

Columbia County Ag Reporter

March/April 2019



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

This issue's highlighted articles:

- ◆ Calendar of Events (pg. 2)
- ◆ CC Corn Growers Meeting (pg. 3)
- ◆ Heart of the Farm (pg. 7)
- ◆ Dairy Situation (pg. 19-10)

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Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

March

- 6 Nutrient Management Beginner Class #3 - Portage
- 8 Manure Hauler Training – Baraboo
- 9 Arlington Sheep Day – Public Events Building, Arlington ARS
- 11 Heart of the Farm Program – Randolph
- 12 Nutrient Management Update Class – Portage
Make up from 1-30-19
- 13 Farm Succession Meeting – Green Lake
- 13-14 Professional Dairy Producers of WI – Alliant Center, Madison
- 14 Columbia County Corn Growers Meeting – Club 60
- 15 Produce Safety Training – Portage
- 19 Columbia/Marquette DHIA Annual Meeting – Portage
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 27 Manure Hauler Training – Dodgeville
- 30 Master Gardeners – “Let’s Get Green and Growing” – Rio HS

April

- 2 Spring Election Day
- 12-14 Midwest Horse Fair – Alliant Center, Madison
- 13 Water Testing Sample bottle dispersion, Fort Winnebago, Marcellon, Pacific, Wycocena
- 15 Water Testing Sample bottle collection; Fort Winnebago, Marcellon, Pacific, Wycocena
- 15 Tax Day
- 26-27 WI Holstein Association Midwest National Spring Show, Alliant Center, Madison

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

You are invited!!!!

The Columbia County Corn Growers Association will be meeting on Thursday, March 14, from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm at Club 60, Columbus, WI. Registration begins at 8:00 am with the opening welcome remarks by President Jason Link at 8:30 am. **Anyone who grows corn in Columbia County** is invited to attend this event and lunch. Your board of Directors and UW-Extension has put together an exciting and fast-paced group of speakers and topics to help you as corn growers, increase your productive efficiency and profitability in 2019 which is again expected to be a low margin year.

- 8:00 Registration
8:30 Welcome and Sponsor Recognition – Jason Link
FSA Update – Jonathon Williams
NRCS Update – Elizabeth Lovering
Land and Water Conservation Update – Kurt Calkins
UW-Extension Update – George Koepp
“Marketing strategies for 2019” – Commodity & Ingredient Hedging
“Spring Tillage Recommendations, since it didn’t happen last fall”
– Francisco Arriaga
“The Four Rights of Soil Fertility and fertilizer movement in the soil”
– Carrie Laboski
Elections to the Board of Directors – Jason Link and Paul Sharpee will be going off the board
WI Corn Growers Update, Initiatives for 2019, Nicole Wagner, WI Corn Growers Association
11:55 Announcements and Sponsors Thank you
12:00 Lunch and networking with our sponsors and growers

If you plan to attend, please register by March 8th by contacting Jennifer Evans at jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu or calling 608-742-9687. All other questions should be directed to George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent at george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu or 608-742-9682.

We really hope to see you at our meeting!

Jason Link – President

Ben Grove – Secretary

Garry Gard – Industry Rep

George Koepp – Columbia County Ag Agent

Scott Holland - Treasurer

Paul Sharpee - Director

Darren Schroeder – Director



TAR SPOT

(Notes from Damon Smith Presentation at the Midwest Forage Association Meetings on 2/1919)

Why was Tar Spot so Bad in 2018?

- Monthly average temperature of 63 F to 72 F
- Average Relative Humidity was greater than 75%
- Averaged seven hours of leaf wetness per night
- 10-20 foggy days per month
- Monthly rainfall total of at least 5.9 inches



What We Know / Don't Know

- Hybrids may differ in susceptibility
- We do not understand biology or epidemiology • Use of fungicides as a management tool is new – optimum timing and mode of action are important
- Rotation?
- Tillage?
- We have seen every year since 2015 – this year’s conditions may have made it worse in certain locations – high moisture availability
- Likely overwinters - crop residue? weeds or other plants?
- Spores can likely move a decent distance (up to 250 feet has been reported)
- Collaborative effort underway with colleagues in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan to determine disease impact, pathogen biology, and management – this will take time.


The 'Take Home'

- There will likely be some tar spot in 2019 – Pay attention to Wisconsin Crop Manager -Level of infestation is a function of the hybrid planted, weather conditions, and if epidemic initiates earlier vs. later in the season -The 2018 epidemic was so problematic, because tar spot started in some fields before tasseling
- Some hybrids are more resistant than others -Resistance not tied to brand – Every hybrid stands on its own -Strong hybrid resistance isn’t common – will need an integrated approach
- Fungicide application can reduce tar spot severity -Product important (QoI + DMI or QoI + DMI + SDHI) --Timing very important -Application needs to occur close to the onset of the epidemic
- Need for a prediction model -Tarspotter– Needs validation in 2019 and beyond -Have infrastructure in place to launch as a research smartphone application -Will push predictions via newsletters, blogs, and Twitter in 2019
- Need More Crop Management Data -Rotation -Tillage

Arlington Sheep Day/WI Breeders Cooperative

11TH ANNUAL ARLINGTON SHEEP DAY and WISCONSIN SHEEP BREEDERS COOPERATIVE 2019 BANQUET, RECOGNITION PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 9th, 2019
Public Events Facility, Arlington Agricultural Research Station

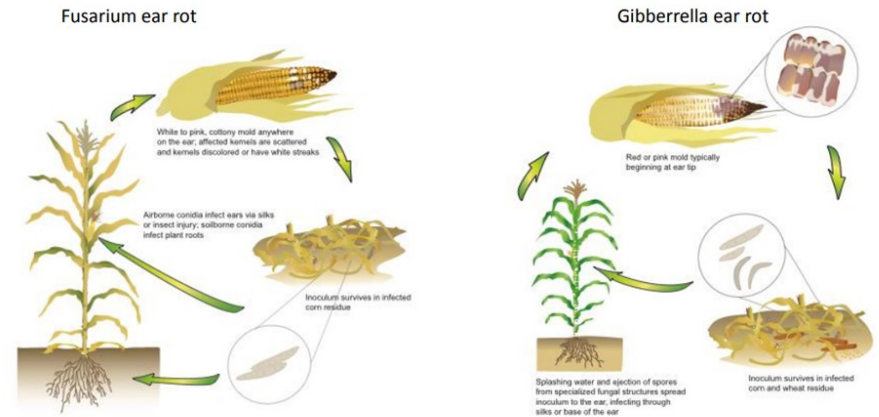
8:30 a.m. – Registration - <i>Public Events Facility</i>	
9:00 a.m. – Welcome	
Public Events Facility	Sheep Unit
<p>9:15 – Feed the flock to increase production – Dr. Dan Morrival, Premier 1 Supplies production advisor</p>  <p>and Retired Sheep Extension Specialist, Iowa State University will cover basic nutrient requirements, micro mineral and vitamin supplementation to promote high health, immunity and hoof integrity.</p>	<p>9:15 Getting the most from your Market Lamb Project!</p> <p>Intended for youth sheep project members and interested parents</p> <p>Mr. Mark Johnson, Purina Feeds, show lamb advisor and co-owner of A&M Ranch, registered Southdowns will give you tips on selection, feeding, health care and training of youth market lamb projects. Bring your educational cards to receive credit toward county meat animal sale requirements!!</p>
<p>10:15 – “A year in the life” – Todd Taylor, Shepherd UW-Madison Arlington Sheep Unit, will discuss vaccination and treatment schedules associated with the UW Madison sheep unit.</p>	<p>Noon – Return to Public Events Facility</p>
<p>11:00 - Break</p> <p>11:15 – Finishing the Lamb Crop – Dr. Morrival covers feeds and finishing rations possibilities to help prevent nutritional disorders and economically finish your lamb crop!</p>	
12:15 p.m. - Adjourn morning program	
12:30 - Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Banquet	
1:30 - Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative 2019 Recognition Program & Annual Meeting	

Arlington Sheep Day is sponsored by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative.

For more information on the 11th Annual Arlington Sheep Day, contact Todd Taylor (608-846-5858, toddtaylor@wisc.edu) or Bernie O'Rourke (608-263-4304, borourke2@ansci.wisc.edu)

For more information on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Annual Meeting & Recognition Banquet or membership to the WSBC, contact Jill Alf, Executive Secretary at (wisconsinssheepbreeders@gmail.com or 608/743-9080 after 5 pm weekdays)

The Major Ear Rots in Wisconsin



Mycotoxins

- Toxic, metabolic by-products produced by fungi (molds) growing on grain, feed, or food in the field or in storage
- 400-500 known mycotoxins
- Production of mycotoxins is highly dependent on
 - Environment
 - Factors that may cause wounding on plants (e.g. hail, insect feeding)
 - Situations where resource demand is high or resources are limiting (e.g. plant stress)
- Kernel moisture >18-20% does favor growth of all ear molds (including those that produce toxins)
- Presence of mold on an ear DOES NOT EQUAL mycotoxins are present
- Similarly, no mold DOES NOT EQUAL NO mycotoxins are present
- Most important organisms in Wisconsin = *Fusarium* spp.

Summary and Hypotheses

- DON can accumulate in ears AND stalks -Farmers should test stalks for DON level if planning to feed

- Some hybrids might be more susceptible to stalk DON accumulation than ear DON accumulation (PO956AMX vs. F2F627)
- DON accumulation in stalks likely independent from ear DON accumulation -Hypothesis: Crown and stalk infection vs. ear infection by *F. graminearum* -Different than wheat; water-leaching of DON may be leading to straw DON levels
- Fungicide may not always reduce DON -Hypothesis: Hard to get fungicide into stalks to reduce stalk infection; Thus, DON still accumulates in stalk portion independent of ear infection control by fungicide applied at R1
- Best all around fungicide timing still likely R1 using Proline fungicide; reduces ear DON levels substantially -Hypothesis: Could V6 application timings be reducing stalk infection and subsequent stalk DON accumulation?

-Notes by Damon Smith @ Midwest Forage Association on 2/19/19

Heart of the Farm

The Heart of the Farm program will be hosting two conferences in southwest Wisconsin in March 2019.

March 7th, 2019 at Fawn Creek Winery, 3619 13th Avenue, Wisconsin Dells and March 11th at Randolph Village Hall, 428 West Stroud Street, Randolph, WI from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture Conference series is a UW-Extension program that is committed to addressing the needs of farmwomen by providing education on farm business topics, connecting them with agricultural resources and creating support networks.

Topics presented at this conference include:

- ◆ How to balance farm, family and personal priorities.
- ◆ Finding Peace with your Balance Sheet
- ◆ Ask a Vet
- ◆ Alternative Ag: Bed and Breakfast Venture
- ◆ Wine and Cheese Tastings



Registration deadline with payment is March 1st.

Registration of for the workshop is \$25 per person (includes materials, lunch, snacks and wine tasting) on or before March 1st. Registration costs \$35 per person after March 1st. Registrations are non-refundable, except with prior authorization of the planning committee.

To register, obtain a brochure, or for more information, contact UW-Extension Sauk County, 608-355-3254 or UW-Extension Columbia County, 608-742-9682.

UW-Extension Columbia, Dodge, Marquette, Juneau and Sauk Counties are hosting these conferences with financial support from the UW-Center for Dairy Profitability and UW-Extension's FARM (Farm and Risk Management) Team.

For more information on the Heart of the Farm Program, contact Jenny Vanderlin, jmvander@wisc.edu, 608-263-7795, <http://fyi.uwex.edu/heartofthefarm/>

Waterhemp Trials

UW Madison Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM) Program is looking for some cooperating farmers to conduct some Herbicide Comparison Programs during the 2019 growing season in soybean fields. They want to compare pre and post applications along with some soil residual herbicides.



They are looking for about two acres in a field that will be planted to soybeans in 2019. All the farmer needs is to plant the soybeans. A tillage based operation is preferred, but they can work with a no-till system. The soybean variety doesn't matter. Once the farmer has planted the beans, NPM will come out and layout the trials and apply the herbicide treatments. They will take care of all weed management within the trial area. They will not use any unregistered herbicides, so once they have finished the trials the farmer can take the beans off as they normally would. The farmer is responsible for weed control outside the two acre trial plot.

NPM will conduct several evaluations during the season, monitor and measure weed biomass, and hope to have a field day (if that's okay with the farmer). NPM will make sure that any surviving weeds are removed prior to them setting seed.

The most important thing about the trial is that we have a good amount of uniform waterhemp pressure. So, if you have a field that you know has high waterhemp pressure and are willing to work with the NPM Program from UW-Madison, please contact George at the Columbia County Extension Office (608-742-9682) to get your field lined up. This is a great way to learn first-hand what works best to control waterhemp in your soybean fields. Call George if you have any other questions about this program.

Dairy Situation and Outlook, February 20, 2019
By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

USDA released the December milk production. January milk production will be released on March 12th and February production on March 19th. December milk production was just 0.5% higher than a year ago from 49,000 fewer milk cows and just 1.1% more per cow. Milk production for the last quarter was just 0.5% higher than a year ago. Milk production for the year was up 0.9% from an average of 7,000 fewer milk cows and just 1.0% more milk per cow. Milk production below 1% is bullish for milk prices.

Despite the growth in milk production of less than 1.0% milk prices remain depressed going into 2019. The January Class III price was \$13.96 and it looks like February will be around \$14.00. Cheese prices are starting to show some improvement. The 40-pound cheddar block price was as low as \$1.375 per pound in January and have improved to \$1.5950. Cheddar barrels were as low as \$1.16 per pound in January and have improved to \$1.4175. But, dry whey prices have weakened. In mid-January dry whey was \$0.52 per pound, but are now \$0.36 which has reduced the Class III price about \$0.90. With butter holding near \$2.25 per pound and nonfat dry milk near \$1.00 per pound the Class IV price has increased and is higher than Class III. In January Class IV was \$15.48 and will be near \$15.85 in February.

Looking ahead milk prices are expected to slowly increase. Domestic demand has been showing modest growth. Fluid (beverage) milk sales continue the downward trend falling another 2.0% in 2018. But, higher butter and cheese sales increased total domestic demand.

With the government shut down the latest stock report was for November 30th. At that time cheese stocks were a record high at 7.5% higher than a year ago. Butter stocks were 3.5% lower, dry whey stocks 34.6% lower and nonfat dry milk stocks 9.4% lower. USDA will release December stocks on March 12th and February stocks on March 19th.

Class III futures don't reach \$15 until May and the \$16's until August and peak at just \$16.35 in November. But, if the growth in milk production is **no more than 1.0%** the Class III price could improve quicker and higher than this. USDA is fore-

casting for the year that milk production could increase by 1.1% from an average of 20,000 fewer milk cows and 1.4% more milk per cow. With the financial stress on dairy producers and some forage quality issues until the new crop I could see even lower cow numbers and a lower increase in milk production. With a modest growth in cheese sales the stocks of cheese will slowly improve. While dairy exports are expected to be lower they may still be at a level to offer support to cheese and other dairy product prices. With little growth in world milk production world milk prices should increase to help U.S. dairy exports. I could see Class III prices in the mid-\$15's by second quarter, the high 15's and even reaching the \$16's in the third quarter and the mid-\$16's in the fourth quarter and averaging around \$15.70 compared to \$14.61 last year. The Class IV price is expected to do better. Butter prices should stay well above \$2.00 per pound and continued strong nonfat dry milk exports to keep nonfat dry milk prices near \$1.00 per pound. Class IV prices could stay in the higher \$15's first half of the year and in the \$16's second half.



Robert Cropp, racropp@wisc.edu

Columbia County Master Gardener Association Scholarship

This Scholarship is for high school seniors or others planning to attend a two or four year post-secondary institution on a full-time basis or current college students attending full time. Recipient will be a student majoring in horticulture, plant sciences, forestry, landscape architecture and design, or a closely related field. Scholarship amount is \$500. Recipient must be a resident of Columbia County or a graduate or soon-to-be graduate of a Columbia County high school. Application deadline is March 15, 2019.

For application and rules visit:

<https://columbia.uwex.edu/master-gardener/high-school-scholarship/>



Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

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

Farmland Preservation Updates:

Tax Credits: In the 2017 tax season, Columbia County had 786 eligible claimants for the State of Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Tax Credit. Of those 786 eligible property owners, only 587 claims were filed using the FC-A for the 2017 tax season. These 587 claims covered 114,442 acres and totaled \$868,704. Another 36 claims were filed using the FC Tax form covering 6,226 acres equating to \$25,997.

It should be noted 199 Columbia County property owners are enrolled in and have current Farmland Preservation Certificates of Compliance and are **not** claiming \$7.50 per acre credit, they are eligible to claim. If you have questions and wish to enroll please contact our office.

Certificate of Compliance Updates: Please remember when parcels are sold, purchased, merged, split or re-titled the Farmland Preservation Certificate of Compliance must be updated in order to claim the credit for the tax season of the same year.

Registering for the Farmland Preservation Program:

- You must be the landowner. You do not need to be the farm operator and can rent out your land to a producer.
 - You must be a Wisconsin resident.
 - Your land must have produced \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year, or \$18,000 in the past 3 years. Rent is not included.
- Your farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards. Obtain a certificate of compliance from the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Tax Credits:

- \$5/acre if your land is covered by a farmland preservation agreement and is in an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA).
- \$7.50/acre if you own land in a certified farmland preservation zoning district.



-\$10/acre if your land is covered by a farmland preservation agreement and is in an AEA and a farmland preservation zoning district. Rules may be different for agreements signed prior to July 1, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding current Farmland Preservation Certificate of Compliance or wish to inquire about the possibility of registering for the Farmland Preservation Program please contact Harold McElroy or Chris Arnold at the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department at 608-742-9670.

Tree Sales Program 2018-2019-Reserve ASAP!

Just a reminder we are processing orders for the 2018-2019 year. We have sold out of a couple species already, so act fast! We added Butternut and Quaking Aspen trees to the form this year. We are also offering 4 AND 5 foot tree tubes. If you wish to receive an order form or place an order, please contact us or go online at: <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/TreeProgram>. If you are NOT on the annual mailing list, feel free to contact us to be added. Reminder all trees are sold in bundles of 25. Tree pick-up day is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019. Thanks for your continued support in this program. If you have questions, please contact us at 608 742-9670.



Chance To Participate in Citizen Advisory Committee (LWRM Plan Revision):

Columbia County LWCD will be going through a State required update to our DATCP approved Land and Water Resource Management Plan in 2019. This is a very important process that will help guide our Land and Water Conservation programming for the next 10 years and more. We will need to populate a citizen advisory committee to help us through the process. If you are interested in serving on the Citizen Advisory Committee, or have questions about the role, please contact Kurt Calkins to discuss this. Commitment will include a number of evening meetings in 2019.

The plan provides long & short term guidance of departmental programming and areas of emphasis. The plan also provides eligibility for the County to gain access to financial resources from state and federal sources. The two prong approach is a valuable opportunity for citizens to have direct impact in local decision making and priority setting regarding a wide range of natural resource management priorities, including the regulatory management of animal waste and general agricultural non-point source pollution abatement.

5 Questions - Landowners Should Ask Their Farmers about Soil Health

More farmers, ranchers and others who rely on the land are taking action to improve the health of their soil. Many farmers are actually building the soil. How? By using soil health management systems that include cover crops, diverse rotations and no-till.

When they're building the soil, they're doing something else – they're also building the land's production potential over the long-term. But how do landowners know if their tenants are doing everything they need to do to make and keep their soil healthy? Barry Fisher, an Indiana farmer and nationally recognized soil health specialist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, recommends that they ask their farming partner these five questions.

#1- Do You Build Organic Matter in the Soil? Organic matter (carbon) may be the most important indicator of a farm's productivity. The amount of soil organic matter often determines the price farmers will pay to rent or buy land. Finding a farmer who is interested in building organic matter by using practices like no-till and cover crops is like finding a bank with a better rate on a Certificate of Deposit, Fisher says.

#2- Do You Test the Soil At Least Once Every 4 Years? Fisher says maintaining fertility and pH levels are important to your farm's productivity. Regular soil testing can give an indication of trends in soil fertility, pH and organic matter levels in each field. These tests will determine the amount of fertilizer each field needs. If a field has a history of manure application and very high fertility, a farmer could save money by planting cover crops to keep those nutrients in place rather than applying more nutrients that may not be needed.

#3- Do You Use No-Till Practices? Some landowners like the look of a clean-tilled field in the springtime. That "nice look" is short lived, though. "The reality is a field that has bare soil is subject to erosion and loss of organic matter, since it no longer has the protective cover from the crop residue to blanket the soil surface to protect it from the forces of intense rainfall and summer heat. This protective blanket will conserve moisture for the crop and prevent loss of soil from wind erosion, water erosion and carbon that could be burned off by summer heat."

#4- Do You Use Cover Crops? "Like no-till, cover crops provide a green, protective blanket through the winter months or fallow times. The green-growing cover is

collecting solar energy, putting down roots and providing habitat when the soil would otherwise be lifeless and barren," says Fisher. This habitat provides food and shelter for a broad population of wildlife above ground and beneficial organisms below ground. As new life emerges, cover crops hold onto the nutrients left from the previous crop and in turn releases them to the next crop. The solar rays these plants collect are powering photosynthesis, taking in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to produce food for the plant and the organisms living in the root zone. The same process also releases clean oxygen to the air and builds nutrient rich matter in the soil.

#5- What Can We Do Together to Improve Soil Health on My Land? To improve soil health, landowners and tenants need to think long-term. According to Fisher, the duration of the lease agreement is perhaps the most critical matter in encouraging the adoption of these soil health management systems. "Farmers can actually build the production capacity and resiliency of their landowner's soil, but it may take several years to realize the full benefits of doing so," Fisher says. He suggests that landowners consider multiple-year leases that provide tenure security for the tenant. Longer tenures give both landowners and tenants more opportunities to improve soil health and realize the resulting longer-term production and profitability gains through sustainable conservation practices.

Learn More - "Improving soil health can provide long-term, stable dividends for you, your family and your farming partner," Fisher says. "Improving soil health also can decrease the effects of flooding, make food production more resilient to weather extremes, and improve the health of water and wildlife, as well," he adds. Fisher encourages landowners to learn more about the basics and benefits of soil health management systems and to begin the soil health discussion with their farming partner right away. "Even if you're not a farmer or landowner, everyone has a great stake in improving the health of our soil," he says.



Landowners can also learn more about the benefits of soil health by visiting the "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil" section of the NRCS web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2017-2020 Columbia County Well Water Testing & Education Program

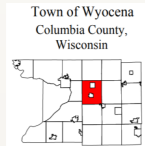
Residents who have rural drinking water wells located in the Towns of:

- ◆ **Fort Winnebago**

◆ **Pacific**
- ◆ **Marcellon**

◆ **Wyocena**

will have the opportunity to pick-up water testing kits at their town hall on the morning of **April 13th**. Nine Columbia County towns have hosted the countywide 2017-2020 rural drinking well water program, with 412 wells tested, so far. The 2017-2020 Columbia County Well Water Testing & Education Program is sponsored by: UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation and Health & Human Services in partnership with the Towns & Center for Watershed Science and Education at UW-Stevens Point.



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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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