

# New Horizons

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants

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## Promotion of Renewables Presents Opportunities for Wisconsin Agriculture

•David A. Crass, Esq.

Using manure to light homes. Using corn to fuel cars. Using soybeans to power buses and other diesel trucks. Given our petroleum-based economy, it is not that many years ago that concepts such as these were met with skepticism and witticisms about “nutty professors”.

Run the movie forward.

Now, due to the leadership, entrepreneurship and commitment of numerous people in agriculture, Wisconsin has several operating ethanol plants (with more under construction and on the drawing board), a burgeoning manure-to-energy industry and increasing interest in biodiesel plants and soybean crush facilities. That’s not to even mention the wind farm and other biomass projects utilizing renewable resources as well.

And when Governor Doyle signed Senate Bill 459 - the Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act (Wisconsin Act 141) - into law on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the commitment to renewable energy sources in Wisconsin got deeper. This landmark legislation integrates energy efficiency and renewable energy into Wisconsin’s energy policy.

Senate Bill 459 is based on the recommendations of Governor Doyle’s Task Force on Energy and Renewables. The Task Force was created in 2003 as a collaboration of broadly based energy representatives including customer groups, utilities, environmentalists, municipal providers, cooperatives, businesses, labor and legislators from both parties. The bill was passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support and moved swiftly through the legislative process in recent weeks.

Pursuant to the new law, by the year 2015, Wisconsin’s electric utilities must increase the amount of power produced from renewable energy sources to 10 %. Renewable energy sources include such things as biomass, wind, hydroelectric and solar power. The law also requires state-owned facilities to purchase 20% of their energy from renewables by 2011.

This new law requires the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to submit a budget request to provide additional funding for research and development of anaerobic digesters at farms participating in the Discovery Farms initiative. This will enhance Wisconsin’s developing manure-to-energy industry. The law also requires that a pilot test be conducted to determine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of using equipment that burns corn plant matter for residential space heating.

Wisconsin is in the midst of a cycle of energy infrastructure construction brought on by the threats of reliability that occurred in the late 1990s and the increasing demand for electricity brought on by a growing economy and population. Enacting state policies that promote energy efficiency and conservation will help improve Wisconsin’s ability to modernize our energy infrastructure, create jobs, and invest in our rural economy.

Wisconsin’s public utilities will be looking for ways to comply with the new 10% requirement. Given the length of time needed for permitting and constructing larger facilities, it is likely the state’s utilities will immediately begin developing their plans for compliance. Businesses that build renewable facilities should consider approaching the state’s utilities with information on their product. Those developing new renewable technologies should investigate whether any state (or federal) funding is available for R&D. Lastly, those agribusinesses producing the raw materials used in biomass facilities, should investigate how best to position themselves in this emerging marketplace.

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## The Role of Feed Management in Nutrient Management Planning

•Patrick Murphy, State Resource Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The role of feed management as a conservation practice continues to evolve in Wisconsin. Livestock producers in Wisconsin typically rely on the services of an animal nutritionist to maximize livestock productivity while minimizing the cost of the feed ration. The need to minimize the cost of feed forces the nutritionist to constantly evaluate the availability and cost of feed sources. The feed ration is continuously adjusted in response to both the quality of feed grown on the farm and the price of outside feed stocks that are utilized to balance the ration.

The primary issue feed management plans address is excessive phosphorous in the diet which is excreted in the manure and can increase the acres of cropland per animal unit necessary to balance the nutrient management plan. As air quality regulations begin to limit ammonia emissions from livestock operations, more emphasis will be placed on the amount of crude protein in the diet.

The priorities for feed management planning are to provide appropriate nutrients to maintain a healthy animal that is productive (weight gain, milk production etc.) while monitoring the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen that are excreted from the animal. In most cases, it is cheaper for the livestock producer to increase the acres on which manure is applied versus selecting feed sources that are lower in phosphorus. This may not be true when a farm is located in an area where access to cropland for manure spreading is limited.

Nutritionists play a vital role in the development of a nutrient management system. Nutrient output in the manure can be reduced by monitoring phosphorus levels in the diet and making an effort to minimize excess phosphorus by selection of commodities with lower phosphorus levels that are available at an acceptable cost. When the cost to reduce excessive phosphorous in the diet is prohibitive, the producer needs to be informed and the nutrient management plan must be adjusted to utilize the additional nutrients.

A feed management plan will be considered a success if it results in the livestock producer, the nutritionist and the agronomist working collaboratively to maximize the productivity of the operation while limiting the amounts of nutrients that leave the farm.

## 2006 Technical Service Provider Payments

•Patrick Murphy, State Resource Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin will begin making Fiscal Year 2006 Technical Service Provider (TSP) payments in June. This year, TSP payments have been deferred until now due to a decrease in the Wisconsin NRCS budget. Fortunately, Wisconsin NRCS has earned additional funds through implementation of farm bill programs and is now able to begin processing TSP payments.

The funds currently available for TSP payments are limited. TSP funds will be allocated according to the following priority groups:

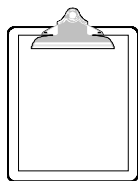
- 1) All practices except nutrient management and feed management. This includes technical assistance for engineering practices and development of pest management plans.
- 2) First year nutrient management plan design.
- 3) Second or third year nutrient management plan design.

Currently not enough funds are available to pay for all of the 2006 TSP payment requests in all three categories.

In June, we will begin making payments for the Priority 1 TSP requests. If additional funds become available, payments for Priority 2 and 3 practices will be released. All payments utilizing Fiscal Year 2006 funds must be obligated by September 30, 2006. USDA program participants were informed when they signed their EQIP contracts that the availability of TSP funds is not guaranteed. NRCS remains committed to the TSP process and will manage the available funds as effectively as possible to maximize technical assistance available to USDA program participants.

**New WAPAC website:  
[www.wapac.info](http://www.wapac.info)**

**2006 WAPAC New Horizons Seminar  
Thursday, November 30, 2006  
Exhibition Hall  
Alliant Energy Center, Madison  
Save the date!**



## The Livestock Facility Siting Law

Wisconsin's new Livestock Facility Siting Law consists of a state statute (s.93.9) and rule (ATCP 51) that change

how local governments regulate the siting of new and expanded livestock operations. The statute limits the exclusion of livestock facilities from agricultural zoning districts. It establishes procedures local governments must follow if they decide to issue conditional use or other local permits for siting livestock facilities. It also creates the Livestock Facility Siting Review Board to hear appeals concerning local decisions on permits.

Effective on May 1, 2006, with an exception for small businesses, the rule establishes standards that local governments must follow if they decide to issue local permits. Local governments must use the application and worksheets in the rule to determine if a proposed facility meets these standards:

- Property line and road setbacks
- Management plans
- Odor management
- Manure management
- Manure storage facilities
- Runoff management

Technical assistance may be available to help permit applicants complete the worksheets and to help local governments evaluate applications. DATCP also provides fact sheets and training to help implement the law.

Local governments regulate livestock facilities through ordinances. The siting statute affects local ordinances that require conditional use or other similar permits, but does not affect other ordinances such as shoreland and floodplain zoning.

Be alert for changes in town and county ag zoning ordinances as local governments begin to implement the siting rules. Amendments made to local Exclusive Agricultural Zoning ordinances must be certified to ensure that farmers still can claim farmland preservation tax credits.

DATCP is required to monitor implementation of the law and provide monthly reports to the ATCP Board.

More information will be available about the new Livestock Facility Siting Law at Farm Technology Days in Sheboygan County, WI, July 11-13, 2006. Assistance will be available to run an odor standard for any farm that brings a completed data collection sheet to the DATCP booth. For a copy of the data collection sheet and for further information on the siting law, check out the website:

<http://livestocksiting.wi.gov>.

## Growth, Yield, Quality, and Economics of Corn Silage under Different Row Spacings

•William J. Cox, John J. Hanchar, Wayne A. Knoblauch, and Jerome H. Cherney\*

### ABSTRACT

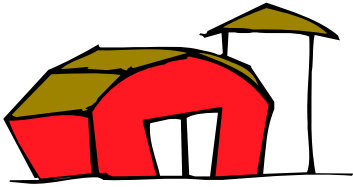
Corn (*Zea mays* L.) silage in the northeastern USA yields more in narrow (0.38 m) than conventional (0.76 m) rows. Dairy producers, however, have considered converting from conventional to twin rows (0.19 m on 0.76 m centers) because twin rows are more compatible than narrow rows for herbicide application on glyphosate-resistant corn. Two hybrids were planted in field-scale studies in New York in 2003 and 2004 to evaluate growth, yield, quality, and economics of corn silage under conventional, narrow, and twin row production systems. Narrow rows had greater dry matter yield (17.6 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>) than twin (17.2 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and conventional rows (16.6 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Row spacing did not affect in vitro true digestibility. Narrow and twin rows had greater fixed and variable costs associated with equipment requirements. Partial budget analyses indicated greater expected increases in annual profit with the conversion from conventional to narrow rows for 262 (\$18 201) and 525 ha (\$38 317) or to twin rows for 262 (\$8246) and 525 ha (\$17 584) of corn silage. The use of glyphosate-resistant corn in twin rows may provide an advantage by delaying herbicide application until mid-June, thereby increasing the probability of a timely first harvest of perennial forages. Dry matter content at harvest averaged 326 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in narrow vs 314 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in twin rows, increasing the probability of corn silage harvest before a fall frost. Dairy producers should consider economics and timely harvests when considering corn silage row-spacing systems.

\*The authors are affiliated with Cornell University, Ithaca, NY: W.J. Cox and J.H. Cherney - Dept. of Crop & Soil Science; J.J. Hanchar – Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Cooperative Extension; W.A. Knoblauch, Dept. of Applied Economics and Management.

The complete article was published in the *Agronomy Journal* 98:163-167 (2006) and was published online January 5, 2006. The above abstract is printed here with permission from the American Society of Agronomy, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711.

For information about subscribing to the *Agronomy Journal* and/or viewing abstracts and purchasing reprints of various articles from the journal, go to:

<http://agron.scijournals.org>.



# WAPAC Update

•Judy Brannstrom, Executive Secretary

**News Flash!** [www.wapac.info](http://www.wapac.info) is our new website!

## **Officers Elected for 2006-07**

The WAPAC Executive Council elected officers at its April meeting:

President: Bruce Ludolph, CCA, Top Crop, LLC, Sauk City

Vice President: Steve Hoffman, CPAg, Hoffman Crop Consulting, Manitowoc

Secretary: Robert Mickelson, CCA, AgControl, Inc., Dane

Treasurer: Jim Barmore, MS, PAS, Five-Star Dairy Consulting, Verona

A roster of Council and committee members for 2006-07 is included on page 7. Let us know of your interest to participate on WAPAC committees. All are welcome!

## **New Horizons Date Set**

The 2006 New Horizons Seminar date has been set for Thursday, November 30. The seminar will take place at the Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. WAPAC's sustaining members will be invited to display their products. Be sure to save the date!

Do you have program suggestions for the WAPAC New Horizons Seminar and Spring Seminar/Annual meeting? Your ideas are ALWAYS welcome and appreciated! Contact Executive Secretary Judy Brannstrom at 608-833-7989 or via email: [wapac@itis.com](mailto:wapac@itis.com)

## **New Directory Coming This Fall**

We will be printing the new WAPAC directory in late Fall 2006 for distribution at the New Horizons Seminar on November 30. If you have changes to your email, phone or mailing address, please update Judy Brannstrom so that the correct information is included in your directory entry!

## **Membership Additions/Updates:**

• *Welcome our newest member:*

**Wayne Weiland, DVM - Professional Agricultural Consultant.** Monsanto. 5842 Woodland Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597. Office: 608-850-5172. Fax: 608-850-5173. Mobile: 608-628-2992. E-mail: [wayne.weiland@monsanto.com](mailto:wayne.weiland@monsanto.com). Services: Dairy management services with emphasis on sound financial decisions, new and retrofit facility planning, and the balance between high production, health and welfare of dairy cattle. Crops and Animals: Work with dairy cattle and their feedstuffs - corn, soybeans, alfalfa.

• *And a membership update for longtime Associate member, Tim Bender, who is now an Academic Member:*

**Tim Bender, MBA, CCA - Academic Member.** Crops and Soils Agent, University of Wisconsin Extension, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson, WI 53549. Office: 920-674-7295. Fax: 920-674-7200. Mobile: 920-723-3113. E-mail: [tim.bender@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:tim.bender@ces.uwex.edu). Services: Crops and soils agent for Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. Crops: Corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat.

## **New WAPAC Website Announced!**

WAPAC has a new website – [www.wapac.info](http://www.wapac.info). Please make a note of this change!

(Through a web hosting faux pas, our old site now takes you to a casino gambling site – oh, the wonders of technology! We are working to re-build our web presence at the new address.)

## **WAPAC on the Road!**

Thanks to Jim Barmore, Randy Shaver and Fred Ehle who set up and staffed the WAPAC display at the Four-State Dairy Nutrition Conference in Dubuque in mid-June.

## **Next Executive Council Meetings Set**

The Executive Council will meet on Thursday, July 27 at 8:30 a.m. and on Thursday, September 14 at 8:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held at the Arlington Ag Research Station.

**Agronomy/Soils Field Day**  
**Tours and Exhibits of Current Crops and Soils Research**  
**Wednesday, August 30, 2006**  
**Arlington Agricultural Research Station**  
Tours depart from the Public Events Facility at  
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m.  
Lunch and refreshments available

**Tour A: Soils**

- Soil Sampling; considerations for non-traditional management situations (John Peters)
- Long-term nitrogen use in continuous corn: Effects on soil organic matter (Larry Bundy)
- Manure phosphorus availability and crop production (Carrie Laboski)
- Biosolids treatment process effects on phosphorus availability (Angela Ebeling)

**Tour B: Annual Cropping Systems**

- Corn silage yield and quality drivers and profit robbers (Joe Lauer)
- From corn silage to energy biofeedstock (Jim Coors)
- Avitec corn seed treatment and sandhill cranes: 2006 Season Review  
(Eileen Cullen & Tim Bender)

**Tour C: Weed Management**

- New options for pasture weed management (Mark Renz)
- What's up with Common Lambsquarters and glyphosate?
  - Introduction (Chris Boerboom)
  - Wisconsin evidence of variable control (Mark Jeschke & Dave Stoltenberg)
  - Environmental variables affecting control (Chris Boerboom, Dave Stoltenberg, & John Gaska)
  - Programs for time management (Tim Trower & Chris Boerboom)

**"Special Topic" (Afternoon only) 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Managed Grazing Research At UW**

- A review of grazing research in Wisconsin: What have we learned?  
(Randy Jackson, 20 min.)
- Panel Discussion: What are we missing? Moderator: Dick Cates (DATCP Advisory Board, grazier). Panelists: Mary Anderson (River Country RC&D), Paul Nehring (GrassWorks coordinator, grazier), Dan Truttman (Dane-Green Grazing Network, grazier), Karen Breneman (Rio, grazier), Rhonda Gildersleeve (UWEX, grazier)
- Break (10 min.)
- "Town Hall" meeting: How do we get there? (Laura Paine, 50 min.)

**Luncheon Speaker at 12:15 p.m.**

**"Grain Market Predictions"**

**Randy Fortenbery, Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison**

The Arlington Research Station is located on Hwy. 51, about 5 miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison. Watch for Field Day signs. For more information, contact the Dept. of Agronomy 608-262-1390, or the Dept. of Soil Science 608-262-0485. In the event of rain, presentations will be held inside. Sponsored by the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the UW Cooperative Extension.

**(Certified Crop Advisors: 4.0 CEU credits available)**

## **Wisconsin Nutrient Management Implementation Work Groups** for Nutrient Management Planners, County Land Conservation Staff, Certified Crop Advisers/ Agronomists, UW Extension Agents, County NRCS Staff and others interested. 2.5 CEUs offered

DATCP, DNR, NRCS and Extension have scheduled five update meetings around the state in late July/early August to bring agronomists up to speed on nutrient management. Each session includes a morning discussion with agency staff and a brief session on determining slopes (shooting slopes) for the new SNAP Plus.

### **Meeting time is 9 a.m. until noon in all locations.**

- **Richland Center – July 28**, Country Kitchen (White House Restaurant - Jefferson Room, 1st floor) 1450 Veterans Drive, Richland Center, WI. Turn west off Hwy. 14 onto Veterans Dr. 608-649-5527
- **Hancock – August 3**, Ag Research Station conference room, N3909 Cty. V, Hancock, WI. Take I-39 north, exit Cty. V, go west, then south. 715-249-5961.
- **Eau Claire – August 4**, Washington Town Hall. 5750 Old Townhall Road at the junction of I-94 and Hwy. 53, on SW part of the interchange, Eau Claire, WI. 715-834-3257.
- **Jefferson – August 8**, County UW Extension, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson WI. From Hwy. 18 in Jefferson, go south on W to Collins. Turn east on Collins and go 1 block to UWEX. 920-674-7295.
- **Oshkosh – August 9**, County LWCD Rooms A&B, 625 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh, WI. Hwy 41 at 124 Jackson St. exit east, then go north on Hwy. Y (across from fairgrounds). 920-232-1954.

**Program Agenda** - Please participate in discussing local problems and suggestions for improving the implementation of nutrient management related to each of the following topics:

9:00 a.m. - Introductions and livestock siting update (ATCP 51 Wis. Admin. Code). Sue Porter, DATCP.

9:45 a.m. - CNMP, TSP Funding, NM planning and contour strip cropping, technical standards. Pat Murphy, USDA, NRCS.

10:20 a.m. - Break

10:30 a.m. - NR243 and NR 151 (Wis. Admin. Code) update & implementation. Tom Bauman, DNR.

11:00 a.m. - Snap-Plus improvements and ATCP 50 (Wis. Admin. Code) update. Kevin Beckard, DATCP.

11:30 a.m. - Learn how to measure slope steepness and length for calculating soil loss & the Phosphorus Index. Please bring clinometers if you have any.

Noon - Adjournment.

Questions? Contact Sue Porter, Dept. of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection, at 608-224-4605, sue.porter@datcp.state.wi.us.

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## **Liquid Waste Spill Response Demonstrations**

UW Extension, DNR and the Professional Manure Applicators Association of Wisconsin are planning two hands-on field exercises to demonstrate proper liquid waste cleanup/control techniques. Each includes an actual liquid manure release (subject to weather and day-of-event considerations), demonstration of various methods of control/damming and cleanup techniques and discussion of procedures. There is no fee for these events, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

For more information, contact Kevin Erb at 920.391.4652. Updated information will also be posted at <http://conservationtraining.uwex.edu> (note no www in the address) about 3 weeks prior to each event.

August 2 (rain date Aug 4), Vogel Farms, Valders, WI (Manitowoc County). Site is on Hilltop Road, 1.5 miles east of Cty S.

August - date to be determined - Winnebago County

September - date to be determined - Jackson County

## 2006-2007 WAPAC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ROSTER

### **President**

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### **Council Terms**

2004-2007: Kiddy, Ludolph,  
Mickelson  
2005-2008: Barmore, Hoffman, Rankin  
2006-2009: Ehle, Jensen, Johnson

### **Committees:**

#### **Membership & Recruitment**

Steve Hoffman, Chair  
Joe Lauer  
Jim Barmore  
Fred Ehle  
Bob Johnson

#### **Communications**

(Includes Newsletter, Web site, Media relations)  
Mike Rankin, Chair  
Randy Shaver  
Joe Lauer  
Mike Kiddy  
Dave Sievert  
Jeff Polenske

#### **Program**

**New Horizons:** Bryan Jensen, Chair.  
Exec. Council, Alton Block

#### **Livestock Speakers for all meetings:**

Jim Barmore

#### **Spring Seminar/Annual Meeting:**

Exec. Council

**General Resources:** Tom Anderson,  
Eric Birschbach

#### **Nominating Committee**

Jim Barmore, Chair  
Executive Council

#### **Constitution**

Bruce Ludolph, Chair  
Eric Birschbach  
Bob Johnson  
Randy Van Haren  
Steve Abrams

#### **Scholarship**

Bryan Jensen, Chair  
Steve Abrams  
Jon Baldock  
Robert Mickelson

#### **Ethics**

Executive Council

#### **Research (Corn Trials, WASI, etc.)**

Paul Sturgis, Chair  
Paul Knutzen  
Tom Novak  
Bob Harrison  
Jon Baldock  
Joe Lauer  
Mike Rankin



**Soybean Rust  
and Soybean Aphid  
Good Farming Practices  
www.sbrusa.net**

USDA is partnering with Land-Grant Universities and the soybean checkoff to provide information regarding good farming practices for soybean rust and soybean aphids at [www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net).

To learn more about monitoring and management of soybean rust, you may access a scouting video, an identification card, a fungicide management guide, and insurance documentation tools at this website. To obtain a printed copy of the ID card, please contact your local extension office. To receive a copy of the fungicide management guide or the scouting video CD, please email Susan Ratcliffe at [sratclif@uiuc.edu](mailto:sratclif@uiuc.edu) (University of Illinois, Department of Crop Science).

***New Horizons***

**April - June 2006**

*New Horizons* is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Association of Professional Ag Consultants (WAPAC). Articles of general interest to the membership and signed editorial comments are welcome. Submit all articles to the address below. Comments and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of all WAPAC members. The editorial staff reserves the right to determine suitability for publication and to edit all articles submitted.

For further information about WAPAC or to notify WAPAC of an address change, please contact:

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