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Jackson County

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For more information about programs in this newsletter, call the UW-Extension office: 715-284-4257 or visit:

http://jackson.uwex.edu/ www.facebook/Jackson-County-UW-Extension-Agriculture

Weather-related cancellations will be announced on WWIS Radio 99.7



Jackson County

Spring 2019 Agriculture Newsletter

Thursday February 21,2019

Greetings from your county agriculture agent......

Spring planting is just around the corner-hard to believe with the incredible amount of snow we've gotten in recent days! Before the busy season gets underway, consider taking a moment to complete the agricultural needs assessment if you have not already done so. Planning is currently underway for future educational programs and I'd love to get your input on what topics would be most beneficial to address. The survey can be accessed on the Jackson County UWEX website at https://jackson.extension.wisc.edu/under the agriculture tab.

-Jamie

Management Tips for Spring Manure Applications

Tamilee Nennich and Alan Sutton, Purdue University

The weather is finally beginning to get warmer, signaling that spring is just around the corner. Although spring is an exciting time of growth and new beginnings, it is also very busy for many livestock producers. This is the time when they plan to apply manure that has been collected and stored over winter.

As plans for planting and getting into fields accelerate, preparing ahead for manure application will help to streamline the process, insure proper nutrient application rates to support anticipated crop yields, prevent nutrient losses, and comply with manure application regulations.

Producers should consider the following management tips as they prepare for spring manure applications:

- Collect representative manure samples and submit the samples to a certified lab to have them analyzed for major crop nutrients, including nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P2O5), and potassium (K2O).
- Determine the appropriate application rates for each field based upon the manure nutrient concentration, soil tests, and the crop being grown on those fields. Nutrient application rates are usually based on nitrogen or phosphorus.
- Reduce the spring manure application rate to account for nutrients from fall manure applications or previous fertilizer applications.



- Reduce the spring manure application rate based on nutrient carryover (specifically nitrogen) from legumes grown on the field the previous year.
- Inspect manure handling and application equipment to make sure it will function correctly. Replace or repair anything that needs to be fixed to prevent leaks and spills.
- Calibrate manure application equipment so that you will know how much manure is applied on the available land. (Cont. pg 3)

New and Improved! Wisconsin's Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast

Recent updates to Wisconsin's online Manure

Management Advisory System include modeled
soil saturation, modeled soil temperature, and
predicted precipitation. The runoff risk advisory
forecast tool (RRAF), sponsored in part by Discovery Farms and UW-Madison, forecasts the
potential risk of runoff throughout the state over a
3 day period. The interactive map ranks risk using
a color scale and also allows users to select a
specific area of interest for a more detailed outlook. The Online Manure Management Advisory
System also provides access to SnapMaps, which
can be used to develop the maps required for a
590 or NR 243 nutrient management plan.

Map Legend
Runoff Risk

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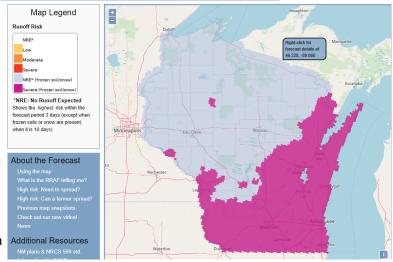
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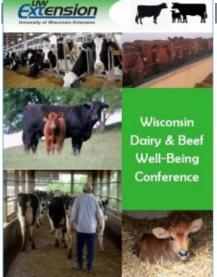
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For more information or to access the RRAF, please visit: www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov



WI Dairy & Beef Well-Being Conference

Wednesday March 20th, 2019
Registration: 8:30 am Meeting: 9 am to 3 pm
Green Mill Restaurant
2703 Craig Road Eau Claire, WI

UW-Extension Dairy and Livestock Teams will be hosting the Wisconsin Dairy & Beef Well-Being Conference to help producers enhance their animal handling and husbandry skills. The program is open to any individuals with interest regarding dairy and beef management.

Speakers Include:

- UW Madison-Dept. of Dairy Science Professor and Animal Welfare Specialist Jennifer Van Os
- UW Extension Beef Team Specialist Sandy Stuttgen
- UW-Extension Marathon County Agriculture Agent Heather Schlessor

Topics Included:

- Technology Benefits to Animal Health
- Dehorning and Pain Mitigation
- Low Stress Animal Handling
- Group Housing Calves

The fee for the program is \$45 per person which includes materials and lunch - deadline is March 12th (\$55 after 3/12). Vet CEU offered for an additional \$25. For more information or to register please contact UW-Extension Eau Claire County Agriculture Agent Mark Hagedorn, mark.hagedorn.ces.uwex.edu, 715-839-4712.

Spring Manure Application Cont.

- Determine the location of buffers and sensitive areas in fields to which manure will be applied, and consider the location of drainage areas and tile lines. Remember specific setbacks that need to be adhered to in your nutrient management plan.
- Visit with neighbors to inform them of expected upcoming application dates and determine if there are days when manure application might be avoided.
- Monitor weather forecasts before manure application and avoid applying immediately prior to predicted rainfall events.
- Be sure your manure application record-keeping calendar or system is prepared and up-to-date.

During manure application, they should keep in mind the following:

- Apply manure to fields according to calculated rates. Do not over-apply manure.
- Do not apply manure to setbacks or buffers.
- Do not apply manure to saturated or very wet fields. Manure applied to wet fields is more likely to leave the field in runoff or tile flow. Also, heavy application equipment can cause significant compaction, which can result in reduced yields.
- Be mindful of wind speed and direction and how these may impact neighbors during application. Adjust application schedules accordingly.
- Check and monitor application equipment (including hoses, pipes, pumps, connectors, etc.) at least once daily during application to detect any leaks or malfunctioning equipment.
- Record the date, acreage and field location, amount, and source of any manure applied. Record actual nitrogen and phosphorus application rates for each field.

Manure application periods are very important for livestock producers. Proper management and application of manure is essential to maximize the fertilizer value of the manure, meet regulatory requirements, protect the environment, and foster good neighborhood relations.

2019 REGIONAL WATERHEMP WORKSHOP

LOG CABIN-BANGOR, WI

This workshop is designed for farmers and crop advisors with little waterhemp experience (**Waterhemp 101**). Topics include 1) pigweed identification, 2) waterhemp biology, ecology, dispersal and resistance evolution and 3) herbicide selection and integrated strategies for waterhemp management in alfalfa, corn and soybean.

This workshop is FREE with 3 CEU's offered, but you MUST pre-register as space is limited.

Presenters include:

UW-Madison Extension Weed Scientists Drs. Rodrigo Werle and Mark Renz, UW-NPM Outreach Specialists Dan Smith and Richard Proost, and WiscWeeds Lab Members Dr. Maxwel Oliveira, Ryan DeWerff and Sarah Striegel.

Wednesday, March 20th
Registration 9:30
Workshop 9:45a.m.-1:30p.m.
(Please pre-register with Kaitlyn Lance,
608-785-9593 by March 14th)

Options for Poor Forage Stands in 2019



There are concerns that our forage crops may not survive the 2018-2019 winter conditions and some stands may have winter injury or death. If that is the case what are our options for the 2019 growing season?

First, evaluate the stand. On new alfalfa seeding's from 2018 there should be a minimum of 10 live plants per square foot with a minimum of 4-5 stems. A stand with less than these minimums may not be profitable. Dig up some plants, if the root is creamy colored the root is alive and healthy, if it is brown, black, or mushy the root is diseased or dead. If roots show disease signs they may die during the season. Many times depending on spring growing conditions you may have to wait until early to mid-May to determine if the forage crop will be viable.

Older stands you will need a minimum of 4-5 crowns and once the alfalfa begins to grow there should be a minimum of 40 stems. If these are grass stands you need to determine if the grass has survived winter and will grow. Grasses are susceptible to winter injury and death just as legumes.

Second, autotoxicity to alfalfa should not be a problem if it was seeded in 2018. Alfalfa can be replanted in this field in 2019. If the field was planted prior to 2018 then rotating to another crop is the best option. Interseeding or frost seeding may not deliver the results you will need to cover your forage requirements and sometimes it is better to rotate to another crop rather than interseed. Remember that interseeded crop is competing with the existing stand and may not get enough light or nutrients to establish and provide adequate forage. This may work some years, but may not be a first option.

Third, what are your forage requirements? Determine your forage requirement for the livestock you are producing. Know both the quality and quantity of forage you will need. Early in the growing season you have many options, but if a decision is made after mid- June your options are limited.

After you evaluate the stand and you determine to replant the field to alfalfa, it could be direct seeded or a cereal or cereal-pea cover crop can be used to provide additional forage. If hay is not a concern rotating to corn silage may return the greatest dry matter yield per acre for the season. Early decisions allow flexibility in selecting a crop to

Richard Halopka, Clark County Extension- Crops & Soils Specialist

be planted if the forage crop is determined to not be profitable.

You evaluate the stand and the decision is to leave the stand. Now, after first crop you determine the stand is not economical. Corn silage is a viable option and provides the greatest dry matter yield when planted into July. If it is the 1st week of June reseeding and it was a 2018 seeding, option one above, may still be a viable. Sudan grass or sorghum-sudan grass hybrids would be another option, but require warm soil temperatures (>60 degrees F) and warm weather to provide an economical yield. This option should be considered around mid-July, however most years yields will be less than that of planting corn silage in June or early in July. Sudan mix yields are variable in central Wisconsin, good yields in hot/dry growing seasons and low yields in cool/wet growing seasons.

If there is a need for emergency forage as August approaches a cereal grain or a cereal-pea mix can be planted and forage harvested in October. This option provides good yields and quality as the late summer seeding of small grains doesn't mature as quickly as spring seeded small grain.

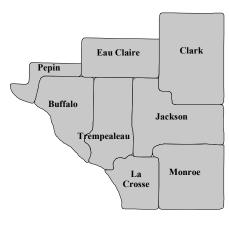
Remember the most important step in this process is evaluating stand as soon as conditions in the field permit. Then depending on the forage requirements for the farm develop a crop plan for the season. This plan may change as quickly as weather, but a plan is better than no plan at all.



Image above shows frost injured alfalfa tap root

For additional information on autotoxicity, forage options, or bulletin A3620 Alfalfa Stand Assessment, contact Clark County Extension Crops & Soils Agent Richard Halopka, at 715-743-5121 or richard.halopka@ces.uwex.edu.

Coulee Graziers Network ~ 2019 kick-off meeting



For more information contact

Steve Kling (715) 662-5053 or UW-Extension office: (715)284-4257 Jackson (715)538-2311 x 208 Trempealeau Thursday March 14th Ettrick Town hall (22734 West Ave.) 11 a.m.-2p.m.

- ~ 2019 area pasture walk calendar
- ~ Managing soil fertility in managed grazing with forage specialist Yoana Newman
 - ~ Refreshments provided by Organic Valley

The Coulee Graziers Network offers the opportunity to network and learn through farmer led discussion to improve profitability with environmentally sound grazing practices.

Farmers from west central Wisconsin with an interest in grazing and forage resources, from small-scale holding paddocks to full-scale managed intensive grazing are welcome. No membership/meeting fee.

March 11, 2019

Dairy Revenue Protection Program

Area dairy farmers are invited to attend an informational meeting on the new USDA Dairy Revenue Protection Program, with Mark Stephenson, UW Center for Dairy Profitability

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or Jackson County Extension Office 227 S 11th Street Black River Falls, WI

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Blair Community Center 103 E Broadway St Blair, WI

Meeting topics include:

- ⇒ Overview of Dairy Revenue Protection Program
- ⇒ Updates to the Margin Protection Program
- ⇒ Overview of Dairy Programs (MPP and LGM)
- ⇒ FSA implementation
- ⇒ Expected returns, decision making tools & calculations

There is no cost to attend the program.

Registration recommended for program materials.

For more information and to register contact:

Jackson County Extension at (715)299-4257 or

Trempealeau County Extension at (715)538-1963



Managing Spring Pasture-One Thing Leads to Another.......Gene Schriefer Iowa County Extension

Beef producers who choose to manage their pastures by rotating cattle through paddocks have control over when they start grazing in spring. When to start grazing varies between years, where in Wisconsin you are located, and from producer to producer. Pasture research from the Dairy Forage Research Center here in Wisconsin demonstrates that if we turn cows loose when grass is 4" tall in spring versus waiting until we're closer to a 12" level, reduces the total seasonal yield of that paddock by a quarter ton of forage. With current hay market prices in \$100-120/ton for beef hay, we're losing \$25-30/acre in lower forage production from turning out too early, either in fewer days grazing or lower stocking rates.

When pastures get to a 12" height is influenced by location, what species are present in your pasture, and how you managed your pastures the previous fall. Fall is the season when grasses are developing buds for next spring. If we grazed tight and forced cattle to "clean up the pasture" down to a 1.5" or less of grass in fall, we may be grazing next spring's dormant buds. This will delay the average 12" date by about two weeks (May 11th rather than April 28th) in southern Wisconsin. That's an additional quarter ton of feed we



will need to supply or fewer head our pasture can carry.

Life begins at 40. Pasture forage uses nitrogen from decomposition of soil organic matter as a result of soil biology. Soil biology does not "wake up" until around 41F and increases with rising soil temperatures. A strategic application of nitrogen (N) early in the spring before soil N is widely available can stimulate additional grass growth in some situations. How do we decide?

Research by the late Dennis Cosgrove at UW-River Falls demonstrated the grass response rate of three

different grass species to different spring nitrogen applications.

In orchard grass and smooth brome dominated pastures, spring response rate to N application was 20 lbs. or more per pound of N applied (20:1). As the soil temperature warms, the nitrogen response rate drops. If you choose to invest in a pound of N @ \$0.60/lb., you grow 20 pounds of additional grass on dry matter basis. With hay values @ \$120/2000 lbs. (ton) or \$0.06/lb. of hay, a 20 lb. response rate results in \$1.20 in forage value produced. Think about this example – invest \$0.60 in N and get back \$1.20 in feed. Not a bad return on your investment.

Bluegrass pastures were also fertilized and response rates were measured as 5 lbs. of additional forage/pound N, (5:1). Coming off the drought of 2012 and spring 2013 with hay prices still hovering around \$250/ton it "paid" to fertilize bluegrass dominated pastures. That's the first time in my memory that fertilizing bluegrass paddocks has paid off.

The amount of nitrogen to apply depends upon the level of legume content you want to maintain in your paddock. Nitrogen and legumes exist in an antagonist relationship – as you increase the level of applied nitrogen the level of legumes decreases. In high legume paddocks, we can apply up to 50 units of N per SEASON and not have significant impact on clover percent in the pasture.

Managing this bounty of grass in spring is great problem to have. The thumb rule of "take half and leave half" is pretty sound advice. When 50% of the grass is grazed, only 2-4% of the roots stop growing; at 60% grazed, 50% of the roots stop growing. As we get above 75% defoliation, 100% of the roots stop growing. What we do in spring will impact the grass growth into summer; what we do in summer impacts fall growth. One management decision follows another.

To learn more about beef or grazing and pasture management – the University of Wisconsin-Extension has the following resources available: https://ftyi.extension.wisc.edu/wbic/ or https://ftyi.extension.wisc.edu/grazres/

DATCP Farm Center "Here for Wisconsin Farmers"



MADISON – Work on a farm never ends, which can create added stress. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds farmers that Farm Center staff are available to navigate the ups and the downs of agriculture.

"We know that stress is high right now for dairy, livestock and crop farmers alike," said Farm Center Director Kathy Schmitt. "Sometimes it can be hard to see possible alternatives in tough situations. That is where the Farm Center can help."

The Farm Center works one-on-one with farmers and their families through all phases of the farm cycle, including start-up, growth, change, generational succession, and retirement. These no-cost services are available for both new and experienced farmers.

"Farming is a complicated and demanding business," added Schmitt, "and it is helpful to have someone there providing support, suggestions and encouragement, whether it be family, friends, or counseling services."

Farm Center staff can help sort out farm financial options and offer a listening ear if you need someone to talk to about your farm situation. DATCP also has a counseling voucher program that can be used to access mental health services.

"We know that chronic stress can have negative effects on our bodies, emotions, and ability to make decisions, and everyone gets a case of the blues now and then, but sometimes the blues turn to depression," explained Schmitt. "Depression is a serious, but treatable medical condition."

Schmitt recommends watching for signs of depression in yourself and loved ones. Some signs include increased use of alcohol or drugs, decline in personal or farm appearance, reduced interest in activities, irritability, exhaustion or negative thoughts. If you observe these symptoms, you are encouraged to call the Farm Center staff, doctor or counselor who can help.

"In agriculture, we're used to the cyclical nature of prices, production and weather cycles constantly changing," concluded Schmitt. "The most important thing to remember is that you are not alone in these challenges. The Farm Center is here to help farmers maneuver through the lows so we're all ready when a new cycle begins."

You can reach the Wisconsin Farm Center at 800-942-2474, Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m..

News Release-Rick Hummell and Bill Cosh, Communications Director

More Stress Related Resources for Farmers

Agricultural Safety & Health Information Clearinghouse

www.agsafety.info

UW-Madison Professor John Shutske provides this "onestop" website which is an evolving compilation of farm stress related articles and resources.

National AgriAbility Association

http://www.agrability.org/ resources/mental-behavioralhealth/

Information and resources for farmers and concerned others addressing mental health topics.

MSU Extension-Managing Farm Stress

https://www.canr.msu.edu/ managing farm stress/

Online courses covering better management of farm stress provided by neighboring Michigan State University.

February Dairy Situation and Outlook

Bob Cropp UW-Madison Professor

USDA released the December milk production. January milk production will be released on March 12th and February production on March 19th. December milk production was just 0.5% higher than a year ago from 49,000 fewer milk cows and just 1.1% more per cow. Milk production for the last quarter was just 0.5% higher than a year ago. Milk production for the year was up 0.9% from an average of 7,000 fewer milk cows and just 1.0% more milk per cow. Milk production below 1% is bullish for milk prices.

Comparing December milk production to a year ago, production was down 1.4% in Arizona, up 1.7% in California from 11,000 fewer cows, but 2.3% more milk per cow, up 4.9% in Idaho from 14,000 more cows and 2.5% more milk per cow, down 2.8% in New Mexico from 7,000 fewer cows, and up 4.8% in Texas from 27,000 more cows. In the Northeast production was up 2.1% in New York from the same number of cows, down 6.0% in Pennsylvania from 20,000 fewer cows, and down 0.2% in Michigan from 6,000 fewer cows. In the Midwest production was down 0.2% in Iowa from less milk per cow, up 1.0% in Minnesota from 2.2% higher milk per cow more than offsetting 6,000 fewer cows, up 1.4% in Wisconsin from 1.8% higher milk per cow more than offsetting 5,000 fewer cows, and up 5.5% in South Dakota from 4,000 more cows and 1.9% higher milk per cow. States with significant declines in milk production were: Florida 7.2% with 8,000 fewer cows, Virginia 12.3% with 8,000 fewer cows, Illinois 9.7% with 8,000 fewer cows, Indiana 3.7% with 6,000 fewer cows and Ohio 4.1% with 11,000 fewer cows. The decline in cow numbers reflects the financial strain on dairy producers from four years of low milk prices.

Despite the growth in milk production of less than 1.0% milk prices remain depressed going into 2019. The January Class III price was \$13.96 and it looks like February will be around \$14.00. Cheese prices are starting to show some improvement. The 40-pound cheddar block price was as low as \$1.375 per pound in January and have improved to \$1.5950. Cheddar barrels were as low as \$1.16 per pound in January and have improved to \$1.4175. But, dry whey prices have weakened. In mid-January dry whey was \$0.52 per pound, but are now \$0.36 which has reduced the Class III price about \$0.90. With butter holding near \$2.25 per pound and nonfat dry milk near \$1.00 per pound the Class IV price has increased and is higher than Class III. In January Class IV was \$15.48 and will be near \$15.85 in February.

Looking ahead milk prices are expected to slowly increase. Domestic demand has been showing modest growth. Fluid (beverage) milk sales continue the downward trend falling another 2.0% in 2018. But, higher butter and cheese sales increased total domestic demand. A similar trend is expected for 2019. November dairy exports on a volume basis fell below a year ago, the first decline since October 2017. While nonfat dry milk exports were up 13% to Mexico, the largest market, exports were down 22% to Southeast Asia, 91% in the MENA region and 64% to China. Cheese exports were down 10% with declines of 7% to Mexico, 25% to China, 24% to South Korea and 20% to the MENA region. Dry whey exports were down 18% mainly due to a 37% drop in exports to China. Butterfat exports were still 24% higher. On a total solids basis November exports were equiva-

lent to 13.9% of U.S. milk production compared to 16.1% a year ago. Unless the trade war with Mexico and China is resolved we can expect 2019 exports to be lower than 2018.

With the government shut down the latest stock report was for November 30th. At that time cheese stocks were a record high at 7.5% higher than a year ago. Butter stocks were 3.5% lower, dry whey stocks 34.6% lower and nonfat dry milk stocks 9.4% lower. USDA will release December stocks on March 12th and February stocks on March 19th.

Class III futures don't reach \$15 until May and the \$16's until August and peak at just \$16.35 in November. But, if the growth in milk production is no more than 1.0% the Class III price could improve quicker and higher than this. USDA is forecasting for the year that milk production.

duction could increase by 1.1% from an average of 20,000 fewer milk cows and 1.4% more milk per cow. With the financial stress on dairy producers and some forage quality issues until the new crop I could see even lower cow numbers and a lower increase in milk production. With a modest growth in cheese sales the stocks of cheese will slowly improve. While dairy exports are expected to be lower they may still be at a level to offer support to cheese and other dairy product prices. With little growth in world milk production world milk prices should increase to help U.S. dairy exports. I could see Class III prices in the mid-\$15's by second quarter, the high 15's and even reaching the \$16's in the third quarter and the mid-\$16's in the fourth quarter and averaging around \$15.70 compared to \$14.61 last year. The Class IV price is expected to do better. Butter prices should stay well above \$2.00 per pound and continued strong nonfat dry milk exports to keep nonfat dry milk prices near \$1.00 per pound. Class IV prices could stay in the higher \$15's first half of the year and in the \$16's second half.



Cover Crop Strategies publication has recently unveiled the first ever national cover crop summit. This FREE virtual event will take place March 20-21st and can be viewed from the comfort of your own home. UW-Extension organic production specialist Erin Silva along with several other industry experts from across the U.S. will address relevant topics including: cover crop benefits, soil health, roller crimping, and aerial seeding. For more information or to register please visit the summits website at www.covercropstrategies.com/national-cover-cropsummit/

USDA to Host Farm Bill Implementation Listening Session



The U.S. Department of Agriculture is hosting a listening session for initial input on the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA is seeking public input on the changes to existing programs implemented by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency. Each agency will take into account stakeholder input when making discretionary decisions on program implementation.

Deadline for registration to attend the event in person is February 22, 2019. Register at www.farmers.gov/farmbill. The event will be streamed live on www.farmers.gov/farmbill for those who are unable to attend in person. **No registration is required to view the livestream.**

Written comments are encouraged by February 22, 2019; additional comments will be accepted through March 1, 2019. To submit comments, go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID USDA–2019–0001. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. You may also submit written comments at the listening session. Comments received will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

Source: USDA National Resources Conservation Service

Mark your Calendars

Pesticide Applicator Training	March 5th
Grain Marketing 101	March 7th
DRP Meeting	March 11th
Grazier Kick-Off Meeting	March 14th
Dairy & Beef Well Being Conf	March 20th
Waterhemp Workshop	March 20th
National Cover Crop Summit	March 20-21st
Spring Thaw Beef Show	April 13th-14th

New Look-Same Services

Organizational changes have led Cooperative Extension to integrate back into the UW-Madison system. A new logo (shown below) as well as new verbiage will be implemented in upcoming months. Rather than "UW-Extension" we will be transitioning to "UW-Madison Division of Extension". It is important to note that this change will not affect the services offered through our agricultural department., but rather, provide a facelift to our existing brand.

Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON





Pesticide Applicator Certification

e Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DA has indicated your pesticide license will expire soon.

2019 Pesticide Applicator Training Courses: (Jackson County)

Tuesday, March 5th Jackson County Extension Office Course: 10cm - 12 pm, followed by the exam

- Certification: \$30 for study materials and certification.
- Participants are encouraged to <u>register</u> and collect study materials prior to the day of the class (space is limited).

To register, contact the Jackson County UW Extension:

(715) 284-4257 227 S 11th Street Black River Falls

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