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Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture introduces online ‘Coffee Chat’ series

University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension’s Heart of the Farm-Women in Agriculture program will host a statewide ZOOM conference to introduce a new online ‘Coffee Chats’ series, May 8, 2020 from 1-2:15 pm.

The Heart of the Farm-Women in Agriculture Conference series is an Extension program that addresses the needs of farm women by providing education on farm business topics, connecting them with agricultural resources and creating support networks.

The keynote speaker for the ‘Coffee Chats’ series is Jess Peters from Spruce Row Farm in Meadville, PA. Jess will share her thoughts on the resiliency of farmers and ideas on getting through these crazy times. Spruce Row Farm is family owned and operated by the Peters family; they milk 275 Jerseys. In addition to working on the family farm, Jess runs the Spruce Row Farm Facebook page, is an advocate for the dairy industry and a blogger for Hoard’s Dairyman. She also started the project “Our Ag Secrets” – an online platform that allows people to post anonymously the things they might be afraid to say aloud – it’s a place to vent about family, release fears for the future, or share the things a person loves/hates about being a farmer.

After the keynote presentation is an interactive session, “Balancing Act or is it a Three Ring Circus?” where women can connect with others who share the same experiences and challenges. During this session, participants will discuss current timesaving tips to use at home or on the farm.

The final portion of the online conference will be spent sharing topics for the rest of the “Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats” series and how to sign up for the session that best fits your schedule.

Register online for the May 8, 2020, 1-2:15 pm Heart of Farm ‘Coffee Chats’ Wisconsin kickoff meeting with this Heart of the Farm link: <https://go.wisc.edu/0c267p> . Once registered, you will receive meeting connection information (website link and phone number). Registered participants will only need the meeting website link or phone number to participate in the meeting.

More information can be found on the Heart of the Farm website, <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/heartofthefarm>, by calling your local UW-Madison Division of Extension County office, or contact Jenny Vanderlin, jenny.vanderlin@wisc.edu, 608-263-7795.

Small Business Administration's Agricultural Assistance for Wisconsin's Farmers

The new Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act provides additional resources for both the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Participation in SBA's EIDL program or PPP does not impact producer eligibility for USDA's forthcoming CFAP. There is no linkage between the two programs. Likewise, participation in SBA's EIDL program or PPP does not impact producer eligibility for any USDA farm program. The PPP duplicate benefit provision does not have an impact on FSA farm programs or farm loan programs.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an EIDL advance of up to \$10,000 and borrow up to \$2 million. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Loan advances will not have to be repaid.

For the first time, agricultural enterprises are now eligible for the disaster assistance from EIDL.

For more information, visit

sba.gov. <[### Paycheck Protection Program](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjJaylsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMDA1MDcuMjExNjY1NjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LnNiYS5nb3Y_dXRtX21lZGI1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmlRbGl2ZXJ5In0.xwG3h3j5bFNLFkoQ5kSWQlqb-ZFW3lo_yPqXQa_upKc/br/78343305178-l-></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The PPP is a guaranteed loan program administered by the SBA. The purpose of the program is to support small businesses and help support their payroll during the coronavirus situation.

Agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers with 500 or fewer employees whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible.

Farms are eligible if:

- * the farm has 500 or less employees, OR
- * it fits within the revenue-based sized standard, which is on average annual receipts of \$1M.

Additionally, farms can qualify for PPP if it meets SBA's "alternative size standard." The "alternative size standard" is currently:

- * a maximum net worth of the business not more than \$15 million, AND
- * the average net income Federal income taxes of the business for the two full fiscal years before the date of

the application be not more than \$5 million.

Small agricultural cooperatives may receive PPP loans as long as other eligibility requirements are met. Other forms of cooperatives may be eligible provided they comply with all other Loan Program Requirements (as defined in 13 CFR 120.10).

In regard to H-2A or H-2B workers on payroll, only employees with a principal place of residence in the U.S. count toward eligibility and calculation of the PPP loan amount.

SBA requires sole proprietors, independent contractors, and other eligible self-employed individuals to provide documentation to its lender that the business was in operation as of February 15, 2020. This documentation may include payroll processor records, payroll tax filings, or Form 1099-MISC, or income and expenses from a sole proprietorship. For borrowers that do not have any such documentation, the borrower must provide other supporting documentation to its lender, such as bank records, sufficient to demonstrate the qualifying payroll amount.

Documentation options for payroll tax filings include the following:

- * IRS Form 941 (quarterly wages);
- * IRS Form 944 (calendar year wages);
- * State income, payroll and unemployment insurance filings;
- * QuickBooks;
- * bank repository accounts; and/or
- * internally generated profit and loss statements.

Some additional notes include:

- * Nonprofit organizations must include IRS Form 990;
- * Sole proprietors must include IRS Form 1040 Schedule C;
- * Any entity that filed IRS Form 1099-MISC must include this form;
- * Seasonal employers must document the period beginning February 15, 2019 through June 30, 2019

More extensive FAQs can be found at the Treasury Department's CARES Act

website <[## Managing a farm during COVID-19](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbI9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaySIj1bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMDA1MDcuMjExNjY1NjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2hvbWUudHJlYXN1cnkuZ292L3BvbGljeS1pc3N1ZXMvY2FyZXMvYXNzaXN0YW5jZS1mb3I3tc21hbGwtYnVzaW5lc3Nlc391dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWIsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.z5Y9jllpC3Er2j6f_2do6_sPg0fnrdpN7KQImolG1c/br/78343305178-l>.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has brought the need for business health, safety and continuity planning to the forefront. Now is the time to communicate with employees and family members regarding plans to keep them safe, healthy, and working especially during the busy planting season. This is also a good time to review important community contact information including your Emergency contacts and Public Health Department.

While much of the negative impact on Agriculture by COVID19 is out of our control, there are things you can do *now* to reduce or prevent the impact of COVID19 on the health and productivity of your farm. Please do not fail to take care of yourself.

Find resources about:

- [Finances](#)
- [Social distancing protocol on farms](#)
- [Planning to ensure farm continuation](#)
- [Maintaining a safe workplace](#)
- [Learn the facts about COVID-19](#)
- YouTube: [Extension Agriculture COVID19 Response](#)

Follow this link for more details including the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans. <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/coronavirus/>

Virtual Farm tours of UW Research Farms

The Beef Virtual Farm Tour recording from the Lancaster and Arlington Research Stations are available.

<https://youtu.be/dbgd3TjSHA4>

The last virtual farm tour of the **Arlington farm center** happens on Friday, May 8th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST. There will be a tour of the feed mill, we'll see how the crops that are planted are growing, hoping to catch some planting and participants will get to see unique equipment that is used in crop research. Please register at <https://bit.ly/farmcenter> in order to receive the Zoom connection information to log in on Friday.

Early Season Scouting Wheat in WI

Damon Smith, Extension Field Crops Pathologist, Brian Mueller, Assistant Field Researcher, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison The Badger Crop Docs have started scouting wheat in south-central Wisconsin over the past few days. In ...

<https://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2020/05/13498/>

Will my Wheat and Soybean Crop Freeze?

Shawn P. Conley, Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin Weather forecasts have farmers "sweating" the upcoming cold weather. Here are a few thoughts and resources based on the forecast temperatures....

<https://coolbean.info/2020/05/05/mirror-mirror-wall-will-wheat-soybean-crop-freeze-fall/>

WI Pest Bulletin

Volume 65 Issue No. 2 of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is now available at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp> [PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)

LOOKING AHEAD: First significant black cutworm moth flights recorded

FORAGES & GRAINS: Counts of alfalfa pests remain very low

CORN: Peak emergence of seedcorn maggot flies expected next week across central WI

SOYBEAN: First bean leaf beetles of the season collected in Vernon County

FRUITS: Damaging frost/freeze event anticipated May 7-9

VEGETABLES: Common asparagus beetle emergence likely in 1-2 weeks

NURSERY & FOREST: Ralstonia wilt detected in Fantasia 'Pink Flare' geraniums

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-Madison 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@wisc.edu.