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Register for Columbia County Corn Growers Meetings Next Week

You are invited to participate in the Columbia County Corn Growers December 2020 Meetings. Due to Covid 19 we will not be meeting at Club 60 as was our custom. Instead, we will host three separate on-line meetings this year. Join us from the comfort of your home or office on-line on December 8, 9, and 10 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM each day.

Per UW-Madison, there will be no in-person opportunity to meet this year due to Covid 19.

Join us for one day, or all three days. You must register on-line to attend the Zoom meetings. Call or email Sarah Millard, 608-742-9688 (sarah.millard@wisc.edu) if you would like her to email the registration links to you. Please call or email her right away. If you are seeing this letter in an email, you may click on the links below to register.

We will begin on Tuesday December 8th with updates and information from our agency partners. You will hear from: Twyla Kite at NRCS, Lexie Meyer at FSA, Kurt Calkins from Columbia County Land & Water Conservation, and George Koepp from UW-Extension. Register for Tuesday's meeting here:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrcu2qpjwrHNJTQZ1AeAPPauN1ybz53b-R>

On Wednesday, December 9th, we will hear about Market Outlooks from Corn Grower Board Member Kasey Baker, Grain Marketing Specialist at Landmark Services Cooperative. Register for Wednesday's meeting here:

https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErdeispjMrHt1S_9QLrfwFVnjgvSWFoorL

On Thursday, December 10th, we will wrap up the series with a discussion on "Liming and Variable Rate Fertility Considerations", from Carrie Laboski, UW-Madison Soil Fertility Scientist. Register for Thursday's meeting here:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpfu-qqTluHdFsVnO-hNr2jFR6p82eCKjb>

This year each day will begin at 8:00 AM and will be done by 9:00 AM, unless you wish to stay on-line longer to continue asking questions of our presenters. We can even stay on a little longer to facilitate some open discussion amongst corn growers. Have your coffee ready, eat your breakfast at your home or office while we discuss issues important to grain farmers in Columbia and neighboring counties.

Here again are the links to register for each day. You must register for each day separately.

Tuesday, December 8:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrcu2qpjwrHNJTQZ1AeAPPauN1ybz53b-R>

Wednesday, December 9:

https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErdeispjMrHt1S_9QLrfwFVnjgvSWFoorL

Thursday, December 10: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpfu-qqTluHdFsVnO-hNr2jFR6p82eCKjb>

We look forward to seeing you on line in early December. Your Columbia County Corn Grower Board:

Darren Schroeder, President

Ben Groves, Secretary

Mike Minick, Director

Matt Balfanz, Vice President

Scott Holland, Treasurer

Kasey Baker, Director

New One-year Extension for Pesticide Applicator Certifications for 2021

DATCP and Extension have made some changes and added some new options to this year's private pesticide applicator training program (PAT) to help keep our communities safer. Here's how this impacts you:

- If your certification expires after January 31, 2020, you will be granted an extension until December 31, 2021. For most individuals this is the best option.
- No in-person trainings are currently being offered for 2021
- No in-person group testing will be offered in 2021
- Online training and testing will be available beginning December 1, 2020 – this will give you temporary certification until December 31, 2021. The only reason to use this option would be to get initial certification for one year.
- To obtain a renewed 5 year certification or an initial 5 year certification, you would need to either take the on-line training or self-study and schedule the limited in-person testing with the Columbia County Extension Office

If you need an initial certification or have any other questions, feel free to call to email George at your convenience, 608-742-9682 or george.koepp@wisc.edu . He can help you understand your options.

Badger Dairy Insight

Join the University of Wisconsin - Division of Extension's Dairy Program on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm CST for the NEW Badger Dairy Insight webinar series. These are no-cost webinars; however, participants must register before the program at <https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/>. We hope to see you at one of our December programs!

December 8th: Safe Operation of Skid Steer Loaders (Live Spanish Interpretation Available)

Skid steers are versatile machines on agricultural operations, but a safe operator is key to their operation. This session will cover the basics of safe operation, including potential workplace hazards, pre- and post-operation, operating a skid steer in different situations, and use of attachments. This program's training team includes Cheryl Skjolaas, Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist, Center for Agricultural Safety and Health joined by UW Madison - Division of Extension Agriculture Educators Carl Duley, Buffalo County; Jim Versweyveld, Walworth County; and Ashley Olsen, Vernon County.

Extension will offer a written exam and certificate of completion for participants taking this program as part of a workplace safety program.

Dec. 11 Deadline for USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

Columbia County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Lexie Meyer reminds farmers and ranchers the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) is Dec. 11, 2020. This program provides direct financial relief to producers due to market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

"Most of the crops and livestock raised in Wisconsin, including many of them raised in our area, are eligible commodities for this program," said Meyer. "If you haven't already applied or contacted our office to learn more about the program, now is the time to do so. Our staff will help you through the application process."

Row crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, aquaculture and more all are eligible for the CFAP 2. Producers are encouraged to visit farmers.gov/cfap and click on the "Eligible Commodities Finder" to review eligible commodities and learn about the payment structure for each. CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of the program (CFAP 1) and interested producers must complete a new application to be eligible for payment for CFAP 2.

Producers are encouraged to call the Columbia County FSA office at (608)742-5361, ext. 2 for guidance on the process to complete an application. Producers also have the option to visit farmers.gov/cfap and access the online application portal or learn about other application options. A call center is also available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors

must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Dairy Margin Coverage Program enrollment closes Friday, December 11.

Be sure to contact the Columbia County FSA Office right away if you haven't signed up for the 2021 Dairy Margin Coverage Program. If you have any questions on what coverage to select, give George a call at the Columbia County Extension office 9608-742-9682). In most cases it is best to select coverage at the \$9.50 level for the first 5,000,000 pounds of production.

It is unlikely that the deadline will be extended.

December 15th: Optimizing Management for Calf health & welfare webinar

Featured presenters will focus on various aspects of calf and heifer management, which can influence the success of her lactations. UW-Madison Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences Assistant Professor and Extension Animal Welfare Specialist Jennifer Van Os will discuss, "Two heads are better than one: The benefits of pair or group housing of calves". This topic will highlighting the researched benefits of pair- or group-housed calves and how to make the management transition from conventional to group housing. The first 24 hours of a calf's life can influence its longevity and productivity. Because of the importance of this period of calf's life, Extension Fond du Lac County Dairy & Livestock Educator Tina Kohlman will focus her presentation on "Calf Success: The first 24 hours".

2021 Agronomy Update Virtual Meetings!

The 2021 Agronomy Update Meetings will be virtual this year due to COVID-19. The meetings will present the latest information on hybrid/variety performance, an analysis and discussion of last year's growing season, and updated recommendations for field crop production. CEUs will be offered in Crop Management for Certified Crop Advisers. There is no charge for this event, but registration is required. There are two sessions to choose from, both sessions will present the same information. Please choose the one that best fits your schedule.

Presentations:

Joe Lauer, UW-Madison Corn Agronomist

2020 weather impact on corn performance

What has 20-yrs of strip-tillage research shown us for corn production?

The impact of environment on corn silage yield and quality

Shawn Conley, UW-Madison Soybean and Small Grain Agronomist

Agronomically optimal soybean seeding rates and associated risk across North America

Does precision planting matter in soybean?

Wheat grain and straw yield, grain quality, and disease benefits associated with increased management intensity

Matt Akins, UW Assistant Scientist & Dairy Extension Specialist and Kevin Jarek, UW Crops and Soils Agent

Wisconsin's Forage Landscape - What Do the Trends Tell Us and What Does This Mean to Farmers?"

Meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, January 5 9:00 am to 11:50 am Moderator: Bill Halfman, Monroe County, UW Agriculture Agent

Thursday, January 7 1:00 pm to 3:50 pm Moderator: Josh Kamps, Lafayette County, UW Agriculture Agent

Register by January 3, 2021. Register at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCuUAKDNTRLpgDpSeucaQuXctQM3Vy69jfMI7SLZiao961Zw/viewform>

PPP Loan Forgiveness For Farmers

Live webinar offered Dec. 11th on what farmers need to know

The next few weeks are year-end financial and tax planning time for a lot of Wisconsin farms. It is the time to gather all the receipts and documentation needed for the accountant or tax preparer. Farms that obtained a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan through an independent lender, administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA), may also find this to be a good time to review the application steps for PPP loan forgiveness.

Farmers with questions about making forgiveness applications can join a live web meeting, entitled, What Farmers Need to know about PPP Loan Forgiveness, on Friday, Dec. 11 at 11:00 am. Lisa Taylor, Outreach and Marketing Specialist and Tammie Clendenning, Lead Economic Development Specialist for Wisconsin SBA, will walk farmers through the decision-tree of which application form is needed, the steps for completing applications, and provide answers to frequently asked questions on the forgiveness process. Marissa Koller, Associate Credit Officer for Compeer Financial will discuss her organization's process in supporting farmers applying for PPP forgiveness. Katie Wantoch, Dunn County Agriculture Educator for UW-Madison Division of Extension, will discuss tax planning and PPP loan forgiveness.

The CARES Act allowed SBA, through the PPP, to provide potentially forgivable loans to small businesses. The PPP loan covered eligible payroll costs and/or self-employment income along with other allowable expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program expired on August 8th, 2020.

This web meeting is a collaboration of UW-Madison Division of Extension, the Wisconsin Small Business Development Centers (WSBDC), the Wisconsin SBA and Compeer Financial. The webinar is directed to a farmer audience and available at no cost, but pre-registration is required. Use this link to register for the Friday, Dec.

11, 11:00 a.m. – noon web meeting https://bit.ly/Dec11_PPP . Once registered, a connection link will be sent to your email address.

More information and guidance will be shared during the webinar on December 11th. Farmers can also reference UW Division of Extension’s Farm Management website at <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/> or you may contact joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu or call Joy at 608.263.3485.

Farmland Leasing Live Web Meeting on Dec. 18

Did you know that under Wisconsin statutes, a farmland lease for more than one year must be in writing and signed by both parties in order to be enforceable? Leasing land without a written lease can get messy quickly. As Phil Harris, former Ag Law Specialist for UW-Extension once said, “If you’re entering into an agreement that is important enough to you that you would go to court to enforce it, it’s worth taking the time to put that agreement in writing.”

University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is hosting a live web meeting entitled Farmland Markets & Leasing Contracts on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 from 11 am – noon on several aspects of farmland leasing. Join Extension Educators and a Land Access Navigator to learn about farmland values, building a lease agreement and special considerations for various types of lease agreements.

The first half of the hour-long web meeting will feature:

Farmland markets and rental prices: Simon Jette Nantel, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Farm Management, UW-River Falls

Building a Robust Lease: Heather Schlessler, UW-Madison Extension Marathon County Agriculture Educator

During the second half of the meeting, participants will be placed in Breakout Rooms that they have selected during the registration process. The Breakout Room topics include:

1. Leasing Buildings/Facilities: Carl Duley, UW-Madison Extension Buffalo County Agriculture Agent, and Bill Halfman, UW-Madison Extension Monroe County Agriculture Agent
2. Flexible Leases: Scott Reuss, UW-Madison Extension Marinette County Agriculture Agent
3. Grazing/Pasture Leases: Gene Schriefer, UW-Madison Extension Iowa County Agriculture Agent
4. Small acreage and long-term investments on leased land: Erin Schneider, Farmland Access Navigator, Renewing the Countryside and Jason Fischbach, UW-Madison Extension Bayfield County Agriculture Agent
5. Renting Irrigated Land: Ken Schroeder, UW-Madison Extension Portage County Agriculture Agent
6. Following the Breakout Room sessions, participants have the option to go back to the main room to ask questions of any of the speakers.

Farmland Markets & Leasing Contracts is directed to both landlords and renters and is available at no cost, but pre-registration is required. Extension recognizes that producers are receiving information for a lot of meetings this winter; the Farm Ready Research webinar website <https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/> is your place to find all information about UW-Madison Extension Agriculture programs. While you are registering for the leasing web meeting you can also register for any other farm management, dairy, or livestock programs that interest you.

For more information about Farmland Markets & Leasing Contracts contact Joy Kirkpatrick at joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu or call 608.263.3485.

Small Grains in WI – Benefits, Management, and Resources

Shawn P. Conley, Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist, UW Madison

Adding small grains (wheat, oats, spring barley, rye, triticale) into cropping systems can provide economic, soil health and conservation benefits for Wisconsin farms. For example, the diversification they add in a crop rotation can lead to better pest management by 1) interrupting insect and disease cycles and 2) increasing canopy competition that can suppress weeds earlier in the season than other crops, such as corn and soybean. Their earlier planting and mid-summer harvest can also spread out labor/equipment needs across the farm and open-up additional time for manure application and cover crop establishment. (cont.)

To read the entire article, download or view the entire six page publication by following this link:

https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/pubsGuides/SmallGrainsWI_final.pdf

2020 WI Corn Hybrid Trials

KENT KOHN, THIerno DIALLO, AND JOE LAUER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, DIVISION OF EXTENSION, WISCONSIN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Every year, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences conduct a corn evaluation program in cooperation with the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association. The purpose of this program is to provide unbiased performance comparisons of hybrid seed corn for both grain and silage available in Wisconsin.

In 2020, grain and silage performance trials were planted at 14 locations in four production zones: the southern, south central, north central, and northern zones. Both seed companies and university researchers submitted hybrids.

To download the 52 page document, follow this link:

<http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/HT/2020/A3653.pdf>

2020 WI Oat and Barley Performance Trials Report

LUCIA GUTIÉRREZ, PABLO SANDRO AND SHAWN CONLEY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON

The Wisconsin oat and barley performance trials are conducted each year to serve Wisconsin farmers. Trials include released varieties, experimental lines from Wisconsin and Midwestern States, and lines from private companies. The main objective of these trials is to obtain data on how varieties perform in different locations and years. Farmers can use this data to help choose the best varieties to plant, and breeders to decide on whether to release a new variety and to select parents to make new crosses.

Download this publication by following this link:

<https://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2020/12/2020-wisconsin-oat-and-barley-performance-trials-report/>

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.