

To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

[2019 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference](#)

[Better Heifers, Better Cows Management Meeting set for February 22](#)

[CAFO Update Meetings scheduled](#)

[USDA Delays Deadline For Aid To Offset Tariffs](#)

[Wisconsin Ag Classic](#)

[UW-Extension Fertilizer/Nutrient Management Recommendations when grain prices are down and fertilizer prices are high:](#)

[Hop Production for the Wisconsin Craft Brew Industry 10th Annual Seminar](#)

[2019 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference](#)

The 2019 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference

February 20, 2018

Holiday Inn, Steven's Point, WI

[Information and Registration](#)

*Farmers and ag professionals from around the state are coming together again to share and learn about all things cover crops. Whether you're a seasoned cover crop expert or an absolute beginner, there will be something for everyone!*

*Topics will include managing manure with covers, termination of covers, and machinery modifications for cover crops and no till. Many of the presenters will be Wisconsin grain and livestock farmers speaking from experience about what has worked in their Wisconsin conservation cropping systems.*

*Last year's conference was a huge success with 400 attendees!*

### Better Heifers, Better Cows Management Meeting set for February 22

Market volatility has been and continues to be a common theme in the dairy sector. UW-Extension Dairy Team's annual Better Heifers, Better Cows Management Meeting will provide answers to building and implementing effective management strategies in raising heifers. Dairy farmers, custom heifer raisers, veterinarians, nutritionists and anyone with a concern with raising heifers should attend.

The "Better Heifers, Better Cows" Heifer Management Seminar is set for Friday, February 22, 2019, at Liberty Hall Conference Center, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly. The seminar will be held 10 am to 3 pm, with registration beginning at 9:30 am.

Featured presenters include: Nigel Cook, Associate Professor, UW-School of Veterinary Medicine, "Corkscrew Claw Syndrome-An Unexpected Challenge" and the "Forgotten Herd-Housing the Growing Heifer"; Wayne Coblenz, Research Agronomist/Dairy Scientist, USDA-ARS, "Effects of Sorting Characteristics and Pen Overstocking on the Growth Performance of Pregnant Dairy Heifers"; Matt Akins, Dairy Replacement Specialist, UW-Extension, "Managing Heifer Inventory to Save Costs"; and Victor Cabrera, Dairy Management Specialist, UW-Extension "Strategic Use of Sexed and Beef Semen on Heifers for Maximum Profitability".

The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes meals, breaks and materials for the meeting prior to February 15. After February 15, an additional \$10 fee will be assessed. Farmers, grower, managers, employees, industry professionals and others interested in dairy replacement management are encouraged to attend.

For additional meeting and registration information please visit <https://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/events/raising-quality-dairy-replacements/>. For questions, please feel free to contact UW-Extension Fond du lac County Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman at

tina.kohlman@uwex.edu or call (920) 929.3171 or UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd at sarah.millsllloyd@uwex.edu.

### **CAFO Update Meetings scheduled**

The University of Wisconsin-Extension and Wisconsin DNR are co-hosting a series of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Update Meetings throughout the state in early February. The meetings are specifically designed for WPDES permitted CAFO owners and managers, producers considering expansion, nutrient management plan writers and engineers.

Wisconsin has over 250 CAFO farms and these meetings offer an opportunity for owners, managers, advisors, and other CAFO stakeholders to receive updated information on meeting permit requirements while maximizing profitability.

This year's agenda will overview low cost options to meet NPDES permit requirements, how to effectively respond and communicate in the case of spills or emergency situations, tips for tile line system maintenance, and local best management practices for applying manure to cover crops. The meeting will also overview the effects of recent administrative rule changes, and feature a DNR question and answer session.

"In addition to the rule changes, at this year's meeting we are really aiming to provide practical tips and tricks producers can use in our tough economic conditions – such as low cost NPDES permit options, how to reduce your risk of tile line blowouts, and manure application strategies that have seen success in Wisconsin," notes Kevin Erb of UW-Extension.

Meetings will take place in Green Bay (Feb. 4), New London (Feb. 4), Manitowoc (Feb. 5), Fond du Lac (Feb. 5), Jefferson (Feb. 7), Dodgeville (Feb. 8), Marshfield (Feb. 12) and Rice Lake (Feb. 13). Each event is \$35, or \$45 after the early registration deadline, and includes breakfast or lunch.

More information on the meetings and individual meeting brochures can be accessed at <https://go.wisc.edu/136046>

### **USDA Delays Deadline For Aid To Offset Tariffs**

Farmers already reeling from low prices and uncertainty amid the nation's trade dispute with China are welcoming a decision to extend a deadline for federal aid because of the partial government shutdown.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on Tuesday announced the Agriculture Department would extend a Jan. 15 deadline for farmers to apply for payments to offset losses they had incurred due to the trade dispute, which led to new tariffs that lessened demand and lowered crop prices. About \$9.5 billion in direct payments have been set aside for growers of soybeans, corn, wheat and other commodities.

Many farmers already have received the first of two payments to offset some of their losses, but others haven't been able to apply for aid because snow and rain delayed their harvest. Farmers can't apply for federal payments until they can specify the size of their crop. It's unclear how much of the federal money has been spent.

"People didn't have time to get all this done, and then the government shutdown happened," said John Newton, chief economist with the American Farm Bureau. "This is very, very welcome."

Farmers can apply online for the aid, but Perdue noted they couldn't complete the application because the USDA's Farm Service Agency has been closed since Dec. 28. Under Perdue's new order, the application deadline will be extended by an equal number of days to the business days the government was partially closed.

Newton said the shutdown also meant growers who had questions about the process couldn't reach out to USDA employees.

"I've been waiting 19 days to get a call returned from the USDA," Newton said.

Perdue's announcement was welcomed by Iowa U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, a farmer who earlier had said he'd seek the federal aid.

"Farmers who haven't been able to apply for trade assistance would've missed the deadline through no fault of their own," Grassley said in a statement. "It's worth recognizing that farmers applying for assistance in the first place are hurting because of a trade war they didn't start."

The government shutdown comes as farmers were already enduring a fifth year of low prices even as the cost of land, fertilizer, chemicals and seed have remained high, leading to a drop in net income. As they make plans for this year's crop, farmers have been left guessing about the market and other issues because the shutdown has forced the USDA to delay the release of crop reports providing key information about global demand.

Brian Duncan, a farmer and vice president of the Illinois Farm Bureau, said the trade dispute and shutdown are difficult for growers, but most are taking it in stride.

"Farmers generally are pretty level-headed and used to being thrown some curve balls," Duncan said. "As we get closer to planting season, their patience will ebb."

January 15-17, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

The Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic is Wisconsin's premier agribusiness industry event drawing interest and participation from all confluences of the industry from throughout the Midwestern states.

The program is held at the Alliant Energy Center each January and boasts an attendance of nearly 2,000 attendees. The conference and tradeshow is a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin Agri-Business Association and the University of Wisconsin.

The depth of coverage and exhibits provided through the conference and tradeshow makes it clear why the Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic is Wisconsin's premier industry event.

For Details and a schedule follow this link: <https://www.agclassic.org/>

### UW-Extension Fertilizer/Nutrient Management Recommendations when grain prices are down and fertilizer prices are high:

1. Sample soil and follow soil test recommendations. Accurate soil tests let you reduce fertilizer costs by taking advantage of nutrients supplied by the soil. If you don't soil sample, you're losing money - either by applying more fertilizer than your crop needs or not enough for it to reach its yield potential.
2. Environment and soil characteristics influence yield more than fertilizer rate. Fertilize for realistic yield goals. A reasonable yield goal is the average of the three highest yields for the past five production years for that crop in a given field.
3. Apply most of the nitrogen as a sidedress and base your rates on the pre-side dress nitrate test.
4. Reduce or eliminate phosphorus fertilizer applications. Additional phosphorus isn't required when soil test levels are above a certain level. Most farm fields in WI have adequate phosphorus levels.
5. Utilize manure nutrients whenever possible. Test manure, calibrate your spreader and apply manure based on soil test recommendations. Pre-side dress nitrate testing has also been used to measure the amount of N available to corn from fall manure applications.
6. Apply ag lime as needed. Applying lime when needed will increase nutrient availability and improve yields. Select liming materials based on their neutralizing value; mesh size and magnesium content (if magnesium is recommended). Check into local sources of byproduct liming materials.
7. Apply micronutrients only where a response is predicted and likely to occur. Highly responsive crops will show a yield response to a specific micronutrient if the soil test level for that nutrient is low. Zinc (corn), manganese (soybeans and wheat) and boron (alfalfa) are the only micronutrients that should be applied on mineral soils.

8. Take advantage of rotating crops. Soybeans contribute 30 pounds of actual N per acre to the following corn crop.

Joe Lauer, UW-Extension Corn Agronomist

## Hop Production for the Wisconsin Craft Brew Industry 10th Annual Seminar

### On the Web at:

<http://buffalo.uwex.edu/agriculture/barley-and-hops/>

Please be responsible.

Lodging in Hillsboro

#### Hotel Hillsboro

Address: 1235 Water Ave,  
Hillsboro, WI 54634

Phone: (608) 489-3000

Lodging also available in  
Reedsburg and Mauston.

(20 minute drive from  
Hillsboro)|



We reserve the right to  
ask any participant  
attending the program  
for age verification .

### For more information contact:

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University of Wisconsin-Extension

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Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Requests are kept confidential.

## Hop Production for the Wisconsin Craft Brew Industry

## 10th Annual Seminar



### Hillsboro Brewing Company

815 Water Street, Hillsboro, WI

February 16, 2019

## Hillsboro Brewing Company

**Saturday, February 16**

**8:30 am - 3:00 pm**

### Program Agenda:

**8:30 Registration**

**9:00 Program Begins**

**12:00 Lunch**

**3:00 Adjourn**

**Keynote Speaker - Neil Reid, Ph.D, Professor of Geography and Planning, University of Toledo.** "Impact of the Craft Beer Revolution of the American Hops Industry" Since 2014, Professor Reid has been researching the growth of the craft brewing industry in the United States and its potential role in helping to revitalize neighborhood economies. To date he has published a dozen journal articles and book chapters, delivered lectures and presentations, has been quoted in media outlets regarding the economic geography of craft brewing. Professor Reid also writes a blog about the beer industry ([www.thebeerprofessor.com](http://www.thebeerprofessor.com)).

## Speakers and Topics

**Michelle Marks, UW-Madison, Plant Pathologist; Dr. Amanda Gevens, UW-Extension/UW-Madison Plant Pathology** "Hop Disease: What we saw in 2018. What to Watch for in 2019"

**Dr. Chris Baxter, UW-Extension/UW-Platteville** "Nitrogen Fertilization and Timing, Years of Data"

**Joshua Havil, MN Wild Hop Breeding Program** "Hop Breeding, Branding and Patents"

**Bryan Jensen, UW-Extension, IPM Coordinator** "Insect Update"

**Dan Carey, Brewmaster, New Glarus Brewing Company** "Hops & Wisconsin Craft Beer - Southern Viewpoint"

**Bo Bélanger; Brew Master and Owner; South Shore Brewing; President - WI Brewers Guild** "Hops & Wisconsin Craft Beer - Northern Viewpoint"

**Hillsboro Brewing Company** "Our History and Our Beer"



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes materials, a light breakfast, lunch, breaks and brewery tour.

Checks made payable to UW-Extension  
(credit cards not accepted)

**Registration Deadline:**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2019**

List any dietary restrictions

Send registration and payment to:

Buffalo County UW-Extension  
407 South 2nd Street  
PO Box 276  
Alma, WI 54610  
608-685-6256

## Weekly Emails Online!

<http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>

The Ag Reporter "Snapshot" is presented to you each week by George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent. If you have any questions about these articles or need other ag-related information, please contact George at 608-742-9682 or by email [george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu).