

Dunn County – 715-232-1636

Katie Wantoch – Agriculture Agent
Specializing in Economic Development
<http://dunn.uwex.edu>

Eau Claire County – 715-839-4712

Mark Hagedorn – Agriculture Agent
Erin LaFaive – Horticulture Educator
<http://eauclaire.uwex.edu>

Chippewa County – 715-726-7950

Jerry Clark – Agriculture Agent
Todd Prill—Agriculture Educator
<http://chippewa.uwex.edu>

Volume 7 Issue 2**Winter 2017/2018****In this issue:**

- 2 Building Healthy Soils in
Dunn County, the Dunn
County Soil and Water
Health Partnership
- 3 Dunn County LOSG report
- 4 Dunn County Barn Quilt
Trail / UW Discovery Farms
NUE Project
- 5-6 Dunn County Government
Agency “Cheat Sheet”
- 7 Calendar of Events /
Upcoming Workshops
 - Dunn County Barn Quilt
Trail brochure
 - Dunn County Farmland
Rental Rate Survey
 - Farming Your Finances
Workshop Series flyer

UW-Extension Restructuring, Merging with UW-Madison

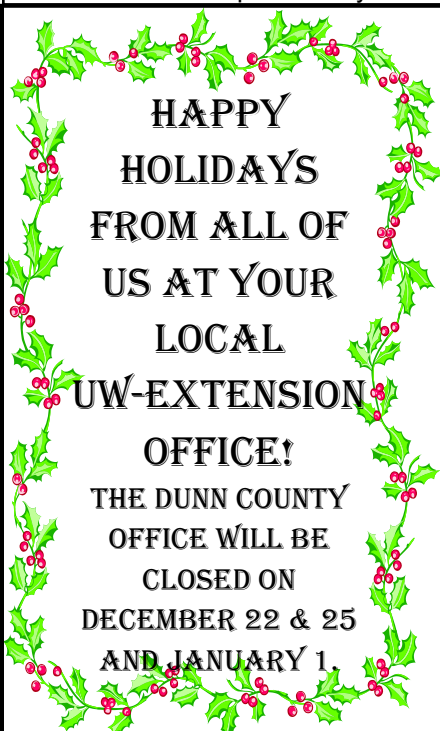
On Thursday, November 9, the UW System Board of Regents voted to restructure the UW System, including UW-Extension and UW Colleges. System President Ray Cross proposed this restructuring on October 11, 2017 as a way to address the demographic changes related to Wisconsin’s aging population and significant declining enrollment at all thirteen 2-year UW-College campuses. Another goal of the proposal is to bring closer alignment between research and practice. Under this proposal, Cooperative Extension will join UW-Madison, the state’s land-grant institution, in a partnership similar to other states like Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania. It is a return to our original home at UW-Madison, where Cooperative Extension began more than a century ago.

While many administrative details have not yet been determined, there are two important pieces that have been discussed.

- President Ray Cross sent a message to county elected officials in which he stressed the importance of the work Cooperative Extension does in local communities and in partnership with counties throughout Wisconsin. President Cross, UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank and Cooperative Extension Dean Karl Martin are all strongly in support of this work continuing. (Wisconsin Counties provide approximately 20% of annual budgeted Cooperative Extension funding.)
- We have been assured that the work of implementing the nEXT Generation model will continue uninterrupted. We continue to move forward re-organizing into new Programming Departments and with the new Area models. Cooperative Extension is starting to fill vacancies and execute programming based on local needs in partnership with counties. (More information on the nEXT Generation Cooperative Extension Reorganization can be found at <https://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/nextgeneration/>)

According to Dean Karl Martin, “We believe Cooperative Extension will bring great value to the UW-Madison community. No other organization within the UW System has the deep roots in community offices and staff present in all of Wisconsin’s 72 counties and with 5 Tribal Partners. These existing relationships, including our funding partnership with county boards, will provide more opportunities to connect the important practical work of local extension educators with the world-class research enterprise at UW-Madison.”

Please visit the UW System website for more information on this proposed restructure—<https://www.wisconsin.edu/uw-restructure/>



Building Healthy Soils in Dunn County

The Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership was formed in 2014 by agency staff from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and UW-Extension. The partnership was searching for an opportunity to demonstrate soil and water conservation best management practices for the Dunn County community, area farmers and CVTC students.

Members of the Partnership guide the management of 140 acres of City of Menomonie and Dunn County owned farmland while CVTC's Agriscience students are able to use the farm for an outdoor learning environment. "The Red Cedar Demonstration Farm gives students a hands-on opportunity to plant, scout fields, monitor growth, harvest, write nutrient plans, take soil samples. Really, it's a full farm laboratory for students," said John Sippl, Dunn County NRCS District Conservationist.

Conservation Practices

Conservation agriculture is a collection of practices that are designed to create a high-quality soil structure and improve overall soil health. These practices aim to protect the soil from erosion and degradation from tillage, wind or water while enriching soil quality and biodiversity. Conservation practices also assist in increasing water infiltration rates, which reduce surface runoff and contribute to the preservation of water quality.

Conservation practices help growers retain the soils' productivity while making the best use of resources (land, labor and capital). Several of these practices are being implemented on the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm, including:

- Crop rotation – practice of rotating crops in recurring succession on the same field. Rotations may improve productivity while also reducing insect and disease pressure as compared to continuous cropping systems. A corn-soybean-small grain crop rotation is being grown.
- Conservation tillage – least amount of tillage to promote a good seedbed while leaving at least 30% residue cover. No-till system has been adopted at the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm for maximum erosion control. Check strips are tilled as part of a long-term research project.
- Cover crops – provide interim protection to the soil between regular cropping intervals. Cover crops on sandy soils, such as those at the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm, help to reduce spring wind erosion and aid in the conservation of water.

No-Till Grain Drill Available for Rent

Dunn County has seen a renewed interest in farmers wanting to implement these conservation practices, especially in the adoption of cover crops. Cover crops can provide many benefits for the soil in crop production systems. The first step that farmers must do when selecting cover crops should be to ask some questions to help clarify their goals for using cover crops. Different goals require different cover crop species or species mixes.

While there are dozens of cover crop species available, the choices for cover crops species that will be successful are often dictated by what crop the farmer will plant the cover crops after. In addition, the type of farm equipment available to plant the cover crop can impact that decision. Many farmers agree that drilling of cover crops provides the best soil-to-seed contact and establishment of cover crops.

Dunn County recently purchased a Great Plains 10' No-Till Drill for use at the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm. In addition the no-till drill is available to rent for the purpose of seeding conservation practices, planting (small acreage) cropland fields, and renovating pastures. This purchase was also financially supported by the UW-Extension Dunn County Agriculture funds, a Save The Hills Alliance, Inc. grant, and the Dunn County Forage Council. The drill is available to be rented by county residents for a flat rate daily fee and additional acre usage fee. For more information on the rental of the no-till drill, please contact Chris Gaetzke in the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division at 715-232-1496.

Materials in this article from UW-Extension publication A3588: Management of Wisconsin Soils and UW-Extension Cover Crop website (<https://fyi.uwex.edu/covercrop/>).



CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

Dunn County Livestock Operations Study Group (LOSG) Report—Overview

The Dunn County Livestock Operations Study Group (LOSG) informational report was developed by members of the LOSG workgroup, which included invited participants representing a cross-section of interests concerned with the impacts of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) on groundwater, surface water and air quality within the County.

The LOSG committee was created as a result of the October 19, 2016 ordinance passed by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors (Board) imposing a moratorium on the establishment of all new livestock facilities with 1,000 or more animal units (AU, Appendix A), expanding livestock operations that would increase to 1,000 or more animal units, and for new or altered manure storage facilities. The workgroup was asked to review a broad set of issues associated with CAFOs and to develop recommendations for Dunn County. The workgroup has no formal authority to establish policy for any jurisdiction within Wisconsin.

Agriculture is engrained into the fabric of everyday life for many people throughout the State of Wisconsin, and Dunn County is no different. While the state is known for its agriculture, the geographic make up, existing conditions, policies, and people dictate the agricultural practices throughout the state. As people move out of urban centers for more green space in rural areas but still within close proximity to the urban centers where they work, sprawl can result.

This leads to prime agricultural lands being parceled into smaller lots for human habitation and subsequent commercial outlets pushing farm operations out. Dunn County has stayed relatively agricultural with one city (City of Menomonie) and seven villages (Boyceville, Colfax, Downing, Elk Mound, Knapp, Ridgeland, and Wheeler). Just over 94% of the entire county is zoned for agriculture. Many parcels of land zoned agriculture, however, are not necessarily used for agriculture due to a variety of factors such as land characteristics (waterbodies, slope of land), residential properties, and intended use other than agriculture (hunting land, vacation home, etc).

During the Information Gathering stage, the LOSG committee spent a significant amount of time gathering facts and data through specific presentations provided by experts and literature reviews. The most relevant information to livestock operations was then compiled into the Key Findings section of the report.

As of the drafting of the report, there are currently five permitted CAFOs (all dairy cattle operations) located in Dunn County. Additionally, a number of turkey farms in the County fall under a single Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc. CAFO permit (primary location, Barron County). The number of CAFO permits is on the rise throughout the state of Wisconsin, with a 235% increase in permitted facilities since 2000.

A number of State regulations apply to livestock operations. The Livestock Facility Siting Law sets statewide standards in five areas: setbacks from property lines, odor and air emissions, nutrient management, waste storage facilities, and runoff from livestock facilities. In addition, state regulations only apply to livestock facilities that are new and/or expanding to 500 or more AU.

The state standards are applicable if a County or Town in which the livestock facility is located has adopted the standards through local ordinance. Most counties in Wisconsin, including Dunn County, have also adopted a county manure storage and nutrient management ordinance to protect surface water and groundwater. LOSG reviewed current County and statewide ordinances and the key findings related to livestock operations are listed.

The LOSG committee utilized the Key Findings to draft the Recommendations section in the report. A recommendation is a statement that Dunn County can potentially act on or use to guide decision-making to address issues identified from the key findings. Decisions and recommendations made by the workgroup were based on a consensus seeking process. For many aspects of recommendations, the workgroup did achieve consensus. Due to time constraints, the LOSG committee was unable to develop an implementation schedule.

The report is informational. The report is a group product, compiled and edited by Vang and Colson with contributions and comments from all workgroup members. The report does not represent the views of any individual workgroup member, nor the views of any of the participating organizations. As noted, this report does not establish policy for any jurisdiction in Wisconsin. It is intended to serve as a resource for citizens and elected officials engaged in discussions about appropriate next steps in Dunn County around the issue of CAFOs.

If you are interesting in receiving a copy of the LOSG report, please contact the Dunn County Planning & Zoning Division at 715-231-6521. The report can also be downloaded from the front page of the Dunn County website at <http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/>

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT



DISCOVERY
FARMS
WISCONSIN

UW
Extension

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Are you interested in painting a barn quilt and/or participating in the Dunn County Barn Quilt Trail Project?

Barn quilts are popping up across Dunn County. You can find them hanging on barns, sheds, or granaries as you traveled throughout Dunn County and the entire state. A barn quilt is a quilt block painted onto a piece of plywood and hung on a barn or shed. It is an artistic way of promoting agriculture and tourism. Barn quilts featured in the Dunn County trail project are either 4'x4' or 8'x8' in size. We have almost 30 barn quilts showcasing Dunn County's rich agricultural history and are looking for more!

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.

A brochure listing all of the quilts, a description of the quilt block patterns, and a trail 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/>

You can still be involved with this exciting initiative! An application for a 4'x4' or 8'x8' barn quilt can be found on our website. A fee is collected to pay for materials. If you're not sure where to start, feel free to call our office. Project Team members Mary Kolstad or Janine Thull are willing to work with to discuss your ideas, collect information and will assist you in picking out your quilt pattern. They will also assist you in drawing and painting of your barn quilt. Barn quilts can be painted this winter in a heated room at the Dunn County Community Services Building in Menomonie. We will work with you to find a company to assist with the hanging of the barn quilt.

We encourage local businesses to join in this project through a monetary sponsorship of a Barn Quilt or by assisting with the hanging of a barn quilt. 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.

Dunn County Farmers wanted for Discovery Farms Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) Project

In 2015, UW Discovery Farms launched the Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) project through a grant from the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants Program. The goals of the project are to establish NUE benchmarks for Wisconsin specific farming systems, determine if the measures can complement nutrient management planning, and define how farmers can use NUE as a tool when deciding to change N management practices. Since 2015, UW Discovery Farms has added over 200 fields from 45 farms to its Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) database, in six regions of Wisconsin.

This project is designed to measure and track N over time and to assess the potential benefit of tracking NUE in Wisconsin. We are not suggesting in-season changes or adjusting N recommendations based on soil profile nitrate-N testing. We are also not changing N recommendations for corn production in Wisconsin.

N is tracked from all sources as it cycles through the growing season from the soil into corn plants. N content of the soil, manure, corn silage material, and corn grain is quantified through lab analysis. Participating farmers provide corn fields (grown for either grain or silage) for soil samples throughout the season and pre-harvest yield checks. Farmers also implement a zero N strip, a small, comparative strip to their regular nitrogen application.

At the end of the year, participating farmers will receive a summary of nitrogen application and uptake for their personal fields, a summary of area fields, and a summary of fields around the state. Knowing one's efficiency is important as an individual self-assessment, whether on a field-by-field or season-by-season basis, and is a way to understand how one's efficiency compares with other farmers' in the region.

We are currently looking for 6-8 farmers that would be willing to provide two fields/plots each for this research project. If you are interested or have questions on this project, please feel free to contact Katie Wantoch at 715-232-1636 or via email at katie.wantoch@ces.uwex.edu.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

Which Government Agency should I contact?

Do you get confused on which office you should call to have your agriculture related question answered. Here is a cheat sheet that may be helpful!

Federal Agencies — U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Dunn County office located at 390 Red Cedar Street, Menomonie, WI. Phone number 715-232-2614.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) - implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs.

- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs
- Conservation Programs, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Dairy Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP-Dairy)
- Disaster Assistance Programs
- Farm Loan Programs, providing credit to start, improve, expand, transition, market, and strengthen family farming and ranching operations.
- Price Support, including Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

- Environmental Improvement Programs, including Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Conservation Technical Assistance, including Conservation Planning

Rural Development (RD) - helps rural areas to develop and grow by offering Federal assistance that improves quality of life, empowering communities with financial and technical resources.

State Agencies

University of Wisconsin—Extension, Cooperative Extension— Provides consultation and information services from 72 county offices. We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities. Dunn County office is located at the Dunn County Community Services Building, 3001 U.S. Highway 12 East, Suite 102, Menomonie, WI. Phone 715-232-1636.

- Agriculture & Natural Resources—educators help citizens use research and knowledge to solve problems and take advantage of new opportunities. Educators balance farm profitability and production of high quality food, horticultural crops, fiber, and plant material with protection of the natural environment.
- 4-H Youth Development—4-H is the nation's largest youth development and empowerment organization. Youth from five-year kindergarten to one year past high school can learn important life skills like leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and communication to help prepare them for successful futures – and they do it while engaging in fun, hands-on 4-H activities!
- Family Living and FoodWise—educators are helping to create an environment where families have the information, skills and assets they need to improve their quality of life and thrive in their community.

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) - partner with all to grow the state's economy by promoting quality food, healthy plants and animals, sound use of land and water resources, and a fair marketplace. Central office located at 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI. Phone 608-224-5012.

- Animal Health— services include animal diseases, animal movement, official id & traceability
- Business Development—organic and specialty crop market, farm to school, Something Special *from* WI
- Farm Center—provides information and support to farmers and their families in order to help grow Wisconsin's agricultural economy, such as rural electric power services and technical assistance.
- Farmland Preservation and Ag Enterprise Areas—program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue that provides state income tax credits to farmers who meet the program's requirements. DATCP can assist counties in creating county agricultural preservation plans.
- Food and Recreational Safety—regulates produce growers, milk producers, dairy processors, etc.

Continued on Page 6

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

Which Government Agency should I contact?

Do you get confused on which office you should call to have your agriculture related question answered. Here is a cheat sheet that may be helpful!

State Agencies

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) - continued from Page 5

- Land and Water Conservation—works with local governments, other state and federal agencies, and landowners to conserve soil, prevent agricultural runoff, and preserve farmland and infrastructure for future generations. Programs/regulations include ATCP 50, Livestock Siting, Nutrient Management and Producer-Led Watershed.
- Pesticides/Fertilizers—Bureau of Agrichemical Management oversees regulation of pesticides; fertilizers, soil additives, and lime; and animal feeds, including pet food.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) - manages fish, wildlife, forests, parks, air and water resources while promoting a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities. DNR Service Center located at 1300 W Clairemont, Eau Claire, WI. Phone number 715-839-3700. DNR Satellite Center at 921 Brickyard Rd, Menomonie, WI.

- Environmental Management (EM) programs — air management, drinking water & groundwater, recycling & composting, waste & materials management, water quality & resources, including regulation of CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding operations) under U.S. EPA Clean Water Act's pollutant discharge permit program (known in WI as WPDES)
- Fish, Wildlife & Parks programs—Wildlife Management/Dunn and Pepin County (Wildlife Biologist: Missy Sparrow-Lien, 715-232-1519 and Wildlife Technician: Chad Mogen, 715-232-1517)
- Forestry programs—Managed Forest Law/Forest Crop Law (Matt Molback, phone 715-232-1516). Non-tax law, fire protection and state land forestry questions (Rob Strand & Kyle Coopman, phone 715-232-6980).

Wisconsin Technical College System—Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) is part of the Wisconsin Technical College System and serves an 11-county area. The largest campus is located at 620 W. Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, with major regional campuses in Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, Neillsville, and River Falls. The College is one of 16 WTCS colleges located throughout the state. CVTC has more than 90 programs, including two-year associate degrees, one- and two- year technical diplomas, short-term technical certificates and customized business solutions and technical assistance directly to business and industry. 800-547-2882

County Agencies— Dunn County Environmental Services, located at Dunn County Government Center, 800 Wilson Ave, Menomonie, WI

Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) - Phone number 715-232-1496

- Administration of and Technical Assistance for Dunn County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan/ Cost Sharing on Qualifying Conservation Practices
- Design & Installation of Best Management Practices for the Conservation of Soil & Water
- Provide Assistance with County, State, and Federal Programs (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Farmland Preservation Program, Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program, Wisconsin Private Forestry Landowner Grant Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Stewardship Incentive Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)
- Provide Assistance with Regulations (Chapter 92, NR 151, Storm Water Runoff Management, Construction Site Erosion Control, ATCP 50); Provide Assistance with Ordinances (Manure Management Ordinance, Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance)

Planning & Zoning Division - Phone number 715-231-6521—Sustainability Action Plan, Outdoor Recreation Plan, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Farmland Preservation, Zoning

Solid Waste & Recycling Division - Phone number 715-232-4017—Solid Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Management, Recycling

Survey Division - Phone number 715-231-6526—Certified survey map review and approval, Subdivision review and approval, Remonumentation of survey section corners, Detailed parcel mapping

CHIPPEWA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REPORT

LOCAL & STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURING UW-EXTENSION, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION STAFF

DECEMBER 2017

22&25 Christmas Eve (Observed) and Christmas Day—UW-Extension/Dunn County Offices Closed

JANUARY 2018

- 1** New Years Day—UW-Extension/Dunn County Offices Closed
4 Western Wisconsin Ag Lenders Conference, Stout Ale House/Shops Off Broadway, Menomonie
5 Wisconsin Agronomy Update Meeting, Clarion Hotel, Eau Claire
9-11 Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
10-11 Midwest Farm Show, La Crosse Center, La Crosse
14 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Eau Claire County UW -Extension Office, Altoona
16-17 Rice Lake Area Farm Show, Cedar Mall, Rice Lake
31 **UWEX** Farming Your Finances Workshop Series, Dunn County Community Services Building, Menomonie
31 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Security Bank, Bloomer

FEBRUARY 2018

- 1** **UWEX** Farming Your Finances Workshop Series, Dunn County Community Services Building, Menomonie
1-2 Wisconsin Corn—Soy Expo, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells
6 Dunn County Livestock Operations Study Group (LOSG) Report Open Forum, Dunn County Community Services Building, Menomonie
7 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Dunn County UW -Extension, Menomonie
13 **UWEX/WI DNR** CAFO Workshop, Clarion Hotel, Eau Claire
22 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Martino's Restaurant, Stanley
26 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Dunn County UW -Extension, Menomonie
27 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Eau Claire County UW -Extension Office, Altoona
27 **UWEX** Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference: Investing in Your Farm's Future, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Stevens Point

MARCH 2018

- 3** Spring Begins! Dunn County Master Gardeners Spring Seminar, Menomonie
6-7 Eau Claire Area Farm Show, Chippewa Valley Expo Center, Eau Claire
8 Red Cedar Watershed Conference, UW-Stout Memorial Student Center, Menomonie
22 **UWEX** Private Pesticide Applicator Training, Chippewa Co Courthouse, Chippewa

Upcoming Meetings or Trainings:

January to March—Private Pesticide Applicator Training to be held in Dunn, Eau Claire and Chippewa County. If your Private Pesticide Applicator license will expire in 2018 or you are interested in obtaining your applicator's license, please contact a UW-Extension office now to register for an upcoming training session. Training manuals must be purchased prior to attending a training session and taking the WI DATCP private applicator's exam. Please view the Calendar of Events for scheduled sessions.

February 6—Dunn County Livestock Operations Study Group (LOSG) Report Open Forum, Dunn County Community Services Building, Menomonie. 1—3 p.m., short presentation at 1 p.m. An open forum will be held to discuss the information included in the LOSG report, answer any questions and gather ideas regarding appropriate next steps in Dunn County around the issue of CAFOs. Dunn County's Planning and Zoning, Land and Water Conservation Division and UW-Extension staff will be on hand.

February TBD—Cultivating Your Future/Cultivating Your Farm's Future workshop series, Menomonie. Workshops are being planned that will assist farm families in exploring their farm's future in order to plan for a future farm transition and/or future retirement. Please watch for registration materials once program details are set. Please contact the Dunn County UW-Extension office at 715-232-1636 or visit our website at <https://dunn.uwex.edu/> for more information.