

Central Wisconsin Agricultural Extension Report



Volume 21 | Issue 4

October | 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 7-COUNTY TEAM MEMBERS

Adams County: Evan Henthorne
Horticulture & Crops & Soils
569 N. Cedar, Suite 3
Adams, WI 53910
(608) 339-4237
evan.henthorne@ces.uwex.edu

Portage County: Ken Schroeder
Vegetable Production
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 346-1316
ken.schroeder@ces.uwex.edu

Juneau County: Alana Voss
Dairy & Forage Management
211 Hickory St.
Mauston, WI 53948-1386
(608) 847-9329
alana.voss@ces.uwex.edu

Wood County: Matt Lippert
Dairy & Cranberry Production
Courthouse, 400 Market St.
PO Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
(715) 421-8440
matthew.lippert@ces.uwex.edu

Waushara County: Vacant
Farm Business Management
Courthouse, 209 S. St. Marie, PO Box 487
Wautoma, WI 54982-0487
(920) 787-0416
rosie.kowalewski@ces.uwex.edu

Green Lake County: Ben Jenkins
Agronomy, Commercial Horticulture & Marketing
571 County Road A
Green Lake, WI 54941
(920) 294-4032
benjamin.jenkins@ces.uwex.edu

Marquette County: Lyssa Seefeldt
Livestock Production & Emerging Markets
480 Underwood Avenue, PO Box 338
Montello, WI 53949
(608) 297-3141
lyssa.seefeldt@ces.uwex.edu

Welcome Ben & Evan!

Ben Jenkins, Agriculture Agent, Green Lake County... Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I have been in and around agriculture my whole life. Although my parents weren't farmers per se, I spent a lot of my growing up years both at the Massey Ferguson/New Holland dealership where my dad was a mechanic, and the family dairy farm down the road. In fact I learned my colors in association with the tractor brand they represented; Massey red, John Deere green, Allis orange, you get the picture. I got my first job when I was nine feeding calves at the family farm; I used that income to purchase my first set of 4-H fair pigs. In high school I took a job with a small non-traditional farm near Portage that sold annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, as well as field grown produce for the farmers markets. It was because of my employment there that I won a Silver State Proficiency in Horticulture Placement. My experience at the greenhouse, as well as my expanding knowledge of plants through FFA, coupled with low dairy, beef, swine and commodity crop prices of the late nineties, lead me to pursue a degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison where I majored in Horticulture with an emphasis on Business. This degree lead me on a path of experience unlike any that I could have ever imagined from starting my own truck farm to working at a major international greenhouse with locations in four countries. Six years ago I left my job in the corporate sales office of one of the big three in farm equipment manufacturing to restart the family organic dairy which had been lying dormant for two years. Ever since then I have worn the hat of a dairy farmer, although it hasn't proved to be financially rewarding, it helps to know I am continuing our family's legacy of farming. I am hopeful that I will be able to turn our farm into something that can be sustained for future generations. In the mean time I look forward to working with you folks in the CWAS area. Please don't hesitate to call or email. I'm glad to help; whether you have an immediate concern on your farm or just want someone to bounce ideas off of for planning future projects.



Evan Henthorne, Agriculture Agent, Adams County... Hello Everyone! I would like to introduce myself, my name is Evan Henthorne and I am the new Agriculture Educator and 4-H Coordinator for Adams County. I grew up in Arkdale, WI on my parent's commercial cow/calf, cash crop and diversified livestock farm. While growing up, I was actively involved in 4-H and FFA and showing at my local county fair. My love for agriculture drove me to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Studies from the University of Wisconsin River Falls. While at River Falls, I was actively involved in on campus organizations like Block & Bridle, Horsesmans and the Colts in Training Program. I also had the opportunity to travel to Ireland for an Animal Production Tour. We learned about their version of Extension and got to see how agriculture works there. I am excited to work at UW-Extension and share my knowledge with the community. I wish everyone a safe and happy fall harvest! Take care, Evan



Handling Flooded and Down Corn at Silage and Grain Harvest

Joe Lauer—Ph.D., Professor and Extension Corn Specialist, Agronomy Department, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Rain events during August produced localized flooding affecting numerous corn fields. Recent high winds combined with saturated soils have resulted in lodged corn. All this is occurring at the dent growth stage (R5) as we head into corn silage harvest season. Heavy silage harvest equipment can further damage soils by causing compaction which could influence next year's crop.

Flooded corn

Flood water from streams and silt can be a source of pathogens. Farmers are strongly encouraged to work closely with their veterinarian and animal nutritionist when determining which vaccination and feeding protocol to use to further protect the herd from possible health issues associated with feeding flooded crop material. Flooded crops should be stored separately from the rest of your feed. In cases of production problems, this allows for feeding or disposal options without affecting your good feed.

Lodged corn

Fields that have lodged at denting (R5) might "goose-neck" back upright if they are still green. However, high yielding heavy ears may prevent the stalks from straightening at all. Fields should respond to any straightening within 7-10 days

Silage harvest

Some things to consider as we head into corn silage harvest season:

1. Safety first.

Water saturated soils will slow down plant dry-down rate, especially with cooler temperatures. Allowing a little more time for the field to dry out will help alleviate potential [soil compaction](#).

1. Regardless of lodging, **the key management driver is plant moisture**. Yield is no longer a concern. Target fields at the ideal moisture content of the storage structure. Bag silos have the greatest moisture range (60 to 70%) and may be best option when the field is variable.
2. Good fermentation will help with preservation. Consider a silage inoculant, however, balance the cost of the product with the loss expected in the field. Don't throw good money after bad.
3. Use a Kemper head and go against the direction in which it leans.

4. Reach down low. Run the head as close to the ground as possible. Be wary of rocks and uneven terrain.
5. Make sure the kernel processor is adjusted correctly. Kernel processing allows for grain that might be more mature extending the harvest window and allowing the soil to dry more avoiding compaction.



Grain harvest

Identify fields that are at greatest risk and harvest these fields first. Fields which experienced late season stress or disease would be prime candidates for early harvest.

1. Safety first
2. Reduce ground speed. Slow down and adjust gathering chain and snapping roll speed to match combine speed
3. Go against the grain. Combine corn the opposite direction from which it leans.
4. Catch the corn. Adjust gathering chains and snapping plate as close as possible to the stalks.
5. Reach down low. Run the head as

close to the ground as possible. Be wary of rocks and uneven terrain.

Be ready. Scout fields to anticipate harvest problems.



Questions about recent flooding?

Local county extension offices and University of Wisconsin specialists partner with communities to find **practical solutions** to local needs by using university research-based information and resources.

Contact your local County Extension office:

- Columbia County: 608-742-9680; columbia.uwex.edu
- Juneau County: 608-847-9329; juneau.uwex.edu
- Sauk County: 608-355-3250; sauk.uwex.edu

Find more flood related info for farm, family and home, or business at [UW-Extension Disaster Education Resources](#) website:

fyi.uwex.edu/agemergency

Fall Cover Crop Options

Ken Schroeder—Agriculture Agent, Portage County

Now that corn silage is coming off I thought I would provide you with a list of cover crops that can be planted at this time.

Here in Central Wisconsin we are pretty much limited to the grasses as we approach mid to late September.

Will winter-kill:

- *Oats* (I put this one in however, it is just outside the suggested time to plant and may not get much cover by frost)
- *Spring Barley* (is a quick starter, will likely have little residue in spring)
- *Spring Wheat* (similar to spring barley)
- *Annual Forage Ryegrass* (quick growth making good cover, something to try on a small scale MAY OVER WINTER IF GOOD SNOW COVER and then may require multiple tillage passes or herbicides to terminate)

For more information go to the Midwest Cover Crops Council webpage <http://mccc.msu.edu/> see the [cover crop selector tool](#) and the [cover crop species](#).

Will survive winter:

- *Winter Barley* (can be planted into the first week of October and may do well planted into mid-October)
- *Winter Wheat* (good through the first week in October)
- *Winter Triticale* (can be planted into the first week of October, makes good forage in spring BE SURE TO CHECK POSSIBLE HERBICIDE RESIDUE ISSUES IF USING FOR FEED)
- *Winter Rye* (very tolerant of cold weather and can be planted the latest of all covers through mid-October and still survive)

Seeding rates:

Species	Lbs./Acre Drilled	Lbs./Acre Broadcast
Oats	30-60	36-72
Spring Barley	50-75	60-90
Spring Wheat	50-90	60-108
Forage Annual Ryegrass	12-20	18-24
Winter Barley	50-75	60-90
Winter Wheat	50-90	60-108
Winter Triticale	50-90	60-108
Winter Rye	40-90	60-108



See also the UW-Extension Cover Crops in Wisconsin webpage <https://fyi.uwex.edu/covercrop/> for additional information on planting and using cover crops.

Recovering Flooded Forages

Dan Undersander—Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Many factors affect the extent of crop damage after a flood. Seasonal temperatures can be a major factor. For example, a July flood wreaks more havoc on a crop than a spring flood. The warmer mid-summer weather increases the rate of damage and death to submerged plants. During spring flooding, cooler temperatures allow plants to survive longer under water.

Plants that encounter flash-flooding along creeks where the water rises and recedes quickly are most likely to survive. They will experience less oxygen depletion than submerged plants. Other factors for survival include water movement and plant height. Standing water is more harmful than moving water. Plants with some leaves protruding from the water are more likely to live.

Restoration of alfalfa, irrigated pastures, perennials and hay will depend heavily on all of these factors, as well as the measures taken toward recovery.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa can withstand submersion for a limited time, depending on its stage of growth. Dormant plants may withstand submersion for as long as seven to 10 days. Growing plants can usually withstand submersion for less than three to four days without damage. Dig a few plants (top six inches of taproot) approximately a month after the flooding has receded and look for phytophthora. If roots are rotted off consider terminating stand early.

Alfalfa can recover from moderate silt deposits. Silt deposits of over 2 to 3 inches will weaken the stand, and you may need to regrade and re-establish in places.

Limit reseeding of established fields to silted patches within the field. If the entire field is silted, rework and reseed the field. Where alfalfa stand is over two years old, overseed with temporary crop and reseed alfalfa at least one year after having reworked the field. Legume credits from the alfalfa can supply the nitrogen for a grass crop for a year.

Small areas with fast-growing grasses can be reseeded. This will help provide forage until the entire field can be reworked. In old fields, seeding to annual crops, such as ryegrass, will provide some hay and also will help control weeds.

Pastures

With pastures, there are two considerations:

1. Animal Health
2. Damage to stand from grazing

The major considerations to animal health are increased deposits of silt and microbes on the plant material. The

Type	Statistic	% Ash
Haylage	Average	12.3
	Maximum	28.0
	Minimum	5.7
Hay	Average	10.3
	Maximum	17.6
	Minimum	8.8

deposits of silt will reduce the energy content of the forage since animals are eating more soil and less digestible forage – this is generally not significant as plants will grow and dilute the ash content – though animal weight gain may be diminished for a short period. However, this can be significant for horses which are more susceptible to high sand content in their diets. For horses it may be necessary to allow pastures to grow to dilute the ash content or, if tall, to mow or harvest and allow regrowth to occur.

Of major concern should be any considerations of microbial contamination. If the water flowed past manure piles or came from sewage treatment plants, it contained microbes that many be harmful to grazing animals. The general recommendation is to wait 1 to 2 weeks after the water has receded to allow microbes populations to diminish.

The next concern is physical damage to the pasture by hooves of grazing animals. Animals can leave hoof depressions (pugging) that makes the pastures surface uneven for future grazing. Pastures that are composed of sod-forming grasses can be grazed first (e.g. bluegrass, brome grass, reed canarygrass) and pastures composed primarily of bunch grass (e.g. orchardgrass, tall fescue,

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

timothy) must be slightly drier before animals are introduced to avoid the pugging.

Most of the pastures grasses will survive a week or two of being under water. Longer flooding periods may require that pastures be reseeded with the desirable species. Legumes, especially alfalfa, will be more susceptible to damage from periods of standing water.

Most pastures will recover without serious production losses if silt deposits are not over 2 inches and erosion is minimal.

Recovery usually depends on the type of legume. Alfalfa probably will recover from moderate silting better than white clover varieties. White clover will not survive silting that covers the ends of the growing stems or stolons. Ladino clover, however, will fill in stands from a few surviving plants if the area is not too large.

Grasses such as ryegrass, orchardgrass, fescue and meadow foxtail will probably grow through a moderate silt deposit (less than 2 inches), and can stand several days of flooding without injury. Tall fescue will tolerate longer flooding than ryegrass or orchardgrass. Meadow foxtail and reed canary grass can stand longer submersion than other perennial grasses.

Subsurface water saturating the root zone of deep-rooted crops such as alfalfa can damage the plant as much as surface water. To take care of excess soil moisture, open drainage ditches as soon as possible.

Overly Mature Perennials

Overly mature alfalfa or clover grass should be harvested and can be feed to animals having low energy and protein needs (heifers near calving, pregnant non-lactating animals),

Ensilé perennials in either tubes or covered silage piles.

To make the silage:

- **Wilt to 65 – 70% moisture.**
- **Chop fine (3/8 inch).**
- **Pack thoroughly.**

Mature forages may be low on fermentable carbohydrate for ensiling. If available, add 100 to 200 pounds of ground corn and cob chop per ton of ensiled nutrients. This will improve fermentation, quality and palatability.

Hay

To minimize damage to flooded hay crops:

- Remove old growth from fields that have not been harvested. This will encourage a good aftermath crop. No need to remove hay if it is 8-10 inches tall or less when flooding occurred.
- Make this crop into hay or silage.
- If crop is silt-damaged, chop it uniformly back onto the field. Then topdress immediately with fertilizer.
- Apply nitrogen to stimulate legumes as well as grasses. Check with an agronomist for recommended application rates.

On fields mowed but not harvested just prior to the flood, make crop into hay or silage. Consider destroying the crop if the hay has laid in the field long enough to get slimy. Topdress field with fertilizer. Your county agricultural agent can assist with specific recommendations. Consider if flood water contained bacteria from sewage, running across manure piles, etc. If so, do not feed hay to horses. Also analyze forage for ash content and adjust rations for any elevated ash.

If growth is short or yellow, topdress immediately.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CLASSES TO BE OFFERED

Marquette County UW-Extension Building—480 Underwood Avenue, Montello
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 26, 2019: For producers that are new to our nutrient management and have never attended a program before. They will be creating their Nutrient Management Plan.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019: For people that have already taken the class in the past and will be updating their existing Nutrient Management Plan.

Thursday, March 7, 2019: For people that have already taken the class in the past and will be updating their existing Nutrient Management Plan.

Grazing Warm Season Grasses

Lyssa Seefeldt—Agriculture Agent, Marquette County

At the end of August I had the opportunity to attend a grazing professional development event hosted in Spooner. We chatted about a lot of different things: updates on meadow fescue varieties, legumes & other forages useful in pastures, a tour of the forage research plots at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, and an overview of silvopasture as part of the working pastures on a bison ranch.

Mr. Dave Fogerty of Black Creek Bison was kind enough to host a tour of his working bison ranch in Spooner. Black Creek Bison currently contract-finishes over 100 bison each year. Mr. Fogerty did not come from a traditional agriculture background and has taken some unique approaches to running his land to support the bison he grows there.

Much of the Spooner area has abundantly sandy soils like the soils here in Waushara and Marquette counties, so farmers face similar pasture establishment and summer quantity of forage challenges. One of the unique things that Black Creek Bison is doing is utilizing warm-season grasses in pastures to combat the dreaded “summer slump” of traditional cool-season pastures.

Black Creek Bison has been testing several different warm-season grasses including selected varieties of annual crabgrass, teff grass, switchgrass, little bluestem, and big bluestem.



This year Mr. Fogerty of Black Creek Bison was contract-finishing varying ages of bison heifers. In the background you can see some of the trees that are in the silvopastures Mr. Fogerty has been establishing with the help of the bison.



Mr. Dave Fogerty of Black Creek Bison (right) standing in a field of a selected variety of warm-season annual crabgrass. Note that normally the crabgrass would have been harvested about a week prior to this stage, before the grass heads out. Mr. Fogerty waited to harvest the crabgrass so that agents could see the biomass production of selected varieties. This is not your backyard crabgrass.

Many of the selected crabgrass varieties only grow well in warmer areas, however there are a couple of varieties that can grow well in Wisconsin which include (but are not necessarily limited to): ‘Quick-N-Big’ and ‘Quick-N-Big Spreader’. More variety development and testing needs to be done for the Midwest to help develop growing recommendations.

Teff grass is a warm season annual bunching grass that originated from Ethiopia that is grows well in 50-80°F weather. This grass is not frost-tolerant, and is an annual grass in Wisconsin. Teff grass is highly palatable for livestock due to the quantity of leaves and fine stems. Teff grass can also produce a quantity of seeds if left to reach maturity and those seeds contain higher lysine content than barley or wheat. According to Yoana Newman, Forage Specialist with UW-Extension at UW-River Falls, “teff grass planted in 7.5 inch rows resulted in 2,900 lb/acre of forage dry matter. Additional information on teff grass can be found at: <https://goo.gl/ms5Hdp>.

Switchgrass, big bluestem, and little bluestem have been the more common varieties of warm-season grasses that are used in pastures. Big bluestem and little bluestem are natives to Wisconsin and in some areas can still be found in our landscapes. More information about grazing these grasses can be found at <https://goo.gl/p6B4nk>.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 7

One of the biggest differences in managing warm-season versus cool-season grasses is the grazing height. Due to the growth pattern of the grass, management accordingly needs to be changed. To retain best plant longevity to meet the needs of your livestock, you never want to graze more than one third of the plant at a time. This rule of thumb ensures adequate root reserves are maintained to keep the plant healthy. Grazing more than one third of the plant at a time removes too much leaf tissue, which forces the plant to utilize root reserves, weakening the plant for the future. Successive grazings that remove too much of the plant will eventually deplete root reserves and the plant will die.

Traditional cool-season grasses grown in Wisconsin (timothy, orchardgrass, etc.) produce rapid growth in the spring and hit the "summer slump" usually late July

Differences between warm-season and cool-season grasses & general guidelines (rules of thumb) for grazing.

	Cool-Season Grasses	Warm-Season Grasses
Example perennial grass	Orchardgrass	Big Bluestem
Example annual grass	Annual ryegrass	Crabgrass
Growth pattern in spring	Rapid growth	Slower growth
Growth pattern in summer	Slower growth	Rapid growth
General growing point location	Closer to the ground	Higher up the plant
Minimum height to start grazing	6-8 inches	10-12 inches
Grazing height-don't fall below	~3-4 inches	~8 inches

through early September before temperatures cool off. Warm-season grasses, in contrast, tend to hit peak production in July through September after there has been sufficient warm weather to warm soil temperatures adequately to stimulate growth, thus complementing cool-season pasture production.

SAVE THE DATE!

WISCONSIN COVER CROP CONFERENCE

Investing in your farm's future

**FEBRUARY 20, 2019
STEVENS POINT, WI**

For more information:
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/covercrop/>

cover crops
in WISCONSIN

The 2019 WI Cover Crop Conference will be a statewide event for farmers to hear from cover crop experts and experienced farmers about how to successfully integrate cover crops into Wisconsin's unique cropping rotations and climate. It will take place on February 20 (9:30am-4pm) at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Controlling Replacement Costs

Matt Lippert—Agriculture Agent, Wood County

Care of the replacement herd is one of the highest single costs on a dairy farm. For about 2 years, possibly a little less, these animals eat, make manure and provide no revenue to the farm. Replacements are the future of your herd and whether you are raising them buying them it is important that efforts are made that replacements have superior genetics and are healthy. They should have sound feet and legs, appropriate body condition, clear lungs and be well vaccinated.

For many years one of the most discussed ways of reducing replacement costs were to make sure they grew rapidly and were calving by a year and ten months as compared to the old standard of a few month over two years. There is much more that can be done in addition to rapid growth and good consistent heifer fertility to reduce replacement costs.

One way is to reduce the number of replacements needed. Keep your cows around longer. Older cows milk more. Even if the genetics of younger cows is better, mature cows can compete in the herd because they produce more milk. If you can keep them one extra lactation, that is likely to be a highly productive lactation. Cows that are lame, have chronic mastitis or other problems should not be kept. We tend to think of cows leaving the herd as dying on the farm, being involuntary culls or voluntary culls. Careful attention to transition diets, mastitis prevention and vaccinations may reduce mortality and involuntary culls. Voluntary culls are often the result of having more replacements entering the herd than are needed. Having more is definitely better than to few, but especially if feed is short, facilities limited or if we have poor milk margins too many replacements can be a luxury.

Use sexed semen on your best cows so that you are confident that the replacement heifers freshening will be of the quality desired. Consider genomic testing to identify the best and poorest replacements to make better decisions. Use beef semen on the low end cows to make more valuable calves. High value beef crossbreds sold early on will save of labor, feed, manure production and

facility crowding, allowing you to do a better job with the ones that you keep. For a case study on this see: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/files/2017/10/Making-beef-out-of-dairy-5-pages.pdf>.

Make sure that heifer diets are cost effective, if you have high quality forage you could be wasting protein or causing heifers to be too heavy. Heifer diets should be high in forage of moderate quality to minimize purchased feed inputs and for a healthy heifer. BMR corn silage and high protein alfalfa probably can be better utilized elsewhere. Inventory management is key.

Dairying is a complex system; retention of cows is a major factor in reducing replacement costs. Consider the following factors to improve your return to your replacement program:

1. Improve cow comfort in the milking cows to gain an extra lactation with the milking herd. This will improve production per cow and lower culling percentage.
2. Use a beef crossbreeding program on your low end animals to make sure you don't raise too many replacements and to optimize the value of calves.
3. Genomic test so that you more accurately identify the good and poor performers.
4. If raising your own replacements pay attention to feed costs, by using forages appropriate for replacement diets. Limit feeding is possible if forage quality is high.



REPORTING AN AGRICULTURAL LOSS

Producers should report agricultural damage and losses to FSA. This information will be shared with the county emergency manager. County emergency managers have 24 hours to submit their initial damage report which includes damage and losses to agricultural buildings, crops and livestock. FSA helps coordinate the gathering of the agricultural damage assessments as well as UW-Extension agricultural educators.

Examples of agricultural damage: 1) Agricultural buildings and equipment 2) Livestock (including bees and hives) 3) Crops 4) Conservation structures 5) Fences 6) Orchard/nursery trees, bushes, and vines

Contact your county FSA office to report any agricultural losses due to flooding.

Additional resources are available from the US Department of Agriculture Disaster Resource Center.

It's important to report damage and losses as the total damage assessments help determine potential programs and funding after a natural disaster.

Guidelines for Consuming Late Season Produce Exposed to Floodwater

Dr. Barb Ingham—UW-Extension Food Safety Specialist, UW-Madison

Heavy rains and the flowing water that results can contaminate plants growing in the garden and create a food safety hazard. As floodwater moves into your garden, it can carry raw sewage overflow, farm and domestic animal waste, river or pond water, and agricultural run-off, all of which can be sources of human pathogens such as norovirus, *Salmonella*, and pathogenic *E. coli*. Gardeners and other people who mishandle and/or consume fresh produce exposed to floodwater are at risk of gastrointestinal illnesses, with accompanying symptoms such as vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhea.

The flooding and heavy rains late in the 2018 growing season (August 2018) present a problem for the home gardener. Many crops are at, or approaching, peak ripeness and it's not feasible to let produce mature for another 2-3 months while pathogens die through natural exposure to sunlight and the environment. The question then becomes: how do I salvage as much garden produce as possible from a garden exposed to late-season flooding?

If rain, and only rain, fell on the garden, you can continue to enjoy the bounty of the season. However, if your garden was reached by flood waters from a nearby stream or lake, or if flowing water carried animal waste or possible contaminants from nearby fields or compost piles, garden produce may be risky to consume.

Discard produce that has come into direct contact with floodwater

What to do if flood waters entered your garden? The most **conservative** approach is to **destroy** any produce that comes into *direct* contact with floodwater. And whether exposed directly or indirectly to floodwater, any produce that is meant to be eaten raw **should not be consumed**. This means that crops such as lettuce and other leafy greens should be discarded. While some thick-skinned crops may be able to be salvaged (see below), any soft fruits such as raspberries or blackberries which are impossible to clean should also be discarded and soft-skinned crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants should be destroyed.

Cantaloupe and other netted melons present a higher risk to human health and the safest action is to discard these crops as well.

Clean and cook salvaged produce

There **are** fruits and vegetables that may be salvaged if they can be cleaned and are cooked before eating. Wait at least 72 hours after standing water recedes before harvesting. Then thoroughly clean and cook produce be-

fore eating.

Root crops, including carrots, parsnips, beets or potatoes should be cleaned to remove dirt and contaminants by rinsing in clean potable (safe for drinking) water, followed by rinsing in a dilute bleach solution, and then given a final rinse in clean water. Soap should not be used for rinsing produce, just plain, clean water. These crops should be peeled and cooked before consuming.

Prepare the dilute bleach solution by mixing a scant tablespoon of regular, unscented bleach (not concentrated and without fragrances) to one gallon of potable water. Dip water-washed produce in the dilute bleach solution for 2 minutes prior to the final water-rinse.

Winter squash, winter melons, and pumpkins with their thick rinds can be washed and rinsed in potable water, then sanitized in the dilute bleach solution described for root crops and rinsed. Allow to air dry prior to peeling and cooking.

The change in the weather and cooler temperatures makes it impossible to recommend consuming any produce items raw where there is any risk of exposure to flood waters, even from splashing. So, plan to cook any produce that you will harvest from flooded gardens for the remainder of the season.

Any produce that is not fit for eating should not be preserved by canning, freezing or drying. Salvaged produce should not be offered for sale at farmers' markets or roadside stands. And for food-safety sake, do not donate salvaged produce to food banks or food pantries.

Prevent contamination as you prepare salvaged produce

Good habits in the kitchen will help ensure that you are not spreading contamination as you prepare salvaged produce. Wash your hands after handling produce exposed to floodwater; use soap and water and scrub for at least 30 seconds. Dry hands

with a disposable paper towel. Be sure to clean counter tops, cutting boards and utensils that have been used to prepare salvaged produce for cooking, or eating after cooking.

In order to prevent the spread of contaminants within the garden, remove soil, plant debris, and sap from garden tools and harvesting containers used to handle produce from flooded fields. Rinse tools and containers with clean water and then sanitize with a disinfectant such as Lysol, or a dilute bleach solution. Allow to air dry.

BQA Certification Training Held



Bill Halfman—UW-Extension WI Beef Information Center—Agriculture Agent, Monroe County

Some large packers and processors have announced that effective January 1, 2019, buyers representing them will only purchase from farms that are BQA or FARM Certified.

Most dairy farms are certified with their dairy processor; ask your dairy rep for help in providing your FARM Certification number at the point of sale. This will be in effect for all markets and all private treaty transactions. Buyers will confirm your certification by collecting your certification identification number at the point of sale. Additional processors may begin to require BQA or FARM Certification from their suppliers.

Beef Producers can obtain their BQA certification online at no cost by going to (<http://www.bqa.org>). Here you will create an account (based upon your email address) and select the course that best fits your particular operation. Each interactive course takes about 2 hours to complete, and requires an 80% score to pass the final test. You will re-

ceive your certification number via email, which you will provide at the point of sale.

UW Extension and the Wisconsin Beef Council are working together with various Auction markets to hold in person BQA certification workshops for producers who are not able to get certified online. There is a \$15 fee for live certification workshops to help offset costs. Checks must payable to: WI BQA Program.

Beef producers created the voluntary Beef Quality Assurance Program in 1987 to assist each other in raising, feeding and harvesting high quality beef. By participating in BQA and adopting BQA production practices, you are helping to answer the call from the packers' consumers, for safe beef raised in a humane manner.

Following is a list of certification workshops that are scheduled at this time:

Date	Location	RSVP and additional information for each location at:
Sept 25	Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center 14345 County Road B Sparta, WI 54656	Equity Sparta Market, (608) 269-3104 UWEX Monroe Co, (608) 269-8722
Sept 27	Monroe Market N1365 Hwy. 69 Monroe, WI 53566	Equity Monroe Market, (608) 328-8344
Oct 18	Johnson Creek Market N6225 County Y Johnson Creek, WI 53048	Equity Johnson Creek Market, (920) 699-3588
Oct 19	Bonduel Market 455 N. Cecil St. Bonduel, WI 54107	Equity Bonduel Market (715) 758-2125
Oct 26	Altoona Market 5150 Hwy. 53 South Eau Claire, WI 54701	Equity Altoona Market, (715) 835-3104 UWEX Eau Claire Co, (715) 839-4712
Oct 30	Lancaster Agricultural Research Station 7396 State Rd 35 & 81 Lancaster WI 53813	UWEX Grant Co, (608) 723-2125
Nov 2	Stratford Market EP4363 State Hwy. 97 Stratford, WI 54485	Equity Stratford Market, (715) 687-4101 UWEX Taylor Co, (715) 748-3327 ext. 1
Nov 8	Lomira Market N11579 Industrial Dr. Lomira, WI 53048	Equity Lomira Market, (920) 269-4351
Nov 8	Premier Livestock & Auctions, LLC N13438 St. Hwy 73 Withee, WI 54498	Premier Livestock, (715) 229-2500
Nov 17	Waukon Market 1645 Hwy. 76 North Waukon, IA 52172	Equity Waukon Market, (563) 568-4501
Dec 5	Richland Center Market 26702 County Hwy. O Richland Center, WI 53581	Equity Richland Center Market, (608) 647-6151

More certification meetings will be added as UW-Extension agents are re-certified to teach the BQA materials.



2019 Organic Vegetable Production Conference

February 1 & 2 ~ 9 am-5 pm

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

This producer-initiated conference is built around farmer to farmer skill sharing and attracts experienced growers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and beyond. Farmer panelists representing small, mid, and large scale operations will cover technical production information on garlic, onions, peppers, and one-cut salad heads. Management topics include vegetable no-till, greenhouse management, training and retaining labor, and variety selection. Detailed handouts provide an invaluable resource long after the conference ends. New this year will be summaries of farm employee compensation and variety data collected through optional participant surveys.

Presenters include:

- Mike Bollinger of River Root Farm (IA) on greenhouse management
- Cindy Keene of Keene Organics Garlic (WI) on garlic
- Ray Taylor of Rosecreek Farms (TN) on one-cut salad heads
- Nate Parks of Silverthorn Farm (IN) on onions
- Dan Fillius of Featherstone Farm (MN) on peppers
- Chris McGuire of Two Onion Farm (WI) on exploring vegetable no-till
- And many more!

Visit the conference website for more information:

Registration is now open

with "Early Bird" registration closing on December 3

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-organic-vegetable-production-conference-registration-48041491394>



Green Lake County

Green Lake County
571 County Road A
Green Lake WI 54941-8630

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN LAKE, WI
PERMIT NO. 19

CENTRAL WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE SPECIALIZATION (CWAS)

A cooperative effort of seven
Central Wisconsin Counties and
University of Wisconsin Extension.



Our Mission

To be the primary source of research based
agricultural information and education for the
agricultural community in Central Wisconsin.

*University of Wisconsin, State Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating.
An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment
and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.*