

Columbia County Ag Reporter

July/August 2021



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)
- ◆ Badger Crop Connect (pg. 4)
- ◆ Dairy Situation & Outlook (pg. 6)
- ◆ Land & Water Conservation (pgs. 7-9)
- ◆ Columbia County Corn Growers (pg. 9)
- ◆ NRCS News (pgs. 10-12)
- ◆ USDA News (pgs. 13-16)



COLUMBIA
COUNTY

General Information:

Ag Reporter Calendar.....	2
Thank You Columbia County.....	3
Badger Crop Connect	4
Conservation Day.....	5
Dairy Situation Outlook.....	6
Columbia County Corn Growers.....	9

Land & Water Conservation:

Land & Water Conservation Updates.....	7-8
Chpt. 11 Ag Standards.....	8
Ag Enterprise Incentive Prog.....	9

NRCS:

USDA-NRCS Public Meeting.....	10-11
WI Women in Conservation (WiWiC) Summer Camp Series.....	11-12

USDA:

File Crop Acreage Reports.....	13
County Committee Nomination.....	14
Cons Res Prog & Grasslands.....	15-16

Extension Office Hours.....	15
Staff Directory.....	15

Web Site:

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/>

Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Extension Office is Closed
- 12-18 Sauk County Fair
- 20-22 Farm Tech Days, Eau Claire, WI
- 20-25 Columbia County Fair



August

- 5-15 Wisconsin State Fair
- 6 George's Retirement Day—Last Day at Extension
- 24 UW-Agronomy Field Day—Arlington ARS

September

- 2-5 Lodi Ag Fair
- 6 Labor Day—Extension Office is Closed
- 22 Autumn Begins

Happy Retirement George!

From all your co-workers at Columbia County
Extension we would like to wish you & Polly a
long & enjoyable retirement. You will be
missed by us and many others.
Enjoy your retirement!!

The Columbia County **Ag Calendar and Deadlines** webpage is
located at

<http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>



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COLUMBIA COUNTY

Thank you Columbia County!

It has been my pleasure to work as the UW-Extension Agriculture Educator for the past ten years. It is now time to close this chapter in my life and begin a new one. Working as the Columbia County Agriculture Agent has been a dream job for me.

I have appreciated the support of UW-Extension, the County Board and our oversight committee, my office colleagues and Administrative Assistants over the last ten years. All of these people along with the residents of Columbia County helped me experience a very smooth transition from being a High School Agriculture teacher of 27 years to becoming an Extension County Ag Educator. I enjoyed working with High School students, but I really enjoyed teaching adults and helping residents of Columbia County use the power of the University of Wisconsin – Madison to find answers to their plant and animal related questions.

Highlights over 10 years include working with groups like the Columbia County Corn Growers Association, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Grazing groups, Columbia County Pork Partners, & Master Gardener Volunteer Association. I have enjoyed teaching young adults & 4-H members about Livestock Quality Assurance and Tractor & Machinery Safety. Teaching adults about Nutrient Management Planning, Pesticide Application Safety, and training Master Gardener Volunteers were always some of my favorite job activities. Helping people to feel the “Aha” moment when they learn something new and useful in their life is very fulfilling. It is something I love & enjoy.

This position has always been interesting and never boring. Fielding questions on weed and insect identification, assisting residents on soil sampling and results interpretation, and many other non-typical questions about plants or animals is challenging. That is part of what I loved about this job, never knowing what the next phone call or email might be asking. Some were easy questions for me to answer, some were questions that I needed help from my Extension Specialist friends from UW-Madison.

Beginning August 6th, Polly & I look forward to travelling, hiking in the US and Europe. We have grandchildren that we need to spend more time with. We have several volunteer projects that we want to work on as well and plan to continue living in the Town of Caledonia. We are not moving, just changing our focus on what we do and when we do it. We both look forward to still being involved in local and county activities.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you, the residents of Columbia County. Keep learning, keep improving, and keep helping each other to make Columbia County an awesome place to live and work.

Best wishes to all,

George

George Koepp

Columbia County Extension Agriculture Educator



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY

Badger Crop Connect—Wednesdays at 12:30 pm

- July 14: Matt Ruark, Value of Legumes in Cover Cropping Systems after Short Season Crops & Edward Hopkins, New Normals Reflect a Changing Climate in Wisconsin
- July 28: Wayne Coblenz, Late Summer Forages & Extension Alternative Forages Workgroup
- August 11: Joe Lauer, Corn Silage Update & TBD
- August 25: No Badger Crop Connect - Arlington Agronomy Field Day

Follow this link to register: https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/91toVqOIFtMBe_bScM_Lac7

Arlington Agronomy/Soils Field Day to be held on August 25

The Departments of Agronomy and Soil Science in collaboration with the Arlington Ag Research Station are planning to hold the annual Agronomy/Soils Field Day on August 25, 2021. There will be numerous changes to event logistics to meet public health guidance related to COVID-19.

This year all participants will be able to see all presentations. Arrive early to get your spot on one of the bleacher wagons at the Public Events Building. Tours begin at 8:30 am.

Frosted Corn Fields - Expectations going forward

Many frosted plants grew back slower than we expected due to the dry weather.

Silking may be delayed 2-3 days.

Plants may end up being shorter, but yield is still to be determined.

Rain is most important for increasing yield during pollination and again during grain fill.



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**Badger Crop
Connect**

TIMELY CROP UPDATES FOR WISCONSIN

Lake Wisconsin Farmer Led Watershed Council

“Conservation Day by the Lake” Event A Success

Three local producer-led watershed groups held a successful field event on June 19th. The Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council (LFWWC), Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group (SSWIG), and Producers of the Lake Redstone Watershed sponsored this event held at the Schoepp Farm overlooking Lake Wisconsin. The event was aimed at promoting cover crops, no-till farming, and rotational grazing. The Schoepp family uses these practices and included demonstration plots to show examples. It also featured keynote speaker Rick Clark, an award-winning, 5th generation farmer from Indiana who is using no-till and cover crops successfully on his farm. He discussed how he uses these practices and answered questions from local farmers on how they can integrate these ideas and practices onto their farms.

We would like to send a special thank you to Ron Schoepp and his entire family for hosting such a great event. If you would like more information on this event or future events please call Columbia County LWCD at 608-742-9670.



Schoepp Family

Local farmers take a look at a low-disturbance manure injector from the Benish Family in Lodi.



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Dairy Situation and Outlook, June 21, 2021

Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison

Cheese prices are much weaker in June than early May with dry whey prices lower and butter prices higher. In early May on the CME cheddar barrels were \$1.81 per pound, 40-pound cheddar blocks \$1.80, dry whey \$0.66 and butter \$1.75. As of June 21st, barrels were 1.48, 40-pound blocks \$1.4725, dry whey \$0.6100 and butter \$1.7850. As a result, Class III which was \$18.96 in May will be about \$17.25 in June. The Class IV price will show some strength in June. With the butter price up slightly and the price of nonfat dry milk averaging about \$1.27 per pound the June Class IV price which was \$16.16 in May will be about \$16.45 in June.

Milk production continues at a relatively high level putting downward pressure on milk prices. U.S. milk production was estimated to be up 3.5% from a year ago in April and 4.6% higher in May. A year ago, with lost market due to COVID-19 dairy producers were told to reduce milk production. As a result, May milk production was 0.5% lower than the year before. Nevertheless, May production this year is a strong come back. Milk cows continue to increase. Milk cows in May increased another 5,000 and were 145,000 more than a year ago, a 1.6% increase. Of the 24 selected states 14 had more milk cows than a year ago. Milk cows are also milking exceptionally good with milk per cow up 3.0% from a year ago.

Unless milk production slows down milk prices are likely to weaken June through August and then increase starting in September and peaking in October or November. Milk production will decline seasonally during the summer months while fluid milk sales will increase late August and September as schools open and butter and cheese prices will strengthen as inventories build for strong seasonal sales Thanksgiving through Christmas. And if things return more to normal with in person learning in schools and colleges, restaurants are more fully open, fans in bleachers at sporting events, conferences return and etc. food service sales will return to more normal. All of this can strengthen milk prices starting this fall. However, the strength in milk prices will highly depend upon how quickly things return to more normal.

Dairy exports continue to be a bright spot for dairy adding support to milk prices. The volume of April exports on a milk solids equivalent grew by 25% compared to April 2020. Nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were up 15.5%, whey products up 17.6%, cheese up 51.2% and butterfat 257%. Nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder, cheese and butter remain very price competitive on the international market. With world milk production growing no more than about 1% and world demand improving the outlook for strong exports for the remainder of the year looks promising.

The outlook for milk prices for the remainder of the year remains uncertain. It all depends upon how milk production, domestic sales and exports turn out. Unless cheese prices recover Class III will be in the \$16's by July and may not reach the \$17's until September and only topping to the higher \$17's in the fourth quarter. But we can't rule out the possibility of Class III reaching the \$18's in the fourth quarter. Class III futures have weakened from where they were earlier but currently July is below \$17 and then returns to the \$17's August and September and the low \$18's for the remainder of the year. Latest USDA price forecast is not as optimistic about milk prices with Class III averaging just \$17.15 this year compared to \$18.16 last year.



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

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

Farmland Preservation Self-Certification Post Card:

FPP participants will be required to maintain their eligibility as follows:

- Annually submit a FPP Self Certification Postcard **(due July 15th)**
- Annually submit a 590 NMP Checklist **Form ARM-LWR-480**
- Receive an onsite NR 151 compliance status review once every 4 years (Year determined by LWCD)

Self-certification postcards were mailed to all Farmland Preservation Participants in mid-June.

Participants will have the option to complete the postcard through an online log-in process (under www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/), or return the postcard to the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department. All postcards must be postmarked before July 15, 2021, or they will be charged a \$10.00 late fee.

FPP Participants who do **not** maintain their eligibility by submitting the annual self-certification postcard, annually providing a 590 Nutrient Management Checklist and maintaining NR 151 Compliance can have their Certificate of Compliance ID # voided with the Department of Revenue, thus removing their ability to claim the Farmland preservation Tax Credit for the applicable tax season. For questions, please contact the LWCD office at 608-742-9670.

Farmland Preservation Program Required Farm Inspections: The Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department will be conducting the required farm inspections throughout 2021 for ¼ of the certified program participants. Self-certification is part of the above post-card process. As part of our inspection process, we will use a combination of in office technology and onsite evaluations to monitor your status. If we find a compliance issue, our first step will be to work with you to bring it into compliance, but it could jeopardize your participation. This link is a quick reference to the range of evaluation components we will be looking at: <http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu/pdf/WisRunoffRules.pdf>

2022 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Cost-Share Assistance Available: The Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department in cooperation with UW-Extension Columbia County have cost-share funds available for our Nutrient Management Training Program participants. These grant funds will allow us to provide class participants a stipend between \$100 and \$1,100 per landowner, for taking the class and completing a certified 590 NMP. Final details will be worked out in the coming months, but this grant will allow us to offset soil testing costs and plan development for landowners. We pursued this funding opportunity to increase incentives options available to landowners. Often times direct cost share opportunities are used,



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

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information (Con't)

but those funds are currently somewhat limited based on our current budget, so this will be another opportunity for us to encourage more landowners to go through the process and learn the benefits of using a NMP. If you are interested in participating in our 2022 classes which begin January, 2022, please contact LWCD 608-742-9670 to discuss the program and get signed up early.

Chapter 11 Agricultural Performance Standards & Animal Waste Management

The Columbia County Animal Waste Management Ordinance Title 15 updated in 1998, was again updated in March of 2021, and is now Chapter 11 Agricultural Performance Standards and Agricultural Waste Management. This being the third update to the ordinance since it's initial implementation in the 1980's, the department has decided to review all permitted structures. This review will include a site visit for current permitted structures. The site visit will be conducted by Land and Water Conservation Department's summer intern in July or August. There are also a number of structures that are no longer being used, either abandoned or idle, that were installed before permit requirements. If you currently have any unpermitted structures, abandoned or idle structure, or just have questions in regards to the updated ordinance, don't hesitate to call or email Todd Rietmann at 608-742-9670 or todd.rietmann@co.columbia.wi.us.

Agricultural Enterprise Area Incentive Program

The Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department is happy to announce an opportunity for current Farmland Preservation Program participants within the 15,887 acres of the West Point Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) to increase farmland protection and preserve local farmland for future use.

The Columbia County LWCD and the Wisconsin DATCP have partnered to offer the 2021 West Point AEA Supplemental Incentive Program sign up.

Current Farmland Preservation Participants receive a \$7.50/Acre tax credit; however, an additional \$2.50/acre is available for those enrolled in AEA agreements. By signing an agreement, the landowner devoted the covered land to agriculture and agricultural accessory uses for 15 years while maintaining the land in accordance with the state conservation standards. In return, the tax credit increases from \$7.50/acre to \$10/acre and the lands are further protected for future use.



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

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Agricultural Enterprise Area Incentive Program (Con't)

Additionally, FPP Participants can receive sign up acreage bonuses for as follows:

1-	0 – 150 acres	= \$500.00	2-	151-300 acres	= \$1000.00
3-	301-500 acres	= \$1500.00	4-	500+ acres	= \$2000.00

Furthermore, the first 6 signed Farmland Preservation Agreements will receive an additional \$250.00.



CONGRATULATIONS COLUMBIA COUNTY CORN GROWERS

Two Columbia County Farmers entered the 2020 Wisconsin Corn Growers Yield contest.

First Place for 2020 went to Allan Schroeder, Rio with 255.7947 bushel per acre.

Second Place went to Zachary Mickelson, DeForest with 243.4133 bushel per acre.

Thanks to all for taking the time to harvest your plots and send in the application to the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.



Portage Service Center
2912 Red Fox Run
Portage, WI 53901
(608) 742-5361, ext.3

2021 USDA-NRCS Public Conservation Virtual Meeting July 14 at 10 am – 12 pm



The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin has announced one statewide virtual Local Working Group (LWG) meeting with a feedback survey to follow. The virtual meeting will be held July 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Participants will be able to call into a teleconference line or join audio and video through an internet browser using a Microsoft Teams meeting link. Input gathered will help set priorities for U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs under the 2018 Farm Bill.

Wisconsin LWGs represent two or more counties grouped together by geography, similar land use, resources, and type of agriculture. [See a map of Local Working Groups.](#) This will allow greater flexibility and access to funding for the groups.

One of the main programs discussed at the meeting will be the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a federal conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners with needed conservation practices for water quality, soil health, wildlife and other natural resources.

To join the virtual meeting choose one of the following options:

1. Teleconference: Call 1-636-352-2946, then type in access code 508714004# when prompted.
2. Video and audio through Microsoft Teams: Visit this site: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/pnotice/> and then click on the Join Teams Meeting link at the top of the page. For more information on how to connect via desktop, laptop or mobile device, download these [step-by-step instructions.](#)

**Conservation
Stewardship Program**
Natural Resources Conservation Service



2021 USDA-NRCS Public Conservation Virtual Meeting (Con't)

Please take the LWG feedback survey after attending the meeting by July 30, 2021, by visiting <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/pnotice/> and clicking on the survey link. A printed survey may also be requested by calling (608) 662-4422 or emailing your name and address to april.ryan@usda.gov.

Local Working Group meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in becoming a member in LWGs should contact their local [NRCS Service Center](#). Contact your local NRCS District Conservationist if you are interested in participating. For detailed information on local work groups, see [What are Local Working Groups](#).

Wisconsin Women in Conservation Launches Summer Camp Lunch Series



Wisconsin Women in Conservation (WiWiC) is launching a four-part virtual Conservation Summer Camp Lunch Series that aims to address the top land stewardship concerns of women farmers and landowners across the state. All women who desire to better care for land, water and wildlife are welcome to attend. The first Summer Camp Lunch webinar is May 27 from noon to 1pm on Zoom and the topic is Pollinator Habitat.

WiWiC is a state-wide collaborative effort led by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in partnership with Renewing the Countryside, the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), and Wisconsin Farmers Union. A three-year multi-faceted project funded by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), WiWiC gathers women landowners in a variety of ways to connect and learn about conservation practices and funding opportunities.

**Conservation
Stewardship Program**
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Wisconsin Women in Conservation Launches Summer Camp Lunch Series (Con't)

The project launched in March with eight regionally-organized Spring into Conservation! Zoom workshops. Participants were asked to answer polls about their areas of interest. The surveys indicated that the primary interests were increasing pollinator habitat, restoring soil health, battling invasive plants while sustainably caring for natives, and learning more about regenerative agriculture. These topics will be covered in four hour-long interactive free lunch webinars on the last Thursday of each month. Participants who attend all four sessions will receive a WiWiC Conservation Summer Camp Merit Badge.

WiWiC Conservation Summer Camp Lunch Series

Thursday, May 27, noon to 1pm - Increase Pollinator Habitat
Thursday, June 24, noon to 1pm - Restore Healthy Soil
Thursday, July 29, noon to 1pm - Restore Native Habitat
Thursday, Aug 26, noon to 1pm - Explore Regenerative Agriculture

The sessions will include presentations from experts in each topic, regional roundtable breakout rooms, and practical stories from WiWiC Conservation Coaches. WiWiC has assembled a team of sixteen Conservation Coaches from across the state to provide mentoring for other women landowners by sharing their experiences.

In addition to the virtual Conservation Summer Camp Series, WiWiC will be offering four regional in-person farm field days in September and four regional in-person workshops in October. An Advisory Committee on Women in Conservation will convene to share experiences and ideas, and interpret the findings of research conducted by the E Resources Group during workshops and events. WiWiC will also hold regional summits at the end of the project to present research, recommendations, and conservation education.

Registration is now open for the Conservation Summer Camp Series at www.WiWiC.org. Follow along on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. For more information, contact WiWiC Communications Specialist Kriss Marion at kmari-on@wisconsinfarmersunion.com or 608-844-3758.

Helping People Help the Land

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

**Conservation
Stewardship Program**
Natural Resources Conservation Service





*Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,
USDA - Farm Service Agency,
2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901
608.742.5361 Ext. 7350*

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after spring planting should make an appointment with the Columbia County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to File a Report

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Columbia County:

- July 15, 2021—All spring-seeded crops, dry edible beans, dark and red kidney beans, perennial forage, pasture, rangeland, forage seeding, all CRP acres, and hemp
- August 15, 2021—All processing snap beans and cabbage

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](#) are open to limited visitors. Contact the Columbia County FSA office to set up an in-person or phone appointment.

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.



*Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,
USDA - Farm Service Agency,
2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901
608.742.5361 Ext. 7350*

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports (con't)

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed. If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

More Information

For questions, please contact the Columbia County FSA office: 608-742-5361, Ext. 2.

Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for County Committee Members

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) began accepting nominations for county committee members on June 15. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 2, 2021.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program, and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote, and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serving on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11



Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,
USDA - Farm Service Agency,
2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901
608.742.5361 Ext. 7350

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for County Committee Members (con't)

members who serve three-year terms. Producers serving on FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

LAA are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. This may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

More Information

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to register and find out how to get involved in their county's election. They should check with their local USDA Service Center to see if their LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must be registered and sign a [FSA-669A](#) nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 1, 2021. To find your local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program General and Grasslands Signups

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has set a July 23, 2021, deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup 56. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications for CRP Grasslands from July 12 to August 20. This year, USDA updated both signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increase its conservation benefits, including reducing the impacts of climate change.

Both signups are competitive and will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

General Signup

Through CRP, producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Lands enrolled in CRP also play a key role in mitigating impacts from climate change, and FSA has added a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for practices that



Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,
USDA - Farm Service Agency,
2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901
608.742.5361 Ext. 7350

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program General and Grasslands Signups (con't)

sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FSA is also adding a one-time "inflationary" adjustment for payment rates, as well as having more flexibility on adjusting soil rental rates.

FSA opened the [General Signup](#) in January 2021 and extended the original deadline to July 23, 2021, to enable producers to consider FSA's new improvements to the program.

Grasslands Signup

[CRP Grasslands](#) helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

FSA has updated the Grasslands Signup to establish a minimum rental rate of \$15 per acre, as well as new National Grassland Priority Zones.

How to Sign Up

To enroll in the CRP General signup, producers and landowners should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) by the July 23 deadline. To enroll in the CRP Grasslands signup, they should contact USDA by the August 20 deadline. While USDA offices may have limited visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To work with FSA, producers and landowners should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). Contact information can be found at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information on CRP

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. The program marked its 35-year anniversary this past December.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity, and natural resources, including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments.



National Grain and Feed Association

www.ngfa.org

NGFA Safety Tips: Bin Site Entanglement Hazards

...Committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace...

Protect your workers in and around bin sites

Several types of entanglement hazards may exist when working in or around grain bins. Equipment used to fill and discharge grain storage structures needs to be properly guarded to prevent workers from hazards that could cause physical harm or death.

Entanglement Hazards

Bin Sweep Augers

OSHA's sweep auger policy memo states that employees are allowed to be physically inside a bin with an energized sweep auger provided that:

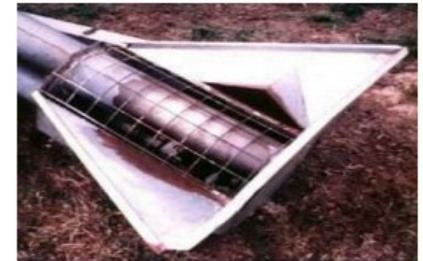
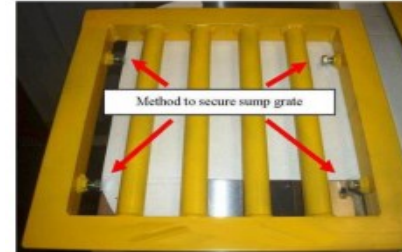
- the only unguarded portion of the auger is in the front;
- sub-floor augers are guarded by secure grates or other guards;
- there is an engineering control (such as a standard guardrail attached to the auger, a portable guard rail trailing seven feet behind the auger, or a dead-man switch on an operating control inside an enclosure or attached to a handle that keeps the employee seven feet back from the auger); **and** the facility's bin-entry permit procedures are followed.



NGFA Safety Tips (con't)

Sub-Floor and other Reclaim Augers

As mentioned previously, sub-floor augers are to be locked out while an entrant is inside a bin, unless it is guarded and secured in such a way that removes the possibility of an employee coming into contact with its moving parts. [OSHA's 1910.217 Subpart O](#) provides guidelines for addressing other types of augers (such as semi-exposed sloped floor, mobile bin and truck-fill augers).



Belt and Chain/Paddle Drag Conveyors

These systems can be used as a fill or reclaim system. As a fill system, they should be included in the facility's lockout/tagout program for bin entry since they have the potential to create hazardous conditions for workers when inside a bin. When these conveyances are used for reclaiming purposes, the same sub-floor guarding principles described above also apply.



Power Takeoff (PTO) Shafts

PTOs – unless properly guarded – can create wrapping hazards. These hazards could be caused by the joint, burrs, or the air current formed by the rotation. To mitigate the hazard, install shaft guards that cover the entirety of the moving parts. Workers should never step over a rotating shaft or operate controls from outside of the machine, never wear loose-fitting clothing, jewelry or hair, and stay clear of rotating PTO shafts.



Columbia County Extension Office Hours - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sarah Millard and Lori Swanson, Extension's Administrative Assistants, staff the office Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Guidance from UW-Madison is allowing Extension Educators to return to the office. We must continue social distancing and wear facemasks when meeting with the public.

George is able to make farm visits and may meet with individuals in our conference room. Please call to make an appointment.

Beginning June 1st, Extension Guidance allows for indoor in-person events limited to 350 people maximum and less than 50% capacity. Protocols for face covering and social distancing remain in place. Participant totals for outdoor events are up to 500 people still requiring face coverings and 6 feet of social distancing.

Columbia County Extension is only a phone call or email away. We provide up-to-date University research based answers and advice in a timely manner.

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STAFF DIRECTORY

UW-Extension Columbia County Agriculture Staff

George Koepp, Agriculture Agent.....(608) 742-9682
george.koepp@wisc.edu

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday

Office: (608) 742-9680; Fax: (608) 742-9862; <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>

Columbia County Extension Office Staff

Kathleen Haas, Community Resource Educator(608) 742-9683
Pat Wagner, Positive Youth Development Educator(608) 742-9685
Caitlin Richardson, WI FoodWise Coordinator(608) 742-9693
Sarah Millard, Administrative Assistant(608) 742-9688
Lori Swanson, Administrative Assistant(608) 742-9687
Vacant, Human Development & Relationships Educator.....(608) 742-9686
Web Site: <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/>

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If you have a change of email, address or would like to be removed, please call the Columbia County Extension office at (608) 742-9680 or email your request to:
sarah.millard@wisc.edu

**Columbia County Extension
Columbia County Ag Reporter
112 E. Edgewater Street, Room 212
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-9680**

Or Current Resident