

# Columbia County Ag Reporter



September/October 2018

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

### This issue's highlighted articles:

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## Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

### September

- 3 Offices closed in observance of Labor Day
- 5 Corn Growers Combine Cleaning Clinic—Minick Farms, Columbus
- 7-9 Sheep and Wool Festival, Jefferson
- 16-22 WI Farm Safety and Health Week
- 20-10/5 Winter Wheat Planting Target Dates

### October

- 1-5 World Dairy Expo

Mark your calendar!

## Winter Wheat Planting Tips

We expect more acres of wheat to be planted this year due to a lower cost of production per acre than corn or soybeans.

### Here are some tips to help make you successful:

- Choose varieties resistant to stripe rust.
- Do not plant saved seed. It has low germination this year and may carry disease from this year's crop and cause you more problems and cost next year.
- Plant certified, fungicide treated seed.
- Fertilize with 25 lbs of sulfur per acre for each 100 bushel yield you expect.
- Plant between September 20 and October 5th.
- Plant seeds 1" to 1.5" deep.
- Plant 1.5 million seeds per acre.
- Plan to apply fungicides to control headscab in 2019.
- Plan to apply your nitrogen fertilizer just as the plants break dormancy in the spring.





In June the Revolution Plastics team announced that they were moving to a “Call in When Full” collection model for all customers. Effective September 1, 2018 they will no longer service your Revolution Plastics dumpster unless you call in for service once the dumpster is full. Drivers will no longer be stopping by to check your dumpster unless you call for service.

**Options for scheduling service:**

- Call the phone number on the front of your dumpster - 844.490.7873 and please be prepared to provide your name, address, phone number, and dumpster number.
- Email us at [collections@revolutionplastics.com](mailto:collections@revolutionplastics.com) and be prepared to provide your name, address, phone number, and dumpster number.

Once they have received your communication for service you will be placed on the next available route, and collection could take place anywhere from 1-10 business days of your call.

Please shake out the plastic before placing it in the dumpster. They **do not accept** excessive dirt and feed, tires/sidewalls, net wrap, twine, buckets, pails, drums, scrim reinforced bunker cover, etc.

Please refrain from placing these items in our dumpsters. Repeat offenders will be permanently removed from the program without further notice.

Please keep in mind that a full dumpster is over 1,000 lbs. of plastic. If you have any questions, please call 844-490-7873 or view the dumpster loading video at [www.revolutionplastics.com](http://www.revolutionplastics.com).

## WI Soybean Yield Contest

Entries are due by December 15, 2018



### CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Any soybean production system can enter in the contest. Two winners will be selected from each of four geographical divisions in the state. Divisions are based on long-term county soybean yield averages. WSA is not responsible for incorrect or missing entries. All rules set forth herein apply to all entries.

### CONTEST ENTRANT QUALIFICATIONS

More than one person in a family can enter, but each entry must have a separate entry and fee. The cost is \$25 per entry. Entrant must be at least fourteen (14) years of age or older on or before December 15, 2018.

### RELEASE OF CONTEST ENTRY FIELD RECORDS

If requested, the entrant agrees to provide records to WSA of their methods of handling and preparing the land; cultivation and weed control methods; insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers and rates of same that are used; the brand and variety of seed, seeding rate; date of planting, type and brand of soybean planter, row width and date of harvesting; and amount of each application and type of irrigation used. Failure to provide such records may lead to disqualification.

### CONTEST FIELD AND ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Contest field must be in the state of Wisconsin. Contest entry must be at least 5 continuous acres of one variety. Contestant may select the best 5 acres in a soybean field larger than 5 acres and enter that variety. In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways may be a part of the contest plot area. The length of any rows planted in a grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if soybean rows are planted in the waterway. If soybean rows are not planted in the waterway, the length of each row will not include areas in the waterway.

The land entered in the Contest must be owned or leased by the entrant and located in Wisconsin. The variety entered must be currently commercially available.

### MULTIPLE CONTEST ENTRIES

Any individual contestant may enter more than one entry in the contest. Any individual can win only one state award.

### ENTRY FEE AND DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2018 to be eligible for this contest. No late entries will be accepted. An entry fee of \$25 in the form of a personal check must be received with the Contest Entry Form or the form cannot be accepted.

## Putting Farm Safety into Practice, Silage and Grain Harvest

*John Shutske, Agricultural Engineering Specialist, UW-Madison Biological Systems Engineering Department*

A modern farm can be a dangerous and unforgiving place. Late summer and fall are high-risk times as harvest operations ramp up quickly. In Wisconsin, we always have tight time windows to get hay, silage, and other crops harvested and put into storage to make it through the year. It's that urgency and time pressure that can contribute to mistakes that often leads to injuries or even death. Machinery plays a major factor in serious farm injuries. Here are some ways to put safety into practice!



### Think Like a Pilot – Or, a NASCAR Driver

The best way to prevent harvest season injuries is to invest prep time to get your equipment ready for the busy season. Adjustments and maintenance that improve safety also can help maximize the quality and value of your crop. As a farm owner, manager, or operator, think of your role the same way an airplane pilot or race car driver would. That means you need to establish something like a pre-flight or pre-race checklist — a run-through and shakedown to make sure all systems are “go.”

Consult your operator's manuals. Are shields in place – on tractors, choppers, blowers, wagons, combines, and augers? Replace any questionable hydraulic hoses and know the status of any bearings and belts that you know might need to be repaired during the season. Many terrible farming injuries happen when a breakdown occurs. People get super-stressed or frustrated and then do something that they know might be dangerous. Also make sure to carry a fully-charged, 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher on all machines including trucks.

### Gear Up for Highway Travel

Minimizing the time you spend on the highway is always the best way to reduce hazard levels. However, that's often not practical. As we roll into fall with fewer daylight hours upon us, make sure SMV emblems are bright and clean and that all flashers and lights are fully operational. Plan highway travel whenever possible to avoid busy rush times including the early morning commute and the rush to school. Evening times are high risk as people are in a hurry to get home from work or school and the sun gets low in the sky. Make sure you fully understand and comply with all other state and local lighting, marking, width, and weight limit laws.

### Train, Coach, & Create Expectations with Your Employees

Many farms have hired workers who help with harvest – As an employer, spend time with them. Talk about your safety expectations. A few of our larger farms now publish a monthly or bi-weekly newsletter, often available in English, Spanish and other languages. Operator's manuals and safety decals are a great source of information. The same is true if you're hiring custom harvest work. As a farm owner and operator, you must create and expect a culture of safety. With everybody involved in the operation, demonstrate and walk through safe procedures. Show people what to do if something unexpected happens. Make sure everyone involved in the operation has a reliable way to communicate. But realize that if it's a smartphone, steps need to be taken to make sure people are not distracted by phone use.

For more information on ways to make your farm a more safe and healthy place to work, check out the UW Agricultural Safety and Health Center website at: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/>

## Combine and Tractor Fires—A Burning Problem

Combine and tractor fires cause over \$20 million in property losses each year and millions more because of lost time and downed crops during the busy harvest season. Fires not only cause huge losses and waste time . . . they also cause 40 or 50 serious injuries each year, and occasionally a person is killed because of a farm machinery fire. There are two keys to preventing series machinery or life loss.



1. Prevention
2. Preparation in case a fire does break out



## Machinery Fire Prevention

For a fire to occur, three things must be present: air, a material to burn, and a heat source. Since it is impossible to eliminate air around a farm machine we must focus on keeping the machine clean of possible fire-causing materials and eliminating all possible sources of heat that could lead to a fire.

## Cleanliness and Maintenance

Begin every harvest season with a clean machine. Pay special attention to the engine and engine compartment, since about 75% of all machinery fires start in that area. Use a pressure washer to remove all caked-on grease, oil, and crop residue. A clean engine will run cooler, operate more efficiently, and greatly reduce your chance for fire. After starting the season, make sure you frequently blow any dry chaff, leaves, and other material off the machine with compressed air. Also, clear off any wrapped plant materials on bearings, belts, and other moving parts. Pay close attention to your machine operator's manual and follow all instructions and schedules for lubrication and routine maintenance. If you notice any leaking fuel or oil hoses, fittings, or metal lines, make sure to replace or repair them immediately!

## Eliminate Heat Sources

Combine and tractor fires can be caused by several heat sources. The most common is exhaust system surfaces that contact any flammable material. Make sure your exhaust system including the manifold, muffler, and turbo-charger are in good condition and free of leaks. When checking your oil and performing other daily maintenance, quickly scan any exposed electrical wiring for damage or signs of deterioration. Replace any worn or malfunctioning electrical component with proper parts from your dealer. If you are blowing fuses, or have a circuit that intermittently cuts out, it's a good sign that there's a short or loose connection in the system. The arcing electrical wires on a farm machine will generate extremely high temperatures. Also keep an eye out for worn bearings, belts, and chains. A badly worn bearing can glow red-hot. Any rubber belt subjected to intense heat from a worn part can burst into flames.

## Being Prepared

Despite your best intentions and good maintenance, a fire on a tractor or combine can still occur. Your best source of protection for a combine is at least one fully charged ten-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher. A five-pound unit is recommended for tractors. Select only extinguishers with an Under-

writer's Laboratory approval. Having two extinguishers on the machine is even better in case one malfunctions or loses pressure. Keep one mounted in the cab, and one where it can be reached from the ground. Check your extinguishers periodically, paying special attention to the pressure gauge. To function effectively, the gauge must show adequate pressure to expel the powder inside. Extinguishers should also be checked periodically by someone from your local fire department or insurance company. Any extinguisher that has been even partially discharged must be fully recharged before it's used again. During even a brief discharge, the tiny dry chemical particles will create a small gap in the internal seal of the extinguisher valve. This tiny opening will cause any remaining pressure to leak out in a few hours or days.

## What If I Have A Fire?



If a fire does break out on a machine you're operating, quickly shut off the engine, grab your extinguisher, get out, and get help. If you forget to grab the extinguisher, don't go back in after it unless the fire is extremely small or confined to an area well away from the cab. Having a cellular phone or two-way radio nearby will help get professional assistance to the field more quickly. Approach any fire with extreme caution. Even a small fire can flare up dramatically as you open doors, hatches, or other areas to gain access. These types of fires are especially dangerous when liquid fuels are involved. If possible, use the extinguisher's flexible hose to shoot the chemical from a safe distance at the base of any flames you see. Continue to blanket flames to allow the fire to cool and prevent a reflash. Remember that it may not be possible to put out every fire. If it is in a difficult-to-reach area or seems out of control DON'T RISK the chance of injury or even DEATH....wait for help to arrive.

## WI Corn Growers Yield Contest

Contact George Koepp at Columbia County, UW- Extension for a current copy of the rules and to schedule a time to be present for harvest supervision.

- Any corn production system can be entered and three winners will be selected
- No cost to enter, but the entrant must be a WI Corn Grower Association Member in good standing
- Only one entry per membership
- Entry must be at least 10 continuous acres of one variety
- Harvested area must be 1.25 acres or more
- Entries must be postmarked, emailed or faxed by **December 8, 2018** to [Nicole@wicorn.org](mailto:Nicole@wicorn.org), faxed to 262-373-3289 or mailed to: WI Corn Growers Association, W226N5956 Lynwood Drive, Lisbon, WI 53089



## ***Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information***

By Kurt Calkins, Director of Columbia County Land & Water Conservation

### ***Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Details***

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program helps farmers and local governments preserve farmland, protect soil and water, and minimize land use conflicts. Through participation in the program:

- Counties develop farmland preservation plans
- Local governments can develop farmland preservation zoning districts
- Landowners and local governments together form Agricultural Enterprise Areas
- Landowners meet soil and water conservation standards to become eligible to claim an income tax credit

In 2016, the most recent information we have from DATCP, Columbia County had 586 claimants for over \$867,000.00 worth of tax credits. Landowners who claim the FPP tax credit must comply with the Wisconsin soil and water conservation standards (NR 151) to be eligible. Landowners claiming under an agreement signed or amended in 2009 or alter, certify on their tax return their compliance with these standards.

FPP participants are required to maintain their eligibility as follows:

- Annually submit a FPP Self Certification Postcard (June)
- Annually submit a 590 NMP Checklist (Form ARM-LWR-480 (06/10))
- Receive an onsite NR 151 compliance status review once of every 4 years (Year determined by LWCD)

Columbia County Land and Water Conservation monitors compliance and issues certificates, with an inspection at least once every 4 years. If new standards are added or compliance hurdles for the farmers present themselves, a schedule of how and when they will meet the standards, with a deadline set by their county. FPP Participants who do not maintain their eligibility by submitting the annual self-certification postcard, annually providing a 590 Nutrient Management Checklist and maintaining NR 151

Compliance or fail to comply with a schedule of compliance can have their Certificate of Compliance ID # voided with the Department of Revenue, thus removing their ability to claim the Farmland preservation Tax Credit for the applicable tax season.

The most common agricultural performance standard need for farmers is a 590 Nutrient Management Plan. A 590 Nutrient Management Plan is required on all fields where plant nutrient sources and soil amendments are applied during the course of a rotation.

### ***Need Cost Share Assistance For Conservation Practices? Now is the Time to Talk to Us!***

The Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) works with many different programs that are made available to the county through grants. We apply for grant funds through many different organizations, such as, Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



The LWCD works with numerous different programs which are available to you from: Farmland Preservation Program (FPP); Land and Water Resource Management Program (LWRM) and DNR Runoff Management and Surface Water grants. We are able to assist you if you have projects on your property that need improvement under these descriptions: shoreline protection; lake planning; rotational grazing; livestock runoff management; and grassed waterways, as well as all the numerous other types of conservation and erosion practices commonly referred to as "Best Management Practices" (BMPs). Give us a call or stop in to talk to us about these funding opportunities. These grants are applied for and awarded to the LWCD to assist landowners with the implementation conservation management practices that will assist them in managing runoff from the land and/or protecting the land from erosion either in the field or next to the water.

## ***Poster/Speaking Contests 2019***

The Youth Poster & Speaking Contests will be held on January 21, 2019 and February 4, 2019. The poster theme this year is "Life in the Soil – Dig Deeper". Speeches can be on any conservation-related subject. We would like to see more participants in both contests, the prize packages (donations) are quite generous for participants and also the winners of these contests. Look for teacher contests as well, which are NEW this year! These contests are open to any students in the Columbia County area. We are hoping for more interest, so if anyone is interested in entering this contest, please contact our office for forms, deadlines and more information on them, even if your class is not offering participation. There are 3 age divisions for the Speaking Contest, starting at 5th grade, through 12th; but for the Poster Contest there are 5 age groups from K to 12 grades! In addition to the great donations from area businesses for winners and some participants, we will offer a drawing for a Summer Camp scholarship (\$50-100 value!) pertaining to certain age groups.

## ***2018-19 Columbia County LWCD Tree Sales Program***

The Columbia County Tree Sales Program for 2018-2019 will start taking orders the middle of November, 2018. The order forms and this year's program information should reach anyone on our mailing list at the same time. When you receive the information in the mail, the online ordering will then be available at: <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/TreeProgram> or you can contact our office to receive a tree order. Tree pick up day is tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2018. Early bird drawing for orders in by January 31, 2018. Thanks for your continued support. If you have question, please contact us at 608 742-9670. Also, our Department's Facebook page for program updates, in addition to current events including the Groundwater Testing Program, we partner with UW-Extension Office. There will also be a new and improved look to the Columbia County website soon, check out our page!!



[www.co.columbia.wi.us/lwcd](http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/lwcd).

## ***Learn to Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan***

The Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department has been awarded a Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant from DATCP again this year. This grant allows for a series of training classes for landowners who want to learn to develop their own 590 Nutrient Management Plan, or for those who have attended classes in prior years, to attend a refresher course to complete an update of your existing plan.

This is a cooperative effort between UWEX, Columbia County LWCD, NRCS and DATCP to give farmers the opportunity to learn to develop their own Nutrient Management Plan that will meet the 590 NMP Standard.



This year two separate one (1) day review classes in late January will be offered for landowners to complete updates to existing plans and stay certified to write their own plans. We will also offer a three (3) day workshop for farm operators/landowners who have not

previously written a 590 Nutrient Management Plan. These classes will be held in February with dates to be determined.

The grant allows us to provide class attendance incentives along with a soil testing stipend. Operators/landowners could be eligible for first time plan development stipends in excess of \$1000. Having current soil tests is an important first step to being prepared participate in the class. If you do not have current soil samples be sure to have samples taken this fall so you can use that information to prepare your plan. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and want to get on the registration list contact the Land & Water Conservation Department at (608) 742-9670 or UW Extension at (608)742-9680.



608-742-9670  
FAX: 608-742-9840  
E-MAIL: [land.conservation@co.columbia.wi.us](mailto:land.conservation@co.columbia.wi.us)  
WEBSITE: [www.co.columbia.wi.us](http://www.co.columbia.wi.us)

112 E. Edgewater Street  
Portage, WI 53901

## NRCS Announces EQIP Signup for 2019 Funding, Apply by November 16, 2018

Farmers and forest landowners will want to plan ahead and sign up early for USDA conservation funding. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin, announced farmers and forest landowners interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by November 16, 2018, for funding in 2019. 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. By getting applications in early, we have time for staff to visit individual farms to help plan all practices needed and offer advice. It's easier to do an accurate plan before the snow starts, when you can better see the landscape.

All eligible applications received by November 16, will be evaluated, prioritized and ranked for funding in 2019. 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 permit applications submitted) will receive higher priority.

### Signup by November 16, 2018 for Several Special Initiatives Focusing on Conservation Efforts

Special sign-up opportunities are also now open for On-Farm Energy, Organic, Specialty Crops 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](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov).

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## TRADE MITIGATION PROGRAMS

On August 27, 2018 Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorizing up to \$12 billion in trade mitigation programs, which is directly in line with the estimated impact of unjustified tariffs on U.S. agriculture. The Department will be using three different programs to facilitate this mitigation:

- The Market Facilitation Program
- The Food Purchase and Distribution Program, and
- The Agricultural Trade Promotion Program

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will administer the Food Purchase and Distribution Program to purchase up to \$1.2 billion in commodities. The specific commodities to be purchased are those impacted by unjustified tariffs imposed by other nations.

Amounts to be purchased are based on an economic analysis of the damage caused by tariffs illegally imposed on these crops by some U.S. trade partners.

## DIRECTORY

### UW-Extension Columbia County Agriculture Staff

George Koepp, Agriculture Agent.....(608) 742-9682  
[george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu](mailto: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  
Pat Wagner, Positive Youth Development Educator..... (608) 742-9685  
LuAnn Olson, Administrative Assistant (Admin, FL, FoodWise) ..... (608) 742-9688  
Caitlin Richardson, WI FoodWise Coordinator ..... (608) 742-9693  
Web Site: <http://columbia.uwex.edu/>

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**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](mailto:jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu)**

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