

Columbia County Ag Reporter



July/August 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

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Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

July	4	Independence Day (County Offices Closed)
	9	Wheat Meeting at Arlington ARS, 10 am—2 pm
	11	Corn Growers Gather in the Field, 9am—10:30 am
	10-12	Farm Tech Days, Marshfield, WI
	12-15	Lodi Ag Fair
	17	Weed Science Plot Tour—Arlington ARS, 9am
	24-29	Columbia County Fair, Portage Fairgrounds
August	2-12	Wisconsin State Fair
	15	Corn Growers Gather in the Field, 9am-10:30am
	29	Agronomy /Soils Field Day, Arlington ARS

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 or email: Jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu to register for these events.

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

- July 11** “Scouting Fields for Insects”, Bryan Jensen, UW-Extension Integrated Pest Management Specialist, Ben Grove’s Farm, 2441 Bristol Rd, Columbus
- Aug 15** “Corn leaf diseases”, presenter and location TBD
- Sept 5** “Getting ready for harvest and grain storage”, presenter and location TBD

Sun Protection Awareness Season

According to CDC, nearly 5 million people are treated for skin cancer each year in the United States. Some people are at higher risk of skin cancer than others, such as farmers, but anyone can get it. UW-Extension would like to increase the awareness of skin cancer and to call for actions to reduce its risk in this heated summer.

The most preventable cause of skin cancer is overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) light, either from the sun or from artificial sources like tanning beds. UV rays can damage our skin in as little as 15 minutes. Here are some recommendations to help protect farmers and others from harmful UV rays during our summer outdoor work and play activities.

- Take frequent breaks, remember REST -WATER- SHADE.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and protective clothing.
- Use broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.

Potato Research Field Day

When: Thursday, July 19th
Time: 8:45am – 2pm
Where: UW-Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI 54943

8:45am Introductions and Storage Research Updates
9:15am Field Research Wagon Tours
12:00pm Lunch (courtesy of WPVGA Associate Division)

**Storage Research Facility Tours: 9:30am, 11am and 1:30pm

Making Winter Wheat Profitable

Learn management strategies, such as variety selection, managing stands, and marketing your crop, so you can put wheat back into your rotation and make money! Also learn how wheat can increase profitability of your other crops and improve soil health.

July 9th—10am—2pm

Arlington Research Station—Public Events Building

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch and refreshments)

Register online: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyaaq/events/wheat>

phone: 608-224-3704

email: nunz.barabara@countyofdane.com

Topics & Presenters:

- “Choosing Successful Winter Wheat Varieties, Staging Wheat and Fertility Management”
Shawn Conley, UW Soybean and Small Grain Specialist
- “Winter Wheat Diseases and Fungicide Selection and Timing”
Damon Smith, UW Field Crops Plant Pathologist
- “Using Winter Wheat and Cover Crops in Your rotation to Improve Your Soil” -
Jamie Patton, Outreach Specialist for the Nutrient and Pest Management Program
- “Marketing Winter Wheat to Maximize Profits”
Brenda Oft, Commodity Broker and Farm Market Consultant for Midwest Market Management
- “Introducing Winter Wheat Into a Rotation to Increase Rotational Profitability”
*Heidi Johnson, Dane County UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent and
Jeff Gaska, Dodge County Farmer*

Lodi Agricultural FAIR

Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 12th:	6:30-7pm Market Lamb Weigh-In 7pm Beef & Swine Market Weigh-In
Friday, July 13th:	8am Mandatory (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits) Exhibitor's Meeting 10am Swine Show 3pm Beef Show 4:40pm Pork Chop Dinner
Saturday, July 14th:	8am Sheep Show 8am Dairy Show 9am Poultry Show 2pm Exhibitor Meat Animal Auction
Sunday, July 15th:	10am Master Showman Competition



Schedule of Events

Sunday, July 22nd:	8am Horse Pleasure Show/Trail Class
Tuesday, July 24th:	6-8pm Junior Swine entry & Weigh-In
Wed., July 25th:	noon-7pm Animal Entry 5pm Swine Judging—Swine barn
Thur., July 26th:	9am Beef Judging—Ag Building 4pm Sheep Judging/Sheep Lead Class
Friday, July 27th:	8:30am Dairy Judging—Ag Building 9am Poultry Judging—Ag Building 10am Meat Goat Judging
Saturday, July 28th:	11am-12:30pm Buyers Buffet 1pm Sale of Champions—Ag Building 4pm Steak Fry @ Farm Bureau Eat Stand
Sunday, July 29th:	10am Showman of Showmen—Ag Building 12pm Parade of Champions & Merit Awards

Weed Science Plot Tour

The Wisconsin Cropping Systems Weed Science Program (WiscWeeds) would like to invite corn and soybean farmers, agronomists, industry representatives and Ag educators to attend the 2018 “Weed Science Plot Tour” on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at Arlington Ag Research Station (Public Events Building, N695 Hopkins Rd, Arlington, WI). See flyer attached.

We will showcase studies comparing:

- Herbicide Programs in Corn
- Weed Management in Enlist Corn
- Impact of Carrier Rate on Efficacy of PRE-Emergence Corn and Soybean Herbicides
- Comparison of PRE-Emergence Herbicides for Weed Control in Soybeans
- Systems Approach for Weed Control in Balance Beans, Enlist, Liberty Link, and Xtend soybeans

Registration starts at 8:30 AM with coffee and donuts. Plot tour starts at 9:00 AM and concludes by 11:45 AM.

Please RSVP by July 13, 2018 with Mindy Breunig or Kelly Tomko-Ewing via phone (608-846-3761) or email (mindy.breunig@wisc.edu; ktomko@wisc.edu)

For questions related to the tour, contact Rodrigo Werle, UW-Madison Extension Cropping Systems Weed Scientist via phone: 608-262-7130 or email: rwerle@wisc.edu

Agronomy/Soils Field Day

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

UW-Arlington Ag Research Station, on Hopkins Road

Tours are at 8:30, 10:30, and 1:00—choose from:

- Soil Fertility and Management
- Grain Production Systems
- Pest Management
- Interseeding in Grain and Forage Systems
- Equipment Rodeo

\$5 Lunch provided by Badger Crops Club

Lunch time speaker, Dan Veroff “WI Population & Demographic Megatrends: Implications for Agriculture and Farming.”

Certified Crop Advisor CEU Credits are available.

RSVP at <https://go.wisc.edu/uwtu24>

Dairy Situation and Outlook

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

USDA estimates May milk production 0.9% higher than a year ago. This is a little stronger growth than April which was up just 0.5%. Milk cow numbers were 2,000 higher than April, but just 3,000 higher than a year ago. The increase in milk per cow remains well below trend at just 0.7%. Nine of the 23 reporting states had lower milk production than a year ago and two had no change. Ten had fewer cows than a year ago and ten had lower milk per cow. Two states with the most added cows were Colorado with 16,000 and Texas with 12,000. California had the largest decline in cows with 18,000. States with the largest increase in milk production were Colorado at 11.6%, Kansas at 9.7%, Texas at 6.6% and Utah at 5.2%.

Milk production in some of other states was up 0.9% in Arizona, 0.5% in California, 0.6% in Idaho, 1.1% in Iowa, 4.0% in South Dakota, 2.3% in Washington and 1.1% in Wisconsin. But, milk production was down 0.3% in Michigan, 1.2% in New York, 1.8% in Ohio and Oregon, 2.1% in Pennsylvania and unchanged in both Minnesota and New Mexico.

Positive factors for milk prices were relatively strong domestic sales both at food service and retail, increased dairy exports and improved stock levels. But, the market appears to be negatively reacting to U.S. decision to place tariffs

on Mexico steel and aluminum and tariffs on a number of China goods and products. In retaliation Mexico announced that they will place a tariff on U.S. cheese and China announced tariffs on some dairy products, corn, soybeans and other products. Mexico is the largest export market for U.S. cheese. In 2017, Mexico accounted for 28.3% of U.S. cheese exports. While these tariffs don't take effect until July and the degree of impact on U.S. dairy exports is unknown at this time dairy product prices have already fallen.

Despite the retaliations by Mexico and China USDA still forecasts dairy exports above year ago levels. Class III was \$15.18 in May and may now improve to around just \$15.30 for June. Class IV price was \$14.57 in May and may be around \$15 for June. From here out prices are uncertain. The price outlook is not as optimistic as a month ago. But, the markets could very well have over-reacted and we could see a good correction. And if the growth in milk production can remain no higher than about 1%, Class III during the second half of the year could still reach the mid to high \$16's and the Class IV in the mid to high \$15's.



2017 WI Ag Statistics

Dairy and Livestock:

In 2016, Wisconsin produced 30.1 billion pounds of milk, a 4 percent increase over the previous year. The number of milk cows declined slightly, averaging 1.28 million head. Milk per cow rose from 22,697 pounds in 2015 to 23,552 in 2016. Milk prices began the year at \$16.10 per hundredweight (cwt.) in January, before declining gradually to \$14.80 in May. Prices then rose again, ending the year at \$19.70 per cwt in December.

Wisconsin maintained its status as the nation's largest cheese producer in 2016, with 27 percent of the nation's production. From 2015 to 2016, the state's total cheese production rose 6 percent to 3.24 billion pounds. Italian cheese production was up 7 percent to 1.64 billion pounds, comprising 51 percent of Wisconsin's total production. Production of American cheeses rose 5 percent to 955 million pounds. Specialty cheese production grew from 722 million pounds in 2015 to 774 million pounds in 2016, accounting for 24 percent of the state's total cheese production.

The total inventory of cattle and calves on January 1, 2017 was 3.55 million head, up 50,000 head from the previous year. The number of milk cows was the same as the previous year, at 1,280,000 head. The number of beef cows rose 20,000 head to 290,000 head. On the U.S. level, slaughter prices fell to \$120.00 per cwt. for cattle and \$166.00 per cwt. for calves. As a result, Wisconsin's value of production fell 23 percent to \$1.61 billion.

As of December 1, 2016, hog inventory totaled 325,000 head, 5,000 more than a year earlier. Pork production totaled 142 million pounds (live weight basis), a decrease of 3 percent. Average price per cwt. on the U.S. level decreased 7 percent to \$49.60. Wisconsin's value of production dropped from \$97 million in 2015 to \$86 million in 2016.

Summary of Columbia County totals for 2017

Dairy	16,000 cows	100 lbs milk/cow
Beef	No county specific data available	
Hogs	No county specific data available	

Crops:

Corn planted for all purposes totaled 4.05 million acres in 2016, up 1 percent from the previous year. There were 3.22 million acres harvested for grain, up 7 percent from 2015. Grain yield rose to 178 bushels per acre, up 14 bushels per acre from the previous year. Acres harvested for silage fell 19 percent to 790,000 acres while silage production decreased 12 percent to 16.6 million tons.

Planted acres of soybeans increased by 80,000 acres to 1.96 million acres. Harvested acres also increased 80,000 acres to 1.95 million acres statewide. The average yield for soybeans in Wisconsin was 55.0 bushels per acre, 5.5 bushels per acre more than the previous year. Total production rose 16 percent to 107 million bushels.

Wisconsin was the fourth largest oat producer in the nation in 2016 with 6.60 million bushels, a 53 percent decrease from 2015. This was due to 95,000 fewer harvested acres and a decrease in yields. Average yield was 66 bushels per acre in 2016 compared to 72 bushels per acre in 2015. There were 270,000 acres of winter wheat planted in 2016, up 40,000 acres from 2015. Acres harvested rose 40,000 acres to 250,000 acres. Yields rose 5 bushels per acre, and production increased 27 percent to 19.8 million bushels.

Summary of Columbia County totals for 2017

Corn	130,000 acres	200.9 bu/acre ave
Soybeans	49,000 acres	58 bu/acre ave
Oats	2,800 acres	68.6 bu/acre ave
Winter Wheat	7,400 acres	90.1 bu/acre ave
Alfalfa	19,800 acres	3.95 tons/acre ave

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM AUGUST, 2018



The Towns of Caledonia, Lewiston and Newport, in collaboration with Columbia County, will offer rural well users an opportunity to test their drinking water in August, 2018. The last time the towns and county offered this opportunity was in 2007 with 98 households participating.

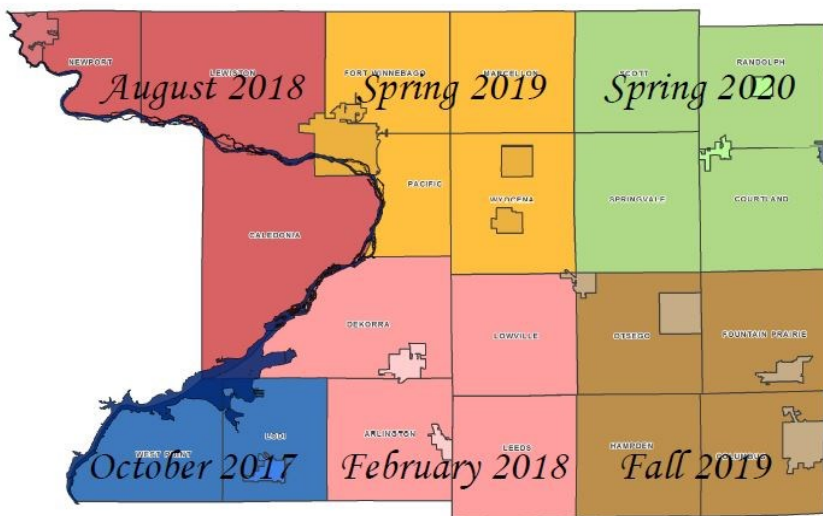
There will be a mailing sent out for these town residents in the upcoming weeks. The pick-up and pay for your drinking water testing kit at your Town Hall will be on Saturday, August 25, 2018 from 8:00-10:30 am. Then dropping the kits off on Monday, August 27th from 7:00-8:00 am or 5:30-6:30 pm. There will be 3 testing kit options available.

If you have any questions after you receive the information for this program in the mail, please feel free to call the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department or Columbia County UW-Extension Office, (608) 742-9670 or (608) 742-9680.

For upcoming schedule of testing, see map below.

2017-2020 Drinking Water Program

Target Areas and Implementation Schedule



Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

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

Farmland Preservation Self-Certification Post Card

Over the past 6 years the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has implemented a series of changes for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP).



FPP participants will be required to maintain their eligibility as follows:

Annually submit a FPP Self Certification Postcard (July 15th)

Annually submit a 590 NMP Checklist Form ARM-LWR-480)

Receive an onsite NR 151 compliance status review once every 4 years (Year determined by LWCD)

The self-certification postcards have been mailed to all Farmland Preservation participants the middle of June. A return date of July 15, 2018 is required.

Participants will have the option to complete the postcard through an online log-in process (under www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/), or return the postcard to the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department. All postcards must be postmarked before July 15, 2017, 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.

Farmland Preservation Program Required Farm Inspections

The Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department will be conducting the required farm inspections throughout 2018 for ¼ of the certified program participants. It is important that you understand the questions asked thru the self-certification process. If you are unsure of your status, or what a question means, please contact the LWCD and we will help you thru it. As part of our inspection process, we will use a combination of in office technology and onsite evaluations to monitor your status. If we find a compliance issue, our first step will be to work with you to bring it into compliance, but it could jeopardize your participation. This link is a quick reference to the range of evaluation components we will be looking at: <http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu/pdf/WisRunoffRules.pdf>

2019 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Cost-Share Assistance Available

The Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department in cooperation with Columbia County UW-Extension, have cost-share funds available for our Nutrient Management Training Program participants (see below for details). These grant funds will allow us to provide class participants a stipend for attending the classes and completing a Nutrient Management Plan for their farm. We pursued this funding opportunity to increase incentives options available to landowners. This is another opportunity for us to encourage more landowners to learn the benefits of using a NMP. If you are interested in participating in our 2019 class, see the contact information below.



608-742-9670
FAX: 608-742-9840
E-MAIL: land.conservation@co.columbia.wi.us
WEBSITE: www.co.columbia.wi.us

112 E. Edgewater Street
Portage, WI 53901

Nutrient Management Training Program

A cooperative opportunity between UWEX, Columbia County LWCD, NRCS and DATCP will again allow landowners the opportunity to learn to develop their own Nutrient Management Plan that will meet the 590 NMP standard. This is the most efficient way for landowners and producers to learn to develop their own plans using the SNAP Plus software. Participants will want to have current soil samples taken this fall, or have currently samples to use as the foundation of the plan.

Dates for the 2019 classes will be finalized later this year but are typically held in the last weeks of January for the Review Class and first weeks of February, for the Three Day Workshops for new participants.

If you are interested in signing up for these classes you can contact UWEX (608-742-9680) or LWCD (608-742-9670) to discuss the program and get signed up.

This is a great opportunity for landowners who need to meet FPP compliance requirements. Currently the class is set up to handle up to 20 participants, so sign up early. If interest exceeds demand, we can look at additional classes.

Cost Sharing for Nutrient Management Planning

For 2018, we have received additional funds for Nutrient Management Planning Cost Sharing. DATCP has allocated \$100,000.00 to Columbia County to provide Cost-Sharing for farmers to hire someone to write a Nutrient Management Plan for their farming operations. The rate has been increased this year to \$10.00/acre/year for 4 years. This is open to operators who have not received cost-sharing for Nutrient Management previously. The plan needs to meet the NRCS 590 Standard as revised in 2015. If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible at 608-742-9670.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Reminder to all Columbia County property owners the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is available. The 2018 CREP Offer Deadline is August 17th.

CREP is a resource to help farmers meet their conservation goals, particularly those who till or graze land along rivers and streams.

CREP pays landowners to install filter strips along waterways or to return continually flooded fields to wetlands while leaving the remainder of the adjacent land in agricultural production. The size of land put into CREP varies, and can be a strip as narrow as 30 feet with no minimum acreage size. This allows farmers to enroll land as needed and leave the remainder for farming. Enrollment options include either a 15-year agreement or a perpetual easement.

CREP financial incentives of CREP include:

- Cost sharing of conservation practice installation
- Upfront incentive payments
- Annual soil rental payments



CREP Practices are as follows:

- CP 8A Waterway (Can only be added to a CP21)
- CP 21 Filter Strip
- CP 22 Riparian Buffer
- CP 23 Wetland Restoration
- CP 23A Wetland Restoration (Non Flood Plain)

For more information on CREP contact:

Columbia County FSA 608-742-5361
Columbia County LWCD 608-742-9674

Dates to Remember

June 4, 2018—Office will be closed

July 16, 2018 – Deadline to report 2018 spring seeded crops

August 1, 2018 – Deadline to sign the 2018 ARDPLC Contract

NOMINATIONS OPEN JUNE 15 FOR THE 2018 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Columbia County Committee election nomination process which opens Friday, June 15. FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County committees may have one or more appointed advisors to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

In Columbia County, the election this year will be held in LAA3 which includes the following townships: Scott, Randolph, Springvale, Courtland, Fountain Prairie, Hampden, and Columbus. Todd Leystra currently represents LAA3 and will not be running for re-election this year.

All nomination forms for the 2018 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by August 1, 2018. For more information on FSA county committee elections process, please contact the Columbia County FSA office at 608-742-5361, ext. 2. If you would like to learn more about the County Committee system, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current Fiscal Year (FY), farm combinations and farm divisions must be requested by **August 1 of the FY** for farms subject to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. A reconstitution is considered to be requested when all:

- of the required signatures are on Form FSA-155
- other applicable documentation, such as proof of ownership, is submitted.

Total Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and farms not participating in ARC/PLC may be reconstituted at any time.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

LOOKING FOR INFO ABOUT AN FSA FARM LOAN? CHECK OUT THE FSA FARM LOAN WEBSITE

If you are looking for information about farm loans, you can find it on the [Farm Loan Programs Page](#).

This site allows the public to click links such as: [Farm Operating Loans](#), [Microloans](#), [Youth Loans](#), [Minority and Women Farmers](#), [Beginning Farmer Loans](#), [Emergency Loans](#) and, more importantly, the sites provide links to the application forms for each subject.



In addition to application forms, the site provides information regarding loan purposes, maximum loan limitations, repayment terms, interest rates and eligibility criteria. The Farm Loan Program website also offers a [Lender Tool Kit](#) for our partners in ag lending using the [Guarantee Loan Program](#). The tool kit provides the most frequently used forms for loan making and servicing and describes how lenders obtain the status of Standard Eligible Lender, Certified Lender, or Preferred Lender.

To access the Farm Loan Programs Site visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

For more information on applying for a farm loan, producers in Columbia County should contact Ray Falkner and his farm loan team at 920-923-3033, ext.2

ENROLLMENT FOR 2018 FARM SAFETY NET COVERAGE, ARC/PLC, UNDERWAY

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices to sign contracts and enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug.

1, 2018. Contact the Columbia County FSA office for an appointment. Our phone number is 608-742-5361 ext. 2.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2018 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 crop

should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2018 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered



commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats,

peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to

www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

2018 NRCS Conservation Local Work Group Meeting Schedule Announced

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin has announced the [schedule for 2018](#) Local Working Group (LWG) meetings (see below for a list of the Southeast Wisconsin region meetings). Eighteen meetings will be held across Wisconsin in August to gather input and help set priorities for U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs under the Farm Bill.

Southeast Wisconsin						
Date	Time	Counties	Team Name	Location	Address/Phone	Lead District Conservationist
August 6	10:00-12:00pm	Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, Kenosha	Southern Lakes	Mukwonago Village Hall - Community Board Room	440 River Quest Court, Mukwonago, WI 53149	Brandi Richter Brandi.Richter@wi.usda.gov
August 6	1:00-3:00pm	Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee	Northern Kettle Moraine	Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center	N2875 State Hwy 67, Campbellsport, WI 53010	Mike Patin Michael.Patin@wi.usda.gov
August 9	10:00-12:00pm	Dane, Green, Rock	Driftless End Moraines	Village of Brooklyn Community Center Lower Level Meeting Room	102 N. Rutland Ave, Brooklyn, WI 53521	Dave Gundlach David.Gundlach@wi.usda.gov
August 17	10:00-12:00pm	Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson	Upper Rock	Dodge County Administration Building Lower Level Conference Room	127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039	Twyla Kite Twyla.Kite@wi.usda.gov
August 17	1:00-3:00pm	Adams, Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara	Upper Fox	Marquette County UW Extension Service Center	480 Underwood Ave, Montello, WI 53949	Caleb Zahn Caleb.Zahn@wi.usda.gov

Local Working Groups offer a seat at the table for interested individuals and groups to advise NRCS on how best to set priorities and locally implement conservation programs. Members are diverse, with an interest and focus on local agriculture and various natural resource issues. Farmers representing a variety of crops and livestock raised within the local area, private woodland owners, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations, and representatives of other agriculture and natural resource agencies are welcome and should be represented.

Wisconsin LWGs represent two or more counties grouped together by geography, similar land use, resources, and type of agriculture. See a map of Local Work Groups on the following page. This will allow greater flexibility and access to funding for the groups.

One of the main programs discussed at the meetings will be the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a federal conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners with needed conservation practices for water quality, soil health, wildlife and other natural resources. The program was re-authorized through 2018 in the federal Farm Bill, which was passed in February 2014.

Local Working Group meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in becoming a member in LWGs should contact their local NRCS Service Center. Contact your local NRCS District Conservationist if you are interested in participating. For detailed information on local work groups, see What are Local Working Groups and see the Schedule of Meetings.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in these meetings should contact Nga Watts, acting ASTC-Management and Strategy, at 352-338-9577, nga.watts@fl.usda.gov, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by July 15, 2018 for the August 2018 meetings.

2018 Omnibus Bill Nixes DUNS and SAM Requirements for Farmers

Effectively immediately, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) financial assistance program participants will no longer need a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Number System (DUNS) number, or to register in the System for Award Management (SAM). The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (2018 Omnibus Bill), signed by President Donald Trump on March 23, eliminated these requirements.

According to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, DUNS and SAM were designed for billion-dollar government contractors, not everyday farmers trying to support their families. These changes help streamline the customer experience of farmers, which is a top priority at USDA, he said.

The exemption does not apply to any current or future agreements or federal contracts with eligible entities, project sponsors, vendors, partners, or other non-exempt landowners or producers.

DUNS/SAM registration is still required for:

- Partnership agreements entered through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- All agreements with eligible entities under the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

- Agreements under the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component of ACEP.
- Partnership agreements under the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) component of ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).
- Watershed operations agreements with project sponsors.
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) agreements with project sponsors, including Recovery and Floodplain Easements.
- All cooperative, contribution, interagency, or partnership agreements of Federal contracts used by NRCS to procure goods or services.
- NRCS advises participants in its programs to ignore any emails, phone calls or other communications from third-party vendors offering assistance for registering in SAMS or applying for a DUNS number.

To learn more about NRCS financial and technical assistance, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

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