

Ag Link

September—October

A newsletter of:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10 — Pasture Walk: Tomandl Family farm, W3044 County Road C, Medford
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Joint pasture walk with North Central Graziers. Walk with focus on renovating pastures to establish Kura clover and reed canary grass. Kris Tiles from UW Extension along with a Forester will be on hand to walk the woods and discuss proper management of the woodlot.

September 15 — NorthCentral Wisconsin Fall Dairy Tour - Energy Efficiency on Dairy Farms
Hans Jr. and Katie Breitenmoser's Golden Dawn Dairy Merrill, Wisconsin (*see article*)

September 17 — Pasture Walk: Gary & Sam Zimmerman, E2259 County Road Q, Ringle
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Zimmerman walk will feature 90 custom raised Holstein heifers (short bred to pre-freshening) on managed pastures.

October 2—World Dairy Expo, ABS and Farm Tour
Northcentral Technical College is coordinating a bus to the World Dairy Expo. (*see article*)

October 6—Nutrient Management Open House, NTC Wausau Campus (*see article*)

October 7—Nutrient Management Open House, NTC Medford and Spencer Campuses (*see article*)

October 13 — Pasture Walk: Greg & Wendy Galbraith, E5266 Eau Claire River Rd, Aniwa (Date Changed)

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Galbraith pasture walk will feature low cost facility improvements including drive-by feeding, clean water diversions, bedded packs, as well as out-wintering for 100 dairy cattle.

October 13—The Basics of Cap and Trade Seminar
Agribusiness Breakfast Seminar (*see article*)

October 17—Farm Business Course Start
Livestock Management will be offered at Northcentral Technical College (*see article*)

October 20—Farm Business Course Start
Farm Business Analysis will be offered at Northcentral Technical College (*see article*)

Successful Farm Technology Days

Dodge County planners and host farm family members can take pride in the outstanding show that drew approximately 90,000 people this past July at Crave Brothers Farm near Waterloo. Completion of this show also signifies another year closer for planning the 2011 show in Marathon County. If you are interested in helping out with one of the fourteen planning committees, contact Mike Wildeck, Marathon County UW-Extension at 261-1239 or contact any of the Executive Committee members. You'll find all the latest information on the web at marathonfarmtech.com.



Northcentral WI Fall Dairy Tour: Energy Efficiency on Dairy Farms

Our host farm for this fall's Dairy Tour will be Hans Jr. and Katie Breitenmoser's Golden Dawn Dairy on beautiful Snow Hill 4 miles southwest of Merrill, Wisconsin. Hans and Katie have always had an eye on conserving energy to both manage costs and reduce their impact on the environment. Working with the Wisconsin Focus on Energy Program and Wisconsin Public Service, Inc., this 370 cow, second generation, parlor-freestall dairy farm has implemented many energy saving practices over the years, ranging for milk plate coolers to low cost lighting. While installing energy efficient lighting from Orion, they were also able to capitalize on implementing long day lighting in the dairy barn. Bringing energy savings to their home, the Breitenmoser's recently installed new insulation and a new roof to take advantage of more energy savings.

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Representatives from UW Extension, Focus on Energy, WI Public Service, PPA (Partnership for Progressive Agriculture), Lincoln County NRCS, Farm Stop (IBA) of Antigo, and Dairy Services Inc. will be available to answer questions throughout the tour, lunch and program.

Join us at the Breitenmoser's at W6945 Joe Snow Rd. Merrill, WI

Tuesday, September 15th 2009

Farm tour will be held from 10:00-11:30am

Lunch will be provided by Focus on Energy before noon (off farm location will be announced)

Short presentations on energy saving programs for your farm from 12:30-1:30pm

The tour and program will not go past 1:30 and the best part is... it is all FREE!

Directions: (From Merrill) Take Hwy "K" (Bus 51) south 1 mile to Joe Snow Rd. Go West 4 miles just past Snow Hill Rd. to farm on left. (From Wausau) Go north of Fleet Farm on Hwy "K" 12 miles to Joe Snow Rd, go West 4 miles past Snow Hill Rd to farm on left.

Call the Marathon County UW Extension office at (715) 261-1230 for additional details or check out our calendar on our website for more information at <http://marathon.uwex.edu/ag/calendar.html>

The Basics of "Cap and Trade"

An Agribusiness Breakfast Seminar
7:30 to 9:00 AM on Tuesday morning October, 13, 2009
Room E101 Northcentral Technical College

The term "Cap and Trade", or emissions trading, has been in the news a lot in the recent past as a potential climate control strategy for the United States and other countries around the world. It is a concept that has been around for over forty years that combines restrictions on polluting emissions with some marketplace incentives. As with many of the energy and pollution control strategies that are being talked about it is easy to twist facts around to suit different perspectives. Because of that this Agribusiness Breakfast Seminar will look at the basic principles of the emissions trading schemes that are being considered, who may gain and who may pay depending on how they are set up and what implementing one of them might mean to the farm and forest industries in Wisconsin and the northcentral region of the state.

The speaker for the seminar is Dr. Pat Walsh, an environmental and energy specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Dr. Walsh is an attorney and engineer with extensive experience in environmental and energy policy. He was formerly the assistant dean and statewide program leader for Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development programs for University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. The cost for the seminar is \$10 if reservations are made by October 6 and \$15 at the door. PPA members are eligible to register for \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. To make reservations contact Cathy Newby at 715.803.1861. The Agribusiness Breakfast Seminar is being sponsored by the Partnership for Progressive Agriculture (PPA), Northcentral Technical College and UW-Extension.



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Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers Starting in November

If you or someone you know would like to own and operate a grass-based dairy or livestock farm a great place to start is the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDF) offered at NTC in Wausau through a combination of distance education and local instructors beginning November 12. Students who have taken the class locally have found the classes that are taught by a combination of local grazing specialists, graziers, nearby graduates of the school farming in the area, and speakers joining the students by interactive video from the classroom in Madison to be extremely valuable.

For more information about the course or to get an application contact Melissa Klein at 705.803.1671.

Final Farm Bill Rules Published for Facility Loans

The Marathon County Farm Service Agency can now offer facility loans for storing forages as well as grains. Loans are also available for fruits and vegetables cold storage.

These loans are amortized for repayment over 7, 10 or 12 years. Loan applicants need to show the ability to make the 15 percent down payment as well as the annual repayments. The total loan amount available has been increased to \$500,000. Interest rates are the same as the interest rates charged on Treasury Securities of comparable term and maturity. They are very low. For more information or an appointment, call 715-848-2330.



PPA Update

The Partnership for Progressive Agriculture would like to welcome its new members: Venn Michlig, Jason and Jackie Matthiae, and Terry Geurink.

The Economic Development and Advocacy sub-committee of PPA is looking for some new committee members. This committee is responsible for identifying key issues and hosts round-table discussion with industry experts, partners with UW-Extension to provide educational seminars and tours (such as the Northcentral Wisconsin Dairy Tour and Cap & Trade Seminar listed on the front page), and leadership in advocacy on issues that are important to your business. The next meeting of this committee will be on September 10 at 10 am at the fairground office. Contact Melissa Klein at 715.803.1710 for more information.

LDP's for Barley Available in Marathon County (Loan Deficiency Payment)

On Thursday, August 13, 2009 the LDP rate for barley grown and stored in Marathon County reached 3 cents per bushel. In the days that followed, the rate was as high as 12 cents, and on Thursday, August 20, 2009 the LDP rate for barley was 10 cents per bushel. LDP rates become effective when the posted county price falls below the county loan rate. These rates are calculated on a daily basis by the USDA. Producers are paid this difference (the LDP rate) rather than applying for a loan with the commodity as collateral.

For a producer to be eligible for an LDP, the barley must have been grown and crop reported in 2009 by the applicant. The barley must already be harvested and in storage. To be eligible when the producer has sold or fed his 2009 barley, form CCC-633EZ must already be on file in the Farm Service Agency office.

LDP rates are posted daily on the Channel 7 noon show. You may also call the Farm Service Agency office at 715-848-2330 for LDP information.



NTC Doubles in Dairy Science

Last fall 16 students enrolled in the dairy science program at Northcentral Technical College. This year that number has more than doubled to 34 students enrolled in the program. Most of them are from the surrounding area, but some are from areas such as Gillett, Pulaskee and Rudolph.

2009/10 Nutrient Management Classes

Popular Program Kicks Off With "Open Houses" – October 6 and 7

Educators and conservation officials in a 5-county area are once again working together to offer Nutrient Management education at various locations in north central Wisconsin. To kick off the 2009/10 training, a free "Open House" will be made available: October 6, 1-3 pm at the Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Wausau campus; October 7, 1-3 pm at the NTC Medford campus; and October 7, 7-9 pm at the NTC Spencer campus. This is a key opportunity to receive essential information on soil sampling needs for this fall, updates on recent changes in nutrient management regulations, and address questions that producers have on nutrient management compliance or the training series.



Last year's training series included 90 producers in Marathon, Lincoln, Clark, Taylor, and Price Counties. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)-approved Nutrient Management Training Series is for livestock and crop producers interested in developing their first qualified Nutrient Management Plan (qNMP) or as a refresher to maintain "qualified planner" status. Each participant completing last year's training and filing a qNMP received reimbursement for their class enrollment fee. Trainers are hoping to again provide this opportunity to producers through grant funds.

DATCP-approved classes to develop qNMPs will be offered in Abbotsford, Spencer, Thorp, Medford, and Wausau in January and February, 2010. The class will cover plan development and implementation, using SNAP-Plus computer software or a manual option. Upon completion of the class, producers will have a qualified plan that meets state requirements, as well as available cost-share opportunities. The cost of the program is \$130 per farm.

For more information on the Open House program, Marathon County producers may contact Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department at (715) 261-2008, or Mike Wildeck, Marathon County UW-Extension at (715) 261-1239. A registration brochure for the classes (beginning January 2010) will be available at the "Open House" locations. This collaborative program is sponsored by the County Conservation Departments, UW-Extension, and Northcentral Technical College offices in Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor, and Price Counties.

Get Your Soil Tested

Do you know if the needed nutrients to grow your crops exist in your soil? A soil test will determine what nutrients exist in your field. A test will also give recommendations needed to improve your field as well as the present pH level of your soil. For best crop production, the nutrients in the soil should meet the plants' need along with its desired pH level. By doing a soil test, you'll know exactly what you need to do and won't have to guess on how much fertilizer or lime you'll need to apply.

Crops require a certain amount of nutrients to be most productive. The primary nutrients needed for best crop production are: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. In a field where there are low amount of the required nutrients, production of that crop will not grow as it should. Add too much, on the other hand, money will go to waste because the required amount has been reached.

It is recommended that a soil test should be done in the fall rather than early spring. Studies have shown that tested pH, phosphorus and potassium levels will slightly be higher in the early spring than in the fall. By testing in the fall, you will also have enough time to receive your recommendations and apply nutrients if any are needed. Take into consideration that after samples are sent to the laboratory, allow about two weeks for the test results. A soil test should be done once every 4 years and avoid doing a test after applying fertilizer. The cost of a soil test is about \$15 per sample which also includes shipping and handling.

Extension offices have names of different private soil testing laboratories but the two University of Wisconsin laboratories are UW Soil and Forage Analysis Lab, 8396 Yellowstone Drive, Marshfield WI 54449, (715) 387-2532 or UW Soil and Plant Analysis Lab 8452 Mineral Point Road, Verona, WI 53593 (608) 262-4364. For more information about soil sampling or how to gather soil samples yourself for testing, you can visit the UW Extension website at www.uwex.edu and search A2100 "Sampling Soils for Testing."

World Dairy Expo, ABS Global and Farm Trip

If you are planning to attend the 2009 World Dairy Expo in Madison, let Northcentral Technical College (NTC) do the driving for you. NTC will be offering a charter bus on Friday, October 2 traveling to the World Dairy Expo. In addition to visiting the Expo a tour of ABS Global and a farm are in the works.

At the Expo the National Guernsey Show and the Grand International Red and White Show and International Holstein Show, heifers, will take place that day. Free educational seminars and virtual farm tours are scheduled on the grounds. Attendees can visit the trade show to find the latest technologies, equipment, and genetic research among other things.

The bus will leave from Northcentral Technical College, Wausau Campus, promptly at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 2. It will return at approximately 8 p.m. Cost for the bus is \$35. This includes the \$8 entry ticket for the Expo. Interested individuals should contact Melissa Klein, Agriculture Coordinator at Northcentral Technical College 715.803.1671 or klein@ntc.edu. Participants must be pre-registered. Deadline to register is September 25.

Farm Business Management Courses Offered

Northcentral Technical College will be offering two Farm Business Management Courses at the Wausau, Medford, Spencer and Phillips Campuses. These courses are intended for students involved in production agriculture.

Farm Business Analysis 100190185

This course studies the basic farm business management concepts. General principles involved in the organization, operation, and decision making of the farm business. Students will study the farm management planning cycle and develop an understanding of its relationship to: family and farm business goal setting, cash and enterprise accounting principles, and tax planning. Participants will discuss the traits of successful employees and management styles.

Wausau Campus, Tuesdays 10 am to 1:50 pm, October 20 through December 15

Livestock Management 10090106

Students will receive a general overview of animal science. Topics include animal health, animal environments, anatomy and physiology, genetics and reproduction, nutrition, and disease control.

Medford, Spencer and Phillips Campuses, Saturdays 9 am to 12:50 pm, October 17 through December 12

Students will meet at the specified campus on class dates and instructors will arrange to meet with students at their farms. These courses fulfill the training requirements of the FSA loan programs. To register for this course call 888.NTC.7144. For more information contact Melissa Klein, Agriculture Coordinator at 888.NTC.7144 ext 1671.

