Dairy, Spring Valley —Contact UW-Extension St Croix County Ryan Sterry at 715-531-1930 or Pierce County Greg Andrews at 715-273-6781
- 20 UW-Extension Beef Cow/Calf Field Day**, 6–9 pm, Larson Hereford Farms, Spring Valley—Contact St Croix County UW-Extension Ryan Sterry at 715-531-1930
- 25-27 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days**, 9 am–5 pm, Statz Bros. Inc, Sun Prairie — <http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com/>

SEPTEMBER

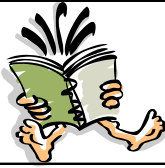
- 2** Red Cedar Demonstration Farm Open House, 10–11:30 am, RCDF Farm near corner of Hwy 12/29 East and Stokke Parkway, Menomonie Contact UW-Extension Dunn County Katie Wantoch at 715-232-1636
- 2** Intro to Soil Health and Cover Crops Workshop, 1–3:30 pm, RCDF Farm near corner of Hwy 12/29 East and Stokke Parkway, Menomonie Contact UW-Extension Dunn County Katie Wantoch at 715-232-1636
- 9** Dunn County Hazardous Waste Collection, 4-6 pm, Colfax fairgrounds
- 10** Dunn County Hazardous Waste Collection, 4-7 pm, Dunn County Transfer Station, Menomonie. All farms and businesses must pre-register by Friday, September 4, 2015. Please contact the Dunn County Solid Waste Division at 715-232-4017 if you have any questions.
- 10 UW-Extension Calf Management Seminar**, 10 am -3 pm, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Eau Claire. Contact UW-Extension Eau Claire County Mark Hagedorn at 715-839-4712
- 29-30** World Dairy Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

OCTOBER

- 1-3** World Dairy Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

Katie's Korner . . .

Katie Wantoch,
Dunn County Agricultural Agent



Red Cedar Demonstration Farm Promoting Soil Health and Water Quality Through Education

Dunn County has experienced heavy rains during the spring time these last few years. The result of these rainfalls has re-emphasized to farmers the importance of conserving their most important fixed asset – the soil on their farmland. Farmers as well as community members have expressed concerns regarding soil erosion, improving conservation practices and better water management to members of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors and government agency staff. These concerns were discussed last year and have resulted in a new partnership being formed to better promote soil health and water quality through education.

The Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership was formed last fall after several conversations amongst staff on how we can help clientele in Dunn County. The steering committee members of the Partnership include: County Conservationist Daniel Prestebak and Conservation Planner Leah Nicol from the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD); District Conservationist John Sippl from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Farm Business Production Management Instructor Mark Denk from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC); and myself, Dunn County Agriculture Agent with UW-Extension.

While I have been on staff for almost 5 years, I continue to learn about the rich history of Dunn County. Last year I learned that Dunn County once had a School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy from 1902 to 1957 and then continued to have a county farm until the mid-1980s. Since that time the county farmland has been managed by The Neighbors of Dunn County standing committee of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors (former Dunn County Health Care Center) and the land was rented to Ron Prochnow.

During one of our discussions last year, members talked about how it would be ideal to be able to demonstrate best management practices for soil and water conservation rather than simply talking about it. These discussions lead to the Partnership submitting a proposal to the standing committee of The Neighbors of Dunn County for rental of the farmland with the goals of:

- Demonstrating soil and water conservation best management practices for the Dunn County community, area farmers and CVTC students;

- Providing an opportunity for soil and water conservation education, on-farm research and field demonstrations.

The standing committee approved our proposal in December and members have been working diligently on how we can best achieve our goals. CVTC is the lessor of this farmland and will be responsible for the management of the crops, including a farmland rental payment to Dunn County. The steering committee members of the Partnership will continue to meet and guide the management of the property during the terms of the 5 year lease agreement. This farmland is located within the Red Cedar River Watershed, which runs through a large portion of northwest Wisconsin, so the Partnership has named this project the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm.

During 2015, we will be establishing field demonstrations and evaluating on-farm research projects to be conducted on approximately 150 acres of both county-owned and City of Menomonie-owned farmland. An additional 12 acres of county-owned farmland near the Dunn County Park will be planted this year; however LWCD will be transitioning this land to native grass and pollinator habitat in 2016. CVTC utilizes an agreement with local John Deere dealer, Tractor Central, and local Case IH dealer, Value Implement, for the use of tractors, tillage, planting and harvesting equipment. CVTC students in their AgriScience classes will have an opportunity to use the top-of-the-line field equipment and get some hands-on education in conditions they see in real-world situations.

The Partnership believes that these benefits can be demonstrated at the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm:

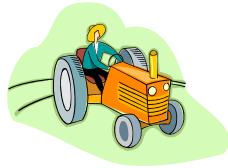
- Heightened awareness of limited and no tillage practices and use of cover crops as effective soil and water conservation practices;
- Demonstrate potential for increased crop yields utilizing fewer inputs, including commercial fertilizer application, fuel for implements, etc.;
- Demonstrate increased water efficiency and improve water quality within Red Cedar Watershed;
- Reduce impact of off-site movement of soil, runoff and erosion control of farmland.

The steering committee members of the Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership are excited for this opportunity and welcome a chance to discuss our project with community members. We are planning to host a fall field day at the farm to demonstrate the application of cover crops and present other field demonstrations and on-farm research projects.

Continued on Page 3

Mark's Musings...

Mark Hagedorn,
Eau Claire County
Agricultural Agent



WHAT'S STANDING ALFALFA WORTH IN 2015?

What is standing alfalfa worth? A newly released Smartphone application, developed by UW-Extension, can quickly help growers evaluate their options.

Growers have been using a popular factsheet that was developed by UW-Extension several years ago. It allows producers/buyers to hone in on the value of standing alfalfa. Obviously, this crop's price estimates will vary from farm to farm and field to field (i.e., price for standing grass or a grass-alfalfa mix may be 25-50% less to account for lower quality).

The Smartphone app for Pricing Standing Hay will provide easy access to the current market price for baled hay (reference price), as well as projected yield and harvest costs to calculate standing value per acre for each cutting. The app was made available free this past spring for Android smart phones and tablets on the Google Play store (search for Hay Pricing or click here).

The following scenario shows how this app can function:

Assume a 4-ton dry matter (DM) yield/acre of prime-quality dairy alfalfa hay for the entire year. It averages \$200/ton baled (\$0.12/lb DM), with half the value going to the landowner for input costs (land, taxes, seed, chemical, and fertilizer), and half the value credited to the buyer for harvesting, field loss, and weather risk. The standing value for this alfalfa field for the entire season would be \$480/acre. Based on a three-crop (43%/31%/26%) or four-crop (36%/25%/21%/18%) yield distribution by cutting schedule, the following price range, rounded to the nearest \$5, could be a starting point for buyers and sellers to negotiate sale agreements for high-quality standing alfalfa in 2015:

1st crop — \$170-200/acre
2nd crop — \$120-150/acre
3rd crop — \$100-125/acre
4th crop — \$90/acre

At least 500 downloads of this free app had been made by the time this article was published. Any owner of an Android device can use the app, and all UW-Extension agents across the state have access to the technology as well.

As you utilize this tool, keep in mind that ownership costs can run \$400/acre or more when considering lost rental income, annualized establishment cost, and top-dress fertilizer to maintain soil fertility. So, the old saying still holds true: "A fair price is whatever a willing seller and an able buyer can agree on." That's why the price of standing alfalfa is never the same. Visit the Dunn County UW-Extension website for more resources on calculating standing alfalfa at: <http://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/>.



Katie's Korner...

Continued from Page 2

"Enhancing soil health is one of the most important things we can do for this and for future generations. That's because enhancing soil health allows us to simultaneously address so many of our most pressing natural resource needs. It allows us to address water quality, farm profitability, resilience to extreme weather, economic risk, wildlife needs, and many others," reported Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D., Deputy Chief for Science and Technology of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

HOBO Weather Monitoring Station Website

In 2015, our Dunn County office received a UW-Extension Northwest Regional Innovative Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to fund the purchase of a weather monitoring station. This station is located at the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm and tracks rainfall amounts, temperature, relative humidity, dew point, leaf wetness and soil moisture levels. This data is accessible via a link on the Dunn County UW-Extension web page at: <http://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/red-cedar-demonstration-farm-2/>

8TH ANNUAL

Chippewa Valley



Farm-City Day

Saturday, September 12, 2015

10 am—2 pm

Admission is FREE

Arrowhead Farms

14630 125th Ave

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Arrowhead Farms is owned by Dave and Andy Johnson



- ◆ Activities and education for kids and adults!
- ◆ Guided wagon farm tours by CVTC students
- ◆ Agricultural Exhibits and demonstrations
- ◆ Petting zoo and kids play area
- ◆ Kiddie tractor pull—Register by 11am
- ◆ Lunch available for purchase from Chippewa County Junior Holstein Breeders

www.farmcityday.com

Check us out on Facebook at Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day



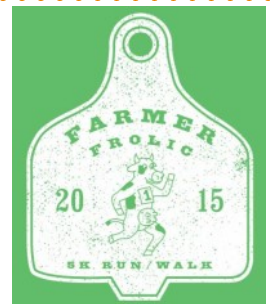
Directions: From US Hwy 53 , take exit 99 for County Hwy S- Chippewa Falls/Jim Falls. Turn onto County Hwy S towards Chippewa Falls for 2 miles. At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto WI Hwy 124 North for 4 miles. Turn right onto 125th Ave and watch for parking.



**FARMER FROLIC 5K
RUN/WALK**

A family friendly run that allows runners and walkers to enjoy the beautiful Chippewa Valley country-side while getting the chance to learn more about agriculture.
Registration starts at 8:00am with run beginning at 9:00am.

For more information or to register visit farmerfrolic5k.shutterfly.com





Start Them Right... Raise Them Right

Calf Management Seminar

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Registration: 9:30 am Meeting: 10 am to 3 pm

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center

2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI

Start Them Right...

Raise Them Right

Calf Management Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Registration: 9:30 am

Program: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

9:30 am **Registration** (Coffee, milk, juice and pastries will be available)

10:00 am **Management of Group Housing**
Amy Stanton, PhD, Dairy Well-being Specialist, UW-Extension

10:45 am **Your Mother Was Right! Cleanliness is Important to Calves**
Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, Agriculture Agent, UW-Extension
Oconto County

11:30 am **Five Steps Towards a Proactive Approach to Achieving Greater Transition Calf Success**
Noah Litherland, PhD, Dairy Youngstock Technical Specialist,
Vitaplus

12:00 pm **Lunch**

12:45 pm **Thoracic Ultrasound and Bovine Respiratory Disease**
Theresa Ollivett, DVM, Department of Medical Sciences, UW
School of Veterinary Medicine

1:30 pm **“Lightning Round” Sessions**

- *Ultrasounding Respiratory Scoring* - Olivett
- *Calf Sanitation Audit* - Lloyd
- *Veterinary Feeding Directive (VFD)* - Dr. Larry Baumann

2:15 pm **Updated ICPA Heifer Raising Costs**
Matt Akins, PhD, Marshfield Ag Research Station

3:00 pm **Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

Name(s): _____

Farm/Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration fee: \$35 per person
(includes meal, speaker fees, and materials)

Check payable to: UW-Extension

Registration deadline: September 1, 2015

Please mail registration form and check to:

**UW-Extension Eau Claire County
Agriculture & Extension Service Center
227 1st Street West
Altoona, WI 54720**

Or call: Phone: 715-839-4712

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