To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

Alfalfa Harvest Planning

Plan to take your first cutting of hay for dairy animals at 28" tall or bud stage. A "PEAQ Stick" can help you determine alfalfa quality. When mowing set the mower height to 3" for best results; better drying, better regrowth, less ash (soil) in the forage. If making dry hay, set the swath as wide as possible for faster, more even drying.

Two points to help in planning:

1. Alfalfa RFV changes about 4 points per day

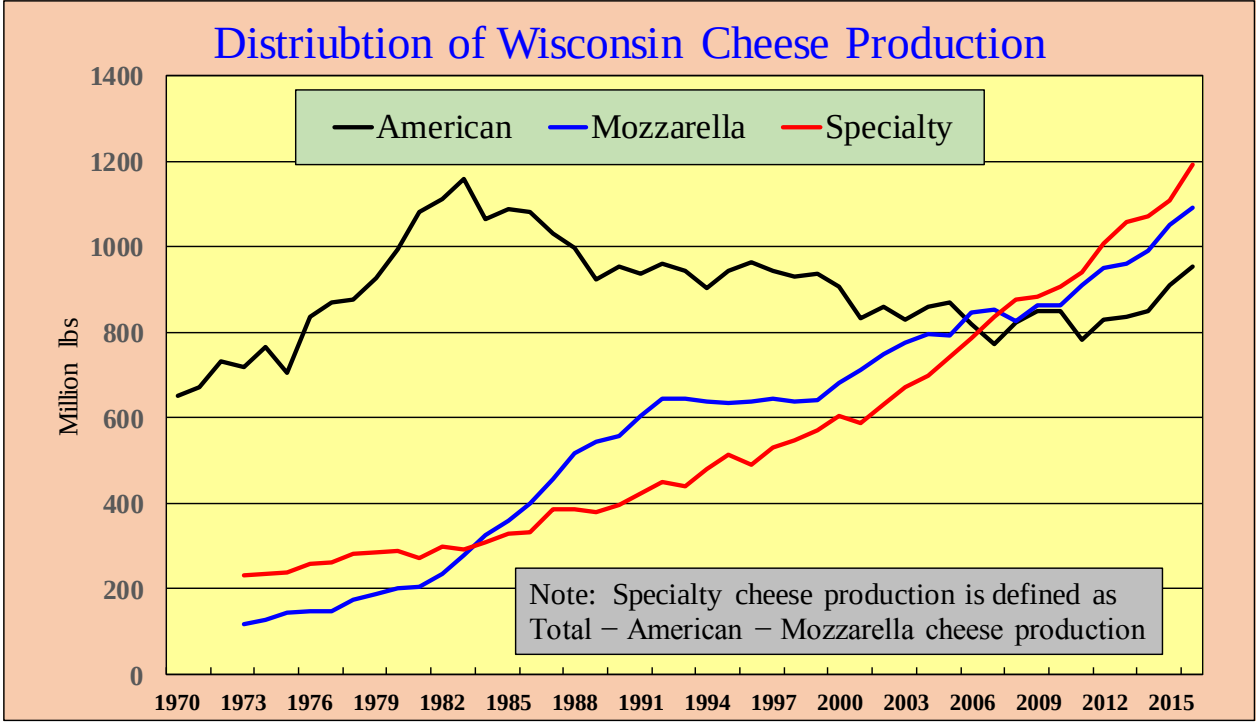
2. Recommend cutting for dairy cows at RFV 170 to get RFV 150 (assuming 15% field losses during harvesting and silage fermentation). Cut at 150 for other category of animals to have harvested forage quality of about 125 to 130 RFV.

Check this website to view Relative Feed Values for several alfalfa fields in Columbia County.
http://fyi.uwex.edu/scissorsclip/

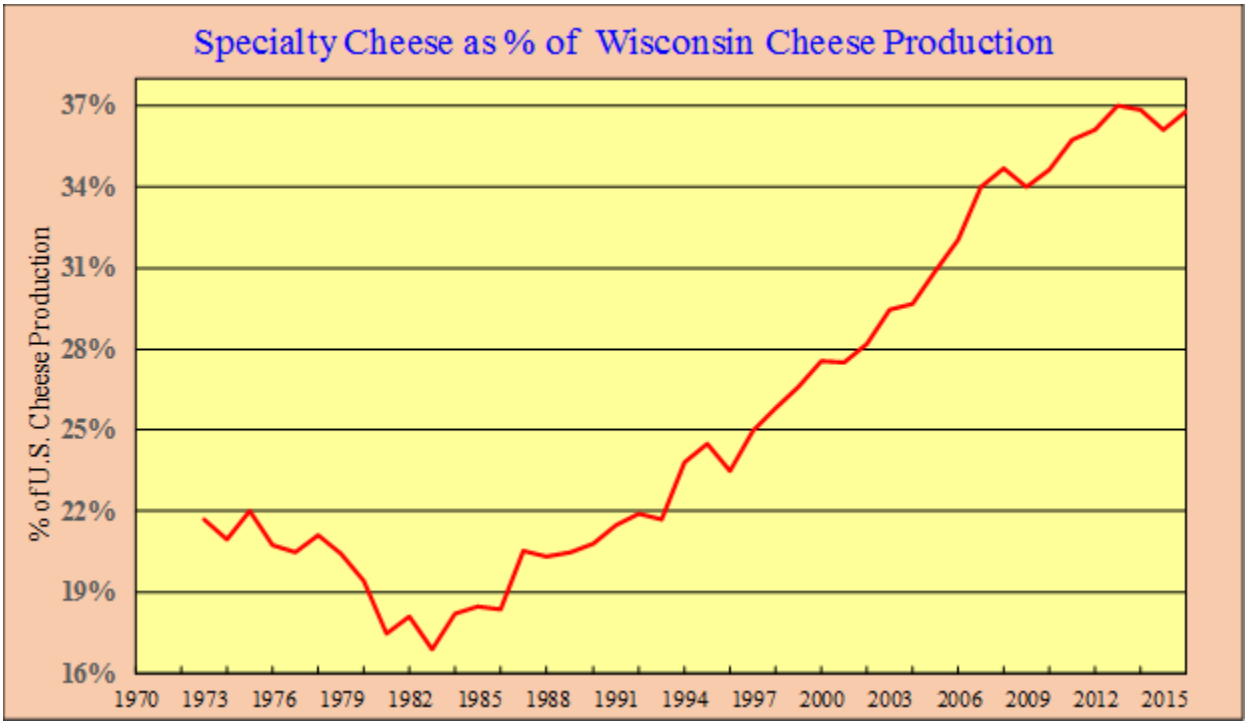
Wisconsin Cheese Production Trends

As a follow-up to last week's summary of the trend in Wisconsin's cheese production, the following figures provide an overview of the importance of "specialty" cheese production in Wisconsin when using a very broad definition of "specialty" cheese, i.e., Total Cheese – American Varieties − Mozzarella cheese production. Note that this definition of specialty cheese is very broad.

Since the early 1980's the production of American cheese varieties has been relatively stable. At the same time the production of mozzarella increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.66% since 1980. Similarly, the CAGR for "specialty" cheese was 3.91%. The CAGR for American cheese varieties was -0.11%.



In 1980, specialty cheese accounted for less than 18% of total Wisconsin cheese production. By 2016, more than 36% of Wisconsin cheese production was associated with this type of cheese.



Brian W. Gould
Renk Professor of Agribusiness, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

What's Standing Hay Worth?

One of the challenges in coming up with a value for standing hay is the lack of established market price information like corn and soybeans. Another challenge is multiple cuttings of hay versus a single harvest for grains. So it's no wonder the price for standing hay can vary greatly between farms, even between fields. Here's one approach for pricing standing hay in 2017.

Assuming four ton dry matter (DM)/acre for the entire year of dairy quality alfalfa hay worth $100 to $150/ton baled ($0.06 to $0.09/lb DM), half the value is credited to the owner for input costs (land, taxes, seed, chemical and fertilizer), and half the value is credited to the buyer for harvesting, field loss and weather risk. Obviously, estimated yield is an important factor when negotiating price. This formula will help determine pre-season maximum alfalfa dry matter yield potential…(0.10 x stems/ft2) + 0.38. Actual yield will likely be lower due environmental conditions and individual harvest / management practices. Wait until stems are at least 4-6 inches tall and count only stems upright enough to be cut by the mower. Using yield distribution based on recent multi-year UW-Extension field research in NE WI for a three cut (43% / 31% / 26%) or four cut (36% / 25% / 21% / 18%) harvest system, the following price range (rounded to the nearest $5) may offer a starting point for buyers and sellers to negotiate a sale of good to premium quality standing alfalfa in 2017:

	4 cuts	**3 cuts**
1st crop	**$ 85–130/a**	**$100–155/a**
2nd crop	**$ 60– 90/a**	**$ 70–110/a**
3rd crop	**$ 50– 75/a**	**$ 60– 95/a**
4th crop	**$ 40– 65/a**	**–**

In this example, the standing value for the entire alfalfa field could range from $230 to $360/acre for the entire growing season. Keep in mind ownership costs can run $300-400/acre when the seller considers lost rent, establishment costs and top-dress fertilizer to maintain soil fertility. That's why the same price is not always the right price for everyone. Ultimately, a fair price is whatever a willing seller and an able buyer can agree to.

To help farmers and landowners better evaluate their pricing options, **Greg Blonde**, UW Extension Agriculture Agent developed a mobile app for pricing standing hay. With more than 1500 downloads and 600 users across the country, the app provides quick access to baled hay market prices for reference calculations, with value per

acre by cutting displayed using annual yield and harvest cost projections. The Android app is free to download at the Google Play store (search for ***Hay Pricing***) or by going to:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmappsconsulting.haypricing.

Keep in mind ownership costs can run $300-400 per acre when considering lost rent, establishment costs and top-dress fertilizer to maintain soil fertility. That's why the same price is not always the right price for everyone. As the old saying goes, "a fair price is whatever a willing seller and an able buyer can agree on".

Soybean Emergence and Germination Common Issues – a You Tube

Follow this link to view a YouTube video that addresses Soybean Emergence and Germination Common Issues. Loss of cotyledons from last night's hail events across the Midwest would cause similar yield loss as that caused by cotyledon loss from emergence related issues. That information is addressed in this video.

Coolbeans!

Shawn P. Conley
Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, Department of Agronomy
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Wisconsin Crop Manager Articles

To view all of the articles compiled into one PDF file follow this link:
http://bit.ly/2qWWo7U

Or click on individual links below:

Weed Identification, 2017 Series, Horseweed
http://bit.ly/2r7ck4d

How Quickly Can Farmers Plant Corn in Wisconsin?
http://bit.ly/2r5xPln

Alfalfa Weevil
http://bit.ly/2qwgy7s

Black Cutworm
http://bit.ly/2rjVPox

Soybean Emergence and Germination Common Issues
http://bit.ly/2qwgZyC

Row Spacing and Seeding Rate and Effects on Weed Management
http://bit.ly/2qyk2qm

Soybean Growth Stages

http://bit.ly/2q1jDsn

Soybean Replant Decisions
http://bit.ly/2rwsyU3

Vegetable Crop Updates
http://bit.ly/2pD5vFR
http://bit.ly/2qwo2ag

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin issue #3, #4 available
http://bit.ly/2r7q1QW
http://bit.ly/2qXiTJP

UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update
http://bit.ly/2q1lCwR
http://bit.ly/2rwM2IP

Wisconsin Fruit News, Issue 2
http://bit.ly/2pbozdN

Weekly Emails Online!
http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/

The Ag Reporter "Snapshot" is presented to you each week by George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent. If you have any questions about these articles or need other ag-related information, please contact George at 608-742-9682 or by email george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu.