
MAY 2021

Shawano County Ag Newsletter

University of Madison Division of Extension



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHAWANO COUNTY

Shawano County Extension
311 North Main Street
Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 526-6136

Hours:

Monday- Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Facebook and Twitter:

@AgShawano

Website:

shawano.extension.wisc.edu

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Hello All!

I hope this newsletter finds you busy with spring preparations or in the field. With forage harvest right around the corner, I wanted to share with you some safety tips for operating and transporting forage wagons as a reminder :

- Always use a locking hitch pin. A safety chain is strongly recommended for road travel.
- Shields on PTO drivelines and other moving parts must be maintained in good condition.
- Never enter an operating forage wagon to clean or service it. Gruesome entanglements have resulted.
- Prior to transport, secure the PTO driveline in the transport position. Raise and secure the crossconveyor extension if so equipped.
- Forage wagons should always have a clean, bright SMV emblem for road transport, day or night.
- During hours of darkness, they must have two red reflectors or lights. Lights and flashers on wagons are highly recommended.
- Allow no extra riders on tractor, drawbar, or wagon.
- For safer stops with loads, equip running gear with brakes, particularly for hill and road transport.
- Towed loads without brakes should not exceed 1.5 times the weight of the tractor for road transport.
- When making turns during highway travel, be aware of other vehicles in front and to the rear.
- While traveling on highways, pull off the road safely to allow other vehicles to pass and prevent long lines of vehicles.

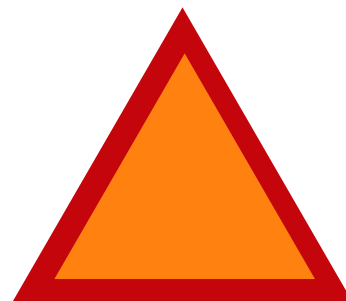
Wishing you a safe and productive spring!

Kimberly Schmidt

Agriculture Educator

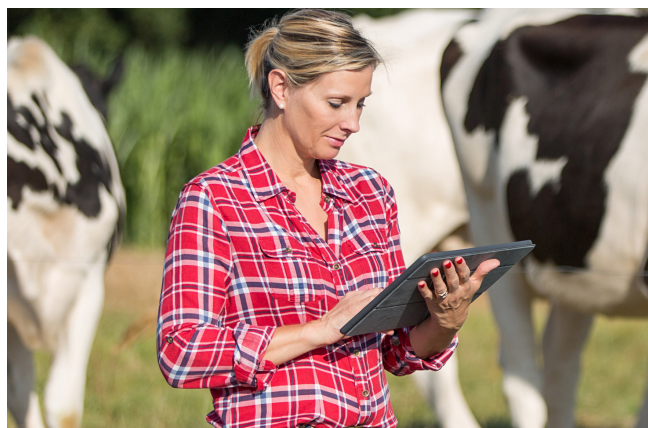
608-265-1144

email: kimberly.schmidt@wisc.edu



Upcoming Meetings

Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals



The Farm Management Update is returning for its biannual event. This event will be a webinar on May 21st covering the topics of weather trends, farm stress, and economic outlooks. More details and registration information will be posted on the Shawano County Extension website (<https://shawano.extension.wisc.edu/>) and Facebook page (@AgShawano).

Poultry Webinar Series

Wednesday evenings from May 12 through June 2, starting at 7 p.m.

Topics:

- Backyard Meat Bird Production
- Backyard Egg Laying Flock Management
- Small Commercial Poultry Operations Management
- Backyard Duck, Turkey, and Guinea fowl production

For more information and registration e-mail Scott Reuss (scott.reuss@wisc.edu) or watch the Shawano County Extension website (<https://shawano.extension.wisc.edu/>) and Facebook page (@AgShawano).



Hay Market Report April 12, 2021

Data Compiled by: **Richard Halopka**, Clark County Extension Crops & Soils Agent

Published on: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/h-m-r/>

Hay Grade	Bale type	Price (\$/ton)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$223.00	\$135.00	\$300.00
	Large Square	\$205.00	\$120.00	\$290.00
	Large Round	\$155.00	\$125.00	\$175.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$162.00	\$120.00	\$224.00
	Large Square	\$162.00	\$100.00	\$220.00
	Large Round	\$135.00	\$100.00	\$160.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00
	Large Square	\$125.00	\$85.00	\$150.00
	Large Round	\$104.00	\$50.00	\$125.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No Reported Sales		
	Large Square	\$104.00	\$80.00	\$130.00
	Large Round	\$63.00	\$44.00	\$105.00

Demand and Sales Comments

Steady to stronger prices at the auction this past week for dairy quality hay while lower quality hay has had some downward pressure. April may be impulse buying as hay mows are running short of forage and grass isn't ready to support livestock. If you need forage or have forage to sell or straw, connect to the Farmer-to-Farmer webpage at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/>. You may contact your local county agriculture educator if you need help placing an ad. There is no charge for the service.

The Cutting Edge: A Podcast in Search of New Crops for Wisconsin

Join UW-Madison Division of Extension as they search for new crops for Wisconsin growers, processors, and consumers. The strength of Wisconsin's agricultural economy is its diversity...something that doesn't just happen by chance. It is a product of the relentless drive of researchers and farmers to innovate, explore, and experiment. Join us for a glimpse into the exciting new research and development bringing new crops and diversity to Wisconsin.



Episode #19: Natural Wild Rice

Hosts Alana Voss and Carl Duley interview Jason Fleener and Kris Johansen, both with the Wisconsin DNR, about natural wild rice in Wisconsin. More information about Wisconsin wild rice can be found at the WDNR Wild Rice website and the GLIFWC Manoomin website.

Episode #20: Carbon Farming

Hosts Jason Fischbach and Jerry Clark interview Tim Baye, UW-Extension State Energy Specialist, about ways farms can participate in the carbon economy.

Episode #21: Currants

Eric Wolske, a PhD candidate with the University of Illinois, joins host Jason Fischbach to discuss the production and sale of currants. Eric also provides an update on his germplasm and shade production trials.

Episode #22: Saffron-Part 3

Margaret, Arash, and Jon are back again with Jerry and Evan to talk about saffron, this time with a focus on saffron production in the high tunnel and field. Joining them is Brian Leven, from Golden Thread Farm in Stowe, Vermont. You can learn more about saffron production from the North American Center For Saffron Research and Development.

Listen here: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/cutting-edge/>

Agrivison Podcast



The Farm Management AgriVision podcast is hosted by Katie Wantoch, Agriculture Agent with UW-Madison Division of Extension. She will be chatting with fellow UW Extension educators as they answer questions from farmers and share their knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills.

AgriVision Podcast Episode 9 – It's time to talk to your ag lender

Host Katie Wantoch and Jenny Vanderlin, Associate Director of the UW Center for Dairy Profitability, discuss whether a farmer should refinance his loans and tips for communicating with his ag lender.

AgriVision Podcast Episode 10 – Breeding half of dairy herd to beef bulls makes 'cents'

Host Katie Wantoch and Lyssa Seefeldt, Dairy and Livestock Agent in Eau Claire County, discuss a farmer and his son who are breeding the bottom half of their dairy herd to AI beef bulls and things to consider on this new enterprise.

AgriVision Podcast Episode 11 – Careers in Agriculture

Host Katie Wantoch and Liz Binversie, former Extension agriculture educator from Brown County, answer a question from a high school senior inquiring about a future career in agriculture and their next steps.

AgriVision Podcast Episode 12 – Mutual Opportunity

Host Katie Wantoch and Simon Jette-Nantel, former Professor at UW-River Falls and Extension Farm Management Specialist, discuss whether a farmer should offer to rent his neighbor's farm land and at what rental rate.

Listen here: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/cutting-edge/>

Interested in participating in alternative forage research?

The University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension is looking for farms to participate in a research project involving alternative forages. Over the past several growing seasons forage shortages have become a challenge for many producers. Polar vortices and inconsistent snow cover have resulted in several years of alfalfa winterkill. Furthermore, frequent and heavy rains have delayed corn silage planting and harvest, creating forage quality and quantity issues. There has been an increase in planting of winter rye and winter triticale after corn silage as well as sorghum or other crop species to replace damaged alfalfa fields. While these alternative forages have helped increase the forage inventories of producers, there is a need for research based feeding guidelines and to better understand the economic implications of planting and harvesting these forages. The purpose of this research project is to collect data to help answer these questions.

The protocol for this study will involve collecting forage samples at the time of harvesting as well as two samples throughout feed out. The samples should be labeled with farm name, date of sample, and species of forage. These samples will be analyzed for quality. Yield will also be measured with drive over scales where available or through estimates of storage inventories or in field measurements before harvest. Data for the economic analysis of these forages will be collected by a survey completed by the producers participating in the study.

Farms that participate will have to:

- Coordinate with Extension personnel
- Provide farm, crop, and animal data
- Participate in end of project interview/evaluation

Farms that participate will receive:

- Monetary compensation (~\$200)
- Summary reports with feeding guidelines

If you are a farmer that is growing an alternative forage such as winter rye, winter triticale, sorghum, or other species of forages besides corn silage and alfalfa and would like to participate in this study please contact the following Extension personnel.



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Kimberly Schmidt
Extension Shawano County
kimberly.schmidt@wisc.edu
715-526-4871

If you have any other questions about this project, please contact Luiz Ferraretto (ferraretto@wisc.edu), Kimberly Schmidt (kimberly.schmidt@wisc.edu), or Matt Akins (msakins@wisc.edu).

Badger Crop Connect



CCA CEUs
available

Upcoming Webinars:

May 12: Corn and Insect Update

- Local Update
Dan Marzu, Langlade & Lincoln County Ag Educator
- Early Season Corn Crop Progress
Joe Lauer, UW-Madison Extension Corn Specialist
- Early Season Insect Update
Bryan Jensen, UW-Madison Extension Crop Entomologist

May 26: Soybean Update and Roller Crimping Rye

- Local Update
Kimberly Schmidt, Shawano County Ag Educator
- Soybean Crop Progress - Know the Growth Stages
Shawn Connely, UW-Madison Extension Soybean and Small Grain Specialist
- Agronomic Management with Roller Crimped Winter Cereal Rye
Erin Silva, UW-Madison Extension Organic Agriculture Specialist



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Register for the spring 2021
sessions at:

<https://go.wisc.edu/bccspring2021>

Consider safety before you purchase a used tractor or farm machine

Written by:

John Shutske, UW Madison Extension Biological Systems Engineering specialist, **Ben Jenkins**, UW Madison Extension Green County Ag Educator, **Leigh Presley**, Former UW Madison Extension Kenosha County Ag Educator, **Josh Kamps**, UW Madison Extension Lafayette County Ag Educator and **Ashley Olson**, UW Madison Extension Veron County Ag Educator

Originally published:

<https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/articles/consider-safety-before-you-purchase-a-tractor/>

If you are considering a purchase of a used farm tractor or other machine, even if you are not using it to do traditional farm work, safety must be a prime consideration. Machines like tractors are one of the reasons farming remains the most hazardous industry in the U.S., with a death rate that's seven times all other industries combined, and several hundred thousand people being seriously injured while working on and around farming equipment. Many serious injuries and deaths also occur on properties that would often not be considered as farms — like residential properties with big lawns, properties with a few horses or other animals, and/or wooded acreage.

Here are some critical priority checkpoints to protect the personal safety of yourself, family members, workers and others who might be using the equipment that you purchase.

Operator's Manual

Make sure you get a copy of a correct operator's manual for any equipment you purchase. Pay attention to the specifics to make sure the manual matches the make and model of the equipment you are purchasing. It's a good sign when a seller who has the original operator's manual for a piece of equipment they are selling and often means that routine maintenance was done and that the equipment has been cared for. This should be confirmed by visual inspection and other key indicators (condition of oil, signs of wear, tire tread, etc.). Most operator's manuals have several pages at the beginning with safety instructions and other guidance located throughout. Pay attention to and make sure you understand the information in the manual. If in doubt, check with a local dealer or other experienced expert. Carefully review the manual and other safety information with all who will be operating the machine.



Make sure to get an operator's manual when you purchase any piece of equipment. Photo credit: John Shutske

ROPS and Seatbelt

The one type of incident that makes farming the nation's most dangerous occupation is tractor rollovers or overturns. Tractors can overturn either to the side, especially when operating on any type of slope or when turning too quickly at higher speeds. Tractors can also overturn backward due to the torque involved during certain jobs or when a load is attached to a point above the drawbar. In both scenarios, overturns happen fast, and often the operator is crushed under several tons of tractor weight. These events are almost always fatal, and several hundred tractor operators die each year due to rollovers and overturns.

Starting in the 1960s, tractor manufacturers began to offer rollover protective structures or ROPS for tractors. This is essentially a rollbar but may be a two-post ROPS, a four-post ROPS, or the protective structure may be designed as a built-in part of the cab. In all cases, a true ROPS must meet stringent engineering design standards and will have a nameplate or other indicator indicating that the ROPS is designed according to engineering design standards. A ROPS is designed to limit overturns to 90 degrees, or if the tractor rolls completely, to protect the operator within the space that the ROPS provides. For ROPS to be effective, the operator must be belted in so that they are not crushed by the tractor or the ROPS itself. So, you should look for a tractor with a ROPS as well as a functioning seatbelt.

Often, people will encounter used tractors not equipped with a ROPS. This is common on almost all used machines manufactured prior to 1985. On some of these tractors, retrofit ROPS kits can be purchased and installed by a qualified dealer or service shop. Additionally, check to see if you can get a ROPS "rebate" for installing rollover protection. On tractors manufactured in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, it is likely that a ROPS retrofit will NOT be available. In those cases, you should carefully consider whether that tractor will fit your operation. Row crop tractors that have a high center of gravity tend to tip sideways more easily. Also, narrow front end tractors tend to

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Consider safety before you purchase a used tractor or farm machine, cont,

be less stable and more dangerous. A tractor equipped with a front-end loader often will tip more easily when a load is being carried in a position that raises the tractor's center of gravity. Additionally, if those on your farm or other property who will be operating lack experience, are young or older (with limits due to reaction time), you may wish to avoid a non-ROPS tractor and look for something that's a little newer with a ROPS or one that can be retrofitted.

Guards and Shields

When purchasing any machine, including a tractor, inspect and ask for information about guards and shields. Shielding on rotating shafts, belts, gears and other moving parts is vital for protecting operator safety. A shield may seem like a simple piece of sheet metal or plastic, but finding and replacing a missing shield on a machine that is 20 or 30 or more years old can be very expensive. Often, the seller will have a missing shield out in a nearby machine shed or other location. Pay particular attention to the "master shield" that covers the tractor's PTO and the U-joint on an implement when attached. This tends to be a common location of entanglement and serious injury or death.



The PTO master-shield covers a common area of entanglement and injury. Photo credit: John Shutske

Operator Controls

For safety and operational reasons, check the operation, location and condition of all control levers, switches and other devices that control functions like the PTO, transmission, throttle, hydraulics, three-point hitch, and lights/flashers. On older equipment, the position and location may not have been designed with safety or optimal usability in mind. Make sure that your height and length of arms and legs as well as other physical abilities allow for easy reach and operation of all controls, and that the controls do what they are intended to do. Have the seller demonstrate full functionality. If you are operating newer equipment, make sure you understand the controls that may not be easily understood — like the steering system on a skid-steer loader or a "joy-stick" control becoming more common on newer equipment.



A tractor's seat and operating station should allow for comfort and easy operation of ALL controls. Photo credit: John Shutske

Operator's Station

For safety reasons, consider the comfort and access to the operator's station. On tractors, make sure the seat is in good condition and check for broken springs and other things that might be uncomfortable and increase fatigue. Tractors with a newer cab will likely have a blower and a heater — some will also have air conditioning. Inspect the air filter and run the blower in all modes; this will help when you are operating on hot, cold, or dusty days and will help protect your health. Also, operate a cabbed tractor at full power with the doors and windows closed. The cab should seal well and should not vibrate or make excessive noise. In older cabs that were field installed "after the fact," the noise can be as much or more than operating without a cab and you may need hearing protection.

Finally, while it does not seem like a big deal, many injuries on used equipment including tractors occur while a person is getting on or off the machine. Sprains and broken bones are common along with head injuries if the operator topples onto concrete or another hard surface. Check the condition of steps, ladders and other devices used to get on and off the machine. The distance between steps should be roughly the same, and the distance between the bottom step and the ground within comfortable reach. Steps and ladders should be accompanied by handholds or other surfaces you can use to support and steady yourself while getting on and off. This is especially important for older operators as we begin to lose our sense of balance and can fall more easily as we get older.

Other Considerations

It is impossible to cover all aspects of safety in a short document like this. We urge you to learn more about the particular piece of equipment you may be considering for purchase. The operator manual is a great place to start. Also check with other credible sources. The National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD) has a wealth of information (<https://nasdonline.org/browse.php>).

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Consider safety before you purchase a used tractor or farm machine, cont,

Other items and areas to consider:

- Lights, reflectors and slow moving vehicle emblem — anytime equipment is going to be operated on a roadway it must have lighting and marking for safety and to meet legal requirements.
- Overall condition (engine, coolant, oil, hydraulic hoses, fuel tank, hitching components, tires and rims, etc.)
- Brake operation including braking needs for field operation, stopping, and parking
- Fire extinguisher(s)
- Wear on the clutch and brake pedals
- Second seats for training hired workers
- Guards and covers on engine area components including by-pass starting guards and battery covers



Tractors and equipment must be equipped with markings and lights that allow for legal highway travel per state and federal laws. Photo credit: John Shutske

Linking dairy cow genetics and the rumen microbiome to improve milk production efficiency



Written by: **Joseph Skarlupka.**

Joseph is originally from Shawano County and is currently a PhD student in the Microbiology Doctoral Training Program at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Demand for dairy products is ever-growing, and Wisconsin milk producers are looking for every opportunity to increase yields. Over the past several decades, dairy farmers have made great strides in improving milk production efficiency (MPE). MPE is a measure of the ability of a cow to turn calories from feed into milk. This has been accomplished through improved feeding and rationing regimens, changes in production practices, and improved population genetics. Breeding for increased volumes of milk production has led to bigger animals that produce more milk. However, the downside to breeding for larger animals, like lower fertility rates and a greater tendency for metabolic disorders like ketosis, can lead to increased opportunity costs. Not to mention, these larger animals can also be difficult to fit into older barns and parlors! That leads us to a big question: when breeding, how can we avoid these downsides while improving milk production efficiency?

Enter Dr. Garret Suen and the Suen lab in the Bacteriology Department at University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a graduate student researcher in Dr. Suen's lab, my work focuses on the rumen microbiome of dairy cattle. The rumen is a chamber of the stomach that houses a symbiotic community of microbes (bacteria, fungi, etc), also known as the "microbiome". The rumen microbiome breaks down the feed consumed by the cow and converts it into nutrients that are then used by the animal to produce milk. Previous work done by our lab established a direct relationship between the composition of the rumen microbiome and the cow's MPE. The goal of our lab is to maximize the productive capacity of the rumen microbiome to make the cow as efficient a milk producer as possible. In other words, if the cow's stomach can better digest its feed, it can provide more energy and nutrients to the cow to more efficiently produce milk!

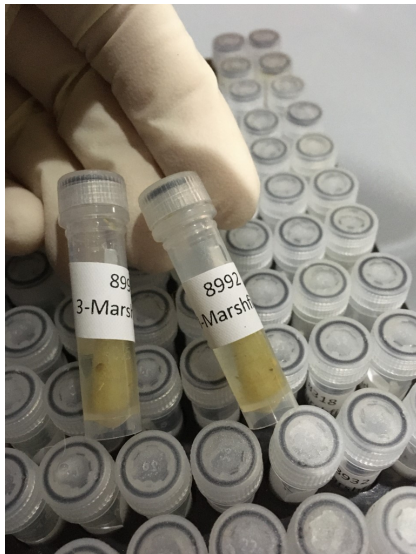
I am leading a USDA-funded project that aims to dig deeper into the cause-and-effect relationship that may exist between cow genetics and the rumen microbiome, and how that can affect MPE. Putting it another way, I am looking for genes in the dairy cow genome that influence the structure and makeup of the cow's rumen microbiome! To do this, I am performing a Genome Wide Association Survey (GWAS). A GWAS combines phenotypic and genomic data to find genetic variations associated with traits of interest, like average daily gain or residual feed intake. Multiple GWAS studies related to cattle have been performed in the past. In one example, researchers found links between specific genes in the cow genome and fatty acid composition in the muscle of beef cattle. In another, researchers found associations between specific genes and particular rumen microbes that produce methane. I am using a GWAS to identify genes in the dairy cow genome that are linked to the presence of rumen microbes associated with improved MPE.

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Linking dairy cow genetics and the rumen microbiome to improve milk production efficiency, cont.

My work will characterize the rumen microbial communities of over 800 cows to determine if there are specific host genetic markers that correlate to specific rumen microbes in both high and low MPE cows. I have been collaborating with three research farms in WI: the UW Arlington Ag Research Station, the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center in Prairie du Sac, and the UW Marshfield Ag Research Station. However, there is one major hurdle to this project, which is collecting the actual samples.

Collecting rumen samples from 800 cows is a massive endeavor! It is time and labor intensive, and depending on the method of collection, can be very costly. Collecting rumen samples directly from cannulated animals is the “gold standard” of rumen sampling, but a GWAS requires a large number of subjects for accurate results; finding 800 cannulated dairy cows is a tough proposition! Thankfully, we can get around this issue by taking advantage of a daily habit of dairy cows: rumination.



During rumination, cows regurgitate previously eaten feed from the rumen to further break it down and aid in the digestion process. By using a cotton swab, we can sample some of the rumen contents from the mouth either during or directly after rumination. This sample provides a snapshot of the rumen microbial community without going through the difficult process of directly accessing the rumen. This method can be used to sample a massive number of animals in a much shorter time frame. With these rumen-infused swabs, I am currently characterizing the rumen microbial community of each individual using next-generation sequencing technology available on the UW-Madison campus. From there, I will combine it with each cow's milk production and genomic data to look for characteristics of the rumen microbial community that are associated with both improved MPE and host genetic markers.

Ideally, after I identify genetic markers that are associated with improved MPE, breeders can selectively breed to incorporate these into their herds. Ultimately, the results of this GWAS study will help researchers, breeders, and producers select for the rumen microbiome composition as a trait. We hope that these results will help improve the MPE for cattle herds, decrease feed and maintenance costs, and decrease diseases/disorders brought about by previous selective breeding.

PEAQ Stick Readings

Sponsored by the Shawano County Forage Council

Be on the lookout this May for alfalfa updates from the SCFC. PEAQ stick readings will be Shawano County Extension website

(<https://shawano.extension.wisc.edu/>) and Facebook page ([@AgShawano](#)).





Fox Valley
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Knowledge That Works

SUMMER 2021

Farm Safety & Equipment Operation

for ages 12 & older

2 Classes Scheduled for 2021

Class #40083 and #40084 both held on same days

Mon - Thur, Jun 21 - Jun 24, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Fri, Jun 25, 9:00am - 12:00pm

CLASSES HELD AT WAUPACA REGIONAL CENTER

Course Fee

\$174.70

\$100.00 Scholarship
Available



The Youth Certificate Program

Trains students how to operate a tractor over 20 PTO horsepower, including how to connect and disconnect equipment or equipment parts.

Other topics include specialized machinery for livestock, toxic environments, agricultural chemicals, blasting, fertilizer and the youth certificate program

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT ALL SESSIONS.

A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST ACCOMPANY HIS/HER CHILD TO THE FIRST HOUR OF THE FIRST CLASS.

See other side



Class Registration Form

Fox Valley TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Knowledge That Works

Select a workshop:

☐ **40083** June 21 - June 25, 2021

☐ **40084** June 21 - June 25, 2021

Attendance is mandatory at all training sessions.
Please print

Name _____
First M. I Last

Address _____

Phone _____

Birth Date ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Current Grade in School _____

Social Security No: ____-____-____

Mail this form to:

Fox Valley Technical College
P.O. Box 467
Waupaca, WI 54981

Or register online at www.fvtc.edu/takeaclass

REGISTRATION FEE: \$174.70
Payment required by June 14, 2021

Make checks payable to:
Fox Valley Technical College

This one-credit course may be used as an elective in future educational options.

Registration deadline: June 14th or when the class is full.

Don't delay—call today!

What are the Laws?

Dr. Susan A. May, President

Waupaca Regional Center

1979 Godfrey Drive, P.O. Box 467 • Waupaca, WI 54981-0467

Phone (715) 942-1700 • 1-888-324-3218 • FAX (715) 942-1759

www.fvtc.edu/waupaca

Tractor and Machinery Certification is mandated by Federal legislation for any youth 14-15 years old working on a farm not owned or operated by the youth's parents or legal guardians and who are operating tractors over 20 PTO horsepower and/or certain farm equipment.

In Wisconsin, farm youth under the age of 16 are prohibited from operating agricultural machinery on public roads unless they have completed a Tractor and Machinery Certification Course. A law signed by the Governor in 1998 sets a lower age limit for youth 12 years of age to become certified in tractor and machinery operation.

HEALTH SAFETY

Fox Valley Technical College has arranged classrooms to allow adequate social distancing for the safety of all students and staff.

Masks are required at all times while on campus.

Scholarships Available

- When you register for this class, you will receive a confirmation e-mail that will include a link to the scholarship application.
- A \$100 scholarship is available for middle and high school students who take this class. Click the link and complete the form online.

UW Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension



Fox Valley
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Knowledge That Works



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Chilton

Waupaca Regional Center

1979 Godfrey Drive

P.O. Box 467

Waupaca, WI 54981

www.fvtc.edu/waupaca

Clintonville

Oshkosh

Waupaca

To Register

Call: 715.942.1700 or 888.324.3218

Online: www.fvtc.edu/takeaclass

Mail: Waupaca Regional Center

PO Box 467

Waupaca, WI 54981

Wautoma

News Release

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2021



NRCS and 3 Northeast Wisconsin Counties Launch New Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oconto County Land & Water Conservation Department, in partnership with Marinette and Shawano counties, have entered an agreement to launch a new network, the Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network. The partnership will support a network of farms that will demonstrate the best conservation practices to reduce phosphorus entering the Great Lakes basin. Funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is being utilized for this effort.

This partnership will address the effectiveness of current conservation systems used to reduce nonpoint source pollution. The network will demonstrate to farmers and the public that the right combination of traditional conservation practices and other new, innovative technologies functioning on the landscape can produce viable and sustainable economic and environmental benefits.

"Through this collaboration and funding, we can publicly highlight the most effective conservation systems that have the greatest environmental and economic benefit; we're excited to be partnering to now establish our sixth demonstration farms network," said Angela Biggs, USDA-NRCS Wisconsin State Conservationist. "This project will showcase the adoption of environmentally sustainable farming practices by demonstrating their successful use on these four demonstration farms and providing other producers the opportunities to learn and adopt these practices successfully on their farms," said Ken Dolata, Department Head, Oconto County Land Conservation Department.

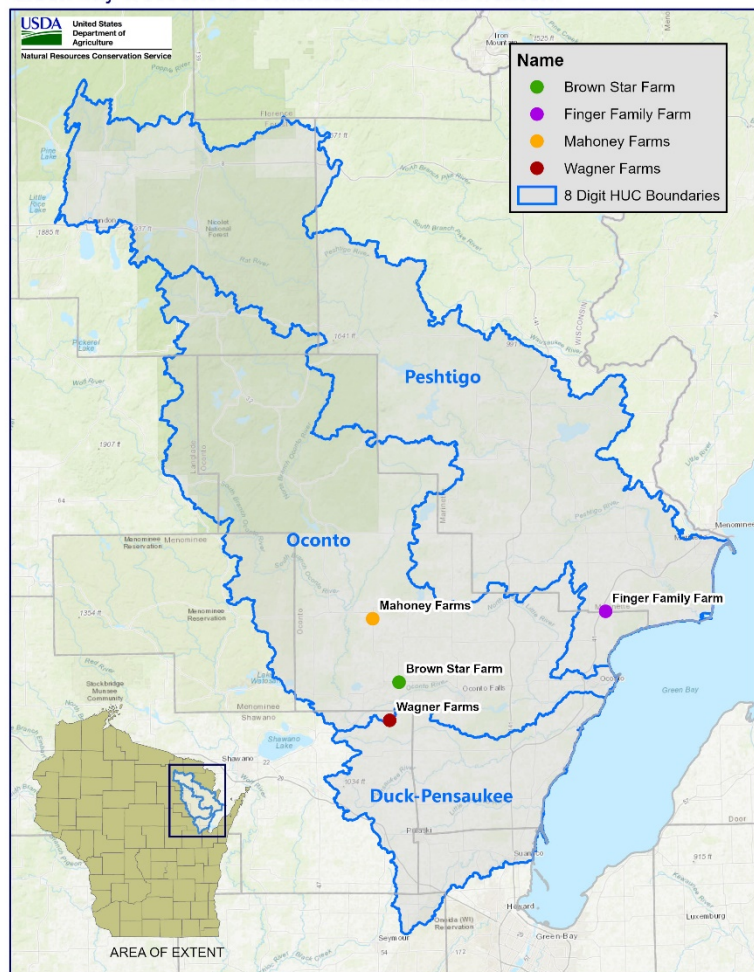
The specific objectives of the project are to:

1. Establish demonstration farms within the Peshtigo, Oconto and Pensaukee River Watersheds to test new and standard conservation systems in reducing phosphorus and sediment.

2. Establish an efficient mechanism to share this technology and information with farmers, agribusiness, conservation agencies and the public.
3. Create opportunities for others to test their research and program ideas at the demonstration farms.
4. Share information and lessons learned from the Demo Farms throughout the Great Lakes basin.

The new Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farms are (1) Mahoney Farms, James Mahoney and family of Suring; (2) Brown Star Farm, Matt Bjelland and family of Gillett; (3) Finger Family Farm, Phil Finger and family of Peshtigo and (4) Wagner Farms, Hank Wagner and family of Oconto Falls.

Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farms Network



Datasets: ESRI Topographic Basemap

Date: 2/5/2021



Text GBWSDemo to 88202 to sign-up for text message notifications of future field days.

For more information, contact:

Ken Dolata, Oconto County Conservationist, 920-834-7150, ken.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us

Jeff Maroszek, USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist, 920-829-5406 x125 jeff.maroszek@usda.gov

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