Columbia County Ag Reporter



May/June 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

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Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

May	1 10 20 28	Corn Grain maximum yield planting date Corn planted after this date loses 1 bu/acre per day Complete planting soybeans by this date for best yields Memorial Day (offices closed)
June	1-30 6 16	June Dairy Month Corn Growers Gather in the Field, Arlington ARS, 9am—10:30 am, Weed mgt. Moo-Day Brunch, Leeds Dairy LLC, W6435 Hwy K, Arlington 9am—1pm
July	4 9 11 10-12 23-29	Independence Day (offices closed) Wheat Meeting at Arlington ARS, 10 am—2 pm Corn Growers Gather in the Field, site TBD, 9am—10:30 am Farm Tech Days, Marshfield, WI Columbia County Fair, Portage Fairgrounds

The Columbia County *Ag Calendar and Deadlines*' webpage is located at http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/.

Columbia County Corn Growers Summer Meetings

The Columbia County Corn Growers are hosting several summer "in field" meetings. These morning gatherings will be patterned much like some of the grazing pasture walks. They will be informal gatherings at field locations. UW-Extension specialists will be invited and provide a short in-field program, followed by questions and discussion. These gatherings will begin at 9:00 am and end by 10:30. Please call Jennifer at 608-742-9687 to register for these events.

Put the following dates on your calendar and then watch for more details on locations:

June 6	"Weed Escapes and what to do", Rodrigo Werle, UW-Extension Weed Specialist—Meet at the Arlington ARS Public Events Bldg.
July 11	"Insects – Western Bean cutworm, soybean aphids, rootworm beetle counts", Bryan Jensen, UW-Extension entomologist, location TBD
Aug 8	"Corn leaf diseases", presenter and location TBD
Sept 5	"Getting ready for harvest and grain storage", presenter and location TBD

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Wisconsin's Industrial **Hemp Pilot Research** Program: FAQ's

As we get many calls about information about growing Industrial Hemp at Extension offices, we are challenged with providing good



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decision making information. We will all be learning together on this topic as rules and laws change and as research data is collected and analyzed. Stay tuned to the WI Department of Agriculture for details and rules that they have set and are required to manage. Know that this is a Research Pilot Program in Wisconsin this year. It means that growers and processors will be part of a research project and will have requirements, including recordkeeping and reporting. The deadline for research proposals to the Department of Agriculture was May 1st for this year's crop, but you have time to plan for next year. Do your

An important question each grower

homework now, before you invest.

invest too much is: Where can I market this product to make money on this venture? Are you interested in growing the crop for the seeds to

be made into oil and/or meal? Are you interested in growing this crop for fiber? Again, where is the market for your crop? Once this question is answered then you are ready to tackle the questions on seed sourcing, growing, fertilization, pest control, harvesting and transportation. Remember, the Wisconsin law currently only allows for Industrial Hemp Research Projects.

Here is a link to a Department of Agriculture for some Frequently Asked Questions on Industrial Hemp. https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ IHFAQ.pdf

Here is a preview of that seven page document:

"What is industrial hemp? Industrial hemp is the plant with the Latin speneeds to ask themselves before they cies name Cannabis sativa L., with a

delta-9-THC concentration of 0.3 percent or less in all parts of the plant when it has been dried. This is how both the federal farm bill that authorized states to create pilot research program and 2017 Wisconsin Act 100 define industrial hemp. How do I apply to grow hemp? You must:

- · Apply for a one-time license using the forms provided by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (department or DATCP)
- Pay a one-time license application fee (\$150 for 0-30 acres, \$5/acre for 31-199 acres, or \$1000 for 200 acres or more)
- Undergo a background check
- Provide field or greenhouse locations and GPS coordinates

You will be able apply beginning March 2.

You also must register with the department every year that you plan to grow hemp, including the first year that you receive your license. When you register each year, you must

also submit:

- An annual registration fee of \$350
- GPS coordinates and maps of vour fields
- A research plan
- A signed research agreement

Make sure you understand the legal parameters of program participation. Pilot participants are responsible for knowing and abiding by all applicable federal and state laws."

Again, follow this link for answers to many other questions the Department of Agriculture has already received. https://datcp.wi.gov/ Documents/IHFAQ.pdf We'll do our best to provide research based answers to growers questions as we collect data on this new (old) crop. This is the link to the Wisconsin Department of Ag's Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program Home Page https:// datcp.wi.gov/Pages/ Programs Services/ IndustrialHemp.aspx



Columbia County

Date: Saturday, June 16th

Hosted by: Leeds Dairy LLC, Jeff & Lisa Emmer, W6435 Hwy K, Arlington

Dairy Margin Protection Program

It makes sense this time around. Dairy Producers should give strong consideration to participating in this program for 2018. This time around you can be certain to make money by participating. It is retroactive to January 2018, and we know for certain that you can recover your premium costs for the entire year and a profit up to the 1st 5,000,000 lbs. of milk. You will need to sign up prior to June 1, 2018 at your local County FSA Office. To use the decision making tool, go to https://diarymarkets.org/ If you have other questions or need help contact George Koepp at the Columbia County Extension Office or contact your local FSA office.

Recommendations for 2018:

- Sign up at FSA before June 1
- Sign up for the \$8.00 coverage level
- Adjust your coverage % to get as close to 5 million lbs. as you can

2018 WI Cropping Systems Weed Science Survey – Where are we at?

The objective of our survey was to evaluate the main weed species and management strategies adopted in Wisconsin cropping systems, particularly in corn and soybeans. The survey was conducted this winter during the 2018 Wisconsin Agronomy Update Meetings, held across the state. A total of 286 respondents, representing 54 counties, completed the survey. Here is a summary of the main survey results with the hope these may help stakeholders with management decisions.

Waterhemp, giant ragweed, common lambsquarters, and common ragweed, respectively, are considered the most troublesome weed species in Wisconsin cropping systems according to survey respondents.

Waterhemp, giant ragweed, and horseweed (aka marestail) are the main weed species that have acquired resistance to glyphosate in Wisconsin according to survey respondents.

The adoption of auxin-tolerant crops in Wisconsin will likely not be as high as in central and southern states.

The **WiscWeeds** program will be investigating the several topics addressed in this survey: i) distribution and management of herbicide-resistant weeds, ii) the fit of auxin-tolerant crops in Wisconsin, and iii) cover crop management strategies. To stay tuned about our research updates and field days this summer, follow us on Twitter @WiscWeeds.

For the entire documents with charts and graphs follow this link, http://www.wiscweeds.info/post/2018-wisconsin-cropping-systems-weed-science-survey/

Alfalfa Stand Assessment: Is this stand good enough to keep?



After experiencing a rather tough winter for our alfalfa and winter wheat fields due to a lack of snow, very cold temps, ice coverings, deep frost, cold slow spring, you will need to evaluate your alfalfa stands to determine to keep or not to keep! Here are some ideas to help you make a good informed decision. Many times we make this decision in the fall or based on our crop rotation plans. However we know that spring evaluations are still necessary, but only to assess the extent of the winter damage.

Wisconsin research has shown that stem count is a much more accurate method of estimating the yield potential of an alfalfa field than plant count. Plant density is a poor estimator of yield potential because an individual plant may have few shoots and contribute little to yield.

Therefore, we recommend using a two-step process to evaluate stands:

- 1. Use stem count to estimate current yield potential of the field.
- 2. Assess root and crown health to determine future yield potential.

Estimating Yield Potential From Stem Count

The relationship between stem density and yield potential is constant, regardless of stand age, making this a reliable method for estimating yield potential. To use this method, select three or four representative areas of the field, marking off a 2-square-foot section in each area. You may find it useful to build a square measuring 17 inches x 17 inches using 1/2-inch PVC tubing or weld a cable into a ring that is 19 inches in diameter. Count only those stems that are tall enough to be harvested by the mower (over 2 inches tall). Remember to divide your count by 2 to get stems/square foot. Calculate the average stem count for the field and use the graph to estimate yield potential.

With practice, stem density can be visually estimated very accurately. Visual estimation works best when stands are 6 to 10 inches tall. Stem density estimates yield potential not actual yield. Actual yield will be less than the yield potential to the extent that management is not optimum, fertility is low, water is limiting, and disease or insect pressures exist.

For more details follow this link or contact your local County Extension office for a printed copy. https://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/alfalfa-stand-assessment-is-this-stand-good-enough-to-keep/

Lighting and Marking Requirements for Implements of Husbandry

Lighting and marking of implements of husbandry (IoH) are valuable safety features when operating on public roads. New regulations will took effect November 1, 2015.

Many pieces of farm machinery have already been manufactured with the lighting and marking requirements that are now reflected in Wisconsin law.

SMV Emblem Requirement



A slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem is a required marking on any type of IoH, including animal drawn,

that usually travels at speeds less than 25 mph. It is to be displayed at all times on the most visible rear area of the vehicle or combination of vehicles. If a SMV emblem on a power unit is visible from rear and in compliance, then the towed units are not required to have an SMV emblem. It is allowable for two or three vehicle combinations to have more than one SMV emblem.

Wide IoH and Marking Requirements

Any IoH exceeding 15 feet in total width or that extends over the center of the roadway into a lane intended for the opposite direction of travel. Width is determined by the widest measurement of the equip-

ment in a highway transport configuration.

A town road may have a roadway of 18 feet. This means at 9 feet an IoH vehicle or vehicle combination meets the definition of a wide IoH. Standard lane width for a county or state roadway with a marked center -line is 11 feet. It is important to know your route and roadway factors that may require additional considerations for wide IoH.

In addition to the current requirements for lighting and marking, the following requirements apply at all times when wide IoH vehicle or vehicle combination is operated or parked on a highway:

<u>Self-propelled IoH including farm</u> <u>tractors in excess of 12 feet</u>

Must be equipped with a 360-degree yellow or amber rotating strobe or beacon light, mounted at the highest practicable point or 2 flashing amber lights visible to the front and rear and Note: Any attachment to a self-

propelled IoH or farm tractor is included in the vehicle's width.

Wide IoH must have:

☐ At least 2 amber flashing warning lamps, visible from both the front and rear. Must be mounted, as nearly as practicable, to indicate the extreme width but not more than 16 inches from the lateral extremities.

Red retroreflective material, visible to the rear and mounted within

25 inches of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH, spaced as evenly as practicable.

☐ At least 2 strips of yellow retroreflective material visible to the front. On left and right sides of IoH, the outer edge of this material shall be mounted within 16 inches of the extreme left and extreme right of the IoH.

At least 2 red tail lamps mounted to the rear of the IoH, or as close to the rear as practicable. These lamps are not required to be wired to light when headlamps or other lamps are activated. This provides for the use of battery powered tail lamps.

A slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem.

loH wider than 22 feet, must have all wide IoH lighting and marking. In addition, when traveling greater than 0.5 miles, an escort vehicle with hazard lights activated, is required. On a highway with:

one lane of travel in each direction, the escort vehicle shall operate ahead of the wide IoH.

more than one lane for travel in each direction or on a 3-lane highway, escort vehicle shall operate behind wide IoH.

Wide IoH Lighting and Marking Exemption

At times other than hours of darkness, a wide IoH may be operated on highway without additional lighting and mark-

ing requirements if all of the following apply:

is accompanied by an escort vehicle same as for IoH wider than 22 feet.

has 2 orange or red flags, not less than 12 inches square, attached to the rear of the wide IoH, or as close to the rear as practicable to mark extreme left and extreme right of IoH.

Rules of the Road

Changes to the law provided clarity in regards to wide IoH. Wide IoH with required lighting and marking requirements may:

- Extend over the center of road into the lane intended for travel in opposite direction.
- Extend into passing lane on a 3-lane highway.
- Extend into another lane intended for travel in the same direction, if it does not impede other vehicles from the rear.

However, operators:

Must yield the right-of -way to an oncoming vehicle and yield half the roadway.

- May not drive on the left side of the roadway on a grade or curve or area designated as no passing zone if it creates a hazard to oncoming traffic.
- May not drive so slowly as to impede the normal movement of traffic.
- Must, if practicable, yield the roadway to an overtaking vehicle.



Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

By Kurt Calkins, Director of Columbia County Land & Water Conservation

2018 Tree Sales Program—Success Continues

On April 19, 2018, the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department successfully completed our 37th Annual Tree and Shrub sales program. This program began in 1981 and has continued to be a great tool to help promote tree planting throughout our area. This year our sales were almost 42,000 trees and shrubs; and our sales for tree supplies (tubes, stakes) was increased as well. We sold out of all extra trees we have available on pickup day. We have very limited supplies leftover as well, although these are available year-round (tubes, stakes, mats, spray). We appreciate the support of the 400 plus individuals who purchased trees this year. If you have not purchased from us in the past, this is a great program with great prices, please contact us immediately to provide your information to be on our mailing list when the information for 2018-2019 sale mails out in November, 2018. People who have ordered in the last 4 years will automatically be on our mailing list. Thanks again to all of you and a special thanks to Kelly Maginnis, our Administrative Secretary here at the LWCD. She works hard to put all the pieces together each year to make this program work almost effortlessly. If anyone has some thoughts on how we can make the program even better, please let us know.

2018 Farmland Preservation Update

Over the several years the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has implemented a series of changes for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).

Our process continues through 2018 as such for FPP participants to maintain their eligibility:

- Annually submit a FPP Self Certification Postcard (June)
- ♦ Annually submit a 590 NMP Checklist and SNAP-Plus Plan
- Receive an onsite NR 151 compliance status review once every 4 years (Year determined by LWCD)

(continued....)

The self-certification postcards will be mailed to the Farmland Preservation Members the week of June 5.

Participants will have the option to complete the postcard through an online log-in process or return the postcard to the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department. All postcards must be postmarked before July 15, 2018, or they will be charged a \$10.00 late fee.

FPP Participants who do Not maintain their eligibility by submitting the annual self-certification postcard, annually providing a 590 Nutrient Management Checklist and maintaining NR 151 Compliance can have their Certificate of Compliance ID # voided with the Department of Revenue, thus removing their ability to claim the Farmland preservation Tax Credit for the applicable tax season.

NR 151 conservation compliance reviews will begin for a fourth of the FPP participants in 2018. For questions, please contact the LWCD office at 608-742-9670.

Reminder Nutrient Management Plan (590 NMP) Checklist Submissions

A reminder that every spring, your updated Nutrient Management Plan AND Checklist documenting completion and updates to your 2018 growing season plan should be submitted to the Land & Water Conservation Department annually. We require landowners to work with their agronomist to get that information to us by April 15 of each year. The submission of these documents are important to maintain eligibility for several cross-compliance conservation programs. Overall, we continue to do an excellent job of increasing compliant acres covered by plans. This is great news for our agricultural producers and important to document increased commitment towards strong agricultural agronomic planning. Also, please contact us by December of each year if you wish to be on the mailing list for our annual Nutrient Management Plan trainings. There is a stipend paid for this training and lunch provided. Whether you are a new participant or looking to construct a plan using the SNAP-Plus system or need to review your plan, we have openings available yet. If you have question about your status, feel free to contact our office.



From: Susan Hunter County Executive Director Columbia County FSA Office

Dates to Remember

May 31, 2018 - Final day to obtain a Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) on 2017 corn & soybean crops

June 1, 2018—Deadline to enroll or re-enroll in the 2018 Dairy Margin Protection Program

June 1, 2018 – Call to make your appointment to enroll in the 2018 ARC-PLC Program by this date

July 15, 2018 – Deadline to make your 2018 crop acreage report for spring-seeded crops

USDA Reopens Enrollment for Improved Dairy Safety Net Tool

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages dairy producers to consider enrolling in the new and improved <u>Dairy Margin Protection Program</u> (MPP-Dairy), which will provide better protections for dairy producers from shifting milk and feed prices. With changes authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, FSA has set the enrollment period to run **from April 9, 2018 to June 1, 2018**.

About the Program:

The program protects dairy producers by paying them when the difference between the national all-milk price and the national average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount elected by the producer. Changes include:

- Calculations of the margin period is monthly rather than bi-monthly.
- Covered production is increased to 5 million pounds on the Tier 1 premium schedule, and premium rates for Tier 1 are substantially lowered.

An exemption from paying an administrative fee for limited resource, beginning, veteran, and disadvantaged producers. Dairy operators enrolled in the previous 2018 enrollment period that qualify for this exemption under the new provisions may request a refund.

Dairy operations must make a new coverage election for 2018, even if you enrolled during the previous 2018 signup period. Coverage elections made for 2018 will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. All dairy operations desiring coverage must sign up during the enrollment period and submit an appropriate form (CCC-782). Dairy operations may still "opt out" by not submitting a form. All outstanding balances for 2017 and prior years must be paid in full before 2018 coverage is approved.

Dairy producers can participate in FSA's MPP-Dairy or the Risk Management Agency's Livestock Gross Margin Insurance Plan for Dairy Cattle (LGM-Dairy), but not both. During the 2018 enrollment period, only producers with an active LGM-Dairy policy who have targeted marketings insured in 2018 months will be allowed to enroll in MPP-Dairy by June 1, 2018; however, their coverage will start only after active target marketings conclude under LGM-Dairy.

USDA has a web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the MPP-Dairy that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, which will be updated and available by April 9 at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, smartphone, tablet or any other platform.

For more information or to set up an appointment before June 1, contact the Columbia County FSA Office at 608-742-5361, ext. 2. More details are also available at www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy.

Make Your Appointment Now to Enroll in the 2018 ARC-PLC Program

The Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is encouraging producers to <u>call NOW</u> to make an appointment to enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage-Price Loss Coverage (ARC-PLC) program for 2018. The ARC-PLC program provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years. Late enrollment into this program is not accepted. <u>Please call the Columbia County FSA office (608) 742-5361, ext. 2, to schedule your appointment before June 1.</u>

How to Report and Document Losses Regarding Animal Deaths, Feed Losses, Honeybee Losses

Producers who suffered livestock death losses or feed losses due to recent storms may be eligible for disaster assistance programs through FSA.

The <u>Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)</u> offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Notify the local FSA office within 30 days of notice of loss.

The <u>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)</u> provides emergency relief for losses of harvested feed or honeybee losses due to adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. Notify the local FSA office within 30 days of notice of loss.

To participate in LIP, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and **must submit a notice of loss to FSA within 30 calendar days** of when the loss of livestock is apparent. To participate in ELAP, producers **must submit a notice of loss to FSA within 30 calen-**

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dar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock losses due to the eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses:
- Rendering truck receipts by kind, type and weight important to document prior to disposal;
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Amounts and types of harvested feed that have been lost
- Costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, such as receipts for equip ment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal;
- Feed purchase receipts if feed supplies were destroyed.

For more information on these programs and documentation requirements, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster or contact the Columbia County FSA at 608-742-5361, ext. 2.

FSA Offers Disaster Assistance for Qualifying Tree, Bush, and Vine Losses

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from the recent blizzard must submit a Tree Assistance Program (TAP) application within 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent to be eligible for assistance. TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible. To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 18 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

For more information on the TAP program, please contact the Columbia County FSA at 08-742-5361, ext. 2.



Portage Service Center 2912 Red Fox Run Portage, WI 53901 (608) 742-5361, ext.3

Sign Up NOW for the EQIP Soil Health Initiative in WI

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wisconsin is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Soil Health Initiative to maximize soil health benefits on farming operations. Applications are due to local USDA Service Centers by May 18, 2018.

Soil is a living and life giving natural resource. By farming using soil health principles and systems that include no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, more and more farmers are actually increasing their soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity. As a result, farmers are sequestering more carbon, increasing water infiltration, improving wildlife and pollinator habitat—all while harvesting better profits and often better yields.

This initiative, administered through the EQIP, provides a systems approach for conservation that is essential for a healthy soil environment. Producers can build their soil's health through signing up for the initiative to implement the following practices:

- (1) crop rotations,
- (2) cover crops,
- (3) residue management no-till/strip till,
- (4) nutrient management, and/or
- (5) integrated pest management.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local USDA Service Center to learn more about the technical and financial assistance NRCS provides, to start developing their own conservation plan and to apply for the initiative.



Helping People Help the Land USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LENDER AND APPLY NOW FOR FINANCING

It is important for producers to maintain good lines of communication between themselves and their lender. Keeping your lender updated on any changes in your operation and having a good under-

standing of where your operation is financially will assist your lender in helping you prepare for the year ahead.

The FSA Farm Loan team that serves Columbia County producers is working on operating

loans for spring 2018 expenses. It is important that potential borrowers submit starting the loan application process. their requests as soon as possible so they

can be timely processed. FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of an agricultural operation. FSA's traditional farm operating and farm ownership loans can help

> large and small operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well as pay expenses throughout the year. The Farm Loan staff can help determine which loan programs are best for you. Call (920) 923-3033, ext. 2 for

more information or for assistance in



DIRECTORY

UW-Extension Columbia County Agricult	ure Staff
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George Koepp, Agriculture Agent.....(608) 742-9682

george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu

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Office: (608) 742-9680; Fax: (608) 742-9862; http://columbia.uwex.edu/agriculture/

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If you have a change of email, address or would like to be removed, please call the UW-Extension office at (608) 742-9687 or email your request to: jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu

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