

## 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:

[Dairy Marketing Meeting – Monday, February 4, 1:00 PM](#)

[Winter Grazing Meeting - Monday, February 11, 2019 – REGISTER TODAY!!](#)

[Goat Artificial Insemination Class](#)

[Dairy Situation and Outlook, January 28, 2019](#)

[UW-RIVER FALLS FIELD SCOUT TRAINING CLASS, MARCH 27-28, 2019](#)

[2019 WI Cover Crop Conference](#)

[Dairy Marketing Meeting – Monday, February 4, 1:00 PM](#)

There is still time to register for Monday's Meeting in Portage.

UW-Extension is offering a number of meetings across the state for farmers interested in learning about the new Dairy Revenue Protection program, a new federal insurance tool, with a quarterly payout to dairy farms when milk revenue falls below their insured revenue level. Mark Stephenson Director of the UW-Center for Dairy Profitability will provide a comprehensive overview of the Dairy Revenue Protection program and updates to the FSA Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP), as another tool for dairy farmers when milk prices are low. Important changes to the MPP have been introduced in the Farm Bill that may make this program worth a second look.

The discussion will cover the following specific information for dairy farmers considering the program:

- New Dairy Revenue Protection (RP) program structure and function
- Overview of Dairy programs RP, MPP and Livestock Gross Margins (LGM)
- FSA implementation
- Expected returns
- Decision making tool & calculations

There is no fee to attend the meetings, but please register so we may plan for meeting materials. The following UW-Extension meetings on the Dairy Revenue Protection program are available by date and location. For registration, more information and questions, contact the UW-Extension office for each meeting location.

**February 4<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m.** - Columbia County Administration Building, 112 E Edgewater St., Portage, WI Contact: George Koepf, Columbia County UW-Extension, Register with Jennifer @ 608-742-9687

**February 12<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m.** – Dodge County, Lowell Community Memorial VFW, 280 South Street, Lowell, WI. Contact: Amanda Young, Dodge County UW-Extension (920) 386-3790

**March 5<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.** – Green Lake County UW-Extension, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI Contact: Ben Jenkins, Green Lake County UW-Extension, (920) 294-4032

## 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 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).

## Goat Artificial Insemination Class

Dear goat enthusiast,

We know how much you care about your herd. We know you are always looking for more tools to get better results out of your goats.

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.

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.

Please note that this is NOT to sign up for the class (yet). 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.

(CTRL + Click here for the [sign-up form](#).)

Your helpful county agriculture agent, George Koepp.

## Dairy Situation and Outlook, January 28, 2019

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus  
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

With the government shutdown key USDA reports we not available—Milk Production, stocks of dairy products, production of dairy products, dairy exports, and slaughter cow numbers—all useful in assessing the dairy situation and milk price outlook. But, I will make some observations based on what we do know.

Dairy producers faced a very difficult year last year. Milk prices have been depressed for four years with last year being the worse of the four. Milk prices fell sharply the last quarter of the year. In September the Class III price was \$16.09 but had fallen to just \$13.78 in December. The average for the year was \$14.61 compared to \$16.16 in 2017. The Class IV price did better with improving nonfat dry milk prices. The Class IV price was \$14.14 in July but improved to \$15.09 in December. The average for the year was \$14.23 compared to \$15.16 in 2017.

Milk prices will average higher in 2019 depending upon the level of milk production, domestic sales and dairy exports. Most forecasts are not overly optimistic as to how much high with increases no more than \$1. The latest milk production report was for November of last year. At that time cow numbers were declining and averaged 3,000 head or 0.03% lower year-to-date. With four years of low milk prices more than the usual number of dairy producers were exiting the industry.

Milk per cow was running below the normal trend at just 1.0% higher and averaged 1.0% higher year-to-date. The result was milk production less than 1.0% higher than a year ago for September to November and averaging just 1.0% higher year-to-date. It seems logical with low milk prices that cow numbers continued to decline in December and going into January. Likewise the increase in milk per most likely continued to be no more than 1.0% for December going into January netting less than a 1.0% increase in milk production for December and probably for January.

USDA's latest dairy forecast was last December. At that time USDA forecasted the average number of milk cows for 2019 would be 20,000 head or 0.02% lower than 2018 and milk per cow would be 1.5% higher netting an increase in total milk production of 1.3% over 2018. But, milk production could well turn out less than this. The number of dairy producers exiting for at least for the first half of the year is expected to remain relatively high, and if so the decline in cow numbers could well be more than 20,000. Wet weather the spring and again the fall of 2018 lower the quality of hay and corn silage potentially dampening the increase in milk per cow to less than 1.5%. Domestic demand normally can handle about a 1% increase in milk production for reasonable milk prices. Increase above 1% require exports.

The 2018 economy was favorable for domestic demand with low unemployment and higher wages. However, beverage milk sales continue to decline. The latest milk sales was for November of last year. Sales January through November were 2.0% lower than the year before. When less milk is drunk milk needs to be made into manufactured dairy products like cheese. Both cheese and butter sales were modestly higher last year. Concerns are rising that the economy may slow from last year which could dampen milk and dairy product sales.

Dairy exports will be important for higher milk prices in 2019. As long as there is a trade war between the U.S. and Mexico and China dairy exports will be curtailed. As of now this trade war doesn't appear to be ending soon. The latest export data was for October of last year. Nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were still running 19% higher than a year ago with cheese exports even, butterfat exports 75% higher and whey exports 19% lower. Mexico placed a retaliatory tariff on U.S. cheese but not nonfat dry milk. Mexico is U.S. largest market for cheese and nonfat dry milk and China is the largest market for whey products and China had cut whey imports by about half. On the positive side world milk production is not increasing and world dairy product prices are improving which may offer opportunities for U.S. exports. While New Zealand's milk production is running well above a year ago, drought in Australia and the EU has reduced feed supplies forcing reduced cow numbers and lowering milk production. Also higher whey and nonfat dry milk exports to Southeast Asia replaced some of the loss exports to China. Mexico is still buying cheese with October sales to Mexico actually higher than the year before. So exports are likely to be lower than last year but still at a level to give some support to milk prices.

In summary, the increase in milk production not much more than 1%, modest growth in domestic sales and a level of exports to support milk prices I am a little more optimistic about milk prices this year. The Class III price is likely to be in the \$14's first quarter, in the \$15's second and third quarters but then in the \$16's fourth quarter and averaging \$1.10 to \$1.20 higher than last year. Class IV will start the year in the \$15's and could be in the \$16's the last half of the year and averaging \$1.40 to \$1.50 higher than last year. Yet these prices are not what dairy produces need to start to recover from four years of low milk prices. But, I am also not ruling out that we could see a better recovery in milk prices by fourth quarter.

## UW-RIVER FALLS FIELD SCOUT TRAINING CLASS, MARCH 27-28, 2019

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls, UW-Extension and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program are co-sponsoring the IPM Field Scout Training Class which will be held March 27-28, 2019 at the UW-River Falls campus.

This training session will provide classroom and laboratory instruction for several pest and nutrient management topics.

- pest identification, life cycle, damage symptoms,
- economic thresholds and scouting techniques for insects, weeds, plant pathogens,
- herbicide injury and nutrient deficiency symptoms for corn, alfalfa, soybean and wheat,
- soil sampling, plant tissue testing

Click [here](#) for the complete schedule. CEU's will be applied for.

Non-student registration fee is \$100/person and covers the cost of the training program and the Field Crop Scout Training Manual.

To register online please go to <https://patstore.wisc.edu/ipm/register.aspx>

To register by check, send name, phone number, address and email address with a check payable to UW-Extension to: Bryan Jensen, Dept. of Entomology, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

For more information call [Bryan Jensen](#) at (608) 263-4073

## [2019 WI Cover Crop Conference](#)

February 20, 2019, Holiday Inn, Steven's Point, WI

Link >> [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!

## [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).