

DOUGLAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE NOTES

DECEMBER 2017

The Beginning....

It is more true for farmers than anyone: Winter is the beginning of the new year, not the end of the old. Congratulations to all who implemented a new management idea in 2017...even if it did not work as hoped. It is better to have tried than wonder. Much has happened in local agriculture this year.

We considered what a CAFO may bring to the region. Several helped shape a new Douglas County Farmland Preservation Plan. We received one of our wettest growing seasons on record. Some made changes to their livestock facilities; decreasing labor costs, increasing herd health and profitability. We welcomed more young farmers to the vocation of agriculture as we celebrate the careers of those farmers transitioning to "retirement". Farmers stewarding over 70,000 acres of Douglas County soil. It matters what you do, what you need, and how you plan for 2018. The Beginning matters. Plan accordingly,

*Take care, Jane Anklam
Agriculture/Horticulture Educator*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION, DOUGLAS COUNTY



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

"First Dime on Lime"

Think twice before you decide to skip lime applications. Whether you grow grass, alfalfa, red clover, soybeans, corn, hops, wheat, oats or hemp, the cheapest *and* most impactful input is lime. Once you have adjusted the pH, other nutrient applications, including manure, chemical fertilizers, biosolids and other organic fertilizers can do their job.

Synergy Coop (Almena), Leisz Lime (Spooner) and Graymont LLC all provide liming material. Remember, the finer the grade, the quicker the reaction. Apply the product *before* it sets up. All suppliers request that you get your name on their list early. Graymont will have less to offer in 2018, so plan ahead. Base application on a soil test, not on what grandpa did. Organic producers must use mined lime or other organic lime source. Check with your certifier before ordering.

Do yourself a favor, adjust your pH and save money, time, worry.

While You Are At It...

Forage and manure samples can be processed at any time. A forage sample can be pulled from round or square bales to assess the relative feed quality of that "lot". First or second crop from an excellent or terrible field are all fine as long as you know the field where the hay was grown. Storage practices impact the forage quality, so compare different samples to learn the change in feed value based on your management. If you sell hay or buy hay, always advertise or ask for the Relative Feed Quality.

Manure sampling is encouraged to determine the nutrient content of the manure you rely on as fertilizer. With that knowledge, you can take the manure credit as a fertilizer, decreasing your input of commercial fertilizer. See links below

on how to collect and submit samples :

<https://wlab.soils.wisc.edu/forage/>, <https://wlab.soils.wisc.edu/manure/>

OR...contact me and I can pull the forage and collect the manure sample with you.

Make it a resolution for 2018 to tackle these diagnostic test for the new year.

Knowledge is power (and money!)



University of Wisconsin -
Extension
Douglas County

1313 Belknap Street,
Room 107
Superior WI 54880

Tel: 715-395-1515

Fax: 715-395-1399

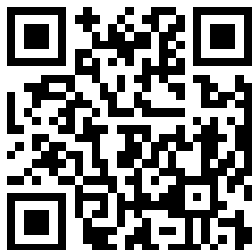
E-mail:

jane.anklam@ces.uwex.edu



We're on the web:
<http://douglas.uwex.edu/>
Or...

Scan the code below with your
smartphone to be taken
directly to our website.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sustainable New Year News

- Get the latest on **predator /livestock depredation**. Sign up for instant alerts at the WI DNR website. You will learn what animals were injured or killed, where, when, keep it on your radar and what predator was involved.
- I am looking for a farm or farmers who would like to demonstrate a **managed grazing system** starting this summer. It will be designed for 1 or 2 fields. We will develop together this winter and include a pasture walk in the summer. Organic Valley producers are especially encouraged as part of their certification requirements.
- Likewise, I would like to work with a farmer who is interested in helping to develop the **use of cover crops** for our soils and growing season. If you are planting silage or removing cereal grain this summer, please offer a field for a cover crop demonstration.



Call Jane: 715-395-1515

Manure Storage Ordinance

Have you read the new Douglas County Manure Storage Ordinance? Storage is a very important management responsibility. If stored properly, you can sustain the value of the manure, manage animal health and yard traffic headaches. Understand that with storage comes the ability to account for the stored nutrients under a Nutrient Management Plan. The permit is free. If you have manure stacked in a barnyard, now is the time to plan efficient storage. Contact Jane to learn what is involved and how to get started.

What's Under The Snow?

- **Ag. Plastics:** Recycling locations to be determined for spring. Estimate your #'s of plastic/year and sent to ne.anklam@ces.uwex.edu.
- **Taylor Co. Cattlemen's Show:** May 12, Medford <http://ncwcattlemen.com/author/sstuttgen/>
- **Youth Quality Care Animals:** The new youth livestock management course, February, 2018. Available on-line or classroom. Stay tuned.
- **Pesticide Applicator Training:** March, 2018. Call me to get on the list. Great for all farmers!
- Injury, disease, conditions of aging, combat related impairments? Agrability can support your needs to continue farming at 1-800-825-4264 or contact Jane to discuss your needs.
- What we know about climate change for Douglas County: Warmer