

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:

[Columbia County “Ag Reporter” Newsletter is a State Winner](#)

[Dairy Farmers – Keep signing up for DMPP](#)

[Late Corn planting decisions for Columbia County](#)

[Alfalfa Weevil Scouting begins soon](#)

[Alternative Forage Options for Dairy Heifers](#)

[Use FieldWatch to Locate Managed Honey Bee Colonies](#)

[Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#)

[Columbia County “Ag Reporter” Newsletter is a State Winner](#)

The “Ag Reporter” was recognized by the Wisconsin Association of County Agriculture Agents as the 2017-18 State Winner in the team newsletter published by a County UW-Extension office category at the WACAA Awards Banquet on May 1. This newsletter is a team effort that includes information from George Koepp, UW-Extension Ag Agent; Kurt Calkins, Land and Water Conservation Director; and Susan Hunter, FSA Director. It is emailed to over 320 people and printed and mailed to over 1070 people every other month. This newsletter provides timely information to assist farmers and landowners with making good decisions on how to best manage their property and agricultural businesses in Columbia County. A special thanks to the UW-Extension Program Assistant, Jennifer Evans, who works her magic at the computer to organize, format, print, and mail this document to our constituents. Jennifer adds graphics and font changes to make the newsletter more interesting, attractive, and readable. Thanks to all involved for making this a top notch educational document for the Columbia County Agriculture Community.

[Dairy Farmers – Keep signing up for DMPP](#)

June 1 deadline is getting closer. We have had lots of calls seeking clarification on this important opportunity for local dairy farmers over the past week. In many cases neighbors have encouraged and helped neighbors to learn and make some good decisions here. Make sure you call Monica at the FSA office right away (608-742-5361) to make an appointment to complete the documentation and sign up. Contact George at UW-Extension (608-742-9682) if you need help running your farm specific numbers to determine your involvement in the MPP program for 2018. Go to this website <https://dairymarkets.org/> if you have enough computer knowledge to run your numbers yourself.

Late Corn planting decisions for Columbia County

Mother Nature keeps challenging grain farmers to sneak in short bursts of planting opportunities this spring. Cold and snowy April have given way to a cold and wet May, causing continued challenges for farmers to get into fields to spread manure and plant crops. We have already passed the optimum day for planting corn (May 1) and are now into the time where we will expect a .5 bushel per acre decrease in yield for each day planting is delayed (May 10).

Soon farmers will need to make decisions about what maturity corn to plant so that it will mature in time to dry down properly and then be put into storage in the fall. UW-Extension Data has shown that the northern half of Columbia County sits in an area that most often should plant 100-105 day corn. The southern half of the county should plant 105-110 day corn as full season hybrids. Two more dates loom on the horizon for us where farms should consider switching hybrids to shorter day varieties.

On May 20, the northern half of the county should consider switching to 95-100 day varieties, while the southern half should select 100-105 day corn.

As we get to June 1, and corn fields are not planted, decision makers should consider switching to shorter day varieties again. Northern half of Columbia County would be looking at 85-90 day corn, while the southern part of the county could still get a mature crop by planting 90-95 day corn. The strategy here is to grow corn that will grow, mature, and dry down properly to prevent extra drying costs this fall.

Here is a link to a document to help further drive home this point, "Corn replant/late-plant decisions in Wisconsin". <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3353.pdf>

Alfalfa Weevil Scouting begins soon

We have almost reached the degree days where Alfalfa Weevils begin to be a problem. If we get warm weather next week, that threshold could be met. So, get your sweep nets ready and be on the lookout for this pest. Typically, we take no action until at least 40% of the stems show signs of feeding. Early cutting is the best method of control in many cases, then follow up by scouting the 2nd crop regrowth. Work with your Certified Crop Advisor to help make good, informed, data driven decisions on how to best manage this pest.

Alternative Forage Options for Dairy Heifers

Posted on May 10, 2018

High quality corn silage and alfalfa are often used for feeding dairy heifers. These can work well for young heifers up to ~8-12 months of age depending on forage quality. However, pregnant dairy heifers have lower energy needs than younger dairy heifers and feeding the correct amount of energy is important to control weight gain.

In the 2018 March [Midwest Forage Association](#) Focus on Forage article [Alternative Forage Options for Heifers](#), UW-Extension/[UW-Madison Department of Dairy Science](#) Dairy Management Specialist [Matt Akins](#) describes options for heifers regarding forage and nutritional needs.

For more information regarding dairy replacements, please visit [UW-Extension Dairy Calf & Heifer](#).

[Use FieldWatch to Locate Managed Honey Bee Colonies](#)

Bryan Jensen, UW Extension and IPM Program

Looking for help in identifying the location of managed bee hives (or other sensitive crops) in your application area? Try FieldWatch[®]. Honey bee colonies are not always painted a color that are easy to see. Others may be hidden from view behind buildings, trees or other vegetation. Knowing that hives are present prior to application allows the applicator to take precautions prior to application.

[FieldWatch](#) is a nonprofit company which allows applicators, specialty crop growers and beekeepers to communicate with each other regarding sites which might be sensitive to pesticide application. FieldWatch is free to the end user (applicator). Furthermore, the registry to upload honey bee colony sites through [BeeCheck](#) and sensitive specialty crop locations through [DriftWatch](#) is also free. However, signing up as a voluntary dues paying member is appreciated but not required. After all, FieldWatch is a non-profit company. You can go to their website if you want more information about [dues](#).

To access the basic information, simply go to the [FieldWatch Map](#) and select your state. Using FieldWatch as a dues paying member provides the opportunity to zoom into your applications area and receive automatic updates for new apiaries and/or sensitive specialty crops

Both hobbyists and commercial beekeepers may upload their sites and select if that information is available publically or for registered applicators. These uploads are check by a data steward from WDATCP who verify each registration. There are several different style of pins used to mark hive locations. A single hive is marked with a "B". If more than one hive is present at that location the pin will have horizontal lines. Pins may also be yellow or red. If red, those hives are registered and have a state registration number. Yellow pins indicate hives which are not registered with DATCP's Apiary Program.

[Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#)

Volume 63, Issue No. 2 is now available at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp> [PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LOOKING AHEAD: Black cutworm migration continues

FORAGES & GRAINS: First alfalfa weevil adults collected on May 7

CORN: Peak seedcorn maggot fly emergence expected next week near Green Bay

SOYBEAN: Bean leaf beetles appearing in alfalfa

FRUITS: Grape flea beetle feeding reported from Dane and Vernon counties

VEGETABLES: Common asparagus beetle egg laying underway

NURSERY & FOREST: Volutella blight on pachysandra and other reports from recent inspections

DEGREE DAYS: Growing degree day accumulations as of May 9, 2018

Krista Hamilton

Entomologist -- Bureau of Plant Industry/Division of Agricultural Resource Management

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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

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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.