Welcome,

During my first three months as the Winnebago County UW-Extension Agricultural Agent, I have had the opportunity to meet many producers, farm agency staff, and farm organization members. Based on those discussions and observations, I am excited to see that Winnebago County has an active and growing agricultural community.

To serve farmers more effectively, I sent a survey to a large group of producers to identify individual priorities and issues that they see as important. Based on the information provided from the survey results, I have gained a sense for the type of educational programs producers are interested in and see useful.

Most of all I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the large number of farmers that took the time to share their individual interests, pressing issues, and provide valuable input. I look forward to offering opportunities that will gain research based ideas and practices, when implemented, will keep your farm profitable and agriculture strong and growing in Winnebago County.

Best Regards,

Darrell
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9am—3pm Pesticide Applicator Training– JPCC</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Youth Tractor &amp; Machinery Safety Registration Deadline</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>8:30am—12:30pm Tractor &amp; Machinery Certification Course—Omro High</td>
<td>School</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>8:30am—12:30pm Tractor &amp; Machinery Certification Course—Omro High</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8am-4pm Farm Bureau Bus Trip</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8:30 am-12:30pm Tractor &amp; Machinery Certification Course—Omro Fire</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm Tractor &amp; Machinery Certification Course— Berlin High School</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>8:30am-12:30pm Tractor &amp; Machinery Certification Course— Berlin High School</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>United Veterinary Youth Scholarship Registration Deadline</td>
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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.
**YOUTH TRACTOR AND MACHINERY SAFETY CLASSES**

Every Saturday
February 21st-March 28th
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

February 21 & 28: Omro High School FFA Room
455 Fox Trail, North Side of School

March 7: Omro Fire Station

March 14 & 28: Berlin High School

March 21: Equipment Dealer Location-TBA

Testing will be conducted on March 28, 2015 in Berlin.

**Registration Deadline: February 17th**

**YOUTH MUST BE 12 YEARS OLD IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN THE COURSE**

*To Register for class, please fill out form on back page*

This five week course meets state and federal requirements of 24 hours of training. The class fee is $25. To fully meet the requirement, **100% attendance is necessary.**

Course materials and a written exam are targeted at youth who are 13-15 years old. Youth are also evaluated on behavior and how well they are able to operate tractor controls on a simulated course during a driving exam. Per Federal rule, youth ages 14-15 employed on a farm owned by someone other than parents/guardian need this certification to operate machinery. Per State rule, youth starting at 12 years of age need this certification to operate machinery on public roads for their parent/guardian’s farm.

Maximum of 25 students. Parents should plan to accompany students to the first class. Car pooling help will be needed.
Nutrient Management Planning – An Important Tool for Cost Saving

Nutrient management is a procedure of using crop nutrients as efficiently as possible to improve soil productivity. The focus of nutrient management is to save cost with precise use of nutrients for crops based on standard recommendations and protect the environment. Nutrients that are not effectively utilized by crops have the potential to leach into groundwater or enter nearby surface waters (such as lakes, ponds, streams, creeks etc.) via overland runoff or subsurface agricultural drainage systems. Over using crop nutrients without appropriate planning and beyond the standard recommendation can deteriorate water quality. Therefore, the objective of crop nutrient management is to prevent the over-application of nutrients.

The question here is how can we keep effective crop nutrient management? The answer is developing and following a yearly plan and conducting soil tests of your farm periodically to determine the nutrient needs of crops. Farmers are encouraged to keep good records on the rate, method, and timing of all nutrient applications on their farm, along with the source of the nutrients, whether they are purchased fertilizers, manure or other bio-solids, legumes or even irrigation water. The SNAP Plus program provides a way for farmers to keep track of this information. It also helps you calculate the annual manure production for both solid and liquid manures. The Snap Plus program can display several years of your crop plan and nutrient requirements and credits from past years nutrient use.

Remember that nutrients you applied to the soil such as phosphorous and potash that are not completely used by the current crops must also be accounted for in next year's nutrient management plan. Keeping good records of the nutrient use on your farm will help you compare expenses and calculate a return in terms of crop yields and cost savings. In short, good records provide information that helps you and your crop consultants decide whether and how to adjust nutrient application rates, methods, and timing in your field. Nutrient management planning provides you a good learning opportunity. Nutrient management planning guides you through a step by step process of using nutrients in your operation along with considering the UW-Extension recommended rates for each of your crops.

Continued on next page...
University of Minnesota suggests many ways to fine-tune or modify nutrient application rates, methods, and timing to ensure that nutrients are used as efficiently as possible. Some examples are listed below:

- Banding, side-dressing and injection are examples of methods to place nutrients where they are most likely to be used by plants. Cover crops or green manures can be used to similar effect; they help nutrients stay in the soil where plants can use them.

- GPS grid sampling and flow meters are used to tailor nutrient application rates to the needs of each soil type rather than using the same rate across an entire field. This is called variable-rate application; it is an important technique because farm fields (especially larger fields) typically contain several soil types and different amounts of nutrients.

- Examples of strategies related to timing include (1) splitting the total amount of fertilizer into two or more applications during the growing season, rather than applying it all at once and (2) avoiding fall application of nitrogen altogether (i.e., applying it in the spring, closer to when crops need it). The latter is especially important in the area where bedrock increases the risk of nitrates leaching into groundwater.

For water quality purposes, nutrient management is especially important on slopes, on soils with high phosphorus levels and in environmentally sensitive areas. Sensitive areas include shore land (land near rivers, stream, lakes and wetlands), areas around sinkholes, wells and surface drainage inlets, areas with sandy soil or shallow soil over bedrock (especially fractured bedrock) and wherever groundwater is close to the surface.

University of Minnesota listed following advantages of nutrient management:

- Enhances profitability by significantly reducing purchased fertilizer costs
- Protects surface water quality by minimizing nutrients, organic matter, and pathogens in agricultural runoff

**Continued on next page...**
Aids compliance with state regulations.

Improves soil quality and productivity by increasing nutrient retention and water holding capacity and enhancing soil structure.

May improve air quality by reducing ammonia emissions.

Helps protect public health when nutrient application occurs near municipal or domestic wells, residences, businesses, schools, and public lands.

Information Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Material is edited for content and length for this article.

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2015 PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

When: Tuesday, February 3, 2015
9a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: J.P. Coughlin Center,
625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh

**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
United Veterinary Service Youth Scholarship

United Veterinary Service is offering a $1000.00 scholarship to a graduating senior this spring. Half of the scholarship will pay for the first year of college or technical school, and the second half will pay for the second year of studies. The scholarship application is available to any student in Waupaca, Shawano, Outagamie, Waushara or Winnebago counties who was enrolled in a supervised animal project in 4-H, FFA or Scouting. There are no restrictions regarding the area of study the student pursues.

The application includes a list of the projects the student was engaged in and a short essay about the life lessons learned with the project. The deadline for the completed application is March 31, 2015.

Applications can be picked up at offices in Clintonville or Bear Creek.

For more information on how to apply, please contact:

Erica Klaeser
Practice Manager
United Veterinary Service
E9525 Blueberry Rd
Bear Creek, WI 54922
uvs@frontiernet.net
715-752-4747
DIVERSIFIED AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Marketing your Locally Grown Food

Register now for the “Know Your Buyer” seminar, **February 9-12 in Waukesha, Stevens Point and Madison.**

The seminar is part of the ongoing Local Food Business Seminar Series, hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection along with many industry partners.

The seminar will feature region-specific panel of people working in direct marketing, grocery, restaurants, processors and institutions. Panelists will talk about how attendees can develop relationships with each type of customer in order to make product sales.

The seminar will be in Waukesha on Feb. 9, Stevens Point on Feb. 10 and Madison on Feb. 12. You need only attend one seminar – choose the location most convenient for you.

The sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Check-in begins at 8:45 a.m. at each location. The cost of the seminar is $10 for the first registrant and $5 for additional members of a business or organization. Active Something Special from Wisconsin™ members get a $5 discount on the cost of the initial registrant.

The Madison seminar will be available online as a free webinar.

For exact locations of the seminar sites, to read a complete agenda or register go to [http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin BLBW_Workshops.](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin BLBW_Workshops.)

*Continued on next page...*
The Local Food Business Seminar Series includes two more seminars scheduled through March. Each seminar will take place in Waukesha, Stevens Point and Madison. The final seminars in the series are “Working with a Distributor” scheduled March 2-5 and “Finding the Dollars” scheduled March 16-19.

The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program provides many resources for local farms and agribusinesses. Learn more at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/.

To request a link for the webinar, or if you have other questions, contact: Kietra Olson at (608) 224-5112 or Kietra.olson@wisconsin.gov.

**FARM BUREAU BUS TRIP**

**Friday, March 6, 2015**

**Northcentral Technical College's Agricultural Center of Excellence Farm-Wausau Mullins Cheese –Mosinee**

Cost: $25/person (Includes bus ride and lunch)

8am: Leave from Green Lake County Court House South Parking Lot (571 County A, Green Lake)

10:30am -11:30am: Tour Ag Center of Excellence

**Noon-Lunch**

1pm: Tour Mullins Cheese

4pm: Arrive back in Green Lake

RSVP to District Coordinator Becky Hibicki by **February 27** at bhibicki@wfbf.com or 920-517-2445
Agriculture Center of Excellence

The Agriculture Center of Excellence is located just north of Wausau and the NTC campus on County Road K in the Town of Maine. Thanks to a unique collaboration of partners in the agriculture industry, government and education, the Agriculture Center of Excellence provides the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the management of the herd, nutrition, crops, equipment, buildings and business.

Mullins Cheese

Mullins Cheese is the largest family-owned and operated cheese factory in Wisconsin. As the family has grown, so has the operation. In addition to the original Knowlton facility, there is a second facility in the Marshfield area. Both plants are continually updated with the latest technology to make them more efficient. They supply premium quality cheese to customers throughout the United States. In 2001, Mullins Cheese expanded its operation to include a whey processing facility to produce whey protein isolate powder in addition to other by-products. Through the use of ultra filtration and microfiltration processes, whey protein can be concentrated from cheese whey to greater than 90% protein. With its high biological value, eases of digestion, and immune-boosting capabilities, whey protein isolate powder is an excellent source of protein for nutrition. Mullins Whey products are sold worldwide for use in nutritional supplements, sports drinks, and food products.
ACT 377 - IMPLEMENT OF HUSBANDRY (IoH) LAW

Act 377 became effective January 15, 2015 Statewide, including in Winnebago County. The law created a no fee permit that allows farmers to exceed weight and length limits for farm implements and commercial farm vehicles when traveling on Town roads and County and State highways. In addition, the law provides for a process for identifying the route for you to use to reach the fields located away from the farmstead when operating over weight or length limits.

What did the new law do?

1. Creates new operating rules for farm equipment and vehicles that operate on town roads and county and state highways.
2. Some farm operators need to apply for a no fee permit to operate over a new weight limit and extended length of the implement or vehicle.
3. Designated some exemptions regarding the type of equipment you operate or the distance used to drive to fields away from the farmstead.

What farm equipment will need a permit if you exceed?

1. A 92,000 lb Gross Vehicle Weight or 23,000 lb per axle weight depending on the number of axles and spacing. (A chart is available in hard copy or the Wisconsin DOT or Winnebago County Highway website.)
2. A length limit of 60 ft for a IoH single vehicle, 100 ft for two IoH vehicles combined, 70 ft of three IoH vehicles combined that operate over 25 mph, or 100 ft for three IoH vehicles operating at 25 mph or less.

What is the permitting process?

To make the process less time consuming, you may submit your town and county permit applications to the Winnebago County Highway department. They will receive and forward your permit applications to the appropriate Town Board for a State permit you will need to visit the State Department of Transportation website or contact them for permit application.

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After receiving your request for a permit application, each authority will then consider your request and either grant or deny your permit. Your County or Town permit will be granted based on the route you list in your application or the condition of the road or highway you intend to travel. If the Town or County denies your request, an alternative route will be investigated and approved for your permit.

Other things a farmer needs to know?

If you are operating over the weight limit or length restrictions on a Town road, County or State highway, you may be contacted by the Town, County or State if you do not have a permit as required by Winnebago County and Act 377. The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department will assist with determining weight, coordinating weight checks, and enforcing other violations. Farmers should keep a copy of permits obtained with the equipment or vehicle while operating on Town roads and County or State Highways.

In addition to the no fee permit requirement, Act 377 also added some new lighting and marking requirements for safety purposes.

1. Self propelled including farm tractors in excess of 12 ft long need to be equipped with additional lighting.
2. Wide IoH in excess of 15 ft or that extend over the center line must have additional lighting or escort vehicle requirements.
3. IoH wider than 22 ft long and traveling over ½ mile have an escort vehicle/s requirement.

See the Wisconsin DOT website (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/ag/index.htm) for specific lighting and marking requirements.)
Who do you contact for more information or a no fee permit application?

1. Winnebago County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent Darrell McCauley can assist you with questions regarding your farm and equipment. Darrell may be reached at (920)232-1970 or email at Darrell.mccauley@ces.uwex.edu

2. The Winnebago County Highway Department will receive questions and assist you regarding Town and/or County permit applications. The Winnebago County Highway department can be reached at (920) 232-1700. The Wisconsin DOT may be reached at (608)266-7320 or at Agvehicles@dot.wi.gov.
NEWS FROM USDA

Looking for new land to farm?

Before you clear trees, drain or fill any potential cropland, make sure you check for conservation compliance!

Check first

• If you farm or plan to farm any highly erodible land (HEL).
• If wetlands are part of your farm.

Don’t risk your benefits!
Contact USDA.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
NEWS FROM NRCS

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agriculture producers to address resource concerns. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to participants.

CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or crops produced. Applicants must be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system.

CSP pays participants for conservation performance – the higher the performance, the higher the payment. It provides an annual payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices. Through five-year contracts NRCS makes payments annually.

Potential applicants are encouraged to complete the self-screening checklist to see if CSP is right for you at:

Or you can contact your local NRCS District Conservationist, Merrie Schamberger at (920) 424-0329 ext 3 or merrie.schamberger@wi.usda.gov
NEWS FROM 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 of the program chosen.
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.
REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail along with this registration form a check for $25.00 payable to:

“Winnebago County UW-Extension”
and mail to:

Winnebago County UW-Extension
Tractor Safety
625 E. County Rd. Y, Suite 600
Oshkosh, WI 54901
Questions?
Contact: Darrell McCauley,
Agriculture Agent, Winnebago County
UW-Extension at 920-232-1970 or
dmccauley@co.winnebago.wi.us

2015 Tractor & Machinery Certification Course
Registration

Name: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________

_______________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________
Age as of 03/08/2014: _______ Birth date___/___/_____
Parent Name: ____________________________________

The registration deadline with payment is February 17, 2015
Please make payments of $25 out to: “Winnebago County UWEX”
Mail to:
Winnebago County UWEX
625 E Cty Rd Y
Suite 600
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

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
Michelle Peplow
Ashley Rolph

Extension Education Committee
Tom Widener
Nancy Barker
Tom Snider
Ron Hardy
Koby Schellenger

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