



CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

University of Wisconsin-Extension

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In this issue:

- 1-2** UW-Extension begins reorganization process for Cooperative Extension
 - 3** Tackling Agriculture's Plastic Waste Problem/ Dunn County Hazardous Waste Fall Collection
 - 4** Dunn County Barn Quilt Trail/ 2016 Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day
 - 5** Calendar of Events/ Ag Agent Maternity Leave
- Inserts:
- 2016 Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day poster
 - 2016/2017 UW-Extension Farm Succession and Estate Planning webinar series flyer

UW-Extension begins reorganization process for Cooperative Extension — April, 2016

Cooperative Extension, a division of University of Wisconsin-Extension, has begun planning for a reorganization that will sharpen its focus on education, streamline administration, and meet state budget cut mandates. During March, UW-Extension leaders charged an 11-member steering committee for the project, dubbed nEXT Generation. The committee has since approved a planning framework and established focus areas for 20 work groups.

Cooperative Extension staff, with offices in all 72 Wisconsin counties and three tribal nations, provide education and service programs focused on agriculture, natural resources, community and economic development, family living and youth development. County governments provide at least 40 percent of funding for local Cooperative Extension staff, as well as clerical, supplies, internet and travel support.

Planning the reorganization may take eight months starting in May/June 2016, followed by implementation. UW-Extension leaders have asked county partners to consider keeping budget and facility plans stable for 2017. "We're going to take the time to do this right, and that means working with county partners," said Richard M. Klemme, dean and director of Cooperative Extension. "In time, we expect some changes in staffing, but nothing that should cause counties to rethink their plans for 2016 and into 2017."

WI Farm Fun Facts

Did you know?

- The average American eats 33 pounds of cheese each year!
- Wisconsin is one of the top producers of potatoes in the U.S. More than 63,000 acres of potatoes are sold through the fresh market, chip industry or are processed.
- Wisconsin is #1 in the nation for milk goats, having 44,000 throughout the state.
- With about 312,000 tons being processed, Wisconsin supplies more than 46% of the nation's snap beans.

(2016 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom)

UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen announced priorities for Cooperative Extension reorganization on Feb. 10. The reorganization follows a \$3.6 million annual cut in state funding (part of a \$250 million overall cut to the UW System's biennial budget). Proposed changes draw on recommendations developed last fall 2015 and on extensive feedback from county and tribal leaders, agricultural commodity groups and others with a stake in Cooperative Extension's future.

Changes include:

- Keeping a Cooperative Extension office in every county while establishing multi-county areas that consolidate administration.
- Structuring county and area jobs to let educators and researchers focus on education and research rather than administrative tasks.
- Respecting different levels of county investment, ensuring that each county receives services proportionate to its funding.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from Page 1— UW-Extension begins reorganization process for Cooperative Extension

The Feb. 10 announcements finalized multi-county areas while setting aside sample county and area staffing models suggested in the original recommendations. Sandeen has asked project leaders to customize county and area staffing models to reflect real local needs and investments.

Next steps include seeking additional ideas and input from county and tribal leaders, commodities groups and other stakeholders, some of whom are taking part in planning work groups. "County leaders and Wisconsin residents have told me that they didn't realize how a cut to the UW System would trickle down and affect them so directly," said Sandeen in her Feb. 10 announcement. "This process has made it clear that the state of Wisconsin depends on Cooperative Extension, and the people of Wisconsin see tremendous value in our work."

UW-Extension, which receives the third largest amount of federal grants and contracts in the UW System, serves Wisconsin families, business and communities statewide through offices in all 72 Wisconsin counties and three tribal nations, continuing education services through all 26 UW System campuses, the statewide broadcasting networks of Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television, and entrepreneurship and economic development activities by county throughout the state. More Information is available at the nEXT Generation website—<http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/nextgeneration/>

UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers Make a Difference

The value of MGV service in WI
\$4.4 MILLION
 in 2015
using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.24 per hour, from Independent Sector.

201,615+
 hours
contributed by MGVs to UW-Extension and their communities this year.

2,844 ✓
Master Gardener Volunteers are certified for 2016.

617 
new Master Gardener Volunteers trained in 2015.



UW Extension BY THE NUMBERS

University of Wisconsin-Extension

STATEWIDE PRESENCE

OFFICES
 IN ALL **72** COUNTIES

ON **5** FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

AND **3** TRIBAL NATIONS



26,000+
 STATEWIDE VOLUNTEERS

MORE THAN 1 MILLION TEACHING CONTACTS IN 2014

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MORE THAN \$52.6 MILLION
 IN VOLUNTEER HOURS

OUR PROGRAMMING SUPPORTS WISCONSIN'S FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES, WHICH GENERATE MORE THAN \$88.3 BILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND 413,500 JOBS.



THE EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS A SUCCESSFUL 40-YEAR HISTORY AND SAVES STATES AND FAMILIES MONEY. FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN EFNEP, HEALTH CARE COSTS WERE REDUCED BY \$8.82 IN A GROUP OF MIDWESTERN STATES.



DID YOU KNOW?

4-H CLUBS CONDUCT AN AVERAGE OF 5 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS PER YEAR. THAT EQUALS 10,000 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS ANNUALLY.



THE LEADERSHIP WISCONSIN ORGANIZATION HAS OVER 400 ALUMNI FROM 67 DIFFERENT COUNTIES, WHO ARE LEADING AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY HAS A LIBRARY OF OVER 600,000 FEET OF ROCK CORE USED BY RESEARCHERS FROM MINING COMPANIES, WATER UTILITIES, ACADEMIA AND NON-PROFITS WORTH 120+ MILLION.

OUR WATER RESOURCE PROGRAMS WORK TO PROTECT WISCONSIN'S 15,000 LAKES AND 84,000 MILES OF RIVERS. SINCE 1997 VOLUNTEERS HAVE CLEANED UP GARBAGE, COLLECTING MORE THAN 130,000 LBS OF TRASH.



THE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON NEARLY EVERY WISCONSIN COW, GALLON OF MILK, QUART OF SPECIALTY ICE CREAM, WEDGE OF CHEESE, BRATWURST, BAG OF POTATO CHIPS AND DISH OF CRANBERRY SAUCE.



CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

Tackling Agriculture's Plastic Waste Problem

Adapted from an article by Mark Mayer, UW-Extension Green County Agriculture Agent

Wisconsin dairy and livestock farms are using silo bags, bunkers and wrapped bales at a dramatically increased rate over the last decade. Each of these tools relies on low-density polyethylene, a plastic film that provides a low-cost method for storing high-quality forages. It's estimated that over 55 million pounds of LDPE thermoplastic is sold annually to Wisconsin farmers. But although ag plastics are increasingly popular, their disposal has become a big issue on many farms.

A statewide survey conducted by University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2015 reported that about two-thirds of farmers use landfills for disposing of their used ag plastic. The second most common method of disposal is burning, at 30 percent, with 10 percent of respondents reporting they recycle the plastic. More than 1,500 farms and greenhouses around Wisconsin participated in the survey.

Burning ag plastic is illegal, and releases toxic and potentially cancer-causing chemicals such as dioxins and furans into the air. These toxins can be inhaled by humans and animals, and are deposited in soil and surface water. Residue from burning can also contaminate the soil and groundwater and enter the human food chain through crops and livestock. Moreover, unburned portions of plastic become litter on the ground, with larger piles creating breeding grounds and habitat for mosquitoes.

So why do Wisconsin farmers not recycle more ag plastic? The major challenge in recycling ag plastic is transporting it from the farm to a collection facility for baling.

Revolution Plastics, a company based out of Arkansas, is looking to expand their ag plastics recycling business into western Wisconsin. They are looking to collect ag plastics from farmers with on-farm recycling dumpsters. The dumpsters are free and collection is free to the farmer. They are looking for 250 farmers within an 80 mile radius of Eau Claire before they will site a baler in Eau Claire. They will collect ag plastics from farmers in the area to haul to a site to be baled and shipped to their processing facilities.

To be added to the company's waiting list, please visit: <https://www.revolutionplastics.com/index.php> and scroll down to the "Join the Revolution" section or call Revolution Plastics at 844-490-7873.

Dunn County Hazardous Waste Fall Collection

What is Hazardous Waste?

Hazardous waste includes automotive, garden, workshop, agricultural, or household products labeled as caustic, poisonous, flammable, toxic etc. These products should not be thrown away with your regular garbage or poured down your drain. Instead they should be saved for a hazardous waste collection, where they will be recycled, neutralized, incinerated for waste-to-energy, or otherwise properly disposed of.

Hazardous Waste Collections:

Hazardous waste collections are imperative to keeping the environment clean. They also keep residents safer and healthier by limiting their exposure to hazardous chemicals. Improper storage and disposal of these products can cause fires, groundwater contamination and injuries to people and animals. Please do not throw away hazardous waste with regular garbage or pour it down the drain. Save any or all hazardous waste for a hazardous waste collection.

Hazardous waste collections are contingent upon grant funding. Local households, farms and businesses will have an opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste in Dunn County free of charge during the collections.

- **Wednesday, September 14, 2016**—4:00 pm to 6:00 pm for Farms, Businesses and Households at the Colfax Fairgrounds, 831 E Railroad Ave, Colfax, WI 54730
- **Thursday, September 15, 2016**—2:00 pm to 3:00 pm for Businesses, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm for Farms, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm for Households at the Dunn County Transfer Station, E3900 Hwy 29, Menomonie, WI 54751

All farms and businesses must pre-register by Friday, September 9, 2016. Please contact the Dunn County Solid Waste Division at 715-232-4017 if you have any questions.

Acceptable Lawn & Garden Materials Include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| - 2, 4-D | - Kepone |
| - 2, 4 5 - T & TP | - Penta |
| - Arsenic | - Pesticide |
| - Chlordane | - Poison |
| - DDT | - Rodent Bait |
| - Fertilizer | - Silvex |
| - Fungicide | - Snail & Slug Bait |
| - Insect Repellent | |
| - Insecticide | |

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT



Are you interested in being on the Dunn County Barn Quilt Trail?

Barn quilts are popping up across the country. You may have seen them hanging on barns, sheds, or granaries as you traveled throughout the southern and eastern sections of Wisconsin and wondered what they were. A barn quilt is a quilt block painted onto an 8' x 8' piece of plywood and hung on a barn or shed. It is an artistic way of promoting agriculture and tourism. We're hoping to create a similar agri-tourism effort in Dunn County to celebrate our county and rich agricultural history.

The Dunn County Barn Quilt Project is a cooperative effort between UW-Extension Dunn County, the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, and MJ's Barn Quilts. **We have successfully reached our goal and created a "Dunn County Barn Quilt Trail"** to bring tourists to the area and business along the way. [A brochure listing all of the quilts, a description of the quilt block, and a map can be found in the trail brochure available from the UW-Extension office and on our website—http://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/dunn-county-barn-quilts/](http://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/dunn-county-barn-quilts/)

We hope that tourists will not only enjoy the beauty of the quilt block but gain a greater appreciation for the rich history of each farm and agriculture while traveling through Dunn County!

You can still be involved with this exciting initiative! An application for a 4'x4' or 8'x8' barn quilt can be found on the UW-Extension's website. Project Team members will contact you with more information that is needed for a new or already painted barn quilt. If you have an interest in painting, they will work with you to schedule time to paint your barn quilt at the Dunn County Community Services Building in Menomonie.

We encourage local businesses to join in this project through a monetary sponsorship of a Barn Quilt or by donating supplies to the Project Team. Please contact Katie Wantoch, Dunn County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, at 715-232-1636 or via email at katie.wantoch@ces.uwex.edu for more information on the Dunn County Barn Quilt project.

9th Annual Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day

Join us **Saturday, September 10 from 10 am – 2 pm** for the Annual Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day at **Alfalawn Farm, N2859 290th Street, Menomonie, WI 54751**. Alfalawn Farm is owned by the Styer Family, who are strong advocates for promoting Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

With many people being two or more generations removed from the farm, and with agriculture being such an important part of our everyday lives, we are inviting the entire community to come "back to the farm." Farm -City Day is an opportunity for the public to see and tour a working farm. This event is aimed to educate our community on where and how our food is produced, showing how agriculture has evolved and progressed over the last 50 years.

Alfalawn Farm features a newly expanded dairy farm with the latest in agricultural technologies, including a rotary milking parlor and automatic calf feeders. Alfalawn focuses on efficiencies around the farm and utilizes soil and water conservation best management practices. Guided wagon tours of the farm will be provided by the Chippewa Valley Technical College Agri-Science students.

Attendees will also be able to view numerous agriculture educational displays and demonstrations, participate in kid's activities such as a kiddie tractor course, and visit to the petting zoo. Food will be available for purchase from the Willing Workers 4-H Club, and there will be many other special attractions at the event.

In addition, Saturday morning will start with a 5K run/walk through the beautiful Chippewa Valley countryside. The **Farmer Frolic 5K run/walk** registration starts at 8 am with the run beginning at 9 am. This family friendly run will allow runners and walkers to enjoy the beautiful countryside while getting the chance to learn more about agriculture. For more information, or to register, visit farmerfrolic5k.shutterfly.com.

Each year Farm-City Day rotates the location of the event between Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County to represent a variety of local farming operations in the Chippewa Valley. This event is generously supported by Chippewa Valley area businesses, agriculture groups and many local volunteers. Feel free to visit our website (www.farmcityday.com) or Facebook page (Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day) for more information on this year's event, review previous events and pictures.

LOCAL & STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2016

- 25** **UW-Extension—Agricultural Leasing Contracts**, Farm Succession and Estate Planning Statewide Webinar Series, **1:00 -3:00 pm**, Room 101, Dunn County Community Services Building, 3001 U.S. Hwy 12 East, Menomonie, WI 54751. Registration is \$5/person per session, materials included. Pre-registration is required, Contact UW-Extension at 715-232-1636.
- 25** On-the-Farm Twilight Meeting, 6:00—8:30 pm, Alfalawn Farm, E2850 State Road 72, Menomonie, WI 54751. Sponsored by Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin.
- 31** **UW-Madison/Extension Agronomy/Soils Field Day**, UW Arlington Agricultural Research Station

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 5** **Labor Day**—UW-Extension offices closed
- 9** **Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day**, Alfalawn Farm —tours for local elementary school children
- 10** **Farmer Frolic 5K Run/Walk**, **9:00 am**, Alfalawn Farm
- 10** **Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day**, **10:00 am—2:00 pm**, Alfalawn Farm, N2859 290th Street, Menomonie, WI 54751. Open to the public. Admission is free. www.farmcityday.com
- 14** Dunn County Hazardous Waste Collection, 4-6 pm, Colfax fairgrounds
- 15** Dunn County Hazardous Waste Collection, 2-7 pm, Dunn County Transfer Station, Menomonie. All farms and businesses must pre-register by Friday, September 9. Please contact the Dunn County Solid Waste Division at 715-232-4017 if you have any questions.
- 22** **UW-Extension—Tax implications of transitioning from a sole proprietorship to an LLC**, Farm Succession and Estate Planning Statewide Webinar Series, **1:00 -3:00 pm**, Room 101, Dunn County Community Services Building, 3001 U.S. Hwy 12 East, Menomonie, WI Registration is \$5/person per session, materials included. Pre-registration is required, Contact UW-Extension at 715-232-1636.
- 28** **Red Cedar Demonstration Farm Fall Field Day**, TBD, near corner of Hwy 12/29 East and Stokke Parkway, Menomonie. Contact UW-Extension Dunn County Katie Wantoch at 715-232-1636 for more details.
- 29** **UW-Extension** and Wisconsin DNR sponsored Soil Health Professional Development and Field Day, Dunn County Judicial Center, 615 Stokke Parkway, Room 1402, Menomonie. Contact UW- Extension Dunn County Katie Wantoch at 715-232-1636 for registration information.

OCTOBER 2016

- 4-8** World Dairy Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
- 10** **UW-Extension/Dunn County 4-H Leaders Council** Fall 2016 Plat Books expected delivery date and available for sale in the Dunn County UW-Extension office

Dunn County Agriculture Agent Maternity Leave this Fall/Winter

I will be out of the office with the upcoming birth of my twins from mid or late October through the end of January 2017 . During this time, you may contact the Dunn County UW-Extension office at (715) 232-1636 to register for the Farm Succession and Estate Planning webinar series or for the Private Pesticide Applicator Training sessions. Questions will be directed to local county UW-Extension agriculture agents or to a UW-Extension State Specialist. Thank you, Katie Wantoch, UW-Extension Dunn County Agriculture Agent

Feel free to contact these UW-Extension agents during my absence:

- Barron County (715) 537-6250, Agriculture Agent Tim Jergenson, tim.jergenson@ces.uwex.edu
- Chippewa County (715) 726-7950, Agriculture Agent Jerry Clark, jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu
- Eau Claire County (715) 839-4712, Agriculture Agent Mark Hagedorn, mark.hagedorn@ces.uwex.edu
- Pepin County (715) 672-5214, Agriculture Agent Mike Travis, micheal.travis@ces.uwex.edu
- St. Croix County (715) 531-1930, Agriculture Agent Ryan Sterry, ryan.sterry@ces.uwex.edu