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## Madison Area Woodland Owners Conference

On Saturday, February 16, 2019 the Madison Area Woodland Owners Conference will feature presentations focusing on: Snapshot Wisconsin a state wildlife program, preparing for a meeting with your forester, forest harvesting – methods and more, pruning to improve your woods, and fantastic fungi- movers and shapers of forest ecosystems.

The conference site is the American Family Insurance Headquarters Training Center, which is located between Madison and Sun Prairie, off of Highway 151 on the American Parkway. Commercial and educational exhibits will also be included as part of the event.

The conference runs from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and includes continental breakfast, lunch and handouts. The “early bird” fee is \$40 for registration by February 8th. Advance and on-site registration is available for increased fees. Couple discounts apply.

The sponsors for the conference include, Dane County UW-Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. If you would like to receive a registration brochure or are interested in having an exhibit at the conference, contact Mindy Habecker at the Dane County UW-Extension office (608)224-3718. The conference brochure as well as the online registration option is also available at <http://dane.uwex.edu/>.

— Mindy Habecker, Dane County UW-Extension Natural Resource/Community Development Educator

[Rudy Van Fleet, retired Ag Agent in Columbia County, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 19.](#)

The visitation and funeral will be Saturday, Jan. 26 in Columbus. Following is his obituary:

Rudy Van Fleet age 87, passed away Saturday, January 19, 2019 at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg. Rudy was born on May 25, 1931 to Duane and Gladys (Ewing) Van Fleet in the Town of Forest, Richland County, Wisconsin. He graduated from the U-W Platteville and the U-W Madison. He played basketball at Platteville and was later inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame as well as the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Rudy was married to Nancy Hughes on June 20, 1953. He farmed near Viola, Wisconsin and later taught vocational agriculture at Ithaca High School and Columbus High School Rudy spent 26 years with the University of Wisconsin Extension as a farm management agent in Columbia County. In later years, Rudy and Nancy traveled extensively around the United States and Europe. Rudy passionately took up pitching horseshoes in his retirement and became the secretary treasurer of the Deansville Horseshoe Club. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association Hall of Fame in 2015. Even on evenings when pitching didn't go so well, Nancy would ask "But did you have a good time?" When Rudy would answer that he did, Nancy would reply, "Then that's what matters." Survivors include his two sons Jeffrey of Columbus, Randy (Cara) of Muskego; his four daughters Tracey (Rob) Riegert of West Allis, Robin (Tom) Bergan of Waterloo, Heidi (Mark) Callesen of Phoenix, Molly (Fotis) Tlas of Minneapolis; three grandchildren Jacob (Abigail) of Waukesha, Alexandra of Milwaukee and Julia of La Crosse. Rudy was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Nancy in 2015; one sister, Joan in 2011. Funeral services will be held at 11 A.M., with visitation beginning at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at JENSEN FUNERAL & CREMATION in Columbus, Chaplain Ken Heinritz will officiate. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery in Columbus. The family would like to thank the staff at the Columbus Community Hospital, Palliative Care Unit at the University Hospital and Agrace Hospice for their loving care. A very special thanks to family friend Dobie Gutweiler whose help and support made the past several weeks so much easier. Memorials may be directed to Agrace Hospice Care.

### [USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Additional Services during Government Shutdown](#)

PRESS RELEASE (Washington, D.C., January 22, 2019) - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that all Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide will soon reopen to provide additional administrative services to farmers and ranchers during the lapse in federal funding. Certain FSA offices have been providing limited services for existing loans and tax documents since January 17, and will continue to do so through January 23. Beginning January 24, however, all FSA offices will open and offer a longer list of transactions they will accommodate.

Additionally, Secretary Perdue announced that the deadline to apply for the Market Facilitation Program, which aids farmers harmed by unjustified retaliatory tariffs, has been extended to February 14. The original deadline had been January 15. Other program deadlines may be modified and will be announced as they are addressed.

"At President Trump's direction, we have been working to alleviate the effects of the lapse in federal funding as best we can, and we are happy to announce the reopening of FSA offices for certain services," Perdue said. "The FSA provides vital support for farmers and ranchers and they count on those services being available. We want to offer as much assistance as possible until the partial government shutdown is resolved."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has temporarily recalled all of the more than 9,700 FSA employees to keep offices open from 8 am to 4:30 pm weekdays beginning January 24. President Trump has already signed legislation that guarantees employees will receive all backpay missed during the lapse in funding.

For the first two full weeks under this operating plan (January 28 through February 1 and February 4 through February 8), FSA offices will be open Mondays through Fridays. In subsequent weeks, offices will be open three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays if needed to provide the additional administrative services.

Agricultural producers who have business with the agency can contact their FSA service center to make an appointment.

FSA can provide these administrative services, which are critical for farmers and ranchers, because failure to perform these services would harm funded programs. FSA staff will work on the following transactions:

- Market Facilitation Program.
- Marketing Assistance Loans.
- Release of collateral warehouse receipts.
- Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans, and Emergency Loans.
- Service existing Conservation Reserve Program contracts.
- Sugar Price Support Loans.
- Dairy Margin Protection Program.
- Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage.
- Livestock Forage Disaster.
- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program.
- Livestock Indemnity Program.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.
- Tree Assistance Program.
- Remaining Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program payments for applications already processed.

Transactions that will not be available include, but are not limited to:

- New Conservation Reserve Program contracts.
- New Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans.
- Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
- New or in-process Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program applications.
- Emergency Conservation Program.
- Emergency Forest Rehabilitation Program.
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program.
- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.

With the Office of Management and Budget, USDA reviewed all of its funding accounts that are not impacted by the lapse in appropriation. We further refined this list to include programs where the suspension of the activity associated with these accounts would significantly damage or prevent the execution of the terms of the underlying statutory provision. As a result of this review, USDA was able to except more employees. Those accounts that are not impacted by the lapse in appropriation include mandatory, multiyear and no year discretionary funding including FY 2018 Farm Bill activities.

Updates to available services and offices will be made during the lapse in federal funding on the FSA shutdown webpage. Programs managed by FSA that were re-authorized by the 2018 farm bill will be available at a later date yet to be determined.

## Winter Grazing Meeting - Monday, February 11, 2019 – REGISTER TODAY!!

UW-Extension Area 16  
Columbia County HHS Building  
111 E Mullet Street  
Portage, WI 53901

Monday, February 11, 2019  
Registration begins at 8:30 am  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

The UW-Extension Area 16 invites you to a Winter Grazing Meeting at the Columbia County Health and Human Services Building on Monday, February 11, 2019. Morning presentations will include: “Economics of Grazing” with Aaron Pape, “Seeding and Stocking Rate Recommendations” with Twyla Kite, “Grazing Cover Crops” with Darren Janke, “Enhanced Pasture Renovation” by Roman Miller, “Grazing Nutrition – Transitioning into Spring Pasture” with Greg Brickner, and an introduction to Jacob Grace, UW-CIAS Grazing Specialist.

There will be a catered lunch for this event.

The afternoon will have a presentation by Mary C. Anderson about “DNR Grazing Program and Opportunities. This will then be followed up with a panel discussion of “Farmer and Agency Grazing Partnerships. The panel will be made up of area farmers that have experienced positive grazing partnerships with DNR, Land and Water Conservation Departments and NRCS.

Throughout the day, we will have a table staffed by grazing specialists in the hallway, to provide technical support or answer any individual questions by new or experienced grazers. Attendees will be able to obtain “one on one” help and support for their specific grazing questions and concerns.

If you are considering grazing, please join this group of grazers and educators who’ve been networking for many years sharing their ideas, touring each other’s grazing farms, and gaining insight on how to streamline their production, remain sustainable, and market their products more effectively. There will be many opportunities for questions, networking with existing grazers, and good conversation, so mark the date and be sure to attend.

Registration and Lunch Fee is \$20.00/person for the entire day. The deadline for registration with payment is **Monday, February 4, 2019**; after February 4th, the fee is \$30.00. Farmers please send your name, address, phone and email with a check made payable to Columbia County to:

Jennifer Evans, UW-Extension, 112 E Edgewater St., Room 212, Portage, WI 53901. Agency staff please register with Kirsten Jurcek, by calling, texting, or emailing her at 920-342-9504 or [kjurcek1@centurytel.net](mailto:kjurcek1@centurytel.net)

This event is being sponsored by the Columbia/Dodge County Grazing Network, UW Cooperative Extension, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Sauk County Land and Water Conservation Departments, Grassworks, DNR, NRCS, SARE, and Glacierland RC&D.

For more information contact George Koepp, UW-Extension Columbia County, (608) 742-9682 or [george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu).

[2019 Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum](#)

The 2019 Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum is next week on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Union South on the main UW campus. Registration and Agenda here: <https://renk.aae.wisc.edu/ag-outlook-forum/>. The morning is a Situation and Outlook for major Wisconsin commodities, the afternoon is Dairy Consolidation: New Perspectives for America's Dairyland.

**A livestream will again be available for those not coming to campus and as a backup in case of inclement weather on the day of the Forum.**

Starting shortly before 10:00 am this Tuesday, the Forum will be live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/uwipm/videos>. The livestream video will appear in the upper left-hand corner and should be labeled as "Live Now" in red text.

Please contact Jeremy Beach at 608-262-9485 or [jpbeach@wisc.edu](mailto:jpbeach@wisc.edu) with any questions about the Forum.

Dr. Paul D. Mitchell  
Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison, 418 Taylor Hall  
UW Extension State Specialist, Director of Renk Agribusiness Institute  
Office: 608-265-6514

## **Goat Artificial Insemination Training**

Artificial Insemination (AI) has been a powerful tool in the agriculture industry for many years. It allows producers to improve the genetic progress of their herd by using top quality sires from around the world. A goat artificial insemination course is going to be held at the Fond du Lac County Fair Grounds, located in Fond du Lac, WI. The course will be taught by leading goat AI company BIO-Genics of Salmon, ID. Class dates will be determined mid-February.

The course will focus on management and effects on AI success, basic male and female goat anatomy, proper AI procedure, semen handling and storage, and record keeping. The course will be a two-day program with classroom and hands-on experience. Class registration is expected to be around \$250 per person and includes some snacks, lunch, and educational materials for both days. Course space is limited to the first 14 participants and the class will fill on a first come (and paid), first served basis. It is our class goal to teach participants AI breeding skills resulting in a pregnancy, and hopefully kids from the breeding.

We know that many of you get goat inquiries, some of which may relate to goat AI. If you encounter any of those questions, or know of folks that have goats that may be interested in this type of class, please direct them to our [Goat AI Clinic Interest Form](#). Please note that this is NOT to sign up for the class. We are using the interest form to build a current list of those who are interested in more information on this year's AI class. We will follow up with anyone who fills out the interest form after class details are finalized.

Goat photo courtesy of Aerica Bjurstrom.  
(Click on the photo to be taken to the [sign-up form](#).)

Thank you for helping get our early details out to interested folks. Below is an email template that you can share with interested folks...just copy and paste what is below our signature line into an email & use your signature. **Please be sure to not forward this part of the message with the template below!**

Aerica, Amber, & Lyssa

## Lyssa Seefeldt

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### 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).