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Shawano County Agriculture Newsletter

August 2013

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Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jamie Patton and I am your new Agriculture Agent in Shawano County. Since starting on July 1st, I have had the opportunity to meet some of you in and around the Courthouse, at various organizational meetings, at your place of employment or at Farm Technology Days. In the next coming weeks, I look forward to continuing to travel around the county getting to know you and how I can better serve your educational needs.

So a little about me...For the past ten years, I taught undergraduate and graduate soil science courses at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri. I was responsible for the introductory soils course, as well as soil fertility, precision agriculture, soil and water conservation, and soil formation courses. When needed, I also taught agricultural leadership, communication, and computers courses. In addition to my classroom responsibilities, I was involved in community education focusing on precision agriculture, as well as agronomic and horticultural soil and nutrient management. My outreach and research activities involved the use of cover crops to expand forage production and improve soil health, as well as community garden establishment and management.

Prior to moving to Missouri, I attended Iowa State University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and a Master's degree in Soil Morphology and Genesis. My master's research focused on evaluating soil quality in Amish and non-Amish fields in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. I continued my education at Oklahoma State University, where my research focused on evaluating changes in soil quality induced by applications of swine effluent in the High Plains of Oklahoma.

Both my husband, Kirk, and I are natives of north-east Iowa, growing up near the towns of Coggon and Walker, respectively. We are blessed to have a very active little boy, Sawyer, who is three. His best friend is Belle, our seven-year old Labrador cross.

As you read this you are probably wondering (and as everyone I have met thus far has asked), why Shawano? I will tell you, there are many reasons, but it boils down to this. One, I love working with people, providing them the information and education they need to make their lives a little better. From formal classrooms to informal workshops and one-on-one chats, to me, that is what extension and my job as an Ag Agent is all about. Two, my family and I love the upper Midwest – the raw beauty, the cooler climate, and abundant opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy nature. When we drove up to Shawano for my interview, we knew this was a place we could live for the rest of our lives. From the forests and wetlands to the quaint farmsteads with brightly painted barn quilts, Shawano County is just simply beautiful. That was probably a longer answer than you were wanting, but that is why my family and I are here. That is why we are now proud residents of Shawano County and why I am excited to be your new Ag Agent.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the near future. My goal as your Ag Agent is to build upon the strong extension foundation already present in the county and with feedback from you, continue to provide quality classroom and field-based educational programs to enhance your farm, your garden and/or your business. With my diverse background in agriculture and education, I hope I can be the educational resource you, and all of Shawano County, deserves.

In this issue...

Page 2—Dairy Situation and Outlook

Page 3—Waupaca Summer Field Day and SARE Cover Crops Summary

Page 4—Hay Price Summary and Weedy Wheat

Page 5—Predicting Corn Silage Harvest Date and Events Calendar

Page 6—Agronomy/Soils Field Day

Dairy Situation and Outlook—July 20, 2013

By: Dr. Bob Copp, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison

The high for the Class III price thus far this year was in May at \$18.52. The June Class III price was \$18.02. Weaker cheese prices for the first half of the month will result in a further decline in the July Class III price. On the CME cheddar barrels were below \$1.70 per pound until July 16th and had increased 9.5 cents by July 19th to \$1.74. The 40-pound cheddar block price was below \$1.70 per pound until July 18th and had increased by 5.5 cents to \$1.7475 by July 19th. Yet with the lower earlier cheese prices the July Class III price will be near \$17.40. Higher nonfat dry milk prices supported by exports will increase the Class IV price from \$18.85 in June to near \$19.05 in July. Nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were 23% higher in May than a year ago and 7% higher year-to-date. Cheese prices have been affected by the spring flush in milk production resulting in more cheese production and growing cheese stocks. Compared to May a year ago the production of American cheese was 5.9% higher and total cheese production 3.9% higher. May 31st stocks of American cheese were 10% higher than a year ago and total cheese stocks 8% higher. Total cheese stocks were a record for any given month. Cheese exports being supported by the CWT program were 5% higher than a year ago through May. Butter prices have also been lower due to a high level of stocks, up 24% from a year ago.

Cheese and butter sales have picked up as buyers anticipate higher prices later this summer. Recent hot and humid weather has put stress on milk cows in parts of the country lowering milk yields as well as butterfat tests. As milk production declines seasonally this summer and cheese and butter plants prepare for the seasonal strong sales for the Thanksgiving through Christmas period we can expect cheese and butter prices to increase. Overall milk production for the major exporters of EU, New Zealand, Australia and Argentina is expected to be rather flat for the rest of the year. As a result, prices of cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk, dry whey and whey proteins will continue to be supported by higher exports through at least the remainder of the year. This year through May exports set a new dollar value record each month. May exports on a total solids basis was equivalent to 16.9% of U.S. milk production and this was a record. But, the picture for fluid (beverage) milk products is not as bright. Fluid milk products continue to not do well. Compared to a year ago May fluid sales were 1.2% lower and year-to-date 2.1% lower.

While domestic sales and exports will be key factors as to where milk prices go for the rest of the year, the level of milk production is also a key factor. USDA's release of June milk production showed an increase of 1.6% over a year ago for the 23 reporting states and an estimated increase of 1.5% for the U.S. This marks the third straight month of higher milk production than a year ago. However a year ago increases in milk production due to a wide spread drought began to decline in May with June production up just 1% and production actually below the previous year August through October. So we can expect increases in milk production for the remainder of the year to be at least 1.5% to 2%.

The USDA report showed just two of the twenty three states with lower June milk production than a year ago—California -0.8% and Missouri -4.2%. Three states had no change in milk production—Arizona, Idaho and Utah leaving 18 states with increases. There were relatively high increases in the Northeast with Michigan up 3.7%, New York 3.9%, Ohio 3.4% and Pennsylvania 2.4%. Upper Midwest states also had relatively high increases with Iowa up 4.5%, Minnesota 1.9% and Wisconsin 1.8%.

August and September weather in key dairy states is an important factor in milk production per cow and the component composition of the milk which impacts dairy product yields. However, many of the modern dairy facilities enable dairy producers to minimize the effect of very hot and humid weather on the stress of cows. Later this fall dairy producers will be evaluating the harvesting reports of this year's crops and projected cost of feed this winter and making decisions as to whether to reduce cow numbers, exit dairy entirely or to expand herd size. If increases in milk production stay below 2% for the remainder of the year, a Class III price reaching \$19 by September or October is still possible. However, current Class III futures are not quite that optimistic. Class III futures are in the \$18's August through November with October at \$18.95. With anticipation of a continuation of increased levels of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports Class IV nonfat dry milk futures are in the \$19's through November with a peak in September at \$20.

Looking farther into 2014, if crop harvests turn out good and feed prices are lower this winter along with some recovery in world milk production we can anticipate milk prices being a little lower than this year. But, as of now the range of possible milk prices is fairly wide.



Waupaca County Forage Council

Summer Field Day

Wednesday, August 14th

Corner of Hwy S and G

2 miles southwest of Marion (Just north of Dupont Town Hall)



- 10:30 - **Cover Crop Field Demos** - 18 different plots - by Mike Haedt, Partners in Production and John Riemer, Legacy Seeds
Precision Farming Guidance System Demos—by local/area farm machinery dealers
- 12:00 - **Free Lunch** - under the shelter at Dupont Town Hall. Provided by Waupaca County Forage Council with help from Sunrise 4-H Club. Updates from Greg Blonde, Waupaca County Ag Agent and other local agency representatives.
- 1:00- **Vertical Tillage Demos** - including Curse Buster, Smart-Till, Lemken, Pottinger, Amazone

No advance registration or cost to attend. For more information, contact Greg Blonde (715-258-6230).

Cover Crops Boosted Corn And Soybean Yields In 2012 Drought, Survey Shows

Adapted from: SARE Press Release

During last year's historic drought, farmers who took advantage of cover crops, a soil-enhancing conservation practice, managed to improve their yields by as much as 14% compared to those who did not, a new survey shows.

During the fall of 2012, corn fields following cover crops had a 9.6% increase in yield compared to side-by-side fields with no cover crops, according to the survey of more than 750 farmers who live across America's agricultural heartland. Likewise, soybean yields were improved 11.6% following cover crops. In the hardest hit drought areas of the Corn Belt, yield differences were even larger, with an 11% yield increase for corn and a 14.3% increase for soybeans.



The survey was conducted by the Conservation Technology Information Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program. Most respondents farm in the Mississippi River Basin.

"It is especially noteworthy how significant the yield benefits for cover crops were in an extremely dry year," says Dr. Rob Myers, a University of Missouri agronomist and regional director of extension programs for NCR-SARE. "We think cover crops will be a key management strategy for farmers dealing with extreme weather situations in coming years, while providing a number of environmental benefits in watersheds across the country."

The yield improvements provided from cover crops in 2012 were likely the result of a combination of factors. Plant residue left behind from cover crops creates a blanket that slows down evaporation, leaving more moisture in the soil for the following crop. Where cover crops have been used for several years, soil organic matter typically increases, which improves rainfall absorption into the soil and allows the soil to store more water. Improved soil organic matter also allows corn and soybean roots to travel deeper into the ground where more water can be found.

The survey's findings reflect that cover crops are an increasingly popular management strategy on farms. Surveyed farmers reported planting an average of more than 300 acres of cover crops per farm in 2012, a 350% increase from 2008. They used cover crops on a total of about 218,000 acres in 2012, and expected to increase that to over 300,000 acres in 2013. Nationwide, an estimated 1.5 million to 2 million acres of cover crops were planted in 2012.

Full results of the survey are available online at: www.northcentralsare.org/covercropssurvey



Hay Price Summary as of July 12th

From: Ken Barnett, UW Extension Educator

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/pubs/hay_market_report.htm



Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	252.33	220.00	350.00
	Large Square	232.53	130.00	280.00
	Large Round	208.44	135.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	145.00	145.00	145.00
	Large Square	150.83	130.00	180.00
	Large Round	131.67	120.00	147.50
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	110.00	90.00	140.00
	Large Round	97.08	70.00	122.50
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	150.00	150.00	150.00
	Large Round	No reported sales		

High Value Straw and Weedy Wheat

By Shawn Conley, Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, and Vince Davis, Weed Extension Specialist

Wet fields made spring weed control difficult to impossible in many winter wheat fields, and prolonged wet conditions have encouraged prolific weed growth from large competitive broadleaf weeds like giant ragweed and lambsquarters. As we approach harvest in southern WI (week of August 21st) growers simply have limited herbicide options for preharvest weed management:

1. 2,4-D products. There is a 7 day pre-harvest interval with this product. The downside of 2,4-D is you are **NOT** allowed to feed treated straw to animals. That restriction alone probably leaves just one option....
2. Glyphosate products. There is also a 7 day pre-harvest interval with this product, and it can **NOT** be applied until the grain is at the hard dough stage (30% moisture or less). Grain treated with glyphosate at this growth stage should not be used for seed as germination can be significantly lowered.

Some benefits to applying preharvest glyphosate may include desiccation of green weedy plants to enable an easier combine harvest and quicken the ability to bale straw following the grain harvest. However, drawbacks include a narrow window of application timing ahead of harvest, wheel tracks (if ground applied) will reduce grain yields, and moreover many of the weeds like giant ragweed and lambsquarters will be large and difficult to control. Thus, consider a preharvest glyphosate application as a last resort because partial control of large weeds will greatly increase selection pressure for glyphosate resistance. We already have glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed in southern WI , and other broadleaf weeds continue to be a concern.

Record When a Field Tassels to Predict Corn Silage Harvest Date

Adapted from: Joe Lauler, Extension Corn Agronomist

The 2013 growing season was one of the most extended planting seasons since recordkeeping began in 1979. Numerous rainfall events delayed spring field work resulting in planting dates that often range from April to June on the same farm. The range in planting dates will have implications at harvest time, especially for silage.

A good thing to do right now is mark down when corn fields tassel, or more ideally when they silk. Usually silking occurs a couple of days after tasseling, but there have been recent situations where silking is either slightly premature or significantly delayed relative to tasseling. But by knowing your tassel (silk) date, you can begin to predict when a field will be ready for silage harvest.

Use the following in-season guidelines for predicting corn silage harvest date:

Note hybrid maturity and planting date of fields intended for silage.

1. Note tasseling (silking) date.
*Kernels will be at 50% kernel milk (R5.5) about 42 to 47 days after silking.
2. After milkline moves, use kernel milk triggers to time corn silage harvest.
3. Use a drydown rate of 0.5% per day to predict date when field will be ready for the storage structure.
*See <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/silagedrydown/>
4. Do a final check prior to chopping.



Full report at: <http://www.soils.wisc.edu/extension/>

Shawano County drydown testing dates and locations will be announced mid-August!

Please check <http://shawano.uwex.edu> for more information

Events Calendar

August 14—Waupaca Forage Council Summer Field Day—near Marion

August 28—Agronomy and Soils Field Day—Arlington Agricultural Research Station

August 28 through September 2—Shawano County Fair

Keep up-to-date on agricultural happenings and news...

Like us on Facebook (uwex.shawano.ag) or check our website at <http://shawano.uwex.edu/>

Watch your mailbox for the 2013 County Needs Assessment Survey!

Provide your feedback regarding agricultural program needs in the county!



AGRONOMY/SOILS FIELD DAY

Tours and Exhibits of Current Crops and Soils Research
Wednesday, August 28, 2013
Arlington Agricultural Research Station

Registration between 8 and 8:20 am

► Lunch available for \$5 ◀

Tour A: Field Crop Tour (offered 2 times in morning only)

- Advancements in 80+ years of soybean genetics lessen penalty of low seeding rates and raise questions about weed suppression through canopy development (*Vince Davis*)
- Can yield maps predict future yields? (*Joe Lauer*)
- Soybean potpourri: Diversity & management of *Fusarium* spp. in Wisconsin cropping systems and ROI for soybean seed treatments (*Shawn Conley, David Marburger & Adam Gaspar*)

Tour C: Soils Tour (offered 1 time in morning and 1 time in afternoon)

- Efficacy of aglime & pell lime in no-till and chisel systems (*Carrie Laboski*)
- Grassed waterways & other conservation practices: When, where & why? (*Francisco Arriaga*)
- Performance of legume, grass, and brassica cover crops (*Matt Ruark*)

Tour B: Forage Crop Tour (offered 2 times in morning only)

- Planting alfalfa with corn silage, can we get a viable alfalfa stand? (*Mark Renz*)
- Weed management while establishing switchgrass (*Ariel Larson & Mark Renz*)
- Oats as an emergency forage (*Ken Albrecht*)

NOTE: Field & Forage Crop Tours will only be offered in the morning. If you plan to attend all 3 tours, please attend the Field & Forage Crop Tours in the morning and the Soils Tour in the afternoon.



LUNCHEON SPEAKER @ 12:00 pm

"A First Look at the Farm Bill"

By Paul Mitchell

UW-Madison Agricultural and Applied Economics

Tours depart from the Public Events Facility
8:30 am (Field & Forage), 10:30 am (All Tours), & 1 pm (Soils only)
The Arlington Research Station is located on Hwy. 51, about 5 miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison. Watch for Field Day signs

For more information contact the Dept. of Agronomy 608/262-1390
or the Dept. of Soil Science 608/262-0485

In the event of rain, presentations will be held inside
Sponsored by the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and UW-Extension

► Certified Crop Advisors: 5.5 CEU credits requested ◀

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