

Columbia County Ag Reporter

March/April 2017

WHAT'S INSIDE...



Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

This issue's highlighted articles:

- ◆ Calendar of Events (pg. 2)
- ◆ Salmonella Heidelberg Outbreak (pg. 4)
- ◆ Farm Succession Webinar (pg. -5)
- ◆ Corn Growers Meeting (pg. 7)



General Information:	
Ag Reporter Calendar.....	2
Grain Bin Entrapments.....	2
Arlington Sheep Day.....	3
Salmonella Heidelberg Outbreak.....	3
WI Farm Succession & Estate Planning Webinars	4
Frost Seeding of Forages.....	6
Corn Growers Meeting.....	7
Land & Water:	
Tax Credit Info.....	8
Tree Sales Program.....	9
Poster Speaking Contests 2017.....	9
General Information:	
Tractor/Machinery Safety.....	9
USDA/FSA:	
Make Your Appointment to Enroll in ARC-PLC Program.....	10
Dates to Remember	10
Pollinator SAFE Project.....	11
Organic Certification Cost Share Program (SAFE).....	11
Risk Protection Coverage.....	12
NRCS:	
EQIP Signup.....	13
General Information:	
Research on the Farm.....	14
Directory.....	
	14



Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

March	8	WI Ag Day at the Capitol
	7-8	Eau Claire Farm Show
	9	Columbia County Corn Growers Meeting—Arlington Public Events Building, 9am—3pm
	10-11	WI Ag Women's Summit, Marriott West, Madison
	15-16	Professional Dairy Producers of WI 2017 Business Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
	20	1st Day of Spring
	21	National Ag Day
	23	Medicaid Recovery Webinar, 1:00pm, Annex Bldg., Portage
	28-30	WPS Farm Show, EAA Grounds, Oshkosh
April	1	"Let's Get Green and Growing" Master Gardeners Conferences, Rio High School

The Columbia County **Ag Calendar and Deadlines'** webpage is located at <http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>.

Grain Bin Entrapments



A study by Purdue University reported 24 documented grain entrapments in 2015, including 14 fatalities. Grain entrapments were the most common type of confined space incidents. Additionally, there were six equipment entanglements resulting in one death, six falls into or from grain storage structures resulting in three deaths and four fatal cases of asphyxiation.

For the first time since 2010, the number of confined space fatalities exceeded non-fatal incidents. The decrease in the total number of incidents is due to a significant drop in non-fatal incidents, which is likely attributed to underreporting of non-fatal grain entrapments. It is estimated that annual documented cases of these injuries and fatalities only represent about 70% of the total occurrences.

It only takes seconds to become entrapped in grain and less than a minute to become completely engulfed. Once grain is above knee-level, it is nearly impossible to get out without assistance. Grain bin accidents are more likely to occur when workers or family members enter a grain bin without following safe grain bin entry procedures.

Grain entrapment and grain engulfment aren't the only risks. Toxic atmospheres, augers, bin collapses, fires and explosions are equally hazardous. Don't become another fatality or accident statistic. Keep safety in mind at all times when working around the farm.

9th Annual Arlington Sheep Day and WI Sheep Breeders Cooperative 2017 Banquet, Recognition Program & Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Public Events Facility, Arlington Agricultural Research Station

9:00 a.m. – Registration - Public Events Facility

9:30 – Welcome

<i>Public Events Facility</i>	<i>Sheep Unit</i>
<p>9:45 – Getting the most out of your wool clip, the Basics of Wool Grading – <i>Todd Taylor, Arlington Sheep Unit Manager, Dept of Animal Science, Arlington Agricultural Research Station, UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences</i></p> <p>10:30 – Making Decisions on Feeding Lambs to a Lightweight Market vs. a Slaughter Weight Market – <i>Michael Neary, PhD., Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, W Lafayette, IN</i></p> <p>11:15 - Break</p> <p>11:30 – Update on Current Research/ Topics of Interest to the Sheep Industry, Including a Review of the Southern Indiana Consortium Lamb Packing Plant – <i>Michael Neary, PhD., Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, W Lafayette, IN</i></p> <p>12:15 p.m. - Adjourn morning program</p>	<p>10:30 – Hands-on program for youth and interested producers at the Arlington Sheep Unit</p> <p>Around the Lambing Barn – <i>Management during lambing season at the Arlington Sheep Unit, Todd Taylor, Arlington Sheep Unit Manager; Department of Animal Sciences, UW-Madison, Madison and Arlington, WI</i></p> <p>12:00 – Return to Public Events Facility</p>

12:30 - WI Sheep Breeders Cooperative Banquet

1:30 - 2016 Recognition Program & Annual Meeting

Arlington Sheep Day is an event organized by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, sponsored by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Animal Sciences and Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. For more information on the 9th Annual Arlington Sheep Day, contact Todd Taylor (608-846-5858, toddtaylor@wisc.edu)

For more information on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Annual Meeting & Recognition Banquet or membership to the WSBC, contact Jill Alf, Executive Secretary (608-868-2505, wisbc@centurytel.net)

Multi-agency investigation of a multi-drug resistant *Salmonella* Heidelberg outbreak

Dr. Paul McGraw, State Veterinarian and Division Administrator Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Division of Animal Health
 Rachel Klos, DVM, MPH, Epidemiologist

***Salmonella* in Humans**

- Bacterial infection
- Symptoms: diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps
- Duration of symptoms: usually 4-7 days
- Can be invasive and lead to blood stream infections
- Infection and severe illness more common in children, elderly, immune compromised persons.
- Transmission: food, **zoonotic**, person-to-person, water, environment.

***Salmonella* Heidelberg Outbreak in Wisconsin**

- 12 culture confirmed cases
- Illness onset July – October 2016
- Median age 7 years (range 0-55 years)
- 7 illnesses in children <10 years of age including 2 infants
- 4 hospitalizations
- >90% of Wisconsin cases are associated with contact with calves.

Recommendations

- **Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after you are done touching or working with livestock, handling equipment used on animals, or coming into contact with anything in the area where animals are present.**
- This is especially important to do before preparing or consuming food or drink for yourself or others.
- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- **Use separate shoes, work gloves, and clothing when working with livestock.**
- Keep these items outside of your home, or remove or change immediately when arriving home, to prevent contamination of the home environment.
- Change or remove soiled clothing and boots before getting into vehicles.
- Wash hands after taking off any clothes and shoes you wore while working with livestock.
- **Supervise small children during any animal encounter and discourage behaviors that can increase their risk of illness.**
- Young children and immune-compromised persons should avoid direct contact with calves, especially those with diarrhea (scours).
- Do not allow toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, baby bottles, strollers, or similar items in livestock areas.
- **Do not eat or drink in the areas where livestock are present.**
- **Do not drink unpasteurized (raw) milk.**
- **Work with your veterinarian to keep your livestock healthy.**

Wisconsin Farm Succession & Estate Planning Webinars

Medicaid Eligibility and Recovery—March 23rd

Columbia County UW-Extension has been offering a series of webinars on farm succession and estate planning. Registration is free. Pre-registration is required. To register contact our office at 608-742-9687, or email jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu

Our final webinar program in this series will be held on March 23rd from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Join us as Attorney Anthony Schmoldt discusses “Medicaid Eligibility and Recovery”. You will have an opportunity to ask questions during this webinar.

Farm business owners looking to the future of their farming operations have many issues to consider. Succession planning includes planning for the owner’s “Golden Years”; business planning to ensure the operation has financial capacity; developing the successor’s management skills; and estate and tax planning.

Skilled nursing care is an expense that can be difficult to plan for as farm families are building their businesses and trying to bring another person into the business. In 2016, the Genworth Cost of Care Survey indicated the median cost of nursing home care for a semi-private room in Wisconsin is about \$7,800 per month. The average nursing home stay is about two and a half years. Medicaid is a federal program that provides assistance for those who cannot pay for skilled nursing care.

This webinar is for both the owner and successor generations to learn about the Wisconsin rules for the Medicaid program. Attorney Anthony Schmoldt, from Schmoldt Law Office, LLC, in Chippewa Falls will be the speaker for this webinar. The topics to be covered include:

- What is Medicaid/Medical Assistance?
- What are the rules for eligibility?
- What are the rules for recovery?
- What are the gifting rules and restrictions as they pertain to Medicaid?
- What are strategies and tools to protect certain business assets from Medicaid recovery?

Frost Seeding of Forages



by Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin-
Extension
Cooperative Extension

Frost seeding is broadcasting forage seed onto the ground surface while the ground is still frozen in the spring. The principle is that repeated freezing and thawing of the soil surface causes surface cracks in the soil which allow seed incorporation.

Farmers have reported that frost seeding works 60 to 70 % of the time. They feel frost seeding is worthwhile it because of the cost saving from not needing a seeder. While frost seeding is a less expensive method of seeding forages than using seeders, it is also riskier than seeding with a drill because seed-soil contact is less good and produces less uniform stands. Frost seeding can be acceptable for pasture improvement but not for establishing pasture or hay fields.

Seed can be distributed by broadcast seeders that are either tractor- or ATV-mounted or hand-held or mixed with fertilizer and applied. The optimum is to broadcast seed early in the spring after the snow is gone but while the ground is still frozen. Frost seeding on top of snow, especially with fertilizer, is not recommended because rapid snow melting may cause the seed to be washed off the pasture. Frost seeding earlier than March will also result in seed loss to birds, rodents, etc.

Frost seeding works best if pasture residue has been removed prior to broadcasting the seed to allow the seed to reach the soil surface. Residue removal is best done by grazing late the previous fall. Residue can be removed by grazing or burning in the spring but either may delay seeding.

Percent Germination of Frost Seedings at Arlington and Lancaster (7 trials in Wisconsin)

Species	% Germ
Red Clover	9.5
Perennial ryegrass	24.5
Orchardgrass	11.7
Smooth Bromegrass	8.1
Timothy	6.0
Reed canarygrass	2.2

Recommended Frost Seeding Rates of Forages	
Species	Seeding Rate (lb./acre)
Alsike or Ladino Clover	1 to 2
Red of White Clover	2 to 4
Birdsfoot Trefoil	4
Perennial/Italian Ryegrass	9
Orchardgrass	2

Frost seeding is not recommended for sandy soils because the freezing and thawing does not incorporate the seed.

Though often not necessary, any action to incorporate the seed, such as allowing cattle, sheep or horses to walk across the seeded area or disking will increase stand establishment success.

Frost seeding works best for legumes and grasses that germinate rapidly and at low temperatures. Red and white clover is the easiest to establish but we have also had some luck with birdsfoot trefoil. Frost seeding alfalfa is not recommended because it does not germinate at as low temperatures as the clovers. Frost seeded Italian (annual) ryegrass and orchardgrass have high success rates. Other grasses have been frost seeded with varying success.



You are invited!!!!

The Columbia County Corn Growers Association will be meeting on Thursday, March 9th, from 9:00 am until 3:15 pm at Arlington ARS - Public Events Building, Arlington, WI. Registration begins at 9:00 am with the opening welcome remarks by President Jon Herrmann at 9:20 am. **Anyone who grows corn in Columbia County** is invited to attend this event and lunch. A \$5.00 registration fee will be collected at the door. UW-Extension has put together an exciting and fast-paced group of speakers and topics to help you as corn growers, increase your productive efficiency and profitability in 2017 which is expected to be a low margin year.

- Soybean Inputs that Deliver the Highest ROI
- Practical Weed Management
- Fundamental Soil Fertility Strategies for Success
- How to Survive and Thrive on Current Corn Price Projections
- Low Grain Prices=Smart Disease Management Decisions
- Managing Insects Economically
- Machinery/Technology Management
- Partial Budget Analysis



Lunch will be provided by the Columbia County Corn Growers' 2017 Sponsors. An election for two positions on the Columbia County Corn Grower Board of Directors will be held right after lunch.

If you plan to attend, please register by March 6th by contacting Jennifer Evans at jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu or calling 608-742-9687. All other questions should be directed to George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent at george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu or 608-742-9682.

We really hope to see you at our meeting!

Jon Herrmann – President
Jason Link – Secretary
Garry Gard – Director
George Koepp – Columbia County Ag Agent

Craig Taylor - Treasurer
Wes Eisenga - Director
Paul Sharpee – Director

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

By Kurt Calkins, Director of Columbia County Land & Water



Reminder for 2016 Farmland Preservation Tax Credits to Be Claimed:

Landowners are reminded that 2016 is an important year regarding your compliance status for FPP and future year tax credits. If you do not have a Certificate of Compliance with a Certificate of Compliance number on it, you should call the LWCD and talk with Chris or Harold. There is a fee of \$25. If you have questions about status you are encouraged to contact the LWCD. Remember to make sure a current 2016 Nutrient Management Plan (590) checklist is on file with us, covering all parcels.

Below are some of the most important things to remember:

- You will not be able to claim a tax credit on exclusively agricultural zoned lands after January 1, 2017 without having been issued **a Certificate of Compliance with this unique number.** Landowners in Town of Randolph and Town of Scott claiming under current agreements, should contact us regarding tax credit eligibility and options for modifications that may allow increased tax credits. This Certificate of Compliance unique number must be entered on the (FC-A) form. The FC-A form will calculate eligibility based on a per acre credit. Landowners claiming under existing contracts in Randolph and Scott, must use (FC) form to collect credits based on calculations found in form. This is not an acre based credit, unless a modification is done to the agreement. County Land & Water Conservation Departments are now required to annually submit reports to DATCP & DOR that will show eligible ownership entities, unique COC numbers and qualifying acres. These reports will be used to screen tax credit claims now and into the future.
- Remember this is a landowner based program, but as we know a lot of eligible land is operated thru agreement by tenant farmers. Achieving compliance and maintaining compliance will require a strong line of communication between both parties. We always advise landowners to include management expectations in written agreements with farmers operating their land. Like any contractual agreement, it helps both parties define expectations.
- If you currently do not have a COC with a unique number, please contact our office. Your COC may likely be ready for pickup, or staff can discuss next steps if we are not yet ready to issue your COC with the number. Contact Chris Arnold, LWRM Specialist or Harold McElroy, LWRM Specialist if you have questions. You can reach them at (608)-742-9670.



2016-17 Columbia County LWCD Tree Sales Program:

We are still taking orders for our 2016-2017 Columbia County Tree Sales Program. The order forms should have reached anyone on our mailing list by the 3rd week of November. If you were not on our list, you can find the order form online at: <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/TreeProgram> or you can contact our office to receive a tree order. There is also an online purchasing option as well, that includes paypal processing for payment. To reserve the trees you want, order sooner than later. We have already sold out of Black Spruce and Norway Spruce Transplants. Tree pick-up day is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017. Thanks for your continued support in this program. If you have questions, please contact us at 608 742-9670.

Poster/Speaking Contests 2017:

The Youth Poster & Speaking Contests were held January 6, 2017 and February 6, 2017. The poster theme this year is “Healthy Soils – Full of Life” and we had participants from 6 different schools. One of our poster winners has also taken first place at the Regional contest and will be headed to the State contest March 15, 2017. We still have one school that participates in the speaking contest, speeches can be on any conservation-related subject. This is open to any students in the Columbia County area. We are hoping for more interest in this contest, so if anyone is interested in entering this contest, please contact our office for forms, deadlines and more information on these contests. There are 3 age divisions for speakers, starting at 5th grade, through 12th. We are able to obtain very good donations from area businesses for winners and some participants as well as a drawing for a Summer Camp scholarship (\$100 value) pertaining to certain age groups. *(end of LWCD)*

2017 Tractor/Machinery Safety Certification Program



In April, 2017 Columbia County UW-Extension will host a certification program for youth ages 12-16 to learn about the safe operation of tractors and machinery. The program will include: hands on instruction about tractor and farm machinery operation; hazard recognition and correction; general farm safety knowledge; importance of a positive safety attitude; and guest speakers. To successfully complete the course, youth must attend 24 hours of instruction and pass written and driving exams. Course dates are: April 1, 3, 10, 17, 24, and 29. All classes will take place at Portage High School except April 29th and that will be at Johnson Sales in Arlington. Please request a brochure by contacting Pat Wagner, 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant, at the UW-Extension Office—phone 608-742-9685. A \$20 fee for materials is required and the class is limited to the first 24 paid students.

Make Your Appointment Now to Enroll in 2017 ARC-PLC Program

The Columbia County Farm Service Agency is encouraging producers to call NOW to make an appointment to enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage-Price Loss Coverage (ARC-PLC) program for 2017. The ARC-PLC program provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years. Late enrollment into this program is not accepted. **Please call (608) 742-5361, ext. 2, to schedule your appointment as soon as possible.** If you operate additional farms outside of Columbia County, feel free to let us know before coming into the FSA office so that we can include them within the ARC-PLC program. For more information about ARC-PLC, please visit fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.



From: Susan Hunter
County Executive Director
Columbia County FSA Office

Dates to Remember

- Mar. 15** Deadline to purchase loss coverage policies for 2016 non-insurable spring seeded crops under Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)
- Mar. 31** Last day to obtain 9-month Marketing Assistance Loans on 2015 small grain crops
- May 1** NAP application deadline to purchase loss coverage for 2016 nursery crops
- May 31** Last day to obtain 9-month Marketing Assistance Loan on 2015 coarse grain crops
- July 15** All spring seeded crops; including dry edible beans, red kidney beans, forage seeding, and all CRP acreage
- Ongoing** Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Enrollment
Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program Applications
Farm Operating and Ownership Loan Applications
Youth Loan Applications (ages 10-20)

New Pollinator and Monarch SAFE Project Allocated 50,000 Acres in Wisconsin



The Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that an additional 50,000 acres of agricultural land in Wisconsin is eligible for funding for wildlife habitat restoration in the new *Pollinators and Monarchs SAFE project* designed specifically to increase pollinator habitat in the southern two-thirds of the state on eligible cropland.

The project is available under the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative, which is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally-funded voluntary program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Currently, more than 1 million acres, representing 98 projects, are enrolled in SAFE nationwide.

Producers and landowners in Columbia County interested in The Pollinators and Monarchs SAFE project or any of the other conservation programs available under CRP should call the FSA office in Portage at (608) 742-5361, ext. 2. Appointments are required.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

Starting March 20, 2017, FSA will start accepting Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) applications which provide reimbursement for 75% of a producer's or handler's eligible organic or transitional certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 for various categories. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) currently runs a similar program and will continue to do so. Producers can apply for reimbursement at either FSA or DATCP, but not both.

Columbia County Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before March 15th Crop Sales Deadline

FSA reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance with private insurance agents and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage with FSA, before the spring crop reporting deadline of March 15, 2017.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP in the county where they are grown and to explore the best level of protection for their operation.

NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price available, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/>.

Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator to predict insurance premium costs by visiting <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales deadlines, contact the Columbia County FSA office at (608) 742-5361, ext. 2, or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap



NRCS Announces EQIP Signup for 2017 Funding ~ Apply by March 3, 2017

Providing Conservation Practices to Improve Soil Health and Protect Natural Resources ~

Farmers will want to plan ahead and sign up early for USDA conservation funding. Farmers interested in the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) need to apply by March 3, 2017, for funding in 2017. Applications are being taken at all USDA Service Centers in Wisconsin.

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 110 basic conservation practices. Last year, Wisconsin received about \$21 million in funds for EQIP practices.

By getting applications in early, NRCS staff have time to visit individual farms to help plan all practices needed and offer alternatives. All eligible applications received by March 3, 2017, will be evaluated and ranked for funding in 2017. Farmers may contact their local USDA Service Center to get started on producer eligibility and planning. NRCS reminds farmers who are interested in practices that may require permits, such as manure storage or streambank restoration, to begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible. Applicants with shovel-ready projects (designs completed and permits obtained) will receive higher priority.

Signup by March 3, 2017 for Several Special Initiatives Focusing on Conservation Efforts ~

Special sign-up opportunities are also now open for Soil Health, On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnel conservation practices, as well as a number of landscape based initiatives. All offer technical and financial assistance through EQIP.

Soil Health: NRCS is working with producers to improve soil health through sound principles and systems that include no-till, cover crop, diversifying the crop rotation, and managing nutrients and pesticide applications. Improving soil health of the soil allows for improved soil organic matter, increased water infiltration, as well as better profits and crop yields.

On-Farm Energy ~ NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. Audit data is used to develop energy conservation recommendations.

Organic: NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers, working to achieve organic certification, install conservation practices to address resource concerns on organic operations.

Seasonal High Tunnel (Hoop House) ~ NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels - steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops. Supporting conservation practices such as grassed waterways, and diversions are available to address resource concerns on operations with Seasonal High Tunnel structures.

Honey Bee: ~The upper Midwest is the resting ground for over 65 percent of commercially managed honey bees in the country. The NRCS is helping farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees. Pasture management, wildlife habitat, and appropriate cover crops are used as tools to improve the health of our honey bees, which support more than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program ~ The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Current active projects for water quality improvement are located within the Baraboo River watershed and the Yahara River watershed. Projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat include monarch habitat statewide as well as stream and riparian habitat in the Driftless Area.

Landowners interested in applying for EQIP funding should contact their local NRCS office at the [USDA Service Center](#) in their county. For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov



*Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch

This 32-page Ag Innovations Series technical bulletin provides detailed instruction for crop and livestock producers, as well as educators, on how to conduct research at the farm level using practical strategies and peer-reviewed research findings. *How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch* also includes a comprehensive list of in-depth resources and real-life examples—from a Missouri crop and livestock farmer testing the effect of additional cover cropping on forage available to his animals to a West Virginia organic producer experimenting with an integrated trap crop and pheromone trap system for ecological management of stink bugs—in order to stimulate on-farm research ideas and provide guidance.



Contact UW-Extension for your free copy by calling 608-742-9680!

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PORTAGE WI 53901
PERMIT NO 355

DIRECTORY

UW-Extension Columbia County Agriculture Staff

George Koepp, Agriculture Agent.....(608) 742-9682
george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

Office: (608) 742-9680; Fax: (608) 742-9862; <http://columbia.uwex.edu/agriculture/>

UW-Extension Columbia County (UWEX) Office Staff

Jennifer Evans, Administrative Assistant (4-H, Ag, CRD)..... (608) 742-9687
Kathleen Haas, CRD Educator (608) 742-9683
Vacant, Family Living Educator..... (608) 742-9686
Karen Nelson, 4-H Youth Development Educator..... (608) 742-9684
LuAnn Olson, Administrative Assistant (Admin, FL, WNEP)..... (608) 742-9688
Caitlin Richardson, WNEP Coordinator (608) 742-9693
Pat Wagner, 4-H Youth Development Assistant..... (608) 742-9685
Web Site: <http://columbia.uwex.edu/>

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

If you have a change of email, address or would like to be removed, please call the UW-Extension office at (608) 742-9687 or email your request to: jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu

University of Wisconsin—Extension
Columbia County Ag Reporter
120 W. Conant St., Suite 201
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-9680

Address Service Requested