



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – June 2013

Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman magazine, speaks to the crowd that attended the 2013 Forage Council Twilight Meeting at Abel Dairy, LLC.

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Clean Sweep Nets Eight Tons of Toxins

The Clean Sweep last month collected more than eight tons of hazardous chemical waste from households, farms and businesses. About 140 households throughout Fond du Lac County brought pesticides, poisons, mercury, aerosols, dioxins, oil paint, fuels and other potentially dangerous items to Brandon, Campbellsport and the County Fairgrounds. They filled 86 drums (which hold 55 gallons a piece). Any of these chemicals could have caused negative environmental and health impacts had they been placed in the usual garbage, burned in a burn barrel, or ingested by a child.

If you missed this event, you may be wondering what to do with your chemicals and other items now. UW-Extension maintains a list of locations where you can properly dispose of things that are not safe in landfills, such as drugs, expired fire extinguishers, electronics, and appliances. Give us a call or search by item year-round at <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/CleanSweep>. Clean Sweep is funded by a grant from DATCP and usually occurs the first weekend in May.

Community Gardens

The gardens are getting going, slow but sure... How can two springs be so completely opposite? I guess if you live in Wisconsin, they can! Most of the gardeners are doing a great job and have the patience needed to deal with "Mother Nature"! A few newbies bailed out... (I guess that's the perfect pun!) Anyway, my quest to obtain another water hook-up is not as urgent as it was last year, but it is still something that will be very useful throughout the summer when tanks will need more frequent filling. I obtained a grant to help get it accomplished this year.

Junior Master Gardeners

Junior Master Gardeners have gone with all plant starts this year as their garden planting adventure. I had several great Master Gardener volunteers here to help the crew get the planting done on June 11. That is about a month later than usual, so the plants were their jump-start into the season. Their next task will be to mulch everything with some marsh hay. Then the only worry will be the critter damage and how to protect their produce until harvest time.

Forage Council Twilight Meeting Held at Abel Dairy

The joint forage council twilight meeting for Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties was held in June at Abel Dairy, LLC in Eden. About 80 farmers and industry personnel attended the event. The featured speaker was Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman magazine, who discussed some of the long history of the Wisconsin-based magazine and the Hoard's farm, along with other aspects of the dairy industry in the state. Mike Rankin, crops and soils agent, also took the opportunity to discuss late planting options for corn and alternatives to boost forage supplies in what has been a challenging growing season.

The forage council has had a long history in Fond du Lac County and is comprised of both forage producers and agribusiness personnel. The organization and its board of directors provide valuable input to UW-Extension and often share their resources (time and money) to make efforts, such as the corn silage moisture testing program, possible.

Extension Connection Contributors:

Diana Hammer Tscheschlok, Community Resource Development Educator

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator

Mike Rankin, Crops & Soils Agent

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

400 University Drive, AE-227

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: (920) 929-3170

Fax: (920) 929-3181

Hearing Impaired Relay: 711

<http://fonddulac.uwex.edu>

Facebook: [FDLUWEX](#)

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