**UW-Extension Education Committee Jan 16 – Feb 14, 2017 Trisha Wagner Agriculture Agent**

**Melrose grain risk management meeting series 1/19 & 2/7**

Area farmers have attended this meeting series since 2010, starting with a small group of farmers in the Melrose area. The program addresses risk management topics focusing on grain marketing, as well as production topics. During the first meeting Brenda Boetel of UW-River Falls discussed the grain and livestock market, providing an update of market forces –domestic and international, and outlook for 2017.  Kristine Johnson of Badgerland Financial and Julie Dokkestul shared updates for 2017 crop insurance (33). In February, a number of UWEX specialists discussed production management during a low-margin, tight budget year for grain production. Partnering on this program was Cargill discussing grain marketing suggestions (38).

**2016-17 Wisconsin Farm Succession and Estate Planning meeting series (January)**

This meeting of a series on farm succession topics focused on how to ensure business assets are available for the incoming business successor. Both the owner and successor generations learned of actionable steps to ensure business viability. Bridget Finke, an attorney with Valley Crossing Law in Baldwin, lead the webinar with topics including: Lifetime planning: powers of attorney for health care and finances, living wills and advanced directives; Choosing the estate planning vehicle that is right for your family: wills, trusts, transfer on death designations and other estate planning tools to consider; Tax consequences of death: estate taxes and stepped-up basis. The program was held in 24 extension offices across the state.

**2017 Grassworks Annual conference 2/2**

The Grassworks planning committee asked my colleague and I to present various topics from our *Becoming the Employer of Choice* program for farm human resource managers at their annual conference in the Wisconsin Dells. Grassworks and the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program are interested in implementing the curriculum with their Master Grazier farms involved in the apprenticeship program.

**Add’n programs/projects:**

* JC Master Gardener program – monarch habitat 1/14
* JC fair beef project – weigh-in mtrls, etc. 1/23
* JC Pesticide Applicator Training program 1/24
* UWEX Dairy Partner/El Companero newsletter 1/30, 31
* Produce farm webinar series: Spotted Winged Drosophilia 2/1, pollinators 2/7
* BRF FFA district speaking contest judge 2/9
* Meat Animal Quality Assurance training cert. 2/9
* Dairy Pricing Association – meeting collaboration/facilitation 2/10

**Farm visits/consults:**

**Add’n meetings/program participation:**

-JC Dairy Promotion mtg 1/17

-WFU annual conf. 1/29

-Spring Thaw beef show cmt mtg 1/29

-ACHM FFA alumni mt 2/8

-JC fair board 2/9

* Zenz, livestock 1/16
* Hammond DPA, dairy 1/16,17, 23
* Shireman, hort 1/17
* Peterson, employees 1/17
* Simonson/giese, ag plastics 1/18, 20
* R. Shultz, NM 1/18, 2/13
* Waldera, facilities 1/9, 19
* D. Laufenberg, J. Laufenberg livestock 1/23
* Waldera, ins. 1/24
* Pfaff, poultry regs 1/26, 1/30
* Bergerson, pests 1/30, 2/13
* Kirwan, farm succession 1/30, 31
* Simonson, JC Chronicle, 2/3
* Schultz dairy 2/3
* New Yorker Magazine, dairy labor 2/3
* Freise, NM, 2/7
* Giese, milk quality 2/8
* Waldera facilities 2/9
* Laufenberg, beef safety 2/9
* Schoolcraft, land rent 2/9, 10
* Jacobson/Fed Coop, NM 2/10, 2/13
* Pfaff, ag plastics, livestock composting 2/13
* Olson, various 2/13
* Roskos, horticulture 2/14
* Tremp. co, organic cert. 2/14
* Gearing, hort. 2/14