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Wisconsin Soybean Variety Performance Trials

The Wisconsin Soybean Performance Trials are conducted each year with the producer's needs in mind. Our objective is to give producers the information to select varieties that will satisfy their specific goals and are most likely to perform best under their management practices. The performance of a variety may vary from year to year, even at the same location. Multiple tests over two or more years more accurately predict the variety performance. When selecting varieties, consider maturity, herbicide tolerance, disease resistance, and grain composition in addition to yield.

[View or download the Wisconsin Soybean Performance Trials publication by click this sentence.](#)

Growing Retail Demand with New Pork Offerings

According to the most recent IRI data (subscription-based retail sales data purchased with Pork Checkoff funding), most consumers are still cooking 80% of their meals at home, with 79% of consumers trying new recipes.

The National Pork Board continues to partner with retailers and processors to help consumers experiment with pork at home. Recent features include:

- Tyson® “Freshly Seasoned” pork items —, “for Carnitas”, “for Al Pastor” and “for Fajitas” — being tested at 159 Walmart stores in Texas.
- Chicago-based Tony’s Fresh Market is [featuring ground pork](#), authentic street food from [Menú Urbano](#) and authentic holiday dishes through the end of year.

New Video: *Soil Sampling Basics*

The importance of soil testing as well as the mechanics of collecting a representative soil sample are discussed and demonstrated in this new video from the NPM Program. *Soil Sampling Basics* features NPM Southwest Regional Specialist Dan Smith. The video can be viewed [here](#).

New Publication: *Benefits of a Nutrient Management Plan*

Benefits of a Nutrient Management Plan briefly describes the incentives for obtaining and following a soil nutrient management plan. These incentives include saving money by reducing excessive nutrient applications, protecting water quality, and improving soil health by reducing soil erosion. The two-page document can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

A companion piece to the above publication is *What is a Nutrient Management Plan?* The latter describes the basic components of a nutrient management plan. This two-pager is available [here](#).

WDATCP Wisconsin Produce Safety Rule Training

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is offering virtual food safety training to help produce farmers comply with the Produce Safety Rule (PSR). In-person training was suspended earlier this year to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Farms covered by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) PSR are required to have at least one person attend an approved food safety class. DATCP, in cooperation with the Produce Safety Alliance, is offering two eight-hour, two-day online courses that meet FSMA and PSR requirements. The courses will be held on:

- * Nov. 17-18, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- * Dec. 15-16, 2020, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The courses will help produce growers understand how their farm's practices stack up against PSR regulations. Farmers also will learn more about exceptions and exemptions available under the rule. The course will cover key areas of the PSR, including:

- * Introduction to produce safety
- * Worker health, hygiene and training
- * Soil amendments
- * Wildlife, domesticated animals and land use
- * Agricultural water
- * Post-harvest handling and sanitation
- * How to develop a farm food safety plan

The course is free, but attendees must register at least two weeks before the course date at safeproduce.wi.gov <https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMipjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDExMDIuMjk3ODUyNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2RhZGNwLndpLmdydi9QYWdlcy9Qcm9ncmFtc19TZXJ2aWNlcy9TYWZlV2IzY29uc2luUHJvZHVjZS5hc3B4In0.qDdj16tn0wDcCrdsQ5Yi6GWc_8D1N8ourWCIKea8ufE/s/217669144/br/87824384162-l>. Participants must be able to engage through video and audio during the training, so access to a reliable internet connection and a computer or tablet with AV capabilities is critical. After attending the course, participants can request an Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) Certificate of Completion, which satisfies a key requirement for farms covered by the PSR.

Wisconsin is second in the nation in number of certified organic farms, and more than 1,000 farms are covered by the PSR. Wisconsin's agriculture industry has a \$104.8 billion impact on the state's economy, and about one in nine people working in the state hold a job related to agriculture.

For more information about the FSMA or PSR, visit the Safe Wisconsin Produce website <[## Prioritizing Financial and Marketing Decisions](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGjIj01bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMDE5MDIuMjk3ODUyNDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2RhZGNwLndpLmdvdi9QYWdlcy9Qcm9ncmFtc19TZXJ2aWNlcy9TYWZlV2l2Y29uc2luUHJvZHVjZS5hc3B4In0.hpLZQ4df7I_Y78ZWDPeUayCZjoqhaER_NtHEyTcr_GSA/s/217669144/br/87824384162-l>.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Register by 5:00 pm, Nov 11 at <https://go.wisc.edu/zrkak8>

This year has brought many challenges and surprises to farmers across Wisconsin with market drops and rallies, price spreads, changing production levels, and banner crop production. How can we make sound management decisions as markets and prices remain volatile?

"Prioritizing Financial and Marketing Decisions" is the third webinar in the "Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals Fall 2020 Series" which will take place in monthly sessions.

November 12 Agenda:

- **2020 End of Year Review: Crops and Farm Finances** - Paul Mitchell, Director of the Renk Agribusiness Institute and Professor in the UW-Madison Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
- **Year End Grain Marketing and Pricing Decisions** - John Heinberg, Total Farm Marketing by Stewart-Peterson

There is no charge for the webinar, and it is open to everyone who has an interest in this topic.

Please register for this free webinar at: <https://go.wisc.edu/zrkak8>

Registration deadline is 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 11. Connection information will be emailed before 9:30 am on November 12.

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.