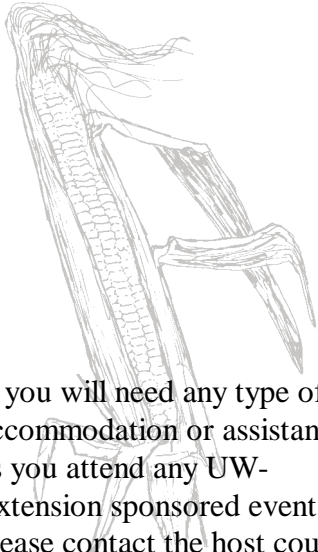




Marinette County

Courthouse
1926 Hall Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143
Phone: 715-732-7510



If you will need any type of accommodation or assistance as you attend any UW-Extension sponsored event, please contact the host county or Scott at the Marinette County office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

Scott Reuss
715-732-7510
1-877-884-4408
cell 715-923-0807
scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu

Sarah Mills-Lloyd
920-834-6845
sarah.mills-lloyd@co.oconto.wi.us

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March 2018 Newsletter

We all know that March is meeting season. There is definitely something for everyone in the calendar below. Give your operation the highest chance of being profitable in 2018 by making sure you have access to the best information and techniques. If you cannot attend an event but want the information, contact myself or Sarah.

Scott Reuss

Newsletter Table of Contents

Table listing page numbers and topics: Page 2 Producer Group; Horticulture Programs, Page 3 On-Farm Composting Field Day Brochure, etc.

Calendar of Events (also see page 10 for state-wide programs)

Table with columns for date, time, location, and event name: Feb. 28 12:30 Oc. Falls Mid/Young Producer Group (pg. 2), March 1 9 am Rock Garden Seed Concepts producer day, etc.

IF you are interested in a program that is not otherwise found in this edition, contact us for more information.

# Mid and Early Career Producer and Agribusiness Professionals

## Crop & Nutrient Costs Focus of Discussion on February 28

Managing costs of crop production is a challenge every year. 2018 is definitely projected to be a year when getting a positive return on input investment needs to be analyzed for each input type. The Mid & Early Career Producer/Agribusiness Professionals of Oconto, Shawano, and Marinette Counties are hosting a discussion specifically designed to help local producers work through their decision making on some of these crop inputs.

The event is being held at S & S Hometown (211 South Maple Avenue; Oconto Falls), starting at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. The planned focus of discussion will be on fertilizer inputs, maximizing on-farm nutrient resource returns, and getting the most out of other crop inputs. Attendees will steer the discussion to the topics of their choosing and may include all types of different agronomic inputs, from seed selection and planting rate to pest management decision making. The discussion will be facilitated by Nutrient and Pest Management Outreach Specialist Jamie Patton and Marinette/Oconto County UW-Extension Crops Agent Scott Reuss.

Interacting with other producers whom are also making critical input decisions is a great way to assist in your farm's analysis processes. This group was formed by producers in the three counties to help provide discussion opportunities that lead to improved profitability for all farms involved. On-your-own lunch is available on-site, whether before, during, or after the discussion. If you have questions about this event, or want to get added to the contact list for this group, please contact Sarah Mills-Lloyd at the Oconto County UW-Extension office, 920-834-6845 or via e-mail to [sarah.mills-lloyd@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:sarah.mills-lloyd@co.oconto.wi.us)

## Employee Management and Automated Feeding Cost of Production Topics on March 28

This meeting has all of the same logistics as the one just above, but with the discussion topics focused on employee management issues and automated feeding.

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## Seed Concepts, Inc. Winter Conference – March 1<sup>st</sup>

Am mentioning this event in the UWEX newsletter because of the wide range of topics and a number of agency presenters being involved, and does not mean there is any endorsement by UW-Extension of this particular business entity. That said, their event is March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rock Garden in Green Bay. Contact them as soon as you can if you want to attend – at 920-822-4548. Topics of discussion will include:

+ Marketing Outlook for 2018	+ Implements of Husbandry Update	+ Starter Fertilizers
+ Precision Planting Technology	+ Nutrient Management Planning	+ NRCS Cover Crops Programs
+ Managing Crop Inputs	+ Managing Dairy Rations	+ Using your Data
		+ 2018 Chemical Plans

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## Upcoming Horticulture Programs

++ The Master Gardener Volunteer training is taking place in Marinette this year, on Tuesday evenings from March 6 through June 5. Training fee is \$95 for individuals or \$155 for couples. This training is required to become an MGV and be able to assist UW-Extension teach others about horticulture in our area.

+ Spring Garden Conference, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> The annual Northern Lights Master Gardener Association spring garden conference is taking place at UW-Marinette on Saturday, March 24. \$40 registration fee includes keynote presentation plus three other educational topics, as well as breakfast and full lunch. Last session hands-on workshops have additional fees, but are also limited registration. You can get a registration brochure from UWEX offices, many libraries, or by downloading it at <http://marinette.uwex.edu> or look up NLMGA on their facebook page. Check the web page for updated class availability, as some sessions will fill.

+ Tomato Family Vegetables @ the Oc. Falls Library – Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Join Scott Reuss for a wide ranging discussion of selection, plant management, and pest management of the extremely popular vegetables within the tomato family: Tomatoes, Potatoes, Eggplant, and Peppers. Free to all attendees and will include UWEX publications.

# Focus on Compost

Compost is a great alternative to dairy farm manure management. Whether you create compost in a barn, or outside in rows, both methods require precise management.

Join us at Junion Homestead Farm for an informational meeting followed by a farm tour of the compost barn facilities. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about composting and how to implement it on your own farm!



**Dr. Jamie Patton**  
Senior Outreach Specialist  
Nutrient and Pest Management  
UW-Madison  
Jamie will present on how to manage compost in the field and improve soil health.



**Dr. Becky Larson**  
Bio-Waste Specialist  
Bio Systems Engineering  
UW-Madison/UW-Extension  
Becky will be presenting how to create and manage compost on the farm.

**When:** Thursday, March 8  
10 AM—Registration  
10:30 AM—Meeting  
Tour to follow lunch

**Where:** Junion Homestead Farm  
E1939 County Road K  
Casco WI 54205



This meeting is free of charge. Lunch will be provided by GreenStone Farm Credit Services.



Please RSVP by March 2 to [aerica.bjurstrom@uwex.edu](mailto:aerica.bjurstrom@uwex.edu)  
or 920-388-7138



Did you receive a postcard that looks like this?



**National Water Quality Initiative Meeting**

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oconto County Land Conservation Division would like to invite you to come learn about a new pilot project for farmers/landowners within the North Branch of the Little River Watershed. Your watershed was the only one selected in the Midwestern U.S. in 2018. A substantial amount of dedicated funds will be available to help improve soil health and water quality. At this meeting, we would like to introduce you to the program and gather your input for the planning process.

You have received this notice because you own/operate agricultural land and/or raise livestock within the North Branch of the Little River Watershed. This is a unique opportunity for our area. We encourage your attendance to learn about project timeline, eligible practices, and potential funding available.

**Please join us:**  
Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Lena Town Hall – 6087 Goatsville Rd., Lena, WI 54139

If so, you are eligible to be involved in a targeted NRCS cost-share funding opportunity in the near future. You do not need to attend this meeting to be part of the future of this project, but it will give you a headstart in becoming eligible for full participation. The majority of the watershed is in Oconto County, but there are many Marinette County producers, as well.

As a bonus for attending, a light lunch will be provided and then the discussion topics below will take place in the early afternoon.

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## **Managing Risk in 2018 Crop Production**



Tuesday, March 6 @ the Lena Town Hall (6087 Goatsville Road at the intersection of Goatsville & Jagiello Roads NW of Village of Lena)

### **Free to all producers and consultants**

Pre-registration appreciated, call 715-732-7510 or e-mail [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu)

Noon Registration and light lunch

12:30 -2:45 p.m.

- + Using Crop Insurance to meet your farm's needs
- + Input ROI – what can and cannot be trimmed in a tight year
- + Marketing Plan Basics and Grain Markets synopsis
- + Group Q & A

## What impact has the Veterinary Feed Directive had on you & your herd?

Managing the health of your herd is a primary responsibility of all farmers. The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rules that went into effect January 1, 2017 may have impacted how you manage herd health. The rules limited the use of medically important antibiotics to disease prevention, control or treatment, and only when a veterinarian writes a VFD for their use.

How have those rules affected your management as well as the health of your animals? Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with Land-Grant Universities nationwide, is conducting a survey of farmers who raise and manage dairy or beef cattle, pigs, sheep or goats. They want to learn about changes that have occurred, in response to the VFD, in terms of your use of antibiotics, health of your herd, and in your relationship with your veterinarian.

The survey is open from now until April. All responses are confidential and your participation is voluntary. The survey link is [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eY83E3DiinnglJD](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eY83E3DiinnglJD) or you can request the link be e-mailed to you by contacting Scott Reuss at [sreuss@marinettecounty.com](mailto:sreuss@marinettecounty.com)

It should take 10-15 minutes to complete. Your thoughtful answers, with examples, will provide information which will be used to design educational programs that help food-animal producers.

This survey is only for farmers over the age of 18 who raise food-animals impacted by the VFD rules. Farmers in every state are invited to respond to the survey. Key questions to be answered are what the impacts of any changes have been on health management of herds and on herd performance.

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## County Deer Advisory Councils to hold meetings in March and April

Each county in the state of Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council. They will each be meeting this spring in a pair of meetings, with a comment period in between. The first meetings will be held in March and have the primary purpose of reviewing data and forming preliminary 2018 antlerless quota, permit and season structure recommendations. Oconto County's CDAC will meet on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Gillett Community Center (204 E Main St.) from 7 – 9 p.m. The Marinette County meeting will be held at the Crivitz Village Hall (800 Henriette Avenue, Crivitz WI 54114) on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6pm.

While this is a working meeting of the council, the public is encouraged to attend and will have a formal opportunity to provide insight during the public comment period of the meeting. Local Department of Natural Resources staff will be on hand to present information and answer any questions. CDACs are part of an effort to provide more public input on deer management issues and give stakeholders a greater responsibility in managing local deer numbers.

Following the March meetings, an online public comment period will take place from April 2-12, with final council meetings being held between April 16 and 19. This meeting for Marinette County's CDAC will be held on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (also starting at 6 p.m. in the Crivitz Village Hall). The council will review public feedback before making final recommendations on the antlerless quota, permit and season structure. Recommendations will be sent to the Natural Resources Board for approval in May.

Those unable to attend their county's meeting can view meeting minutes on the department's CDAC website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). Some county councils have vacant seats and qualified individuals are encouraged to look at the list of members if interested in being a member of this council. The application and a frequently asked questions document can be found on the CDAD web page at <http://dnrwi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html> or go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword "CDAC."

## **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)—formerly Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training**

The YQCA training will provide a common framework for food animal quality assurance programs which will strengthen the youth educational experience, improve the care of food animals, and promote a higher level of consumer food safety. Youth will also learn about other species of animals; not just the species they show.

The YQCA program is supported by Wisconsin 4-H and FFA leaders. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training content and modules will demonstrate a progression of topic knowledge in designated age categories (age as of January 1): •Junior (8-11 years old) •Intermediate (12-14 years old) •Senior (15-18 years old) •Young Adult (19-21 years old).

The new format is an effort to provide flexibility to accommodate busy seasonal schedules while providing relevant age-specific food animal quality assurance training. Youth exhibitors will complete three interactive online modules and quizzes which can be accessed according to your schedule. In Wisconsin, face-to-face trainings may be offered in specific counties for juniors (8-11 year olds) only. On average, it will take 60 minutes per year to complete all the required online training modules or in-person training—depending on age.

**Youth completing the online modules will pay \$12/person/year, and face-to-face trainings offered for juniors (youth age 8-11) will pay \$3/person/year.**

To complete the YQCA online training or register for face-to-face training, log into <http://yqca.org>. Follow the step-by-step instructions to create a user identity and password. All payments for either online or in-person training will be made using the YQCA website. Additional material fees (beyond the \$3.00 payment to YQCA) for in-person training may apply, and if so will be collected at the time of the face-to-face training.

Two in-person trainings will be offered for juniors (8-11 year olds ONLY). The dates and locations of the trainings are listed below. Space will be limited, and registration will be taken only through the YQCA website (<http://yqca.org>).

**Thursday, April 19—Pound Town Hall, Coleman 6:00 - 7:00 pm**  
**Saturday, May 12—Gillett Community Center, 200 E Main Street, Gillett 9:30- 10:30 am**

It is recommended to print the completion certificate at the end of the online session as the ten-digit certificate number will be required on your paperwork for training verification. If you have any questions about YQCA, please contact Sarah at (920) 834-6845.

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## **State Fair Dairy Promotion Board Scholarships Available**

The Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotion Board is offering \$1,000 scholarships to be used during the second semester of the 2018-19 school year. Third and fourth-year college students pursuing dairy-related or food science degrees at one of Wisconsin's four-year universities are eligible to apply.

Additional scholarships will be available to high school seniors planning to pursue a dairy-related or food science degree at one of Wisconsin's four-year universities or students studying in a two-year, technical school program related to dairy or food science. Applicants will be evaluated on involvement and leadership in dairy-related activities, scholastic achievement, and career objectives. Finalists will be interviewed in mid-April, with recipients to be recognized at the 2018 WI State Fair.

The application is available at <http://wistatefair.com/competitions/dairy-promo-board/>.

Application deadline is Friday, March 23. For more information, contact Katy Katzman at 262-903-6727 or [katzman@idcnet.com](mailto:katzman@idcnet.com).

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## **County Fair Judges' Training**

Each Year Wisconsin 4-H and UW-Extension offers a webinar training for County Fair Judges. The training is geared for individuals that want to become a county fair judge or are already a county fair judge and want to brush up your skills. The Webinar will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 for 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$15.00. You must complete the registration form and return it with payment prior to the webinar. At that point, the organizers will send out the Webinar coordinates and program materials via email.

You can request the registration form from any UW-Extension office.

## **Local County Fair Weigh-ins**

Oconto County Fair Beef Weigh-In March 15, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Oconto County Fairgrounds, Gillett—visit <https://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/> for more information.

The Marinette County Fair Beef Weigh-in will be March 17<sup>th</sup>, but final times and location are still being settled. Contact Richard & Sandy Kempka for specifics, and watch for a postcard being mailed out prior to the weigh-in date.

## Don't Forget about:

+ Heart of the Farm Conference – March 7 in Sobieski (see brochure in Feb. newsletter or contact one of us.

+ WI Dairy & Well-being Conference and Dairy Worker Training (again see Feb. newsletter for full brochure) – March 20 & 21 in G.B.

# Dairy Margin Protection Program Changes – Watch for Sign-up Period!

In a relatively unusual move, the federal legislature passed a significant set of changes to the Dairy Margin Protection Program as part of one of the recent continuing spending resolution bills. The bill was signed by President Trump and the changes are summarized below. The changes are relatively advantageous for most dairy producers, as they increase Tier 1 coverage to 5 million pounds of production and change the Tier 1 premiums to producers' favor.

The table copied below is part of a larger document on these changes found at <https://dairymarkets.org/PubPod/Pubs/BP18-01.pdf> You can go to the Dairy Markets and Policy web page main page (University of Wisconsin's Dairy Marketing program) and then navigate to it, as well. As you can see, the buy-up coverage now starts at \$5.50 margin protection, rather than \$4.50, meaning that all producers get \$5 coverage for only the \$100 administrative fee on their first 5 mil. Lbs. They have also really lessened the premiums in Tier 1, making it very likely that you can receive your premiums back due to margins being lower than the \$8 level. The other major change is that the margin payments will be made on a monthly, rather than pair of months, basis. This also increases likelihood of indemnity payments.

Coverage Level Threshold	Tier 1 - 2014 to 2017	Tier 1 -2018	Tier 2
	4 M lbs. or less	5 M lbs. or less	above 5 M lbs.
\$4.00	0	0	0
\$4.50	\$0.008	0	\$0.020
\$5.00	\$0.019	0	\$0.040
\$5.50	\$0.030	\$0.009	\$0.100
\$6.00	\$0.041	\$0.016	\$0.155
\$6.50	\$0.068	\$0.040	\$0.290
\$7.00	\$0.163	\$0.063	\$0.830
\$7.50	\$0.225	\$0.087	\$1.030
\$8.00	\$0.475	\$0.142	\$1.360

I will gladly work through the cost/benefit analysis for anyone who wants to explore which premium opportunity is best for your farm, just call me to schedule a time to meet. The graph below shows currently projected margins for the MPP calculations



# Farming for Profit

*April 4, 2018*

9:45 am to 3:00 pm

Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake

## Are My Financial Concerns Short or Long-term Concerns?

~ Dan Kaufman, Financial Services Officer, GreenStone

## Choosing the Right Farm Business Entity

~ Troy Schneider, Attorney, Twohig Reitbrock Schneider Halbach Law Offices

## Crop Production: Maximizing ROI of Variable Inputs

~ Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, Marinette County

## Finding the Balance: Cost of Production and Calf Health

~ Sarah Mills-Lloyd, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent, Oconto County

## Generating an Operating Agreement

~ UW-Extension Agriculture Agents

## Question and Answer Session

~ Dan Kaufman, Troy Schneider, Sarah Mills-Lloyd, and Scott Reuss

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### 2018 Farming For Profit Meeting Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for a direct mailing in future years): \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ People x **\$25 per person** (includes meals & materials) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to:** **UW-Extension**

**Mail to:** UW-Extension Oconto County  
301 Washington Street  
Oconto, WI 54153

**Or call:** 920.834.6845

**Registration due Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**