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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@wisc.edu

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

Juneau County: Alana Voss
Dairy & Forage Management
220 E. State St. Rm 104
Mauston, WI 53948-1386
(608) 847-9329
alana.voss@wisc.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@wisc.edu

Waushara County: Ken Williams
Farm Business Management
Courthouse, 209 S. St. Marie
PO Box 487
Wautoma, WI 54982-0487
(920) 787-0416
ag.agent@co.waushara.wi.us

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

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

Fall Harvest Safety

Review machine manuals.

Train employees and family on how equipment works.

Maintain equipment to prevent break-downs, frustration in the field, and accidents.

Lyssa Seefeldt — Agriculture Agent, Marquette County

Along with shorter days and cooler temperatures comes the fall harvest. Everyone on the farm knows this means there is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. The unusually wet fall has led to impatience to get out in the fields and get harvest done.

One of the first things to keep yourself and your employees safe during harvest is to ensure that you get enough sleep. Plan your days out so that you have breaks built-in. Repetitive tasks can cause fatigue and distraction. The constant hum of machines can lull a tired body into sleep, so taking frequent breaks to stretch legs, reengage the brain, and check on equipment function periodically can help get you through the day.

Taking time to eat is important as well. Bring enough meals with you in a small cooler for the day, take a meal break at home, or have someone bring meals to you while out in the field. Be sure to take plenty of water with you, as staying hydrated is important too.

While you are out in the field, follow these tips from Cheryl Skjolaas, agriculture safety specialist with UW-Extension to stay safe.

Review machine manuals. Taking the time to review manual before getting into full-on harvest mode can save on frustration in the field, especially on machinery that may only get used one season of the year.

Be sure to train others on equipment before letting them operate it. Don't fall into the trap of complacency by assuming that a neighbor that is helping you out knows how to operate your equipment. Unfamiliarity with equipment can place the operator and others nearby in dangerous situa-

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tions. Even if it is a quick run-through of operation and safety procedures, it can help keep your equipment operating top-notch and keep your employees, neighbors, and family safe.

Maintenance is key. Keeping a list of maintenance tasks and who is completing them before hitting the field is key to preventing break-down in the field. "It's when things break down and we lose time that we take unsafe shortcuts, which can lead to accidents," says Skjolaas.

Have and communicate a daily plan that everyone on the farm and family knows. Hopefully you never need to use any emergency plans, but clearly communicating where you will be and for how long can help keep you safe. "If someone isn't back by 9 p.m., do you know what field they are in, which route they are on?" asks Skjolaas. Do your family a favor and let them have peace of mind knowing where you will be so if you aren't back at the expected time, they can come check in on you.

Know where your kids are. Especially if your family is taking care of kids or grandkids while working in the farmyard or out in the field, always be aware of where they are at. Kids tend to do unexpected things and move in more unpredictable patterns, so set some ground-rules for safety while around farm equipment. Keep kids off farm equipment and moving parts. Make sure they know where their safe play zones are, don't assume they know where it is.

Prevent machinery entanglement. The leading cause of death and injury on a farm is machinery entanglement. Be sure shielding or guarding around moving parts is intact and in-place while the machine is operating. Again, keep kids away from moving parts of equipment.

If you are tired, take a break. If you are feeling fatigue, it is easier to take shortcuts or make mistakes that lead to injury and accidents. If your body is telling you that you are tired you really should give it the rest it needs. Caffeine and sugar are not healthy alternatives to keep you going.

Following these safety tips can help keep you, your family, and your employees safe this harvest season.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

August 8, 2019

Contact: Michael Ballweg, Extension Crops and Soils Agent; (920) 459-5904

Farmer to Farmer website links buyers to sellers

Sheboygan, Wis. – Wisconsin farmers in various parts of the state experienced severe alfalfa losses this past winter resulting in forage shortages in combination with already low inventories. Additionally, a cooler and wetter than normal 2019 spring season caused delayed plantings for many Wisconsin farmers. As a result there may be an interest in selling or buying agricultural commodities from areas with surplus feed inventories to areas of the state in need of forages according to Mike Ballweg, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Sheboygan County crops and soils agent.

The Farmer to Farmer Forage and Corn website - probably best thought of as an electronic neighborhood bulletin board - allows local farmers to get in touch with one another. The website facilitates the marketing of feed commodities where livestock producers in need of high moisture corn, corn silage, hay, or straw can easily contact sellers that have feed commodities for sale. For example, those late planted acres may serve the dairy and livestock industry well, utilizing late planted acres as silage or high moisture corn, while reducing costs for corn grain growers associated with drying, storage, transportation and marketing.

The Farmer to Farmer website facilitates making the connections. The site is developed and supported by UW-Madison Extension and can be found at: https://farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu/. The website is free of charge for both buyers and sellers. Users can search for, or list for sale, hay, haylage, straw, high moisture corn, corn silage or corn grain. Buyers can search for farmers in just one Wisconsin county or in any number of counties at once.

"This site has been an excellent way for buyers and sellers to get in-touch locally. Neighbors often within short distances have been able to buy and sell as a result of the website", says Ballweg. "All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers."

People who wish to use this service but do not have access to the Internet can get access and assistance at their county Extension office.

Looking to Try Something New on your farm? Why not Industrial Hemp?

Alana Voss — Agriculture Agent, Juneau and Sauk Counties

Looking to try the "new" hot crop to grow in Wisconsin this coming year? Industrial hemp has piqued the interest of many Wisconsin farmers in the last few years. If you are one of those individuals keep reading on to learn where there is some great information to help you determine if this is the right fit for your farm. UW-Madison division of Extension has been working closely with individuals in the industrial hemp business, Michaels Field Institute, and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to create resources and educational opportunities for people pursuing industrial hemp.

First items to take a look at is located on the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Industrial Hemp website (https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/IndustrialHemp.aspx). Here they discuss the licensing, registration and fees that are associated with growing this crop in the Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program. Within the website you will also find more information on the reporting & recordkeeping, inspection & testing, and seed & transplants. In addition, the frequently asked questions section that answer many of the questions individuals have asked over the last few years. Furthermore, be sure to check out the additional resources section for more information to look over. It's under this section that the super important details are, if you are looking for contact information for DATCP they are located there (email them at DATCPIndustrialhemp@wi.gov or call 844-449-8367 (toll-free)).

Truthfully, the next website I would suggest looking at is probably more of the information the farmers are interested in learning about for this crop. In comparison to the legalities that are depicted in the section above. This next website is created by UW-Madison Division of Extension titled Wisconsin Hemp (https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/hemp/). There are many tabs to lead you the information you may be looking for. Information on the CBD and THC testing to learn how others crops are testing from across the state. You can sign up or look to be a mentee/mentor for others looking to grow hemp. Or search for buyers or sellers from around the state. Moreover on the Extension website you can find a calendar of events going on across the state that you can attend from near and far. They have a webinars and video section on the website or go straight to the UW-Madison Division of Extension's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRajwFBcj7rIcXAD7ZXMnCg) on Industrial Hemp for more information on speaker panels, agronomics, and research trials.

Finally, if you are looking for an opportunity to see if your soil will work and what nutrients are needed for growing industrial hemp. Check out the UW-Soil and Forage Lab website (https://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/2019/04/22/soil-testing-for-industrial-hemp-production/) for the soil testing details and break down for growing industrial hemp. Also, be able to see what their recommendations are based off of on the UW – Integrated Pest and Crop Management web site (https://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2018/05/fertility-guidelines-for-hemp-in-wisconsin/).

Finally, if you have questions or concerns always feel free to contact your local Extension agent/educator for additional details and clarification. Keep your eyes out this fall for the application process to be available to individuals to apply to grow industrial hemp.

Winter Grains as Cover Crop

Ben Jenkins—Agriculture Agent, Green Lake County

As we now transition into fall it is important to remember that even though the growing season is winding down and crops are being harvested, the soil is still alive and still in need of nurturing. The best way to get a jump start on next year's crop is to think about how you are going to take care of your soil in the post-harvest season. This is important whether you are growing a 10 foot by 10 foot vegetable plot or thousands of acres. The first and foremost rule in soil health is KEEP THE SOIL COVERED. After the crop is harvested plant a cover crop. What is a cover crop? Just as the name implies it is a crop planted to cover the soil.

Cover crops can benefit next year's crops in ways that include building soil organic matter, nitrogen fixing, scavenging nutrients below the plow layer, suppressing weeds, and in some cases suppressing pressure from insect pests. By the time you read this article it will be too late to plant most cover crops, especially those in the nitrogen fixing category. However, it is not too late to plant a winter cereal grain. Wheat can be used for this purpose but rye is probably the most widely used for soil cover.

Depending on the weather Winter Cereal Rye can be planted from late August into early November. Rye seed will germinate at soil temperatures down to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. If the soil temperature drops after planting the rye and you don't see any plants on the surface don't despair, all the rye really has to do is germinate. You will still get some benefit out of that rye next spring when you work it into the soil or kill it with a treatment of herbicide. What benefits are there to planting rye specifically? Rye is a super versatile cover crop. In the days before herbicides rye was largely used for weed control; rye's ability to suppress broad leaf weeds is practically unmatched. Another major benefit to rye is its fibrous root system.

This dense layer of roots underground do two things. First, rye roots are great at scavenging nutrients (especially nitrogen) that have may have been left behind by the previous crop. Nutrients that may otherwise have leached down beyond the root zone and been lost to future crops. Second it creates pores through the compaction layer for better water filtration thereby reducing the risk of runoff and erosion. Third all those roots growing under the surface are creating biomass that when killed or worked into the soil in the spring will turn into humus. Humus is organic matter in a certain degree of decay. Humus is what aids the soil in getting oxygen to the root zone, holding onto nutrients until the plant needs them, and boosts the water holding capacity of the soil.

Rye can be planted in a variety of ways. A grain drill is the best method but broadcast seeding also works (in a small garden use hand broadcasting). In the past I have had favorable results broadcasting the seed with a dry fertilizer spreader then giving the field one light pass with a disk. Seeding rate can be varied from 1.5 bu/acre to 3 bu/acre or 90-180 lbs/acre.

For more on cover cropping I highly recommend going to the SARE.org website and downloading a free copy of *"Managing Cover Crops Profitably"* or you can call me at the Green Lake County Extension Office 920-294-4037.

Don't Fall Behind with your Soil

Evan Henthorne — Agriculture Agent, Adams County

Fall is quickly approaching with lots of things happening on farms in the CWAS area. Beef calves being weaned, tree leaves changing, and crops will be harvested. With all the busyness that is going on, we still need to keep our topsoil in mind. There is one thing we all want to avoid- soil erosion- a big topic that affects everyone. Erosion is when the soil in one area is moved to another area. Soil erosion is most commonly done by wind or water. Our topsoil is important for many different reasons. Suggestions on how to go about improving and protecting your topsoil include having crop residue, cover crops, applying organic matter, and doing soil testing. Have conversations with your Ag Educators and your agronomist about other possibilities to help your soil.

Farmer to Farmer

Hay, Forage & Corn List

The **Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn List** puts Wisconsin farmers in touch with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling forages and corn. The Farmer to Farmer list is free of charge to both buyers and sellers. Users can list or search for hay, alfalfa haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn, corn grain or other forages (i.e., oats, peas, or Sorghum). University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension assumes no responsibility in the transaction of buying or selling the items listed on this website. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

To submit a listing, please visit the website at: https://farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu/

Buyers and sellers can access the website at any time. **Listings remain active for 60 days.** People who wish to use this service, but do not have access to the internet, can get assistance at their county Extension office. For more information, please contact Tammy at Extension Sheboygan County at (920) 459-5904.

Website Links Hay, Forage and Corn Buyers and Sellers

- The Farmer to Farmer hay, forage and corn website is best thought of as an electronic neighborhood bulletin board which allows farmers to get in touch with one another.
- Neighbors, often within short distances, have been able to buy and sell locally as a result of the website.
- Buyers may post on-line their interest to purchase.
- Corn sellers may find buyers locally and save money in harvesting and drying costs if they sell their corn crop off the field as high moisture corn or corn silage.

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Farm Management with Low Prices

Ken Williams—Agriculture Agent, Waushara County

Good farm budget management is crucial when market prices drop. A few years ago the headlines spoke about how the farm economy was booming with high commodity prices. The reality is that the market goes up and the market goes down. We currently have depressed markets for basically all of agriculture.

A number of inquiries I receive have been regarding land rent. Producers scrambled for more land and paid significantly higher rates when commodity prices jumped following the drought in 2012. With current market prices it is a real challenge to see a positive balance for any grain crop being produced. Irrigated land nearly assures a crop yield but it comes with a higher cost of production.

The cyclical nature of farm profitability results in farmers who are more cautious when it comes to budgeting and money management. There was a major farm profitability issue in the early 1980's when markets were down and interest rates went up to nearly 20 percent. Prior to that, farmers were riding on high land market values but were in a serious cash flow shortfall. Many farmers who had stretched themselves out financially lost their farms. Today we have a number of younger farmers who have not experienced such a significant decline in farm profitability. Without this prior exposure to some really tough times it may be hard for these producers to bite the bullet and do some serious budget restructuring.

I have worked with a number of people who were looking at purchasing a farm. In a number of these situations they were unable to obtain sufficient financing because they had an insufficient amount of equity. A banker once told me that the purchase of a new car or truck is what gets many people into financial trouble. The monthly payments sound easy but when a job is lost or when the markets fall then there is a problem.

What to do when there are budget issues. The first thing is to talk with your banker, the earlier the better. Lowering high land rent is one thing that can help but it will probably not be enough to make the budgets balance. Corn producers can look at reducing their input costs by lowering the amount of nitrogen applied. Bulletin *A2809, Nutrient application guidelines for field, vegetable, and fruit crops in Wisconsin,* has a table which provides suggested rates of nitrogen to apply based on the maximum return to nitrogen (MRTN). http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Management/pdfs/A2809.pdf

It is very important to sit down early and look at what your expenses are and what your expected income will be. Again, the earlier the better! Are there monthly expenses that can be cut or reduced? Can current financing be restructured to a longer time period as a way to lower the monthly payment amounts?

I have worked with people and at times have suggested that an item could be eliminated as a way to reduce monthly payments. More than once the response I receive is that, "we can't get along without it". In tough times we need to sit down and really look at whether the item in question is a need or is it a want. The reality is that there are not that many "needs", the large share of our monthly bills are composed of "wants".

Harvest Season Considerations

Ken Schroeder—Agriculture Agent, Portage County

THINK SAFETY: Especially During Harvest and Manure Hauling Season. Develop a "safety first" attitude. Harvest season often brings with it longer working hours and a rush against time. Be sure to take time to think, it may save your life or someone dear to you. Every year, thousands of farm workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents. According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the nation.

What are My Risks from Manure Gases When Agitating Manure? – As we enter the fall manure hauling season be sure you are thinking safety and review potential hazards associated with handling stored manure. During manure storage, naturally occurring microorganisms in manure degrades organic material in the absence of oxygen (anaerobic conditions) producing gases including carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), ammonia (NH_3), and hydrogen sulfide (H_2S). Large quantities of these gases can be trapped in manure and released upon agitation of the manure prior to pump out. Depending on conditions, gas concentrations may reach levels hazardous to human and animal health. Extension publication A4131-06 "Reducing Risks from Manure Storage Agitation Gases" is **required reading** for anyone involved with pumping and hauling manure from all manure storage systems. It can be found at the Learning Store https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu. Additional publications are available on farm safety under the Agriculture drop down tab Agricultural Safety.

Prepare for Next Year's Crop – It may sound a bit premature to be planning for next year when you haven't finished harvesting this year's crop. However, as crops come off you have an opportunity to improve soil health, enhance nutrient cycling, and reduce soil erosion. How do I do this you ask? By adding cover crops to your cropping system.
Cover Crops:

- Scavenge residual nutrients
- Reduce runoff/leaching
- Protect soil from erosion
- Improve soil health

If you haven't used cover crops before, a quick read for the basics is a new Extension publication *A4176 Cover Crops 101*. It can be found at the Learning

Store. This publication covers everything from variety considerations, establishment methods, seeding rates, residual herbicide concerns, cover crops and manure, and more.

While you are at The Learning Store you may find these other crop-related publications of interest.

- *A4158 Managing Soil Compaction at Planting and Harvest.* Soil compaction reduces field productivity in many ways and can happen any time of the year, but the risk during rainy planting and harvest months is often greater. This publication highlights methods to minimize soil compaction, how to determine if and where it has occurred, and provides suggestions on how to fix it.
- *A 4121 Building Soil Organic Matter to Improve Your Crop Production System.* Adopting practices that increase soil organic matter build soil resilience, fortify the soil against degradation and erosion, and improve overall soil quality. This publication offers helpful graphics and includes the Top 10 Soil Health Scorecard based on a survey of Wisconsin farmers.
- *A4114-01 The Value of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi for Field Crops.* Many important field crops can benefit from an association with AMF (arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi), which increase plant growth and yield. AMF also helps increase plant resistance to disease. This handy fact sheet details soil management practices that impact AMF presence in soil including the use of cover crops.

Become a Better Manager with Short Forage Supplies

Matt Lippert—Agriculture Agent, Wood County

Even as milk prices have improved, margins remain tight. Cropping challenges in 2019 have resulted in lower forage inventories, lower quality forages and corn intended to be grain being made into silage. The need for purchased supplements of grain, protein and byproducts can easily soak up all the increase in milk income. Beginning in 2018 we saw decreased hay and forage production due to weather problems (both wet and dry), in the winter there was extensive alfalfa damage, delayed and no planting occurred in the late spring of 2019. The challenge is widespread.

Cover crops and annual forages largely have been utilized by this date; however there is still some opportunity to plant some winter cereals for forage production next spring.

The play book for this type of situation is well known but sometimes we forget the many options.

1. Consider byproducts- some carry high quality fiber that will reduce your need for grown forages.
2. Percent forage in diets can vary a lot. You can dial this down if you are short on forage and replace with byproducts. Balance for effective fiber and energy.
3. Forward price byproducts- a market that is short on commodities is jittery, and as a dairy producer you are nervous as well if you are buying more than normal. Reduce the risk and set prices well ahead of delivery.
4. Use tools to determine what feeds fit for your herd and which are the better buys. UW-Dairy Science has FeedVal v6.0 http://dairymgt.uwex.edu/tools/feedval_12_v2

5. Reduce shrink- for forages and commodities, pack and cover bunkers, correctly size feeding faces, protect commodity storage from wind and rain loss. Wrap bales or get dry hay under a roof.
6. Calculate and frequently review feed inventories. Slight reductions in a feed now can extend the life of the feed for months.
7. Manage inventories so that low energy feeds are targeted away from the milking herd. If you must feed poor forage dilute the effect by feeding with complementary forages. Combine energy and protein forages so they work together, avoid running out of one so that forage must carry the whole load. Protein, and amino acid balance, MUN and energy levels will balance better if prime alfalfa is balanced with corn silage or other feeds.
8. Small changes made now in cattle inventory will save a lot of feed. Consider replacement herd inventory, crowding in the milking herd, low end cows intended for culling and animals being grown for beef.

If you are not in the business of producing food, instead having companion animals or pets, the financial outlook of what you are willing to pay for hay will be very much different. In tight late winter and delayed spring markets, hay especially in convenient forms, may more than double in price. Don't allow yourself to be in that market. You can't afford to compete in a shortage-fueled hay market with beef or dairy cattle. On the flip side, there can be great rewards for storing hay and having it available for times of shortage. It seems likely that we will have strong hay prices this winter and next spring.

Low-Stress Weaning

Lyssa Seefeldt—Agriculture Agent, Marquette County

With the changing of seasons comes a change in farmer schedules. This fall many beef farmers will begin weaning calves off of the cows on pasture. This is a stressful time for both the cow and calf. "Traditional" weaning calls for an abrupt separation of the cow and calf. This results in the dreaded bawling of cattle for about a week or two. This is not pleasant for the cattle, your neighbors, or you if you live anywhere in the vicinity.

Weaning is the process of acclimating a mammal to eating food other than milk and removing dependency on the mother. In nature this process occurs gradually, over time. After hitting the peak of lactation, the milk supply from the mother will slowly decrease. At the same time the milk supply decrease is occurring, the social bond between mother and offspring is being reduced. By the time milk supply is decreasing, the offspring is starting to eat other foods. The mother will then start to reject nursing attempts more frequently until she refuses to allow any nursing.

In cattle, natural weaning occurs between seven and 14 months of age. This large window may be due to several factors, including nutrition or food availability for the animals. After nursing has ceased, calves may still stay in relatively close proximity to the mother for months afterward.

"Traditional" weaning is usually done between five and eight months in cattle. This tends to be stressful on the animal. Weaning in this manner is often accompanied by depressed appetite and increased vocalizations in the young.

While the "traditional" method above "gets the job done," there are better options to make weaning less stressful for cattle and humans alike. Weaning in the traditional route puts several stressors on the calves at once: being handled, separation from the mother, new environment, and new feed. All of these stressors converging at once can lead to a health disaster. Stress can often lead to depressed appetite and sickness.

Tips for a low-stress weaning

1 ***Work with your veterinarian on a sound herd health plan***. Having an effective herd health plan can reduce the chance of calves getting ill after weaning. This plan may include some strategic vaccinations prior to weaning. It might also include strategic mineral supplementation prior to weaning to help boost the immune system. Mineral supplementation may include copper or zinc as these are important minerals for immune function.

Weaning is a highly stressful time for calves. Often many elements of their lives are changing simultaneously which can impact the calf immune system. Minimizing the number of stressors to the calf at weaning can improve post-weaning health and weight gains.

Photo by Lyssa Seefeldt

2 ***Creep feed your calves prior to weaning***. If you expect your calves to eat feed after weaning, they need to have been exposed to it prior to weaning. If you intend to have calves eating hay at weaning, you need to offer hay ***before*** the calves get weaned. New feed should be introduced to calves at least two weeks prior to weaning. If you intend to wean calves to a pasture setting, this step is less effort as the calves are already familiar with the forage from the summer. You will however, still want to familiarize the calves with the pasture they will be in after weaning so they know where the water tank and any mineral feeder may be. You can do this by having the cows and calves in the pasture you intend to wean to for at least a day immediately prior to weaning.

3 ***Beef up your fence line***. If you aren't weaning to a feedlot, odds are that you need to do some maintenance on the fence line that will separate the cows from the calves. This fence line needs to be sturdy enough to withstand some testing. Your cows and calves should be familiar with the fence so there isn't additional stress on learning about a new fence.

4 ***Handle prior to weaning***. This is a big step that is often overlooked in the weaning process. If calves haven't been handled much prior to weaning, just the act of handling to get the calves separated from the cow can be a major stressor. Calves should be able to walk calmly past a handler. They should be able to do this as part of a loosely bunched group,

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like they will be at weaning. Yes, this will take some additional time, but if it keeps animals from getting sick, this step should be part of your weaning preparations.

Better Options

Low-stress weaning can be achieved in one of two ways: fence line weaning or a two-step method with anti-nursing tags. Both methods reduce the social and environmental stress on the calves. Scent, audible, and visual contact with the mothers are maintained with either of these methods.

Fence line weaning

Fence line weaning is where cows and calves are separated into two different adjoining pastures. A sturdy fence is required for this method. The pastures selected for this process should have adequate length to the so that the calves and cows can spread out along the fence line. After four to seven days, the cows can be moved to a new pasture away from the calves.

Anti-nurse tags are usually made of plastic and available from your local farm goods store. These tags prevent calves from nursing but allow for normal feed and water consumption.

Photo from the Beef Cattle Research Council of Canada, with information available online at www.beefresearch.ca. Photo used with permission.

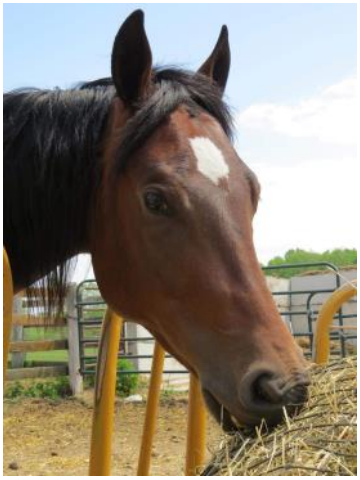
Anti-nurse tags

The two-step method utilizes anti-nursing tags that are an inflexible flap of material, usually plastic, that is inserted in the nose of the calf. These tags allow the calf to graze or consume feed normally and allows them to drink water without any issue. Calves still have the physical contact with their mothers. The tag only prevents suckling on the cow. An anti-nursing tag is usually installed three to seven days prior to the weaning date. The second step of the two-step method is the removal of the calf from the mother.

Any change in routine can cause stress. Using this method allows calves to experience *limited* stress at any given point in time, rather than all at once. The tag allows the calf social structures to be preserved while the nutritional stress of no longer getting milk is present. Once the calves are adapted to the no milk situation, removal from the mother can occur. After three to seven days, the herd is sorted with calves to one place, cows to another. At this time the anti-nursing tags are removed.

Burn Less Hay and $$$$

Evan Henthorne — Agriculture Agent, Adams County



When I went to college I transitioned to feeding my horses round bales to help my parents with the workload of having to feed them every day. I intended that one bale was going to last me an entire week so when I came home on weekends I was able to refill the feeder. That was not the case at all. A larger round bale of hay was lasting maybe 4 days for two horses and a pony. Now keep in mind my three equines are all different sizes and ages which affects the consumption rate. The fact that they were different in size and age, but also the fact that they wasted a large portion and were able to eat continuously with minimal barriers stopping them. My one tip for equine owners that may help save and stretch the amount of hay they have, is to invest in a slow feed feeder. Slow feed nets or feeders help slow down your horse's hay consumption and help reduce hay waste. Once I started using a bale net, I noticed I had minimal to little waste, and the hay was lasting me anywhere from 7 to 10 days, weather and temperature-dependent. Horses and other members of the equine family are continuous grazing meaning they spend most of their day eating. Most slow feed nets have different hole sizes to accommodate the horse's body condition needs. Slow feed nets are available in both big bales sizes along with small squares.

FYI.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU/**FARMSTRESS**

Feeling stressed?

You're not alone. Extension connects farmers, families, businesses and communities with the support they need to remain resilient during challenging times in agriculture.

Understanding chronic stress — and finding the throttles that control the flow of hormones and chemicals that fuel it — is essential for the mental and physical well-being of our loved ones working in agriculture. Extension helps farm families mitigate the negative impacts by recognizing and working to positively address the causes of stress.

Find tips, resources, programs and tools for managing stress and start the conversation today.

FYI.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU/**FARMSTRESS**

Connect with information addressing issues such as:

- *Financial Troubleshooting*
- *Stress Management*
- *Things to Consider for Succession Planning*
- *Working with Your Lender*
- *Decision-Making during Challenging Times*
- *Transitioning Careers*

If any person expresses the signs and symptoms of extreme stress and talks about harming themselves or ending their life, it is important to provide help and support. The most important resource for support anywhere in the U.S. is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, accessible for English-speaking people at 800-273-8255 or in Spanish at 888-628-9454. See suicidepreventionlifeline.org for more information.

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Our Mission

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