**UW-Extension Education Committee Feb. 9th – March 4th 2016 Trisha Wagner Agriculture Agent**

**Milk Quality meeting for dairy farm employees**

Extension milk quality specialist Pam Ruegg provided an informative workshop for dairy farm employees (and owners) featuring tips and recommendations for improved treatment of clinical mastitis. Dr. Ruegg, discussed the science behind healthy udders and how to identify signs and symptoms and treatment considerations. While farms have made vast improvements with regard to somatic cell count and mastitis, the disease remains the top expense with respect to dairy cattle treatment and lost milk. The program was available in English and Spanish.

**UWEX/ANIMART collaboration on cold weather calf care**

I initiated a collaborative effort to develop two podcast recordings on the topic of cold weather calf care with industry partner ANIMART LLC (Wisconsin based supplier of dairy and livestock products and services). The cold weather calf care podcast received 55 views in the first 10 days on air, and the calf housing podcast had 19 views in 3 days. We are in the process of determining the value of the partnership – did it bring new-to-Extension viewers? The podcasts were also picked up by Hoard’s Dairymen magazine.

**UWEX Grain marketing meeting series**

Area farmers attended the second grain marketing meeting in Melrose (2/16), with speakers covering topics to address the current economic situation for corn and soybean production. UW corn agronomist Joe Lauer discussed considerations for precision technology investments, and strategies for dealing weather speculators’ prediction for drought. Bruce Jones, UW ag economist presented information on the current ag economic outlook for WI, focusing on the fact that many farms will suffer losses in 2016, however on average WI farm balance sheets are strong, and are expected to carry farms through 2016. Challenges will come if economic conditions continue to be challenging in 2017, as predicted.

**Becoming the Employer of Choice – two-day pilot program, in two NW region locations**

Becoming the Employer of Choice is pilot program I lead and co-developed with agriculture agents in the NW UW Extension region. The program is for current and future dairy farm managers/owners looking to improve their human resource management skills. The second location was held in Chippewa Falls (2/18 and 2/25)

**Add’n programs/projects:**

* HCN community gardens planning mtg 2/10
* UWEX/ANIMART collaboration – cold weather calf care podcasts 2/19
* Pesticide applicator certification program 2/23
* Ag plastics recycling discussion 2/29
* Spaulding Rd. Community Garden newsletter 2/29, 3/1
* Dairy Partner newsletter – 3/3

**Farm visits/consults:**

**Add’n meetings/programs attended:**

-NW region all-colleague conf. 2/10,11

-JC Dairy Promotion cmt. 2/25

-MOSES organic farming conf. 2/26

-Faculty Senate mtg. 3/1

-Hort. Therapy training for MGVs ¾

* Giese, IoH 2/10
* FBR, pollinators 2/15
* Holthaus, HRM 2/15, 17
* Laufenberg, beef 2/15
* A., business start-up 2/15
* Hatfield, soil testing 2/15
* Badgerland, ins letter 2/16,19
* Landlord, rental contracts 2/19
* Vasquez, agribusiness 2/19, 3/3
* Stenberg, crop land rent 2/22
* Zook, pasture agronomics 2/23
* Weber, dairy financial analysis 2/23, 25
* Landvartter, land contracts 2/23
* Weiroch, horticulture 2/23
* Wood, heifer facilities 2/24 , 25
* Ellingson, horticulture 2/29
* Progressive Cattlmen, facilities 2/29
* Gonzalez, skid steer safety mtlrs 2/29
* Green, forage 3/1
* Tippets, ag plastics 3/1
* Lasch, pesticide 3/3
* FBR, pollinators 3/3