

New Horizons

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Professional Agriculture Consultants

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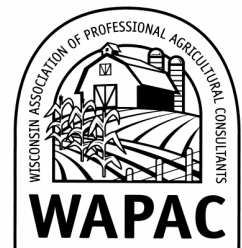
Summer 2011

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Farm Technology Days, stop by the WAPAC Booth

WAPAC will be having a booth at Farm Technology Days. The booth will be located in the Agri-business Tent. If you are willing to volunteer some of your time to man the booth, please contact Carla Hargrave, 920.361.0439. More show information is available at www.wifarmtechnologydays.com



Farm Tech Days WAPAC Social—July 12th

Tuesday evening of Farm Technology Days, all members of WAPAC are welcome to gather for dinner at the Belvedere Supper Club (Fireside room) at 5:30 PM. It will be a great opportunity to socialize and network. Following dinner, a group will be meeting to plan the New Horizon Seminar that is held in December. If you are not able to attend the meeting, but have ideas for topics and speakers, please feel free to contact Bryan Jensen 608-263-4073 or Carla Hargrave 920-361-0439.

Hope to see you there!

What Forage Quality is Really Worth?

Steve Woodford, Nutrition Professionals, Inc.

Trying to get optimum alfalfa quality has never been so important given record high prices for corn and protein. Often spreadsheets like Feedval are used to price what forage is worth, but that can often overlook what actually happens in the ration to purchased costs.

For example, if we just look at the cost benefit of higher alfalfa protein with the same fiber or RFV, the value of each extra percentage point of protein is only \$2.5/ ton dry matter (DM). A feed cost spreadsheet would say it is double that, but in the actual ration what happens when forage fiber is constant, as protein is removed grain is added in to keep ration fiber the same. Since corn is high in price relative to protein, that erodes the cost saving of having higher forage protein.

Lowering forage fiber on the other hand reaps much larger cost savings. Lowering alfalfa NDF 5 percentage points, or 25 points higher RFV, with constant protein, is worth \$57/ton alfalfa dry matter. That is higher than a feed cost spreadsheet would suggest. The reason it is so much higher is that when less corn is fed, generally higher forage is fed, and if that forage is alfalfa it has higher protein than corn, and so the savings are on both corn and protein.

These above examples on value or protein and energy of forage



come from lowering ration corn and protein costs. Total ration costs will not drop as much as more forage is fed and actual cost of forage production would have to be figured in. But current costs to raise forage per ton are much lower than costs for corn and protein.

It is clear on a feed cost basis the goal is lower fiber, higher RFV alfalfa. But what must also be considered is what happens to forage feeding rate as alfalfa quality goes up. For every 5 percentage point drop in NDF, 17-20% more forage will be fed. Cutting alfalfa on shorter intervals will give less yield, and that needs to be considered. But in the long run either the producer will need less acres of grain production to balance out more forage acres or the money saved on feeds costs with higher quality alfalfa will buy more than enough forage or fiber to make up the gap. These cost calculations are not taking into account any milk production response that one would expect as forage quality increases.

Check out our new advertising logo!!

This is a new logo we will be using for advertising. We will still keep our old logo for official use such as letterhead.



2010 Scholarship Winners

WAPAC awarded two \$500 internship scholarships in December.

Two scholarships went to students participating in four-year degree programs at UW System schools with majors in production agriculture. One scholarship was to be awarded to a student in the Technical College System who is pursuing an associate degree in the field of production agriculture.

Unfortunately there were no applicants from the Technical College System this year.

Recipients of the four-year degree programs were Tryston Beyrer and Jason Cavadini, both of UW-River Falls.

Tryston Beyrer



Crops and Soils Major, minor in Ag Business and Conservation. Tryston leadership roles include: National V. President of Students of Agronomy, Soils & Environmental Science, Soils Judging Committee Chair, Crops and Soils Club President & V. President.

Internship: Winfield Solutions (division of Land O Lakes). Tryston was in charge of the research and show plots.

Jason Cavadini



Crops and Soils Major, minor Soil Science at UW-River Falls. Jason currently is pursuing his Masters degree at Purdue University. Leadership: V. President of Promotions of Crops and Soils Club, Chair of Fundraising Committee.

Internship: UW-Madison Department of Soil Science. He worked on field trials throughout the state including side-dress nitrogen and foliar micronutrient treatments.

**2011 Scholarship applications
forms will be available in August.**

Legislative Issues Committee

WAPAC Making a Difference.

The WAPAC committee has been lobbying and supporting efforts to redirect funds into more research. Their efforts have paid off! Recently the Joint Finance Committee adopted a change of funding to help fund more research. Seven (7) cents/ton from the ACM fund (about \$100,000) in the 2nd year of biennium will be moved to the WI Fertilizer Research Fund (WFRF). This is a one time funding. DATCP will be working on possibly shifting more money from the cleanup reimbursements to research in the future. WFRF is an applied research grant program made possible by a 10 cents per ton fee on the sale of fertilizer in Wisconsin. The WFRF is directly responsible for an impressive number of agricultural advances in soil fertility recommendations and practices that increase the efficiency of fertilizer use throughout the State.

Where does the tonnage fee currently go? \$1.06 is collected by DATCP for each ton of fertilizer sold in Wisconsin. Of that \$1.06, nearly half (44 cents) is allocated to the DATCP Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program Fund, 30 cents to the DATCP Agrichemical Management Fund, 10 cents to DNR, 10 cents to the UW Nutrient and Pest Management program, and 2 cents for weights and measures. The remaining 10 cents goes to fund applied fertilizer research.

Interested in
joining the
Legislative Issues
Committee,
contact Erich
Birschbach

Members Visit Capitol Hill

Four members (Erich Birschbach, Rachel Mueller, Tom Novak, Jeff Polenske) recently spent a day speaking to legislators about WAPAC and

agriculture issues that are of importance to our membership. They visited with various members of the Ag Finance Committee and Ray Cross the new Chancellor of the University. Such topics that were addressed were: Nutrient Management issues, NR243, need for uniform permitting of CAFOs, and ways to improve soil designations.



Coming Events.....

July 12-14, 2011 **Farm Technology Days**, Marathon County

Aug. 16, 2011 - **Crop Diagnostic Training Center Field Day**,

Arlington Research Station

Aug 23, 2011 **Midwest Soil Improvement Symposium**,

Arlington Ag Research Station, www.gypsoil.com/symposium

Aug 31, 2011 **Soils / Agronomy Field Day**, Arlington Ag Research Station

Please contact Carla Hargrave with any additional events the membership would be interested in knowing about at wapac.info@gmail.com

Jeff Polenske Member of Steering Committee for Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (WISA)

What is WISA About?

WISA's Vision: Our long-term vision is to develop an Institute whose networking with client groups helps develop and share knowledge that promotes a diverse Wisconsin agricultural and food system that is environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable.



Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

Current research projects include: Efficient water use in Central Sands Wisconsin irrigated agriculture, Sustainability metrics for the dairy processing industry, Blue Skies, Greener Pastures: development of a grazing futures network, Blue Skies, Greener Pastures: development of a grazing futures network, and Optimization of grazing systems & organic agriculture efforts.

If interested in more information check out their website: wisa.cals.wisc.edu/

Thanks Jeff for serving on this committee!

Interesting Information:

Tom Kilcer was a speaker at the December 2010 New Horizons Seminar. Tom's newsletter is available on his website www.advancedagsys.com

Arlington Weed Garden now open. The garden features over 100 common weed species found in agronomic fields in WI

We're on the Web:
www.wapac.info

Executive Council

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New Horizons

Summer 2011

New Horizons is published 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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