

Jackson & Trempealeau County Agricultural News



Steve Okonek, Agricultural Educator
Email: steven.okonek@wisc.edu
Cell phone: 715-538-5097



2021 Extension Meetings

As we battle through the Covid-19 pandemic, Extension meetings will look different for 2021 than in previous years. Teams of Extension Agents around the state are putting together programs that will be available on-line. I will provide links to these programs rather than try to duplicate and deliver via the web as in-person meetings will probably not happen anytime soon. Please bear with us as we all work through these times.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Good news! The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced that the State of Wisconsin will be giving certification extensions for those certifications that have expired after January 31, 2020. The temporary certifications will expire December 31, 2021.

If your private pesticide applicator certification expires after January 31, 2020 you do not need to attend training, take an online training, or take a test until after December 31, 2021.

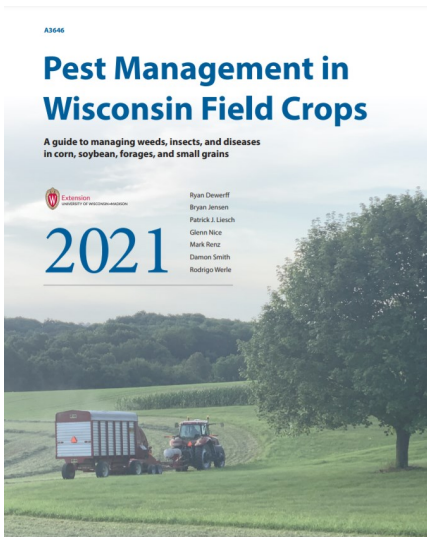
If you need to get a private applicator certification you will need to take the online training and schedule a time with me to take the test.

Attending **online training** will require you to score **50% or better to pass the test**. You will need to print a certificate that you attended the online training so I can verify that you attended. Or, you can come in as a **self-study** to take the test and that requires a **70% or better score to pass**.

Certification acquired by online testing will be considered temporary and it will expire December 31, 2021.

Testing with me (or another Extension Educator) will result in a five year license.

To schedule a time to come in and take the pesticide applicator test with me, please call my new cell phone number at 715-538-2097 or send an email to steven.okonek@wisc.edu



Wise Choices of Crop Inputs

Choosing products that control the weeds and pests you are dealing with on your farm for the least cost to you is an advantage. Having information at your fingertips from an unbiased source can help you make the decision of which products to use. Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops, A3646, is compiled by UW-Madison agronomists and professors. A3646 is compiled using non-biased, science based information regarding the performance of crop protection products.

The following link will get you to the pesticide applicator store so you can order or download the A3646, Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops. You can purchase a paper copy for \$20.00 or download a pdf version for free. https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/browse_cat.asp?category_id=39

Cover Crop Planning

If you are considering cover crops in your cropping plan you must consider the herbicides you are using in your field crops. Many herbicides may injure a cover crop that is planted after the harvest of a regular crop. Inter seeding, planting a cover crop into a growing crop, presents a bigger challenge to herbicide management as the cover crop is planted a few weeks after the main crop emerges and herbicides have been applied to the crop. The nutrient and pest management team from UW-Madison has put together a handy table that lists corn and soybean herbicides and plant back restrictions for those herbicides. The table can be found here https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/pubsPM/2019_RotationalRestrictions_final.pdf. If the cover crop will not be harvested for forage, the choice of herbicide is not as important as if the cover crop would be harvested for forage. If the cover crop is not harvested for forage, the farmer carries all risk of stand establishment failure from herbicide residues left from the main crop's herbicides. Herbicides applied to the main crop may render harvest of a cover crop illegal if crop rotation restrictions are not followed. If a cover crop is harvested and fed to livestock against the label, the farmer could face fines, milk dumping for an extended period, increased length of time before livestock can be marketed, or all of the above. Always read and follow all label directions.



Grain Storage and Handling

Keeping grain in proper condition is the first step in preventing entrapment in flowing grain. Many grain entrapments have occurred when a person went into a bin to break apart moldy or crusted grains. Good bin management will help prevent moldy grains and spoilage.

Enter a bin only if absolutely necessary. Instruct family members, especially children, and employees on the hazards of entering grain bins and dangers in flowing grain. Flowing grain is also a hazard with gravity wagons and trucks.

Use a pole to break up grain bridges from outside the bin. If you have hauled out grain and the grain surface is at the same level, this is an indicator that there's a grain bridge. You should see a funnel shape on the grain surface after grain has been removed. The hollow cavity under a grain bridge will be equal to the volume of grain that has been removed. A grain bridge will not support a person's weight. The pole should be attached to a rope tied to the outside of the bin. If you drop the pole, it can be retrieved using the rope and save you from entering the bin.

If you need to enter a bin:

Lockout/tag-out power to augers or other powered equipment before entering a bin. If augers are operating, the flowing grain will pull you down in a matter of seconds.

Use proper PPE as **air quality may be reduced by mold and dust**. Use a NIOSH approved dust respirator to prevent exposure to high levels of dusts or molds. If the grain has become moldy, the molds will produce carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide can displace the oxygen in the air causing an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Use a gas monitor to test oxygen levels before entering bin.

Use a body harness and safety line secured to the outside of the bin when entering. An anchor point and safety line should be able to hold 5,000 pounds of force. The body harness and safety line may not prevent you from being caught in flowing grain. It will help rescuers locate you and the body harness gives rescuers some place to attach retrieval systems.

Have at least two trained observers during grain bin entry. Discuss communication plans and actions to take in case you become entrapped in flowing grain. Instruct them to not enter to rescue but to call for rescue assistance.

Use hand signals to communicate. Other communication devices may not work inside a bin. Work from top to bottom when cleaning grain bin walls. Any grain piled higher than your head has the potential to collapse and avalanche down on top of you.

Check that an entry permit has been issued and safety precautions have been taken to make a safe entry.

If rescue is required:

Shut off all grain-moving machinery. It is important to stop the flow of grain. Contact the emergency rescue service or local fire department.

If possible, ventilate the bin using the drying fan without activating the heat source.

SAVE THE DATES

Focus on Forage

Optimizing forage production in Wisconsin



Join us for a free 7-part webinar series on growing forages in Wisconsin.



We will hear from World Forage Superbowl Champions and Extension experts on strategies to optimize forage yield, quality, and profitability!

Wednesdays

12:30 to 1:30 pm

January 13	Corn Silage
January 20	Alfalfa
January 27	Grass and Mixed Grass Forages
February 2	Small Grain Forages
February 10	Tom Kilcer
February 17	No Webinar
February 24	TBA
March 3	TBA

Registration required
(link coming soon)
CCA CEUs will be available!

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Crop Chat

With continued restrictions on in-person gatherings I will be hosting a series of virtual crop meetings on the third Thursday of January, February, and March. I will have a topic for each session that I will begin discussing. Questions are more than welcome and hopefully we will end up down several rabbit trails.

No topics or questions are out of bounds as long as the topics are PG.

January 21st 12:30pm to 1:30pm - Additives such as Avail and Nutrisphere N, how to discern fact from marketing

February 18th 12:30pm to 1:30pm - Ph. and liming materials, gypsum

March 18th 12:30pm to 1:30pm - Farmer's choice of topics

Farm Ready Research is Extension's agriculture winter webinar meeting series for farmers and agricultural professionals.

Join the webinars to learn the most up-to-date information on topics from dairy and livestock production to farm management resources. *Sessions begin December 2020 and run through April 2021.* Review the program topics and descriptions below. Go to <https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/> Click the "Register Now" button to pick your meetings of interest and receive connection information and meeting reminders. Note that you will not be registered nor receive connection information without using the "Register Now" button.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Dec 16	7:30pm	<u>Forage Sampling and Analysis: Why, How & Feeding the Forage to Your Flock</u>	virtual
Dec 18	11am	<u>Farm Management Friday: Farmland Markets and Leasing Contracts webinar</u>	zoom meeting
JANUARY 2021			
Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan 5	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Feeding for profits - nutrient digestibility and milk components</u>	Zoom Meeting
Jan 8	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Navigating Your Farm Business through 2021</u>	Youtube livestream
Jan 12	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Preparing for an Emergency</u>	Zoom Meeting
Jan 12	7pm	<u>Beef: An Update on Mineral and Vitamin Needs for Beef Cattle</u>	Zoom Meeting
Jan 15	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: In it for the long haul - Cash flow during a Crisis</u>	Youtube livestream

Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan 19	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Raising Them Right: Calf and Heifer Health</u>	Virtual -Zoom Meeting
Jan 20	7:30pm	<u>Small Ruminants: Basic Lambing Skills for the Beginning Shepherd</u>	Zoom meeting
Jan 22	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Farm-gate Economic Outlook forum</u>	Youtube livestream
Jan 26	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight - Emerging Reproductive Strategies: Using IVF embryo transfer</u>	Zoom meeting

FEBRUARY 2021

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 2	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Animal care on the farm and beyond</u>	Zoom Meeting
Feb 2	1pm	<u>CANCELLED - Badger Dairy Insight: Getting the most out of your Forages</u>	Zoom Meeting
Feb 5	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Standing Strong and Resolute as a Guardian of Your Equity</u>	Youtube livestream
Feb 9	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Preventing Injuries When Working with Cattle</u>	Zoom Meeting
Feb 9	7pm	<u>Beef: Management of Newly Weaned Calves in the Feedlot</u>	Zoom Meeting
Feb 16	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Getting the Most Out of Your Farm's Data</u>	Virtual -Zoom Meeting
Feb 19	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Is Fair Equal?</u>	Youtube livestream
Feb 23	11am	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Getting the most out of your Forages</u>	Virtual - Zoom Meeting
Feb 23	7pm	<u>Beef: Hairy Heel Wart: A Threat for the Health and Production of Cattle in Beef Operations</u>	Zoom Meeting

MARCH 2021

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 2	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Optimizing the use of sexed semen in your dairy herd</u>	Virtual -Zoom Meeting
Mar 5	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Building a Positive Farm Business Culture, with employee safety & health</u>	Youtube livestream

Continued on next page

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 9	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Oh, CRASH! Safety Considerations for Agricultural implements on Roads</u>	Virtual - Zoom Meeting
Mar 9	7pm	<u>Beef: Pasture Weed Management</u>	Zoom Meeting
Mar 16	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Improving Dairy farm efficiency through genetics</u>	Virtual -Zoom Meeting
Mar 19	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Your farm startup: Where to begin and who can help?</u>	Youtube livestream
Mar 23	7pm	<u>Beef & Small Ruminant: Direct Marketing Meat and Introduction to Meat Suite</u>	Zoom Meeting
Mar 30	1pm	<u>Badger Dairy Insight: Robotic Farm Management; What's Different?</u>	Zoom Meeting

APRIL 2021

Date	Time	Event	Location
Apr 9	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms</u>	Youtube livestream
Apr 21	7:30pm	<u>Small Ruminants: Designing Your Sheep and Goat Grazing System</u>	Zoom meeting
Apr 23	11am	<u>Farm Management Fridays: FARMing for Health</u>	Youtube livestream



COME JOIN US.....

COVID-19 and SOCIAL DISTANCING

During this period of social distancing the Extension Office is currently closed to the public. This does not mean we are not working for you.

In the meantime I am able to be reached Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm on my office cell phone 715-538-5097. Please feel free to leave a voice mail message and I will return your call.

OR

For faster response use my email at steven.okonek@wisc.edu with any questions you have.

Hopefully, we will be back to hosting and attending in-person meetings soon.

Please be advised that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and based on recommendations for safe practices, such as social distancing, by various agencies, this meeting may be conducted as a virtual meeting. To ensure public access to government functions, to the greatest extent possible under the circumstances, the public is welcome to "attend" this meeting by viewing the meeting as it is being live streamed on the Trempealeau County website (www.co.trempealeau.wi.us) and on TCCTV as able. A recording of the meeting will also be on the County's website after the meeting has concluded. These emergency procedures are in compliance with recommendations from the Wisconsin Department of Justice/Attorney General's office and will remain in effect until further notice during this pandemic.

Electronic Communication

Do you have an email address you check regularly? If yes, please share it with us so we can send this newsletter and other communications to you electronically. If you do not have email or you do not check your email regularly, no worries we will continue to mail the newsletter and other communications to you.

By receiving electronic communications, the links to other sources that are imbedded in communications will be live and will provide more information. Also, we will make better use of your tax dollars by being more efficient in sending information.

I will not clog your inbox or increase items sent more than what you receive already. If you feel you are receiving too many emails from our office please let us know by emailing michelle.rose@wisc.edu and she will remove you from the email list and add you back on the mailing list.

Please send your email address to michelle.rose@wisc.edu