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Federally Required Training for Produce Growers

DATCP will host several required food safety trainings

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will host several required food safety trainings for Wisconsin produce growers as part of federal produce safety rules. To determine if your produce farm needs to participate, use DATCP's [online tool](#) or "[Is my farm covered by the new Federal produce safety rules?](#)" fact sheet. The produce safety rules are part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act.

Based on the amount of produce sales determines when the training must be completed. Growers with produce sales annually of:

- More than \$500,000 must complete training prior to this year's growing season.
- \$250,000-\$500,000 must complete training before the 2019 growing season.
- Less than \$250,000 must complete training before the 2020 growing season.

At least one supervisor or other responsible person from the farm must complete the training. Farms eligible for a qualified exemption or an exemption are not required to take the training. More information about exemptions can be found on the [DATCP website](#).

Trainings are being offered on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 3: Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay
- Thursday, April 12: West Madison Agricultural Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona
- Tuesday, April 17: Clarion Hotel Northwoods Ballroom, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire

For growers who do not need to complete training until 2019 and 2020, additional trainings will be provided in the future.

Classes will run 8 a.m.-5 p.m., with check-in from 7:30-8 a.m. Cost is \$60 per person and includes lunch. To register, email safeproduce@wi.gov or call (608) 224-4511. Instructors from DATCP, University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison, UW-Extension, and industry and farmer organizations will cover use of manure as soil

amendments; contact with domesticated and wild animals; worker training; health and hygiene; equipment, tools, and buildings; water; and food safety plans.

Wisconsin ranks 11th in the nation in number of produce farms, and second in number of organic produce farms. There are an estimated 1,100 Wisconsin farms that will need to meet the federal produce safety rules.

For more information visit [DATCP's website](#), call (608) 224-4511, or email safeproduce@wi.gov.

[Making Your Small Farm Profitable Adding Beef?](#)

April 17 5:30-8:00pm room 111 MATC Reedsburg Campus 300 Alexander Ave., Reedsburg, WI
Course number 64957 <https://sta.swcportal.org/app/catalog/classsection/MATC1/1188/64957>
For assistance registering or setting up student account call the Reedsburg Campus at:
608-524-7800 ext 1.

Fee: \$20

Have you ever considered adding animals to your land? Using animals in a managed grazing system is one of the best ways to protect and in fact enhance the health of your soils! More and more consumers are looking for grass-fed meats so this could be a great opportunity to feed your family, improve your soil health, and make a little extra money! This workshop will explore opportunities to create a managed grazing opportunity even on small acreage. We will hear from local producers about how they got into their beef business and explore processing partnerships. Rod Ofte will talk about opportunities to sell beef with Wisconsin Meadows Cooperative. Madison College Agriculture Instructor, Randy Zogbaum, will share an overview of the potential, Melissa Keenan and Curt Norgard will share program available to assist you in getting started. Light snacks will be provided.

Swine Health Testing

Starting March 27, 2018, swine entering Wisconsin or moving within the state will no longer need to be tested for Porcine Delta Coronavirus (PDCoV). Previously, swine owners needed to test for PDCoV within 90 days prior to movement as part of the requirement to test for Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD). Accredited veterinarians also no longer need to write herd plans for swine that test positive or are not tested for PDCoV.

Swine must continue to be tested for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv). As a reminder, swine must test negative for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRSS) and PEDv within 90 days prior to movement in Wisconsin.

Learn more about [swine movement requirements in Wisconsin](#).

2018 Soybean Yield Contest

Yes, it is spring! It is also time to think about what field you might enter into the 2018 WI Soybean Yield Contest. Follow this link to get the rules and details.

Area Farmer Seeking Dairy Farm Help

Westfield area farmer seeking full or part time help milking cows, feeding dairy animals, and other assorted dairy farm chores. Job is open immediately. Contact Donald Bittelman for details, 608-296-2262

U.S. Farmers Expect to Plant More Soybean Acreage than Corn Acreage

Planting Intentions Expected to be Down Slightly from Historic 2017 Record Year, USDA Reports

WASHINGTON, Mar. 29, 2018 – Producers surveyed across the United States intend to plant an estimated 89.0 million acres of soybeans in 2018, down 1 percent from last year, according to the *Prospective Plantings* report released today by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Planted acreage intentions for soybeans are down or unchanged in 20 of the 31 estimating states. The largest increase is expected in Indiana with 6.10 million acres, an increase of 150,000 acres from 2017. If realized, the planted area of soybeans in Indiana, Kentucky, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin will be the largest on record.

Corn growers intend to plant 88.0 million acres in 2018, down 2 percent from last year. If realized this will be the lowest planted acreage since 2015. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 33 of the 48 states estimated.

The *Prospective Plantings* report provides the first official, survey based estimates of U.S. farmers' 2018 planting intentions. NASS's acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of approximately 82,900 farm operators across the United States. Other key findings in the report are:

- All wheat planted area for 2018 is estimated at 47.3 million acres, up 3 percent from 2017. This represents the second lowest all wheat planted area on record since records began in 1919.
- Winter wheat planted area, at 32.7 million acres, is up slightly from both last year and the previous estimate.
- Area planted to other spring wheat for 2018 is expected to total 12.6 million acres, up 15 percent from 2017.
- Durum wheat is expected to total 2.00 million acres for 2018, down 13 percent from last year.
- All cotton planted area for 2018 is expected to total 13.5 million acres, 7 percent above last year.

NASS today also released the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report to provide estimates of on-farm and off-farm stocks as of March 1. Key findings in that report include:

- Corn stocks totaled 8.89 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the same time last year. On-farm corn stocks were up 2 percent from a year ago, and off-farm stocks were up 5 percent.
- Soybeans stored totaled 2.11 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2017. On-farm soybean stocks were up 28 percent from a year ago, while off-farm stocks were up 17 percent.
- All wheat stored totaled 1.49 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm all wheat stocks went down 26 percent from last year, while off-farm stocks went down 6 percent.

- Durum wheat stored totaled 49.2 million bushels, down 7 percent from March 1, 2017. On-farm Durum stocks were down 20 percent from a year ago, while off-farm stocks of Durum wheat were up 14 percent.

The *Prospective Plantings*, *Grain Stocks*, and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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.