Waupaca County

UW Extension

Summer, 2013

AGRICULTURE RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

Greg Blonde, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent...715-258-6230 (ext 2) or greg.blonde@ces.uwex.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"The most important trip in life is meeting others halfway."

Steven Sigmund

WAUPACA COUNTY FORAGE COUNCIL

SUMMER FIELD DAY

Wednesday, August 14

Corner of Hwy. S & G
2 miles Southwest of Marion
(Just North of Dupont Town Hall)

10:30 Tour Cover Crop Field Demo's (18 different plots)
by Mike Haedt, Partners in Production & John Riemer, Legacy Seeds

Precision Farming Guidance System Demo's
by local/area Farm Machinery Dealers

12:00 *Free Lunch* – *under the shelter at Dupont Town Hall. Provided by Waupaca County Forage Council with help from the Sunrise 4-H club. Updates from Greg Blonde, Waupaca County UW-Extension Ag Agent and other local agency representatives.*

1:00 Vertical Tillage Equipment Field Demo's

- ☑ *Curse Buster*
- ☑ *Smart-Till*
- ☑ *Lemken*
- ☑ *Pottinger*
- ☑ *Amazone*

No advance registration or cost to attend. Everyone is welcome. See you there Wednesday, August 14 at County Hwy S & G, two miles southwest of Marion, across the road from Dupont Town Hall.

For more information, contact Greg Blonde (715-258-6230) or Dan Boerst, Waupaca County Forage Council President (920-596-3394).

Flooding Impact on Corn Growth & Development

By Joe Lauer, Extension Corn Agronomy Specialist, UW-Madison

Recent rains have caused flooding and wet spots in many corn fields. Growers are concerned about corn growth and development and any yield effects that might occur from short periods of flooding. The extent to which flooding injures corn is determined by several factors including: 1) timing of flooding during the life cycle of corn, 2) frequency and duration of flooding, and 3) air-soil temperatures during flooding (Belford et al., 1985).

The growing point of corn is metabolically active and is near or below the soil surface prior to V6 (6 visible leaf collars). Within about 48 hours the oxygen supply in a flooded soil is depleted (Purvis and Williamson, 1972; Fausey and McDonald, 1985). Without oxygen, the growing point cannot respire and critical functions are impaired. If temperatures are warm during flooding (greater than 77 degrees F) plants may not survive 24-hours. Cooler temperatures prolong survival. If flooding in corn is less than 48 hours, crop injury should be limited.

To confirm plant survival, check the color of the growing point. It should be white to cream colored, while a darkening and/or softening usually precedes plant death. Also look for new leaf growth 3 to 5 days after water drains from the field. Once the growing point is above the water level, the chances of survival improve greatly.

Even if flooding doesn't kill plants, it may have a long-term negative impact on crop performance. Excess moisture during the early vegetative stages retards root development (Wenkert et al., 1981). As a result, plants may be subject to greater injury later during a dry summer because root systems are not sufficiently developed to contact available subsoil water.

A considerable amount of oxygen is required in the soil for mineralization of nutrient elements from organic matter by microbes. Oxygen deficiencies reduce microbe activity, decreasing the rate at which ammonium and nitrate are supplied to plants resulting in nitrogen deficiency in waterlogged soils (Wesseling, 1974). Additionally, flooding can reduce the activity of mycorrhizae essential for symbiotic phosphorus uptake (Ellis, 1998). Flooding can also result in losses of nitrogen through denitrification and leaching. Where estimated nitrogen loss is significant in fields not yet tasseling and yield potential is reasonable, corn may respond to additional fertilizer.

Flooding causes greater crop yield losses when it occurs early in the season (Meyer et al., 1987; Kanwar et al., 1988; Mukhtar et al., 1990; Lizaso and Ritchie, 1997). When six-inch corn was flooded for 24, 48 and 72 h corn yields were reduced 18, 22, and 32% at a low N fertilizer level. At a high N level, these reductions ranged from 19 to 14% one year and <5% in another year (Ritter and Beer, 1969). When corn at a height of 30 inches was flooded for 24 and 96 h, yields were reduced 14 to 30%. With a high level of N in the soil, very little yield reduction occurred even with 96 h of flooding. When flooded near silking, no reduction in yield occurred at a high N level, but yield reductions up to 16% occurred with 96 h of flooding at the low level of N.

Mud and sediment caking leaves and stalks could damage plant tissue and allow development of fungal and bacterial diseases not typically seen. Due to early season stress the plant may be predisposed to root and stalk rots later and harvest timing of fields may need to be adjusted accordingly. A disease problem that may become greater due to flooding and cool temperatures is crazy top, a fungus that depends upon saturated soil conditions to infect corn seedlings. With warmer, wet or humid conditions Pythium can reduce stands despite fungicide seed treatments. There is limited hybrid resistance to these diseases and predicting damage is difficult until later in the growing season.

Milk Price Update / Outlook

by Dr. Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison

This year milk prices were at their low in March with Class III at $16.93. The Class III price improved to $18.52 in May. But, for June the Class III price will fall back some to about $18.05. Prices are much improved over a year ago when the May Class III price was $15.23 and June $15.63. The lower June Class III price may be attributed to a spring flush in milk production resulting in relatively high dairy product production and increasing stocks of dairy products. Commercial disappearance of all dairy products has been running below a year ago with January through March 0.6% lower. Butter and cheese sales have been higher, but fluid (beverage) milk sales were 4.2% lower. On the positive side for milk prices have been dairy exports. Compared to April a year ago exports of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder were up 40% for a record volume for any given month. April exports on a total-solids basis were equivalent to 15.7% of U.S. milk production which was a record.

Milk prices should start to increase again in July and peak in October or November. As of now (June 20) market conditions indicate the Class III price could be above $19 August thru October-November. However, current Class III futures are $18.50 or lower during this period. Earlier I had projected the possibility that the Class III price could reach $20 this summer. But, milk production is running higher than anticipated resulting in more dairy product production and dairy stocks. But, I still feel there still is a very good probability that the Class III could reach at least the high $19s, if the increase in milk production doesn't run much over 1% above last year and domestic sales and exports turn out better.

Estimating Haylage or Silage Wagon Weights

Farmers are often faced with the challenge of figuring out how much forage is in a chopper wagon. The situation arises when forage is being sold from one producer to another or when an estimate of yield is needed for accounting or crop insurance records.

UW-Wisconsin researchers weighed and measured haylage/silage produced on the Marshfield Research Station farm for three years in the 1990's. Average depth of forage was estimated as each load of forage was pulled across the scale. Samples of forage from each load were analyzed for moisture content.

Table 1 gives the average silage dry matter density (pounds per cubic foot) on the wagons. For different types of forage, the density range was from 4.6 (grass silage) to 5.7 (first cut haylage) with an average of about 5.0 pounds per cubic foot. Surprisingly, forage density did not vary greatly with forage type or moisture.

With this information, weight can be estimated by multiplying volume times density. Let's look at an example. A wagon measuring 16 feet long by 7.25 feet wide and filled to a depth of 6 feet has a volume of 696 cubic feet (16 x 7.25 x 6). To determine dry matter on the wagon, multiply cubic feet times 5 pounds of dry matter per cubic foot. This comes to 3480 pounds of dry matter (696 x 5).

Table 1. Average Silage Dry Matter Density on Wagons Weighed at the Marshfield Ag Research Station

Forage	Cutting	Avg. Density (lbs. DM/ft3)	Avg. Dry Matter (%)	No. of Loads Weighed
Haylage	1st	5.67	45.6	30
Haylage	2nd	5.00	47.0	119
Haylage	3rd	5.10	51.7	85
Haylage	4th	4.95	56.7	11
Corn Silage	-	5.05	34.4	151
Grass	all	4.55	43.5	7
Clover	all	5.48	48.3	38
Oatlage	-	4.99	36.6	45

To calculate "as fed" weight, divide the dry matter content (as a decimal) into the dry matter pounds. If our example forage is 60% moisture (40% dry matter) alfalfa haylage, we would divide 3480 pounds by 0.40 to get 8700 pounds as fed.

Even with this information, estimating the weight of forage on a wagon is not an exact science. When forage is being sold based on the number of wagon loads, weighing all or a portion of the loads across a scale still provides the most accurate and fairest result.

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Last Chance, Don't Wait!

Sign-up Ends July 12 for Pigeon Lake Watershed National Initiative

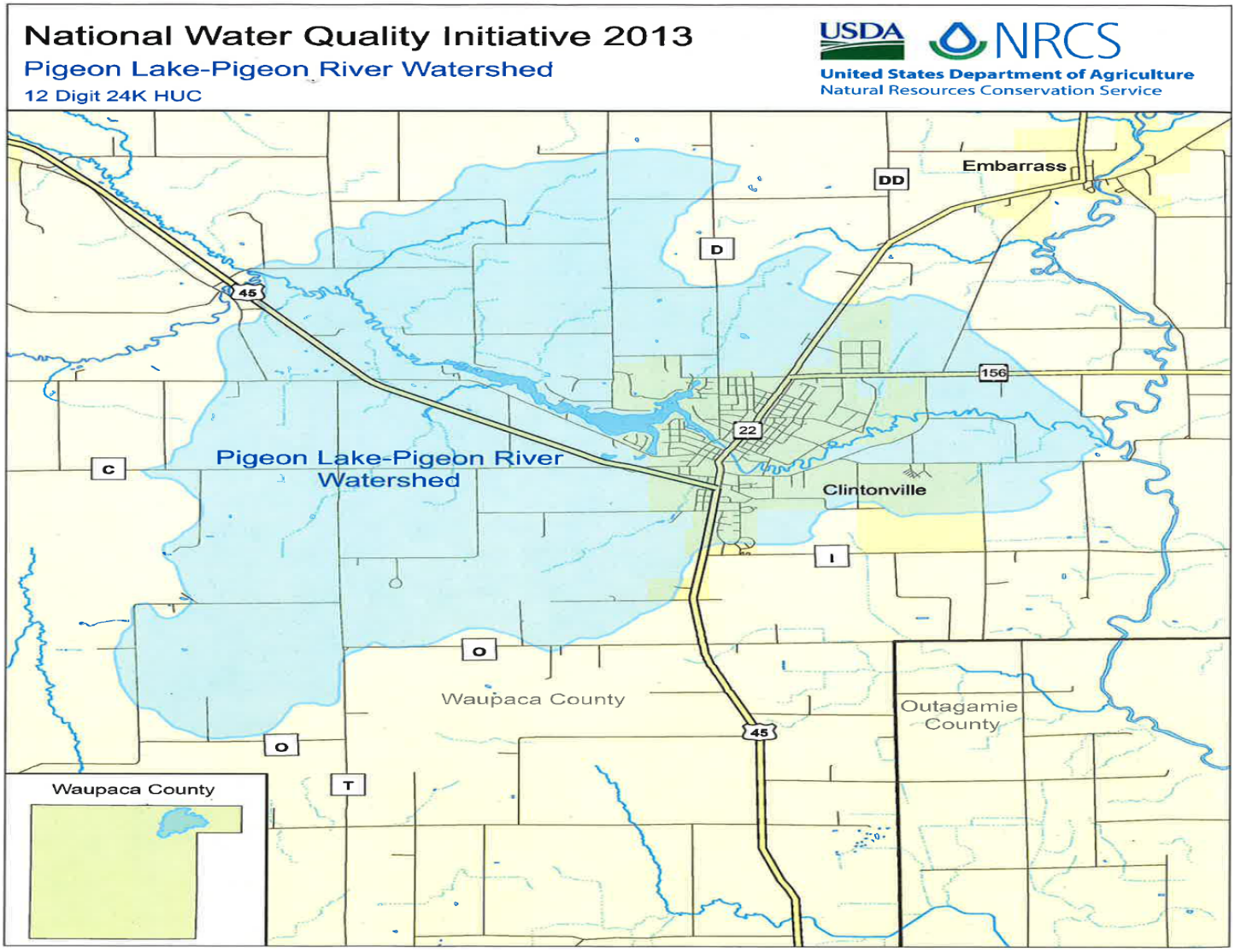
By Lisa Neuenfeldt, Waupaca County NRSC Conservationist

Farmers and landowners in the Pigeon Lake watershed, which is located in Clintonville, can qualify for funding to implement conservation practices to prevent soil erosion, build soil health, and improve water quality and wildlife habitat. The Waupaca Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office has received special funding for this watershed through the National Water Quality Initiative. But the deadline of July 12 is fast approaching, so people are encouraged to contact NRCS at 715-258-8380 in advance of this deadline to sign up.

The program provides funding and technical assistance to farmers who install conservation practices such as barnyard runoff control, manure storage, no-till, tree planting and nutrient management. There are actually 70 different conservation practices available.

Applications must be received by July 12 to be considered for funding. To be eligible, a project must not have been started yet. This summer, NRCS will notify all applicants of the results and begin developing contracts.

The Waupaca NRCS office is located in the USDA office on Royalton Street in Waupaca. Call 715-258-8380 for more details. Don't wait. Sign-up ends July 12.



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Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
1100 Main St, Suite #150, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Contact: Teal Fyksen
Email: teal.fyksen@goldensandsrcd.org

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheep Grazing Pasture Walk

Getting Started and Management Considerations

Wednesday, July 17th, 6:00-8:00pm

Bear Creek Sheep Station
Robert and Penny Leder
N8714 Cty Rd T
Bear Creek, WI 54922

Bob and Penny Leder have maintained a commercial flock of sheep in Bear Creek since 1988. They rotationally graze 95 ewes and their 200% lamb crop on 30 acres of grass-legume pastures. Lambing is timed to match surging spring grass growth. The lambs are sold off as feeders (averaging 75-80 pounds) when the grass growth slows in late summer. Fall grass production is stockpiled in pastures to enable the flock to continue grazing into November and December, during breeding season. On an additional 20 acres, two crops of hay are made which is enough to feed the ewes during the winter months; in most years with extra to sell. The flock is out wintered in "the back 40" on a hay station of large square bales that the flock also uses as a windbreak. The 20 acres of hay land is also grazed twice during the year: when the grass first emerges in late April as lambing is winding down, and again in the fall during breeding. One of the main goals at Bear Creek Sheep Station is to raise lamb and wool in a sustainable way with the use of good conservation and land stewardship practices. The Leder farm now consists of 80 acres with two farmsteads. The agricultural land was preserved in 2009 when Bob and Penny donated their development rights to the newly developed Waupaca County Working Farm and Forest Lands Conservation Easement Program.

This pasture walk will be geared to beginning producers, however more advanced management strategies may be discussed if time permits. The event is FREE with no pre-registration necessary. Please dress weather-appropriate.

Topics Include: Managing sheep on pasture, forage varieties and selection, fencing, managing parasites and undesirable plant species in pasture.

Directions (From Clintonville, WI): Travel South on Hwy 45, 6.5 miles - Turn West onto Hwy 22, continue 3.5 miles - Turn North onto Cty. T continue 1.5 miles. End at N8714 Cty. Rd T
Bear Creek, WI 54922 ***Watch for "Pasture Walk" signs.**

Questions? Contact Teal Fyksen (Grazing Specialist) @ **715-321-2929 (cell) or teal.fyksen@goldensandsrcd.org**
* Keep up to date on other area events at www.goldensandsrcd.org

Agricultural Employment Guidelines
June 2013

Ken Barnett
Extension Educator
Center for Dairy Profitability

I. Summary of Wisconsin Minimum Wage*

1. Minimum Rates - Agricultural employment (Effective 7/24/09)

   a) Adults - 18 years $7.25/hr
   b) Minors 17 years of age and under $7.25/hr

   For State & Federal provisions on opportunity wage, contact Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). See address below.

2. Allowance for Board & Lodging*: Where meals or lodging (or both) are furnished by the agricultural employer (and accepted/received by the employee), a deduction from the employees cash wages may be made, but cannot exceed the following amounts (Effective 7/24/09):

	Per Week (7 days)	Per Day
a) Lodging Adults and Minors	$58.00	$8.30
	Per Week (7 days)	**Per Meal**
b) Meals (3/day) Adults and Minors	$87.00	$4.15

* Source: WI DWD - Equal Rights Division, P.O. Box 8928, Madison, WI 53708 Phone: (608) 266-6860 (www.dwd.state.wi.us/er)

II. Social Security (SS) and Medicare (MD)
Toll Free Number: 1-800-772-1213
(www.ssa.gov)

1. Deduction Rates for Employees: 2013 -6.2% SS up to $113,700; 1.45% MD on all earnings.

2. General Guidelines (Effective - January 1994):

   a) Each employee (and all dependents claimed) must have SS number. Use Form SS-5 to apply for SS number.
   b) An Employer Identification Number (EIN) is required. Use Form SS-4.
   c) Deduction is made for all employees if you pay out $2500 or more per year in agricultural wages. If less than $2500, then deduct SS and MD from the cash wages of each employee paid $150 or more per year.
   d) Employer deducts SS & MD from cash portion of wage (not room & board). The amount is matched by the employer and deposited regularly at your local bank or sent in with income tax payments (See IRS Publ. 51, Circ. A: Agricultural Employer's Tax Guide).
   e) Deduct SS & MD on wages paid to spouse and children 18 and over. You should withhold on all wage earners if incorporated.

3. Rate for self-employed is 15.3% (12.4% SS up to $113,700 plus 2.9% MD on all earnings) in 2013. One-half is deductible as a business expense.

III. Income Tax Withholding
(www.irs.ustreas.gov)

Beginning 1/1/90, you must withhold Federal income tax on all cash wages paid that are subject to SS and MD taxes. Employee must provide Form W-4 (See IRS Publ. 51, Circ. A: Agricultural Employer's Tax Guide and IRS Publ. 15, Circ. E: Employers Tax Guide for tax tables). IRS form 1099-Misc. must be prepared on payments of $600 or more for services performed by or rents paid to persons not treated as employees.

NOTE: Exemption is possible if no tax liability is foreseen. See Line 6 of Form W-4.

IV. Records Required

Employer must keep the following records under the Wisconsin minimum wage law for at least three years for each employee:

1. Name and address
2. Date of birth
3. Dates employment began and ended
4. Time work began and ended each day
5. Time each meal period began and ended (if meal time is deducted from work time and only if work activity does not cease on a regularly scheduled basis)
6. Total hours worked daily and weekly
7. Rate of pay and wages paid for each payroll period
8. Amount and reason for each deduction from wages
9. Output of employee, if paid on other than a time basis

Putting the information from items 6 to 8 on each paycheck or pay envelope will be appreciated by your employee(s).

If the federal minimum wage applies, there are additional records that one is required to keep.

NOTES: Employee records shall be made available for inspection by a duly authorized deputy of the Wisconsin DWD. You must provide the employee a W-2 statement for all compensation (cash and non-cash or benefits paid) by January 31 (or within 30 days of

IV. Records Required (Cont.)

termination of employment). Summarize and submit all W-2's on Form W-3 by the last day of February.

V. Federal Minimum Wage *

Effective 7/24/09 $7.25/hour

For agriculture, the federal minimum wage rate applies only if you hire 500 worker days in any calendar quarter of the previous calendar year. A worker day is defined as any day during which an employee performs agricultural work for at least one hour.

* Ref:Federal Wage/Hour Division
212 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 264-5221
(http://www.dol.gov/whd)

VI. Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Law*

1. If you are a farmer, you must provide Worker's Compensation insurance if you employ six or more employees (full-time or part-time) at one or more locations working on the same day for 20 days (consecutive or non-consecutive) during a calendar year. On each of the 20 days, it can be the same six employees or six different people. After the 20th day, farmers have 10 days to obtain insurance.

2. Family members (parents, spouse, children, brothers, sisters, in-laws) are not deemed to be employees for this purpose.

3. Family farm corporations with all shareholders related (as in 2 above) are exempt, until "outside labor" meets the 6 and 20 stated in 1 above.

* Ref: DWD Division of Worker's Compensation, P.O. Box 7901
Madison, WI 53707
Phone: (608) 266-1340
(www.dwd.state.wi.us/wc/default.htm)

VII. Federal Child Labor Law
Effective 1/1/92

1. Restricts jobs which minors (under age 16) can perform, except:
   a) Minors employed on farm owned/ operated by parent/guardian
   b) Minors (14-15) who have successfully completed a training program in tractor/machinery operation

2. Prohibits employment of children under age 16 during school hours, with the following exceptions:
   a) Minors working on farms owned/operated by parent/guardian **and**
   b) Minors (12-13 yrs.) working for others than parent/guardian only with written consent of parent/guardian, **and**
   c) Minors under 12 with above written consent if employed on farm exempt from Federal minimum wage.

NOTES: A meal period of no less than 30 minutes is required for minors after 6 consecutive hours of employment (or consistent with regular meal-time hours). A "break time" is optional. However, if given, it is considered work time if breaks are less than 30 minutes. For more information on the maximum hours of work per day and days per week, and permitted time of day which minors can work, see "Employment of Minors Guide" (ERD-4758-P). See address and phone number listed under Section I.

VIII. Wisconsin Act 455

Effective May 1, 1996, no person may direct or permit a child under the age of 16 years to operate a farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on a public road unless the child has been certified as successfully completing a Tractor and Machinery Certification Course. This law does not apply to the operation of a farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry that is crossing perpendicular to the direction of the road. This law applies to both family and non-family members. Penalties for

VIII. Wisconsin Act 455 (Cont.)

failure to comply with this law took effect starting July 1, 1997. For further information, contact the UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health at fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety/.

IX. Federal Unemployment Tax Act

These provisions apply only to agricultural employers who:

1. Pay cash wages for agricultural labor of $20,000 or more in a quarter in any calendar year, **or**

2. Employ 10 or more workers in agricultural labor at for some part of a day in 20 or more weeks of any calendar year.

X. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)*

Effective June 1, 1987, you may hire only U.S. citizens or aliens authorized to work in the U.S.

1. New employees (citizens and noncitizens) must complete and sign Form I-9 to certify their eligibility.

2. Retain Form I-9 for 3 years (or for 1 year past end of employment, whichever is longer).

3. CIS or DWD officers may request you to provide Form I-9 for review. The form must also be available for inspection by authorized U.S. Government officials from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, or Department of Justice.

*Ref: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
310 East Knapp Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (800) 375-5283
(www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

Assessing Hail Damaged Corn

According to Joe Lauer, Extension Corn Agronomy specialist at UW-Madison, the keys to assessing storm damage to crop fields is: 1) be patient, 2) determine the crop growth stage, and 3) assess plant health accurately. Wait 7-10 days before evaluating the field as it may take that long for corn to begin growing again if it can.

Hail damage is minimal on plants less than V7 or seven visible leaves (see table below). Within a few days, growth should be visible in the whorl. New leaves will become visible quickly within a couple of days if air temperature is warm. To assess whether the plant is healthy the growing point needs to be observed. Look for color other than a healthy cream or light yellow. The first signs of damage on a growing point are a change to a light red or brown within about 4-6 days. If the growing point changes color, then the plant will likely not yield well and may even die. To assess corn fields that may be damaged and whether a replant or late-planting may be needed see Corn Replant/Late-Plant Decisions in Wisconsin (UWEX Bulletin A3353).

Stage	Percent Leaf Area Destroyed																			
of Growth	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
7 Leaf	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	9
8 Leaf	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 Leaf	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	7	9	10	11	12	13
10 Leaf	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	11	13	14	15	16
11 Leaf	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16	18	20	22
12 Leaf	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	15	16	18	20	23	26	28
13 Leaf	0	1	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	11	13	15	17	19	22	25	28	31	34
14 Leaf	0	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	13	15	17	20	22	25	28	32	36	40	44
15 Leaf	1	1	2	3	5	7	9	12	15	17	20	23	26	30	34	38	42	46	51
16 Leaf	1	2	3	4	6	8	11	14	18	20	23	27	31	36	40	44	49	55	61
17 Leaf	2	3	4	5	7	9	13	17	21	24	28	32	37	43	48	53	59	65	72
18 Leaf	2	3	5	7	9	11	15	19	24	28	33	38	44	50	56	62	69	76	84
19-21 Leaf	3	4	6	8	11	14	18	22	27	32	38	43	51	57	64	71	79	87	96
Tassel	3	5	7	9	13	17	21	26	31	36	42	48	55	62	68	75	83	91	100
Silked	3	5	7	9	12	16	20	24	29	34	39	45	51	58	65	72	80	88	97
Silks Brown	2	4	6	8	11	15	18	22	27	31	36	41	47	54	60	66	74	81	90
Pre-Blister	2	3	5	7	10	13	16	20	24	28	32	37	43	49	54	60	66	73	81
Blister	2	3	5	7	10	13	16	19	22	26	30	34	39	45	50	55	60	66	73
Early Milk	2	3	4	6	8	11	14	17	20	24	28	32	36	41	45	50	55	60	66
Milk	1	2	3	5	7	9	12	15	18	21	24	28	32	37	41	45	49	54	59
Late Milk	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	15	18	21	24	28	32	35	38	42	46	50
Soft Dough	1	1	2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	38	41
Early Dent	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	18	21	23	25	27	29	32
Dent	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	10	12	14	15	17	19	20	21	23
Late Dent	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Nearly Mature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8
Mature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Waupaca County UW-Extension
Courthouse
811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postal Paid
Waupaca, WI 54981
Permit No. 3

Upcoming Events:

July 9
Waupaca County Junior Fair Entry Deadline, UWEX Office

July 9-11
WI Farm Technology Days Barron County, Dallas WI

July 15
Crop reporting deadline FSA Office, Waupaca

July 26
Waupaca County Fair Open-class Entry Deadline, Weyauwega

August 2
DCCP program deadline FSA Office, Waupaca

August 14
Tillage / Cover Crop Field Day Dupont Town Hall

August 21-25
Waupaca County Fair

Looking ahead…

Waupaca County FSA Director Dave Heideman reminds all producers about upcoming these upcoming important deadlines:

July 15*...*Crop Reporting
August 2*...*Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCCP)

Also, with August only a month away, that means time for the Waupaca County Fair...Wednesday, August 21 thru Sunday, August 25.

Approximately 200 4-H and FFA exhibitors from all corners of the county have entered hundreds of dairy and livestock animals, along with other exhibitors who will bring their horses, poultry and rabbits as well.

For more information, go to:

www.waupacacountyfair.org

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