Hello,

It is time for an introduction. I am Darrell McCauley, the new Agricultural Agent for Winnebago County. It is my pleasure to begin serving the agricultural community here in the county for UW-Extension. As a youth, I grew up on a 50 cow dairy farm near Reedsburg, WI and participated in 4-H and FFA. Furthering my education, I attended UW-Madison with a double major in Dairy Science and Meat and Animal Science. My work experience includes 12 years as the Green Lake County Agricultural Agent and working in agri-business for an additional number of years. I recently had the opportunity to serve as interim 4-H agent in Green Lake County.

I am excited to begin educational programming here in Winnebago County and carry on with some of the other popular programs and activities that Winnebago County UW-Extension has offered in the past. As I begin, it will be necessary for me to collect and learn about the educational needs that are important to you and everyone in the agricultural community. Also, I believe in forming strong working relationships with the other agricultural agencies, farm organizations, producer groups, local government and my colleagues in the UW-Extension office. These groups include youth involved in 4-H and FFA. I am also looking forward to working with the active Master Gardeners organization in Winnebago County.

This newsletter has been a major outlet for educational information and I plan to use it that way. I will include articles that will provide educational content and be a location that you can learn about the upcoming educational events for our area. I will also be utilizing technology such as Facebook and other technologies that are becoming more popular to get educational resources and information to those that want to utilize them.

Again, I am excited to begin and get the chance to meet you. I look forward to learning more about your operation, business or organization and serving as Winnebago County Agricultural Agent.

Best Regards,

Darrell
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 2014

15 10am to 2:30pm OR 5pm to 9pm Nutrient Management Classes: Introduction to Nutrient Management
16 1pm or 7pm Evaluating Farm Bill Crop Program
22 10am to 2:30pm OR 5pm to 9pm Nutrient Management Classes: Introduction to SNAP+ 2.0 (2014) Nutrient Software Training

Jan 2015

12 10am to 2:30pm Nutrient Management Classes: Advanced Nutrient Management & Snap+ Refresher
15-17 Thurs-Sat 2015 GrassWorks Grazing Conference

Feb 2015

3 9am to 3pm Pesticide Applicator Training
5 10am to 3pm Pesticide Applicator Training: Shawano
9 9am to 3:30pm Pesticide Applicator Training: Outagamie County
13 9am to 3:30pm Pesticide Applicator Training: Outagamie County

Do you want to receive the most current University of Wisconsin research information by e-mail? The Winnebago County agriculture list receives a weekly update during summer on crop conditions, pests to watch out for, and events. If you would like to be included on this list, please send an e-mail to arolph@co.winnebago.wi.us.
2015 PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING
Tuesday, February 3, 2015
J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Cost: $30.00

✔ All private applicators have the option to certify/recertify through a self-study option. A minimum score of **70%** is required on all self-study exams. A minimum score of **50%** is required if you elect to attend the training session. PAT certification is required for people who use Restricted Use Pesticides.

✔ All producers are charged $30.00 for the training materials and the state certification. An additional $8.00 charge will be to cover the cost of a noon meal to be catered on that day. You can choose to bring your own lunch and not pay the $8.00 lunch fee.

✔ Registration to attend the class is due **January 30, 2015**


✔ To obtain a registration form please contact the UW Extension Office or visit the website at [http://winnebago.uwex.edu/](http://winnebago.uwex.edu/).

**A Wisconsin Pesticide Applicator certifications is valid for 5 years. If you already hold a valid private applicator license you do not need to retake the training until your license expires.**

Alternative Locations:
Shawano County:
February 5: Shawano
March 3: Shawano

Outagamie County:
February 9: Appleton UW-Extension Office
February 13: Jackson’s Point Sports Grill in Seymour

Contact Jamie Patton, 715-526-6136 to register
EVALUATING FARM BILL CROP PROGRAM OPTIONS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16TH
1PM OR 7PM
625 E COUNTY ROAD Y
MEETING ROOMS A & B

Program Objectives:

- Inform crop producers/landowners of their options to update FSA crop yields and/or reallocate base acres.
- Explain the following FSA program options:
  - Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC): County-based and Individual
  - Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
  - Supplement Coverage Option (SCO)
  - Demonstrate how each of the programs will be implemented.
  - Demonstrate decision-making tools available to farmers and their advisors to help make an informed decision on these programs.

Why are these decisions important?

With the passage or a new Farm Bill in 2014, landowners are given opportunity to reallocate base acres and update yields, while crop procedures are given the responsibility of selecting one of three basic program options. The decisions being made over the next few months are irrevocable and will be in effect until at least 2018. It will be important that landowners and farmers invest some time to consider their options and make a thoughtful choice.

Speakers:

- Farm Service Agency (Peggy, Sue and Lori)
- AG Agent, UW-Extension Darrell McCauley
2015 GrassWorks Grazing Conference

Thursday January 15, 2015—Saturday, January 17, 2015
Chula Vista Resort
2501 River Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
855-990-0204

Early registration ends January 1, 2015

Register online at:
www.regonline.com/2015GrassWorksGrazingConference

This conference is packed with so many opportunities to learn about grazing - no fence can hold it all! Whether you're new to the concept of grazing or are one of WI's pioneers, there is something for everyone at the 2015 GrassWorks conference.

Jan 15th: Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship 12:30—4:00pm

Breakout Sessions
“Preserving Hay, Baylage for Winter Feeding” and “Tools in the Farm Bill Tool Box”

Jan 16th: Thinking Regeneratively 8:00—8:45am

Breakout Sessions

Jan 17th: “Restoration Agriculture and Livestock” 8:00—8:45am

Breakout Sessions
“Naturally Fertilizing your land and the Nutrient Cycle”, “Stockmanship for Improved Grazing”, and “Working with soil biology for healthy pastures”
**2015 LIVESTOCK MARKET OUTLOOK**
By Brenda Boetel

**Cost of Production Issues**
- U.S. crop conditions among the best EVER – Lower feed costs
  - Lowest Corn & Beans since ’09, MEAL ’11
- Record high world output and consumption of corn
  - Year end stocks highest in 15 years
- Record high world output, consumption and stocks of soybeans
- Chicken cost of production down from high of nearly $1.00/lb in late 2012 to less than $0.80/lb in 2015
  - Hog costs less than $80/cwt in 2014 and less than $70/cwt in 2015
    - High cost was in 2013 at $93.95/cwt
  - Kansas feedlot cost of gain decrease from nearly $139/cwt in 2013 to just over $80/cwt in late 2014
    - Breakeven cost will increase in 2015 due to high feeder cattle price

**Protein Demand**
- Demand for protein is strong
- GDP is growing
- Job growth is improving
- Real personal disposable income has averaged +1.7% for 2014
  - Up from 0.1% in 2013 but below pre-recession average of 2.1%
- Consumer sentiment is improving
- Restaurant performance index indicates expansion phase
- Protein is in – carbs are out
- Per capita consumption is down almost 10% - mainly a production issue
- Retail prices for beef and pork continue to increase
- Red meat and poultry real per capita expenditures are all higher in 2013–up 2.8% over 2013 YTD
Livestock Producers, An Opportunity Awaits For You!

Are you contemplating installing a manure storage or feed storage in the not too distant future? Go down to your local Natural Resources Conservation Office (NRCS) and sign up for cost-sharing on a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). CNMP’s are a NRCS priority and are almost always funded. I have yet to hear of one not being funded.

Wait, you say you already have a 590 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)? That is great, it puts you one step closer to getting a CNMP. The NMP is actually just a small part of the CNMP. A CNMP is “comprehensive” and evaluates and documents your entire operation for resource concerns, how they have been addressed and what still needs to be addressed. A CNMP will include the following sections:

1. A CNMP Narrative
2. Record Keeping – soil and manure tests, amount of manure produced, and amount spread
3. Feed Management Needs and Evaluation
4. Upland Conservation Plan
5. Evaluation of Existing Waste Management System
6. Nutrient Management Plan – nutrient needs and manure spreading plan for crop fields

Wait, you’re just a small or medium sized livestock producer? You can see why a large or permit sized farm would need one these, but why do you?

- Once completed, your CNMP can assist you in applying for and receiving cost-sharing from local, state, or federal agencies to address any resource concerns.

Continued on next page...
• Practices noted on your CNMP addressing resource concerns, such as grassed waterways, diversions, roof gutters, manure storage, feed storage and many others, will get you a higher ranking for your EQIP application.

• Many of the resource concerns documented in the CNMP will be the same ones that will need to be addressed in order to be in compliance with Wisconsin’s Agricultural Performance Standards. These standards apply to all farmers no matter what the farm size is.

• A CNMP will also address two issues we will soon be required to comply with for compliance with the Ag Performance Standards, runoff from milkhouse waste and feed storage sites. In order to address these some type of waste storage facility may also be needed. With feed storage or manure storage, EQIP may be your only option for cost-sharing and a CNMP would be required first.

A CNMP helps livestock producers address local, state, and federal regulations. When completed, the CNMP can be used as an operation and maintenance plan for a livestock farm and can provide a plan for future growth. It evaluates the risk to the environment from the current operation and allows a livestock producer to look ahead at issues that will affect their operation.

The planning process begins through a discussion of future plans for the operation which may be anything from expansion to retirement. The CNMP will document the measures you’ve already put in place to protect the environment and will develop a plan to prioritize what yet needs to be addressed. It should become part of your long range business plan.

Some private sector agronomists and engineering firms are NRCS-certified to develop CNMP’s. The complexity in the CNMP’s requires that both an agronomic and engineering planner participate. During the evaluation process, your chosen consultant should meet with your nutrient management planner (if you have one) and the local County Land Conservation Department to discuss potential resource concerns and solutions on your operation.

Continued on next page...
I strongly recommend that all livestock producers at least check out a CNMP. In the near future more state and federal government regulations on manure application and nutrient runoff will be coming at us. Practices such as nutrient management, manure storage, and feed storage runoff control will be needed, if not required, to bring producers into compliance. The Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan can be used to keep you ahead of the game and assist with cost-sharing.

For more information on CNMP’s, contact your local NRCS office or check out the NRCS website link listed below.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/farmerrancher/?cid=nrcs142p2_020843

Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship Program Sponsored by CME Group

WRITE YOURSELF TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

Introduced in 1990 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Live Hog Futures, the CME sponsored by the Pork Industry Scholarship Program continues to recognize outstanding youth in the pork community. Because 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of Live Hog Futures, we will be awarding FIVE $2,500 scholarships to students who intend to pursue a career in the pork industry-talented and thoughtful students who may emerge as industry leaders someday.

To be eligible you must:

1. Be an undergraduate student in a two-year swine program or four-year college of agriculture;

2. Write a brief letter indicating what role you see yourself playing in the pork industry after graduation;

3. Submit an essay of 750 words or less describing an issue you see confronting the pork industry today or in the future and offer your solutions;

Continued on next page...
4. Obtain two letters of reference from current or former professors or industry professionals; Prepare a cover sheet with your:

   A—name  
   B—complete mailing address, telephone number, and E-mail address  
   C—school name  
   D—year in school  
   E—permanent mailing address and telephone number

6. Submit the above items in a single envelope to:

   National Pork Producers Council  
   Or e-mail to:  
   ATTN: Craig Boelling  
   mailto:boellingc@nppc.org  
   PO Box 10383  
   Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9960

   NOTE: All entries must be postmarked by DECEMBER 12, 2014

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) will administer the program, read the essays and select the winners. Essays will be judged on the basis of clarity or expression, persuasiveness, originality and relevance of topic. Winners will be announced at the Pork Industry Forum in San Antonio, TX March 5-7, 2015. NPPC reserves the right to publish any or parts of the essays submitted.

For additional information, please contact Craig Boelling at 515-278-8012 (boellingc@nppc.org)
NEWS FROM LAND & WATER CONSERVATION

Nutrient Management Classes

Classes - 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Introduction to Nutrient Management: December 15, 2014
Introduction to SNAP+ 2.0(2014) Nutrient Software Training: December 22, 2014

Classes - 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Advanced Nutrient Management & Snap+ Refresher:
January 12, 2015

Classes – 5 pm to 9 pm

Introduction to Nutrient Management: December 15, 2014
Introduction to SNAP+ 2.0(2014) Nutrient Software Training: December 22, 2014

James P. Coughlin Center, 625 County Rd Y, Oshkosh
Free: Bring your own lunch.


Advanced Nutrient Management & Snap+2.0 (2014) is for farmers who have been writing their own plans. Farmers who write their own plans should attend a refresher every 4 years per WI DATCP rules. Anyone is welcome to participate.

Continued on next page...
If you collect a Farmland Preservation Tax Credit, have a Nutrient Management cost-share contract, or have manure storage under the county ordinance, then you need an annual nutrient management plan. The plan can be prepared by a Certified Crop Advisor or a qualified farmer. In Winnebago County, we teach the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture approved nutrient management curriculum. Since 2008, more than sixty farmers have attended nutrient management training here.

Pack a lunch so we can provide these classes at no cost. Please bring a laptop PC or let Sheila or Darrell know that you will need one.

To register:

Please contact Darrell McCauley at the Winnebago County UWEX at 920-232-1970 or dmccauley@co.winnebago.wi.us
OR:

Sheila Kiddy at Winnebago County LWCD at 920-232-1950 or skiddy@co.winnebago.wi.us
MANURE HANDLING

Hi all—

Over the past few days, I've talked to a number of manure applicators and agency staff about the impact of the late harvest on fall manure applications. I've put together a few thoughts to consider as the ground begins to freeze in the next few days. With the heightened media attention to manure spills, vehicle accidents and manure pit overflows, a pro-active approach is needed.

1. If you are not going to be able to empty all of your client's manure storages this fall, the goal should be to give as many as possible at least 6 months storage. This may mean only removing half of a 12 month capacity pit and coming back in December or early next spring. It also increases expenses and means more equipment moves.

2. For the CAFO (WPDES permitted farms), their permit requires that they have at least 6 months of storage going into winter (defined as at some time between Oct 1 and Nov 30). If they are not able to meet the Nov 30 deadline, they need to notify their DNR contact. Spreading may still be possible if soil conditions allow in December, under their nutrient management plan.

3. For the smaller and medium sized farms, shoot for 6 months available storage. If they need to apply after freeze-up, they should do so in accordance either with their Winter Manure Spreading Plan (or regular nutrient management plan if they don't have a Winter plan). The farmer should work with their County Land Conservation Department to determine suitable fields.

4. Transfers from one manure storage to another can be done all winter long (in fact, there is less road damage if done after the road is frozen). For CAFOs, manure storages need to be pre-approved by DNR. For non-CAFOs, the farmer should work with the County Land Conservation Department to pre-approve structures.

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5. Finally, how full can a manure storage be? I’ve attached a sheet that shows where the MOL (Maximum Operating Level) and Design Capacity (Design Storage Volume) markers should be on a manure storage (both earthen and straight wall). All farms should keep the level at or below the MOL (CAFOs are required to both have markers and keep it below this level). Above the MOL is additional space for a 25 year, 24 hour rainfall event (including all of the area that drains into the pit) and an additional 1 foot of freeboard.

THE NEW EPA BEE ADVISORY BOX

On EPA's new and strengthened pesticide label to protect pollinators

 alerts users to separate restrictions on the label. These prohibit certain pesticide use when bees are present.

 The new bee icon helps signal the pesticide's potential hazard to bees.

 Makes clear that pesticide products can kill bees and pollinators.

 Bees are often present and foraging when plants and trees flower. EPA's new label makes it clear that pesticides cannot be applied until all petals have fallen.

 Warns users that direct contact and ingestion could harm pollinators. EPA is working with beekeepers, growers, pesticide companies, and others to advance pesticide management practices.

 Highlights the importance of avoiding drift. Sometimes, wind can cause pesticides to drift to new areas and can cause bee kills.

 The science says that there are many causes for a decline in pollinator health, including pesticide exposure. EPA's new label will help protect pollinators.

Read EPA's new and strengthened label requirements: http://go.usa.gov/JHH4
NEWS FROM USDA AND FSA

AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE (ARC) & PRICE LOSS COVERAGE (PLC)

Please contact your administrative county to set up an appointment

BASE REALLOCATION

SEPTEMBER 29, 2014—FEBRUARY 27, 2015
*ONE OWNER MUST SIGN*

Owners have one-time opportunity to:
- Relocate the farm’s base acres or
- Retain the existing 2013 base acres.

Reallocation is a proration of the covered commodities planted in the crop years 2009-2012 to the total acres of all covered commodities planted or considered planted during that time.

*Note: Base acres are an old history of what was planted on the farm and will not increase or decrease.*

YIELD UPDATE

Owners also have a one-time opportunity to update yields.
- Uses 90% of the farm’s 2008-2012 average yield per planted acre.
- Years **without** a planted covered commodity are excluded.
- If the actual yield is less than 75% of the county average yield, then the substitute yield will be used.
- Or retain current CC yields.

Acceptable Records—“Verifiable or reliable” may include, but are not limited to: RMA records, commercial receipts, settlement sheets, load summaries, silage appraisals or measurements converted to bushels, fed production can be determined reliable by the COC using items like storage capacity, cattle numbers, etc.

*Note: Yields will only be used to determine payments for the PLC program by all owners are encouraged to update yields regardless or the program chosen.*
ELECTION

NOVEMBER 17, 2014—MARCH 31, 2015
*ONE PRODUCER MUST SIGN*

Producers make a one-time election of PLA, ARC County (ARC-CO), or ARC Individual Coverage (ARC-IC) for crop years 2014-2018.

No election is made in 2014 will result in the default program designation of “PLC” for 2015-2018, and eliminate any 2014 payment.

Effective price = the higher of either National Market Year Average Loan Rate
Reference price = nationally established prices for the 2014 Farm Bill

PLC—Payments are issued when effective price of a covered commodity is less than the reference price for that commodity.
  • Payments are not dependent on the planting of a covered commodity.
  • Paid on 85% of base acres

ARC-CO—Payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue is less than the ARC-CP guarantee and are based on the county data, not individual farm data.
  • Payments are not dependent on the planting of a covered commodity.
  • Payments are equal to 85% of base acres times the difference between ARC-CO guarantee and the actual county crop revenue.
  • ARC-CO guarantee is determined by multiplying 86% by the ARC-CO benchmark revenue.
  • Payments may not exceed 10% of ARC-CO benchmark county revenue.

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**ARC-IC**—The farm, for ARC-IC purposes, is the sum of the producer’s interest in all of the producer’s ARC-IC farms in the State. Payments are issued when the actual farm crop revenue is less than the ARC-IC farm guarantee.

- Payments are dependant on the planting of a covered commodity; however, the payment is limited to 65% of the total base acres times the difference between the ARC-IC guarantee and the ARC-IC crop revenue across all covered commodities planted on the farm.
- The farms ARC-IC guarantee equal 86% of the farm’s ARC-IC benchmark revenue.

**ENROLLMENT**

**MID-APRIL 2015-SUMMER 2015**

*PRODUCERS WITH SHARES MUST SIGN*

Producers sign contracts to participate in ARC/PLC for 2014 and 2015 crop years.

Annual requirements will include:

- Contract signature
- Valid lease
- AGI certification
- Annual crop reports—July 15 deadline and November 15 for fall-seeded small grains and forage
- Update farm records

*Note: If ARC-IC is elected, annual production/yields must be provided.*
Dairy 30x20 Grants Available for Farm Innovations, Financial Planning

Madison – “Grow Wisconsin Dairy” means different things for different families. For one La Crosse-area family, it means redesigning a barn and installing robotic milkers so Dad can keep milking cows until his son can finish college and come back to run the farm.

For a Sturgeon Bay family, it means hiring a crop specialist so they can improve the feed quality they’re growing on the same number of acres they’ve farmed for generations. Another family might want to hire financial specialists to redesign their farm’s business plan. Maybe for them, transitioning to a grass-based dairy might be the key to turning a profit that will support the next generation.

Whatever the vision, the Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Grant program can help make it happen.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is now accepting applications for the next round of Dairy 30x20 grants. Farms looking to innovate could use the grant money to cover the costs involved with business planning, financial analysis, farm transition planning or farm transfers. Projects such as designing new milking parlors, robotic milking systems or waste-handling systems would qualify for the grant.

Farmers planning to improve management practices in their current operations could use the grant to hire specialists in herd health, managed grazing or organic production. This could include the cost of dairy nutritionists, veterinarians or agronomists.

Recipients could be awarded as much as $5,000; they must pay a cost share of 20 percent of the total grant amount.

The 30x20 program was developed to support Wisconsin’s dairy industry in the long term.

“The demand is growing locally and around the world for the safe, high-quality dairy products produced and processed in Wisconsin,” DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel said. “This grant can help Wisconsin’s dairy farms improve efficiencies and enhance profitability in order to keep meeting that demand.”

These grants are just one service of the Grow Wisconsin Dairy 30x20 Team. DATCP can help farmers connect with dairy resources year round. For more information, call toll-free at 855-WI DAIRY (855-943-2479) or email GrowWisconsinDairy@wi.gov.

**NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Periodically, UW-Extension takes steps to assure that our partners know and understand our policy of nondiscrimination. This letter is to remind or notify you that the University of Wisconsin-Extension does not discriminate in the treatment of individuals, in the admission or access to its programs and activities, in the provision of services, or in employment.

Further, UW-Extension will not participate with organizations or in activities which discriminate on the basis of any of the legally prohibited categories of discrimination. Categories of prohibited discrimination include race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest or conviction record, or membership in the national guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military service.

Consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons who need materials in alternative format or other accommodations must write or call the UW-Extension contact person for the specific program or call the main telephone number of the Winnebago County Extension Office, (920) 232-1970 at least ten (10) working days prior to the event.

Individuals who need TTY access may contact the Winnebago County Extension Office by calling the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System at 711.

On behalf of Winnebago County Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Extension, we want to thank you for collaborating with our faculty and staff in their many educational endeavors. We appreciate your support and working relationships as we provide educational programs designed to empower the diverse citizens of Winnebago County.
Winnebago County Agriculture Activities & Advice

Winnebago County UW-Extension
625 E County Rd Y
Suite 600
Oshkosh, WI 54901-8131

Agriculture/Horticulture  920-232-1970
Community Development  920-232-1972
Family Living  920-232-1973
4-H Youth Development  920-232-1974
Natural Resource Educator  920-232-1972

County Extension Staff

Darrell McCauley
Agriculture Agent

Kimberly Miller
Horticulture Educator

Catherine Neiswender
Community Development Educator

Chad Cook
Natural Resource Educator

Chris Kniep
Dept Head/Family Living Educator

Kristi Cutts
Family Living Educator

Matt Welter
4-H Youth Development Educator

Sarah Thompson
4-H Youth and Science Educator

Kris Soper
Family Nutrition Educator

Evan Groth
Family Nutrition Educator

Wendy Beyer
Nutrition Director

Extension Support Staff

Melody Piper
Michelle Peplow
Ashley Rolph

Extension Education Committee

Tom Widener
Nancy Barker
Tom Snider
Ron Hardy
Koby Schellenger

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equal opportunities in employment and
programming, including title IX requirements.

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/winnebago/