

March 2017

UW-Extension extends the resources of the University of Wisconsin system to the people of Barron County.

*We are located in the Barron County Government Center, 335 E. Monroe Avenue, Room 2206, Barron, Wisconsin 54812.
715-537-6250*

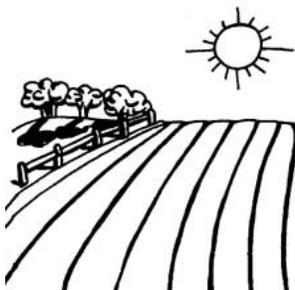
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Spring is Peak Season for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

A low pathogenic (H5) strain of Avian Influenza has been found in a Barron County commercial turkey flock. This comes after a highly pathogenic (H7) strain was found in a Tennessee commercial chicken flock. A second flock of chickens at a Tennessee commercial poultry operation has tested positive for avian influenza, though officials say it is LPAI, a low pathogenic strain.

According to Dr. Darlene Konkle, Wisconsin's Assistant State Veterinarian, the H5N2 strain found in Barron County is not related to the H7 strain found in Tennessee. High path strains are often fatal for birds, but the low path strain found in our area is not uncommon in poultry flocks and tends to cause few, if any, clinical signs of illness in the birds. Low path avian influenza is similar in severity to the common cold in humans and will eventually clear from the flock without bird loss.

Wild waterfowl are considered the natural reservoir of all non or low pathogenic influenza viruses. They carry influenza viruses, with no apparent harm to their populations. However, in domestic poultry, infection with avian influenza viruses causes two main forms of disease, low and high virulence.

Research gathered during the 2015 avian influenza outbreaks suggests that in some cases, migratory birds are directly spreading the avian influenza virus in its highly pathogenic form. The virus is being carried by waterfowl along an established migratory route that stretches from the Gulf of Mexico Minnesota and Wisconsin. The virus can be transmitted to domestic poultry from migrating waterfowl through droppings that land on farms.

One of the risk factors that can aid in the spread of avian influenza is farming activity, primarily on crop farms located up-wind from commercial poultry facilities. The virus has the ability to be left behind from birds feeding or migrating through a field, and then moving on dust/dirt/residue particles from last year's harvest, or this year's spring work.

According to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the University of Minnesota studies have shown that influenza viruses can survive cold temperatures in soil environments. Potential contamination of these fields with droppings from migrating birds could serve as a source of avian influenza infection. This study found that actively working (tilling or disking) fields closest to turkey barns within the 14-day reference period was a risk factor. This was potentially due to soil disruption and the creation of airborne particles that could carry the virus.

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If you farm near a poultry farm, get to know that farmer, and give them notice when you will be in the field. This will allow them to take steps to mitigate the spread of this devastating disease.

The commercial poultry industry provides essential market opportunities for crop farmers in Northwestern Wisconsin. Because corn and soybean farmers need this market, it is in the best interests of everyone to do what you can to minimize the risk of spreading avian influenza.

If you farm adjacent to a turkey farm please contact one of the numbers below as soon as you know you will start your spring field work, please advise the farm name, if known, or field you will be working, the day you will start and finish, and what type of work will be done.

- Day time contact – Erica @320-231-2304 or Shellie @320-231-2069
- Night or weekend – Steve @507-304-0527

If you are working fields and you see dead migratory birds or unusually heavy bird activity, also contact one of the numbers above with that information.

Training Offered to Custom Manure Haulers

Professional Nutrient Applicators Association of Wisconsin (PNAAW) and UW-Extension has scheduled a Level 1 training session Monday, March 27, 2017 in Barron. This training is designed for employees of custom manure haulers, but it is also an excellent training opportunity for farmers and their employees who apply manure. The training session will be held at in Room 110 of the Barron County Government Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Topics covered in March 27th training session will include: spill response techniques, state specific regulations (including CAFO regulations) and common sense application techniques. Custom manure applicators are a critical component of nutrient management plan implementation on dairy and livestock farms throughout Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has a dairy herd of 1.2 million cows that produce 12,000,000,000 gallons of manure and wastewater. Custom manure haulers in Wisconsin handle an estimated fifty percent of the dairy manure and forty per cent of all livestock manure generated in Wisconsin.

Every employee of a custom manure hauling business is encouraged to attend the Level 1 training. If the business is a PNAAW member, employees must complete Level 1 training every year to maintain certification. Level 1 training is the first step in a certification process of PNAAW.

Advance reservations for the Custom Manure Haulers training is requested; the fee for training is \$5 per person with advance reservations and \$10 at the door. Call the Barron County UW-Extension at 715-537-6250 to make reservations.

UW-EXTENSION EXTENDS THE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITY TO THE PEOPLE WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK.

Cooperative Extension is part of the University of Wisconsin System and a division of University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Cooperative Extension helps people throughout the state acquire knowledge and skills to ...

- Solve problems in their businesses and farms.
- Improve their local governments and neighborhoods.
- Enhance the quality of their families' lives.
- Use natural resources responsibly.
- Help their children grow and learn.

Extension people work in partnership with people in county, state, federal, and tribal governments; community organizations; volunteers; business; and industry. With faculty in every county and on UW-campuses, Cooperative Extension gives Wisconsin citizens quick and convenient access to University research and knowledge.

DATCP Clarifies Age Requirements for Pesticide Use

Officials from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection have been getting questions lately from farmers about changes to pesticide use laws – specifically to new requirements that pesticide handlers and applicators be at least 18 years old. There are changes to two separate federal laws going on simultaneously.

The two regulations involved are U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules -- the Worker Protection Standard and Certification of Pesticide Applicators. In both cases, they apply to pesticide use. This includes:

- Mixing, loading and applying pesticides
- Cleaning and repairing application equipment
- Carrying open pesticide containers
- Rinsing pesticide containers

Worker Protection Standard

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) applies to employees on your farm.

Effective January 1, 2017, employees on your farm must be at least 18 years old to handle pesticides that carry the "agricultural use requirement" statement on the label, whether they are restricted or non-restricted use products. This statement is found on restricted or non-restricted use pesticides. As examples, atrazine products would be restricted use, and products containing glyphosate would be non-restricted use. Employees must also be at least 18 to enter areas treated with pesticides during the "restricted entry interval". This time will vary depending on the pesticide, and is listed on the label.

There are also other changes to the Worker Protection Standard, and it does apply to nurseries, greenhouses and forestry businesses, too. If you have questions, contact Jane Larson: jane.larson@wi.gov, 608-224-4545.

Certification of Pesticide Applicators

Farmers, their family members, and their employees must be certified and licensed as private pesticide applicators if they use restricted use pesticides. This is not new. But under the new regulation, they will have to be at least 18 years old to be certified to use these pesticides.

Note, however, that this law is not yet in effect. The EPA has finalized it, but is working with the states to align state and federal regulations. Enforcement is at least three years away. States have their own pesticide laws, which must be at least as stringent as federal laws; they can be more stringent. In Wisconsin's case, most of the changes to the federal law are things we already do; however, the age restriction will be new.

There are other changes to certification of pesticide applicators as well, including new provisions for commercial applicators. For information, contact Mike Murray, michael.murray@wi.gov, 608-224-4551.

Family Exemptions

The EPA defines family members as parents, children, step-children, foster children, spouses, in-laws, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and first cousins – even if you pay them for their work.

Neither of these two rules applies to family members who handle or apply non-restricted use pesticides. However, even family members who handle or apply restricted-use pesticides must be certified and licensed.

Contact WIDATCP for more information, or visit their website for current requirements: datcp.wi.gov, search for *worker protection* or *private applicator*.

Check the Runoff Risk Website before Applying Manure

With an early spring looking like a good possibility, Wisconsin agriculture officials are asking farmers to check the Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast online before spreading manure.

They encourage farmers to avoid spreading manure during high-risk runoff times. If farmers must spread manure during such times, they should steer clear of high risk fields and have a spill response plan in place.

Farmers are eager to get their manure pits cleaned out after the winter, we understand. But it's equally important to spread manure when and where it will remain to fertilize the crop and protect lakes, streams and groundwater. The online runoff risk advisory maps will give them a day-by-day forecast out 10 days, so they can avoid spreading, or if they must spread manure during that time, can take steps to minimize the risk of runoff.

The [Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast](#) is part of the [Wisconsin Manure Management Advisory System](#). The runoff forecast provides maps showing short-term runoff risk for daily application planning, taking into account factors including soil moisture, weather forecast, crop cover, snow cover, and slope. It is updated three times daily by the National Weather Service.

Farmers should contact their crop consultants or county land conservation offices for help identifying alternatives to spreading, such as stacking manure away from lakes or rivers, drinking water wells, or area with sinkholes or exposed bedrock. If farmers must spread manure, crop consultants and county conservationists can help identify fields where the risk is lower. You can find contact information for county conservation offices in the [WI Land + Water Directory](#).

While discouraging spreading during high-risk times, Walling also advises farmers to have an emergency plan in any case. The plan should include who to call and what steps to take if runoff or a spill occurs, how to clean it up, and perhaps most important, how to prevent it from happening. Information about preventing and planning for manure spills is available on the [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website](#).

Milk Quality Honor Roll

HERD NAME	#COWS	SCC (1,000)	HERD NAME	#COWS	SCC (1,000)
Kahl Farms	6	34	Jerry & Tricia Smith	3	45
Berglane	35	54	Dority Valley Dairy	108	56
Gordon & Michele Manshaem	58	72	River Valley Farms	112	74
Henk Dairy	43	82	Toft Farms Inc.	66	85
Breezy Hill Dairy	637	94	Mike & Lori Boesl	259	96
Kevin Splett	52	100	Ronald Wirth	47	101
Karl Paquette	51	102	Gehl Acres Farm	136	105
Pepst Dairy Inc.	178	105	Dean Frisle	68	118
Bill & Norma Rousar	50	129	Rod Ray	57	136
Idlegold Guernsey	117	142	Scott Feldhacker	65	143

Tractor Safety and Farm Machinery Certification Course Set

The Barron County Tractor Safety Certification Program will be held June 19 - 22, 2017 at the Barron High School from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. The cost for the course is \$20 per student.

Tractor Safety Certification is designed to meet both State and Federal requirements for youth under 16 years old. The program covers 12-13 year olds operating tractors or self-propelled implements on public roads under direction of their parents or guardian or for work related to their family farm operation. The Tractor Safety Certification is also for youth who are 14 and 15 years old who will be employed (or working without pay) for someone other than their own family farm.

Youth attending the Tractor Safety Certification Program will learn how to safely operate a tractor and how to identify potentially hazardous situations and how to reduce the risk of injury in those situations.

Young people will be given the opportunity to practice their driving skills and safely handle tractors towing farm equipment “hands-on” learning. To pass the Certification Program, youth must successfully and safely operate a tractor and 2-wheel implement through an obstacle course.

To successfully complete the Tractor Safety Certification Program youth must be at least 12 year old at the time of the course, attend 24 hours of instructional training, pass a written examination with a minimum score of 70%, and pass a practical driving exam which demonstrates their ability to safely drive a tractor.

Registration for the Tractor Safety Certification Program opens in April. Contact any of the High School Ag Instructors in Barron County or contact Tim Jergenson at the Barron County UW-Extension at 715-537-6250.

Be Prepared for Spring Planting—Follow these Seven Steps

Seven Considerations for Grain Production in Low Margin Years

Fertility – Base fertility management decisions on recent soil tests—Don’t forget pH!

Variety/Hybrid Selection—Only buy the traits you need!

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools and scouting make to well-informed decisions about cost effective pest management - Look at Field Histories—Manage pest control measures to avoid Herbicide Resistance

Rotations—Crop rotation can help manage residue without tillage. Fewer passes across the field can save money!

Production Costs—Know your own cost of production based on your input prices and rates, machinery costs, land rents and custom services. The following two pages of this newsletter contain sample enterprise budgets for corn and soybeans. You can download these spreadsheets at <http://waushara.uwex.edu/agriculture/>. Use these tools calculate your own cost of production.

Negotiate lower cash rent based on yield history and price expectations, along with your own cost of production. Use flexible leases!

Grain Prices—Develop a marketing plan based on your costs and willingness to bear risk. Visit the University of Minnesota Grain Marketing website at <https://www.cffm.umn.edu/GrainMarketing/MarketingPlans/>. Download this marketing template and use it to customize a marketing plan for your farm.

Corn Budget Analyzer

Soybean Budget Analyzer

Barron County UW-Extension

Agricultural Newsletter

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