## Atrazine: safe, needed and effective

*From Focus on Agriculture*

If it were so inclined, the Environmental Protection Agency could highlight the herbicide atrazine as a farm chemical that is clearly safe and effective. For more than 50 years atrazine has been a primary crop protector for 60 percent of corn, 75 percent of sorghum and 90 percent of sugarcane produced in the United States.

However, America’s farmers are concerned that the use of atrazine may be threatened by a new EPA review of its safety. Despite a proven safety record and demonstrated economic need, EPA in October launched a comprehensive evaluation of atrazine’s effects on humans, which will culminate in a decision whether to revise the compound’s risk assessment and impose new restrictions on its use.

Atrazine has a stellar safety record. In 2006, the EPA completed a 12-year review that included 6,000 studies and 80,000 public comments. When agreeing to re-register the product, EPA concluded that it provided no harm to people. Moreover, the World Health Organization has found no health concerns with atrazine.

The latest EPA review comes on the heels of claims by two environmental groups that atrazine found at excessive levels may have negative effects on the hormonal balance of frogs. Other unfounded claims charge that atrazine in groundwater causes cancer, birth defects and other maladies.

Extremist groups fail to acknowledge the EPA’s own findings that atrazine has not proved to be carcinogenic in humans. They live in a fairy tale world where food can be produced without the judicious use of crop protection tools. And they claim atrazine can be replaced with other compounds. University of Minnesota research proves otherwise, as weed scientists have declared “there are no direct replacements for atrazine in pre-emergent weed control” registered in Minnesota.

Farmers like atrazine because a little goes a long way. As Manhattan, Ill., corn farmer John Kiefner puts it, “We can use half amounts of two different herbicides and get better weed control than you would with the full amount of just one.”

Like many farmers, Kiefner relies on no-till production practices, which retains carbon in the soil and minimizes erosion. Atrazine is vital in both no-till and conservation tillage. It is a must for keeping a broad spectrum of weeds from robbing nutrients from corn, sorghum and sugarcane crops.

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Sustainable agriculture has a lot of different meanings to a lot of different people. It seems lately that one of the most common meanings expressed is one of all natural crop production, without the use of commercial fertilizers or pesticides. Let’s take a closer look at all the different sides of sustainable agriculture and what it ultimately means in the world of crop production.

By definition, sustainable means the capacity to endure or continue on. So in the business of crop production, simply stated, this would mean the ability to produce a crop year after year. Looking at the different sides of sustainable crop production, we need to discuss environmental sustainability, social sustainability, and economic sustainability.

Environmental sustainability requires growers to take care of the land that they crop. This involves practices such as cover crops, rotational grazing, minimum-till, no-till, manure applications, fertilizer applications, grassed waterways, tilling, moldboard plowing, terraces, cultivating, compaction monitoring, herbicide applications, VRT crop input applications, soil sampling, and many others. Contrary to popular belief, growers are motivated to take good care of their land; it’s their livelihood!

Social sustainability requires growers to produce the crops that are in demand in an acceptable manner. This involves crops such as locally grown produce, corn, organic grains, soybeans, potatoes, organic produce, wheat, high omega 3 soybeans, oats, sunflowers, canola, commercially grown produce for processing, Christmas trees, and other specialty crops. Socially acceptable cropping practices include conventional grain production, organic grain production, rotational grazing, no-till crop production, precision crop production, and other commonly used cropping systems.

Economic sustainability requires growers to generate enough income to remain profitable year after year. This ultimately is the most important aspect of sustainable agriculture, because without economic sustainability, a grower cannot be sustainable socially or environmentally. All crop production systems have been economically sustainable over the years, including high tech precision crop production, organic crop production, conventional crop production, low input crop production, bio-tech crop production, high input crop production, specialty crop production, forage crop production, grain crop production, forest crop production, vegetable crop production, and many others. I think you get the idea. It doesn’t matter what cropping system is used; with the proper management they can all be economically sustainable.

So, if we really think about it, sustainable agriculture has always been here, but is continually changing in order to remain sustainable. Now, if someone asks you what sustainable agriculture is, you can confidently explain to them that it means, first to be economically sustainable in order to remain socially and environmentally sustainable. You can also help them understand that it involves all types of agriculture, from high tech precision agriculture to organic crop production.

Remember, sustainable agriculture is here to stay, but it has always been here, and it always has to be continually changing in order to be sustainable.
On a monthly basis I get together with a group of other executives and leaders who represent different organizations and sectors within Wisconsin’s agricultural community. This group, known as the Ag Coalition, routinely discusses regulatory and industry issues that affect our members in different ways.

Our meeting in August was of particular interest to me because our guests were advocates and representatives of several hunting organizations, including Wisconsin Bear Hunters Alliance, Wisconsin Bow Hunters Alliance, US Sportsmen’s Alliance, National Rifle Association, and others. As an avid outdoorsman and hunter, I was particularly interested in hearing what these groups had to say about cooperating with Wisconsin’s agricultural community.

The premise for this meeting was that all of our groups share some things in common. We are rooted into Wisconsin’s cultural heritage and are a huge part of the state’s economy. Hunters and agricultural advocates are often at odds with the same political activist groups. We share similar interests on issues ranging from land use, water regulations, and animal welfare.

Many people in the room agreed that it made a lot of sense for our groups to cooperate in defense of our interests when we are challenged. According to the DNR, there are more than 700,000 people who hunt in the state of Wisconsin. If ag organizations can partner with Wisconsin’s hunting community on shared issues, and just one percent of hunters can be vocal political supporters, we will be adding more than 7,000 voices to share our cause when lobbying the legislature.

(Continued on page 8)

Gov. Jim Doyle appointed Randy Romanski Secretary in August 2010, succeeding Rod Nilsestuen after his untimely death.

Secretary Romanski brings to the office a broad range of government and senior administrative experience in agricultural, rural and consumer issues. As DATCP’s Deputy Secretary beginning in 2007, he worked closely with Nilsestuen to enact legislation including the landmark Working Lands Initiative; investment tax credit assistance for dairy farmers, meat processors, dairy cooperatives, food processors and beginning farmers; the new Farm to School program; and the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program.

Prior to joining the department, Romanski served as the Executive Assistant for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, deputy chief of staff for Governor Jim Doyle; executive assistant for the Department of Transportation; and spokesperson and policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Randy also has strong experience in the state legislature, having held staff positions in both the Senate and the Assembly, working directly on agricultural, rural affairs and natural resources issues.

Romanski is a graduate of UW-River Falls and has a master’s degree in public administration from the UW-Madison’s Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs.
Tile drains play an important role in Wisconsin’s agricultural production systems. Drains alleviate saturated soil conditions, maintaining optimal root zone moisture for plant growth. Saturated soils can kill or damage crops by depriving roots of oxygen. Saturated soils also delay field access and can increase soil compaction if fields are worked. Water-logged soils can cause denitrification, the process where soil bacteria convert nitrate to nitrogen gas, thereby decreasing available nitrogen for plants. Regular maintenance of tile drains is an important management practice to ensure agricultural productivity on tile-drained land in Wisconsin.

Subsurface drainage is used for agricultural, residential and industrial purposes to remove excess water from poorly drained land. An important feature statewide, drainage enhances Wisconsin agricultural systems, especially in years with high precipitation. Drainage systems improve timelines of field operations, enhance growing and conditions for crop reproduction, increase crop yields on poorly drained soils and reduce yield variability. In addition to agronomic benefits, subsurface drainage can improve soil quality by decreasing soil erosion and compaction.

To maintain agricultural productivity and protect water quality, producers, consultants and agency personnel must understand tile drainage, locate drainage systems and properly maintain them.

Subsurface drainage is not a new management practice. Evidence of these systems dates as far back as ancient Rome. In Wisconsin, drainage systems were originally constructed using short (1-foot) segments of clay or cylindrical concrete “tiles”. Tiles were initially installed manually, requiring hand excavation. Modern drain tiles are corrugated, perforated plastic pipes typically installed mechanically using a trencher. These plastic pipes are available in a variety of diameters to accommodate different flow rates. They are typically installed at a depth of three to six feet below the soil surface and discharge into drainage ditches, streams or wetlands.

The majority of tile-drained land in Wisconsin is located in the eastern and southern portions of the state (Figure 1), although county records indicate that tile drainage is prevalent statewide. Tile drainage systems in Wisconsin differ from systems in other eastern corn-belt states, such as Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. Tile drained soils in these states are often large, flat, poorly drained areas where tiles are installed in a uniform or grid pattern. In Wisconsin’s rolling landscape, tile drains are often installed in a random pattern, following depressional areas.

Two primary factors influencing tile system design in Wisconsin are soil type and topography. In eastern Wisconsin, medium-textured silt (loess) soils overlay fine-textured glacial material (Figure 2). In these soils water drains freely through the upper part of the soil profile (typically 3 to 8 inches), but the more restrictive sub-soil...
impedes downward water movement. This results in saturation of the upper portion of the soil profile. Tile drainage is needed in these soils to eliminate seasonally high water tables. In the unglaciated, or “Driftless” region of southwest Wisconsin, tiles are used to drain springs and sidehill seeps that saturate upland portions of the landscape. Tile drains are also installed to drain closed depressional areas throughout the state. And they are used to drain areas with perched water tables or sand lenses causing seasonally high water tables. In addition, producers use tiles to drain organic “muck” soils for improved agricultural production.

Locating Tile Drains

Knowing the location and extent of tile drains is a challenge facing producers, consultants, and agency personnel. Records of main, lateral, and outlet tile locations are often lacking. To properly use and maintain an existing tile drainage system, producers must be able to locate tile lines and outlets. Although it is often hard to identify old tile systems in agricultural settings, there are a number of resources available to help. The local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Land Conservation Department (LCD) offices may have maps or other materials if a previous landowner worked with these agencies. Information from these maps should be field verified.

There are also three readily identifiable drainage features that can indicate the presence to tiles: vents, surface inlets, and outlets. Modern tile systems often include vents to increase water removal efficiency and maintain atmospheric pressure within the drain system. Air vents consist of a perforated orange or white pipe protruding a few feet above the ground (Figure 3). Surface water inlets look similar to air vents and are typically installed in low areas lacking a surface outlet. Surface inlets are designed with above ground openings to allow surface water to directly enter tile. Producers must take special care when applying manure, fertilizers and chemicals close to inlets, given the high potential for direct entry into the system and into surface waters.

Another identifiable feature is a tile outlet, where the tile system discharges to drainage ditches, waterways, streams, and/or wetlands (Figure 4). Tile outlets should be located and marked in the field for future reference. Producers should inspect outlets and clear debris that could impede flow. A sink hole can occur when a tile outlet is blocked. Blockage creates back pressure within the tile, and the surrounding soil becomes saturated. When the pressure within the drain drops, the saturated soil next to the pipe will get sucked into the tile, resulting in a sink hole. Sink holes can also result from (>10x) changes in tile line grade or when the flow velocity exceeds approximately four feet per second.

Newer technologies such as a monochromatic and color infrared aerial photographs (Figure 5), can be useful in mapping tile lines. Aerial maps from NRCS soil surveys may show tile line locations by differences in soil color. There is a period of time shortly after spring front-out where drain locations will appear lighter in color than the surrounding soil because drained soils

Figure 3: Typical tile vents/surface inlets.

Figure 4: Typical tile outlet for discharge into soil or water.

Figure 5: Monochrome and color infrared aerial photos showing tile locations.
dry more quickly. Advances in ground penetrating radar, geomagnetic surveying, electromagnetic induction, resistivity and other emerging technologies will likely result in more effective and efficient methods of locating subsurface drains.

There are less scientific methods used by drainage professionals to locate existing tile drains. Observing soil moisture and crop growth patterns at various periods and conditions can be useful in identifying existing tile lines. In most instances, growth and yield of crops are enhanced directly over tile lines in both dry and wet years due to improved soil aeration, moisture conditions, biological activity and chemical factors. The following conditions may be used to help to identify existing tiles:

1. During and just after snowmelt, water will pond in fields. As these localized ponds begin to disappear, dryer soil conditions will appear over tile compared to the surrounding soils. This condition may last from a few hours to a few days.

2. From April to June, drier soil conditions will appear over tiles compared to the rest of the field immediately after a significant precipitation event (usually over 0.5 inches of rain). This will last only two to three hours after the precipitation event.

3. If June conditions are wet and cool, knee-high corn will often be a deeper green color over tile lines due to improved moisture environment and nutrient availability.

4. Watch the dew on the alfalfa at sunrise (facing east). Tile line locations will reflect more sunlight, attributed to greater leaf density over tiles.

5. During moisture deficient conditions, deep-rooted crops such as alfalfa will be taller over tile lines than in the rest of the field. This is due to extended moisture availability closer to tiles.

6. When soybeans first start blossoming, the plants over tile lines will flower up to a week earlier due to accelerated plant growth and maturity.

7. In fields with foxtail, the weed will be absent over tiles since foxtail favors conditions with compacted soils and excess moisture.

8. Review of GPS yield monitoring data can indicate yield increases on short, localized areas over tile lines in corn and soybeans during both wet and dry years.

If you are having trouble locating tile drains using standard methods, contact your local drainage professional for assistance. Once tiles have been located, develop accurate maps and keep them in electronic and paper formats. Always record modification to existing systems or the installation of new tiles.

(Continued from page 3)

Shared Values

It will be interesting to see how this partnership may evolve. At this time, a follow-up meeting of all the participating groups is in the works. It may only develop into an informal relationship for sharing communication. Even if this is the case, it can help unify and protect the interests of rural Wisconsin.

I’ll keep you informed as to what develops. In the mean time, for those of you hitting the woods this fall, good luck out there!

P.S. – The WCPA is now on Facebook and Twitter. Social networking is becoming increasingly important for communicating with the general public and within the industry. If you’re already on these sites, please follow us, and if you’re not using these tools, I encourage you to give it a try. It doesn’t take much time, yet it keeps you connected with the people and topics that are of interest to you.
Technology Trends: Keeping up with the latest could pay dividends later

From Jeffrey A. Brandenberg, CPA, CFE
Clifton Gunderson LLP

In our current economy, information technology (IT) spending has been focused primarily on maintenance rather than strategic growth. Even after nearly two years, some agribusinesses continue to take a “wait and see” approach to technology plans and investments. And yet technology marches on, becoming more and more integral to business growth.

A forward-thinking approach in this economy is to align IT investments with business strategy in order to be positioned to prosper when a sustained economic recovery comes. Those that don’t plan and prepare may find themselves in a reactionary downward spiral.

Here are some of the top trends and products that will impact technology investments for the remainder of 2010.

1. **Mobility is being leveraged for business.** By the end of 2010, an estimated 1.2 billion people will carry mobile devices with Web access. Opportunities abound for smart businesses to take advantage of this convergence. As mobile carriers deploy 4G coverage, mobile users will benefit from increased performance and greater coverage areas.

2. **Security is evolving into a continual process.** As more agribusinesses opt for laptop computers and other mobile devices, new security threats must be identified and addressed. Data encryption tools and remote management products must be planned with all new mobile product purchases. Topping the list of mandatory upgrades is replacing the old, static firewall with a unified threat management device that secures Internet content, web applications and malicious code.

3. **Desktop virtualization is going mainstream.** In 2009, we saw a significant increase in the processing power of servers and an explosion in the use of server virtualization. In 2010, businesses are harnessing this power and beginning to “virtualize” desktops. This makes it possible to achieve an easier and more uniform end-user experience, enhanced security over applications and data, minimal network support requirements and minimal downtime following disruptions.

4. **Businesses are seeing the value of cloud computing.** As employees are working everywhere (at the office, at home, from other sites), they need to securely access up-to-date resources. There is significant consolidation in cloud computing, as the more dominant providers acquire smaller players that possess technical advantages. Cloud computing services are expected to grow threefold, reaching $42 billion this year.

5. **Everyone is online. Social networking isn’t going away.** Agribusinesses need a strategy to deal with social media, and waiting until 2011 may be too late. Businesses that strategically use the Internet to market themselves will find more prospects and keep more loyal customers. Most importantly, agribusinesses need to update their business policies to address the use of products like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. In addition, security tools need to be in place as hackers figure out how to invade social networks.

6. **Unified communications tools are being leveraged for efficiency.** Businesses are utilizing integrated communications tools to save money and gain a competitive advantage. As companies slashed their travel budgets in 2009, they were surprised by just how much business they could get done over the phone and on the Web. With increases in bandwidth and the need for cost-effective collaboration, the rise in video conferencing should continue.

7. **Business analytics tools are being leveraged like never before.** Through SQL reporting tools and business analytics packages, raw data can be turned into useful information. Companies have implemented business software systems

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over the past few years that use open databases and are seeking to get more information from their data. In addition, businesses have fewer human resources to perform these tasks. Business intelligence and reporting tools are being implemented to integrate data from accounting systems, estimating, time entry systems and CRM products.

8. Managed services are becoming the standard for technology support. With new developments in monitoring and remote support tools, companies are finding that proactive IT services offer a reduction in support expenses, while providing more timely support. With managed services, businesses get a wide level of expertise at their fingertips without expanding their staff.

9. Off-site data backup is eliminating tape drives and other storage methods. With technological advancements in “data de-duplication” and improvements of the “cloud,” businesses can cost effectively and securely backup their information online. In addition to having off-site backup capabilities, some solutions also address disaster preparedness by providing the ability to immediately virtualize a failed server. Businesses should consider the new off-site backup options before investing in traditional backup methods.

Of course, these real and affordable technologies mean nothing if they don’t help a business owner make money, save money or help the owner sleep better at night! Even though some businesses are putting technology expenditures on hold, it is important to keep the long-term future of technology (and your operations) in view to allow your organization to maximize the effectiveness of the dollars available to invest in technology. Keeping up-to-date with the current developments in technology and the “social media” is an important element of continued operational success, no matter what the future may hold.
U.S. corn planted area for all purposes in 2010 is estimated at 87.9 million acres, up two percent from last year.

Wisconsin growers planted 3.90 million acres of corn, 50,000 more than in 2009, but unchanged from the March forecast. Acres intended for grain are 2.95 million, up 20,000 from last year.

U.S. Soybean planted area for 2010 is estimated at a record high 78.9 million acres, up two percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 78.0 million acres, is also up two percent from 2009, and will be the largest harvested area on record, if realized.

Wisconsin’s soybean acreage for 2010 is 1.67 million acres, 40,000 acres higher than last year. Wisconsin growers planted 120,000 more acres to soybeans than intended in March.

The 2010 U.S. winter wheat planted area, at 37.7 million acres, is 13 percent below last year. This is the lowest planted winter wheat acres since 1970. The U.S. wheat yield forecast is 46.6 bushels per acre, for production of 1.48 billion bushels.

Wisconsin growers planted 250,000 acres of winter wheat. This is 25 percent fewer acres than last year. Winter wheat yields are forecast at 70 bushels per acre for Wisconsin.

Wisconsin oat planting totals 320 thousand acres are up 10 thousand acres from last year. Acres intended for oat harvest are 190 thousand. Barley acres planted in the state of 45 thousand are unchanged from last year. Thirty-thousand acres of barley are intended to be harvested as grain.

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Alfalfa hay for dry hay in Wisconsin is unchanged from last year at 1.55 million acres. Nationally alfalfa hay acres are forecast at 20.7 million acres, down 2.3 percent from last year.

Wisconsin's acres of other hay for dry hay are 450 thousand acres, up 80 thousand from 2009. Nationally, other hay acres are up one percent to 38.9 million acres.

Corn acres planted are up 400,000 acres or more in each of Illinois, Kansas and Indiana, compared to 2009.

2010 Wisconsin soybean acres planted are the second highest on record, behind 2003's 1.72 million acres.

Acres planted to principal crops in Wisconsin rose 95,000 acres from 2009, and is also 189,000 acres higher than 2008.

All wheat acreage planted at 54.3 million acres is the smallest U.S. wheat acreage since 1971.
OSHA in aggressive pursuit of grain handling employers

By David Crass
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

On August 4, 2010, the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) sent a letter to 3,300 grain storage facility operators around the country. The letter was sent as a result of a spate of employee injuries and deaths in such facilities over the past year and based on data from the private sector documenting several dozen employee entrapments or engulfments in grain storage facilities in 2009. The letter, authored by OSHA's Chief, Assistant Secretary of Labor David Michaels, states that “OSHA has found that grain entrapments generally occur because of employer negligence, non-compliance with OSHA standards, and/or poor safety and health practices”. “It is your responsibility,” the letter goes on, “to prevent your workers from dying in grain storage facilities.”

The primary purpose of the letter is to put employers on notice of what OSHA believes to be a serious problem in the grain and feed industry and to inform employers of those steps OSHA says we must take in the event that any employees enter grain storage bins. Some of those steps arguably go beyond what OSHA’s own standards require. Be that as it may, in the event an employer who has received the letter suffers an employee engulfment or entrapment--whether or not resulting in a fatality-- OSHA is certain to use the letter to support a position that the employer “willfully” violated OSHA’s Grain Handling Facilities Standard or its Confined Spaces Standard. Willful violations of OSHA standards include not just intentional acts, but also reckless acts; that is, acts committed with “plain indifference” to requirements of the standard in issue.

Each willful violation of an OSHA standard can result in a penalty of up to $70,000 under current law. If changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Act are made as has been proposed in HR5663, called the Robert C. Byrd Minor Safety and Health Act of 2010, a bill that has been referred out of committee to the full House of Representatives, the penalty for each willful violation unrelated to a fatality will rise to a maximum of $120,000 and, in the event of a related fatality, to a maximum of $250,000. Liability for OSHA’s citations -- the cost of defense and the cost of any penalties ultimately imposed -- are not coverable by insurance.

Additionally, an employee entrapment or engulfment event is traumatic to management and the workforce and can result in far-reaching public and employment relations impacts that are additive to the near-term direct financial costs.

Because grain engulfment/entrapment cases often result in employee deaths, grain storage facility employers also need to be aware that OSHA this year adopted a policy that it will refer all fatalities that it concludes resulted from willful violations of an OSHA standard to the U.S. Department of Justice for consideration of criminal prosecution. While only employers who are individuals can be criminally prosecuted under current law, employers who are individuals can be sentenced to prison for up to six months for a first conviction and up to 12 months for a second conviction, and employers can be fined up to $500,000 upon conviction. Under the proposed Byrd Bill, the maximum prison term would rise to 10 years for a first conviction and 20 years for a second conviction in the event of a fatality resulting from a “knowing” (seemingly a lesser standard than “willful”) violation of an OSHA standard. In addition, “knowing” violations of OSHA standards resulting in “serious bodily injury” could result in imprisonment for up to five years for a first offense and up to 10 years for a second offense. And corporate officers and directors would be subject to prosecution, fines and imprisonment.

OSHA also has adopted a local emphasis program for grain handling facilities (that is, feed mills, wet corn mills, pet food manufacturers, grain elevators, and grain warehouses) having 10 or more employees in OSHA Region V, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The emphasis program will mean a significantly increased likelihood of inspection of all covered employers and a more concentrated focus during any such inspection on safety-related grain handling policies and procedures.

The time for grain employers to review their grain safety policies and procedures -- both what is on paper and what is enforced -- is now. Now is also the time for grain employers to put in place, or to update, their internal procedures for handling an OSHA inspection. Taking control of an inspection at the outset, particularly in the event of a fatality, is absolutely critical to managing the outcome. We can help.

For further information, please contact Eric E. Hobbs at eehobs@michaelbest.com or David A. Crass at dacrass@michaelbest.com
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Member Highlights

United Cooperative invests $20,000 at fair livestock auctions

The kids are back in school, the fair season is coming to a close, and United Cooperative is tallying up how much money they invested in rural youth at various county fair livestock auctions this summer. United Cooperative, based out of Beaver Dam, with locations throughout south central Wisconsin, invested a total of $20,000 at 12 different county fair livestock auctions during the last two months.

“United Cooperative focuses on supporting youth in agriculture with our donation efforts,” commented David Cramer, United Cooperative president and chief executive officer. “Today’s agricultural youth are the future of our industry, and United Cooperative likes to try and make sure they have the tools they need to become successful,” he added.

Total, four steers, five lambs, and 12 hogs were purchased by United Cooperative at local fairs or county fairs in Alto, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, Lodi, Rock, Sauk, Washington, and Winnebago counties.

The cooperative also likes to donate to FFA chapters and 4-H clubs in their trade territory for various projects and events. Every year, they give away $10,000 in educational scholarships to graduating high school seniors that are children of customers; the 2011 scholarship application will be released January 2.

Formed in 1936, United Cooperative is a full-service cooperative offering feed, grain, agronomy, and energy products and services to Wisconsin farmers and consumers. United Cooperative has locations in Baraboo, Beaver Dam, Cazenovia, Deerfield, Hartford, Horicon, Hustisford, Iron Ridge, Johnson Creek, Juneau, Mayville, Pickett, Poynette, Prairie du Sac, Randolph, Reedsburg, Ripon, Rock Springs, Sauk City, South Beaver Dam, Watertown, and Wyocena.
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A new study suggests good news for college graduates with agricultural degrees. The study predicts about 54,000 agriculture-related jobs will be created in the U.S. every year between now and 2015. That includes areas such as food, renewable energy and the environment.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced its proposal to grant a two-year, limited exemption from the federal hours-of-service regulations for the transportation of anhydrous ammonia.

The FMCSA proposal is an acknowledgment that there are significant delivery constraints that are beyond the control of anhydrous ammonia motor carriers, like agricultural supply cooperatives.

“Each year, anhydrous ammonia suppliers struggle to meet farmer demand during busy planting and harvest times,” says Bill Oemichen, president and CEO of Cooperative Network. “Cooperative Network applauds the efforts of Congressmen Collin Peterson of Minnesota and Tom Petri of Wisconsin for bringing this issue to the attention of federal trucking regulators, and for their continued push for a long-term solution including other farm supplies besides just anhydrous ammonia.”

“The agency’s existing hours-of-service regulations are centered on economics that simply do not align with today’s agriculture,” says Oemichen. “The agency’s willingness to investigate potential safety concerns related to the proposed exemption and to act on its finding that the limited exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is at least equivalent to, or greater than, the existing regulation is commendable.”

The study was conducted by Purdue University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It says the job growth is driven in part by increased food demand in other countries.

Mike Compton at the agriculture school at UW-Platteville said enrollment there has increased more than 70 percent in the past 10 years, but more students are still needed.

He told Wisconsin Public Radio that students tend to equate agriculture with farming, but most of the jobs are off the farm.
By DAVID MERCER Associated Press

When the weed killer Roundup was introduced in the 1970s, it proved it could kill nearly any plant while still being safer than many other herbicides, and it allowed farmers to give up harsher chemicals and reduce tilling that can contribute to erosion.

But 24 years later, a few sturdy species of weed resistant to Roundup have evolved, forcing farmers to return to some practices they abandoned decades ago.

The situation is the worst in the South, where some farmers now walk fields with hoes, killing weeds in a way their great-grandfathers were happy to leave behind. And the problem is spreading quickly across the Corn Belt and beyond, with Roundup now proving unreliable in killing at least 10 weed species in at least 22 states. Some species, like Palmer amaranth in Arkansas and water hemp and marestail in Illinois, grow fast and big, producing tens of thousands of seeds.

"It's getting to be a big deal," said Mike Plumer, a 61-year-old farmer and University of Illinois agronomist who grows soybeans and cotton near the southern Illinois community of Creal Springs. "If you've got it, it's a real big deal."

When Monsanto introduced Roundup in 1976, "it was like the best thing since sliced bread," said Garry Niemeyer, who grows corn and soybeans near Auburn in central Illinois.

The weed killer, known generically as glyphosate, is absorbed through plants' leaves and kills them by blocking the production of proteins they need to grow. At the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers it to have little toxicity to people and animals, and aside from the plants it's sprayed on, it's less of a threat to the environment because it quickly binds to soil and becomes inactive.

Monsanto's introduction of seeds designed to survive Roundup made things even better for farmers because they could spray it on emerging crops to wipe out the weeds growing alongside them. Seeds containing Monsanto's Roundup Ready traits are now used to grow about 90 percent of the nation's soybeans and 70 percent of its corn and cotton.

With increased reliance on Roundup, herbicide use on corn decreased from 2.76 pounds an acre in 1994 to 2.06 in 2005, the most recent year for which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has data. Spread that out over the 81.8 million acres planted in 2005, and it's a decrease of more than 57 million pounds of herbicides annually.

Farmers also found they could cut back or in some cases eliminate tilling, reducing erosion and fuel use.

But with any herbicide, the more it's used, the more likely it'll run into individual plants within a species that have just enough genetic variation to survive what kills most of their relatives. With each generation, the survivors represent a larger percentage of the species.

St. Louis-based Monsanto maintains the resistance is often overstated, noting that most weeds show no sign of immunity.

"We believe that glyphosate will remain an important tool in the farmers' arsenal," Monsanto spokesman John Combest said.

That said, the company has started paying cotton farmers $12 an acre to cover the cost of other herbicides to use alongside Roundup to boost its effectiveness.

The trend has confirmed some food safety groups' belief that biotechnology won't reduce the use of chemicals in the long run.

"That's being reversed," said Bill Freese, a chemist with the Washington, D.C.-based Center For Food Safety, which promotes organic agriculture. "They're going to dramatically increase use of those chemicals, and that's bad news."

The first weeds in the U.S. that survived Roundup were found about 10 years ago in Delaware.

Agricultural experts said the use of other chemicals is already creeping up. Monsanto and other companies are developing new seeds designed to resist older herbicides like dicamba and 2,4-D, a weed killer developed during World War II and an ingredient in Agent Orange, which was used to destroy jungle foliage during the Vietnam War.

(Continued on page 19)
Penn State University weed scientist David Mortensen estimates that in three or four years, farmers’ use of dicamba and 2,4-D will increase by 55.1 million pounds a year because of resistance to Roundup. That would push both far up the list of herbicides heavily used by farmers.

Dicamba and 2,4-D both easily drift beyond the areas where they’re sprayed, making them a threat to neighboring crops and wild plants, Mortensen said. That, in turn, could also threaten wildlife.

“We’re finding that the (wild) plants that grow on the field edges actually support beneficial insects, like bees,” he said.

In Australia, weed scientist Stephen Powles has been a sort of evangelist for saving Roundup, calling it a near-miraculous farming tool.

Australia has been dealing with Roundup-resistant weeds since the mid 1990s, but changes in farming practices have helped keep it effective, Powers said. That has included using a broader array of herbicides to kill off Roundup resistant weeds and employing other methods of weed control.

Those alternative methods, such as planting so-called cover crops like rye to hold back weeds during the winter and other times when fields aren’t planted with corn, soybeans or cotton, are the key, said Freese, the Center For Food Safety chemist.

Otherwise, he said, “We’re talking a pesticide treadmill here. It’s just coming back to kick us in the butt now with resistant weeds.”

(Continued from page 18)
As some readers might recall, BT Squared wrote about The Town of Dunkirk’s groundbreaking ordinance regarding the storage of liquid fertilizer enacted in 2009 in the WCPA Quarterly News back in December. At that time the Township was just embarking on the implementation of the ordinance, working with facilities that might be affected. This is the first ordinance of its kind in the state regulating bulk liquid fertilizer storage on private farms. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) has regulations pertaining to the commercial bulk storage of fertilizer and pesticides, but these typically apply to commercial facilities that store unpackaged bulk fertilizer or pesticides, not privately run farms.

Upon review of the farms within the Township, three farms fell under the new ordinance. One chose to move their tanks outside of the township to avoid regulation, and BT Squared provided inspections at the other two farms under a contract with the Township. The Township split the cost of the inspection with the farms to minimize their financial impact. While both farms had adequate secondary storage volume, the inspections revealed some common items that were not in compliance, including:

- **Lack of proper tank anchoring.** Tanks need to be anchored in such a manner that if there are multiple tanks in one containment, if one tank leaked, the other tank(s) in the containment would not be lifted from the ground due to the buoyant force from the leaking fertilizer, thereby causing an additional release.

- **Transfer connection located outside of the containment.** To prevent spills from the transfer of liquid fertilizer into the bulk tanks, the transfer connection needs to be within the walls of the containment to capture any spills from transfer.

- **Lack of an inspection and spill response plan.** The ordinance requires the tank owner to perform periodic tank inspections and that a written procedure is in place in case of a spill with the phone numbers that need to be called and a properly equipped spill kit. Facilities will be inspected, at a minimum, every four years.

- **Improper tank labeling.** The ordinance requires that tanks be clearly marked with the contents of the tank. Proper labeling is important in the event of a release so that first responders can protect themselves and respond to spills properly and effectively.

The ordinance requires farms that have fertilizer storage exceeding the threshold limits to apply for a permit for the construction, maintenance, or operation of any bulk liquid fertilizer storage. All new construction was required to adhere to the ordinance immediately, whereas storage facilities that were in place prior to the ordinance had one year to comply with the ordinance and apply for a permit. An affected facility submitted a permit application and was then inspected by a third party inspector. After the inspection, the facility was notified of any out of compliance items, offered feedback on how to correct them, and given a deadline for bringing the system into compliance.

With the successful implementation of the Town of Dunkirk on-farm storage ordinance, the groundwork is in place for other municipalities in the State of Wisconsin to adopt similar ordinances to protect local groundwater supplies. To learn more about the Town of Dunkirk ordinance and the issues surrounding on-farm storage, contact Tom Culp at BT Squared tculp@btsquared.com or 608.216.7340.

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**Groundbreaking on-farm storage ordinance - Part II**

*By Tom Culp
BT Squared*

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Wisconsin mourns a great ag leader

By Senator Kathleen Vinehout

Wisconsin lost a great leader in the passing of Secretary Rod Nilsestuen. His vision will continue to lead Wisconsin agriculture for many years to come.

Leading the state through the low milk prices and whole herd sales of the early part of this decade, Rod created a vision for agriculture that mirrored the strengths of our great state.

Under his leadership Wisconsin agriculture reversed its decline. By creating policies that encouraged growth, arrived at through diverse consensus and conducting business through a transparent public process, Rod created an environment where Wisconsin agriculture thrived.

From the hills of Trempealeau County, Rod brought a love of Wisconsin’s dairy industry. He believed in the importance of diversity: large and small dairy farms, excellence in a wide variety of cheeses and diversity in dairy farm management. Through his support, programs to help Wisconsin dairy farmers modernize created a new landscape for our dairy industry.

Through Rod’s leadership in encouraging innovation and reinvestment among our creameries and dairy co-ops, he helped create Wisconsin’s reputation as the home of more varieties of cheese than any other state or nation. Our state’s cheese makers produce more championship award winning cheeses than their counterparts from any other state.

Rod was also committed to diversity in Wisconsin agriculture through his attention to so many types of producers. From honey bees to captive feral pigs, Rod shared his enthusiasm for diversity and all types of opportunities for farm profitability.

Trempealeau County’s son became the father of 21st century agriculture in Wisconsin. The vision he left us provides a map of not only where to go but how to get there.

Secretary Nilsestuen used his cooperative background to create a public place to solve problems. From the siting of new livestock facilities, the protection of producers from bankrupt grain dealers or creameries, to the protection of farm land and the recently created raw milk working group, Rod believed in making decisions in public with a diverse group of people at the table.

These “working groups” became Secretary Nilsestuen’s preferred way of doing business. By bringing people together, Rod worked to find solutions that blended together the best ideas of all those in the group.

Just like in our cooperatives, through the public process, Rod built consensus.

He was not afraid to tackle complex, thorny or controversial issues. The recently passed Producer Security Act was the culmination of countless public meetings and years of work. Saving Wisconsin’s grain dealers nearly a million dollars by streamlining reporting requirements and protecting Wisconsin producers from bankrupt creameries and mills, the Act creates a shared fund to reimburse farmers’ losses. The new law will protect farmers far into the future.

Rod had a vision of farmers living in harmony with their rural neighbors. He used the Working Lands Initiative as a way to bring leaders from around the state together to discuss keeping farmland forever in agriculture. He believed in planning for the future and in making space in the country for rural residents, rural manufacturing and production agriculture.

Working to find new ways to preserve Wisconsin farmland and preserve our agricultural heritage, Rod worked out details of the Working Lands Initiative with many state leaders. The recent passage of the Initiative was the culmination of five years of work and the input of thousands of people throughout the state.

Rod’s legacy will be his commitment to Wisconsin agriculture, his ability to build consensus around controversial issues and his commitment to the public process. Nowhere else in state government is there the type of hands-on, ‘let’s ask the people’ commitment to getting the job done right – regardless of the time required to accomplish the task.

All of us in agriculture offer our sincere condolences to Secretary Nilsestuen’s family, his wife, Carol and three boys, including Joel, my co-worker – who clerks the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education.

Your dad will be mourned by all of Wisconsin.

Senator Kathleen Vinehout and her husband own and operate a farm in Buffalo County. She serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education.
Arthur Pope, Animal scientist who led University of Wisconsin-Madison sheep research and instruction programs for 43 years, died on July 5 at his home in Verona at the age of 89. He was known throughout rural Wisconsin for his work with the sheep industry and with 4-H youth programs, and was highly regarded among students and colleagues as a teacher and researcher.

Pope's early studies on the importance of trace elements, such as cobalt, in livestock rations led to practical methods of supplementing rations with these essential micronutrients. His studies of sheep reproduction examined the effects of nutrition on ovulation, embryo survival and ram fertility. He also worked with animal geneticists to develop breeding and selection indexes that resulted in the first on-farm performance-testing program for sheep in the U.S. in 1950. Later research focused on the role of selenium in metabolism and practical methods of supplementing sheep rations with selenium.

Pope served as chairman of the university’s Department of Meat and Animal Science from 1969-80. He was a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science and received numerous other professional and industry honors.

Henry A. Lardy, a distinguished professor emeritus of biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, passed away on Aug. 4 at the age of 92.

Until months before his death, Lardy had been an active member of the university’s bioscience community for more than six decades. During that time, he trained 64 graduate students, mentored 110 postdoctoral fellows and published more than 500 papers, leaving behind a remarkable scientific legacy.

Lardy first joined UW-Madison as a graduate student, earning his master’s and doctorate degrees in biochemistry in 1941 and 1943. Early in his student years, he helped develop a method to store and preserve semen, a discovery that made artificial insemination practical and revolutionized livestock breeding and the treatment of infertility in humans.

After completing a postdoctoral fellowship, Lardy joined the biochemistry faculty in 1945. He set up his lab within the Institute for Enzyme Research, where he pursued an unusually wide variety of scientific interests. Over the years, Lardy studied how human cells make energy, the actions of toxic antibiotics and the pathways of cellular metabolism.

After retiring in 1988, Lardy didn’t slow down. He retooled his research program to focus on the human steroid DHEA and its derivatives, compounds that influence energy expenditure and cause weight loss. During the past two decades, he synthesized more than 60 new steroids, including one that has shown promise as a treatment for prostate cancer.

In addition to being respected for his work, Lardy was uniformly well liked and held in high esteem by his students, postdoctoral fellows and peers.

Lardy is survived by his wife, Annrita, and their four children.
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EPA is inviting organizations to work with the Agency to conduct a “User Acceptance Pilot” to research the extent to which pesticide users would accept a system requiring them to obtain labeling via the internet. We believe that web-distributed labeling has the potential to improve compliance with labeled use instructions by making pesticide labels easier to read and comprehend. Web-distributed labeling would accomplish this, in part, by only providing instructions for the location and intended use that the pesticide user specifies online.

If such a system was ultimately implemented, we would expect to see:

- faster access to new pesticide uses
- quicker implementation of public health and environmental protective measures
- lower costs for industry and EPA

To test the viability of online pesticide labeling, the Agency published a Federal Register Notice on August 18, 2010 inviting participation in the pilot. Stakeholders should notify EPA of their interest in participating no later than September 17, 2010. Our goal is to have all User Acceptance Pilot websites ready for users to test by October 15, 2010.

For more information, please see http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/distribution/.

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The PACE program provides state funding for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer protection (DATCP) will provide funding to cooperating local entities (local governments or non-profit organizations) for the purchase of easements from willing landowners. Local entities purchase the easements and may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the easement cost by the PACE program. The state and local entities will then be co-holders of the easement. PACE funded easements are intended to strengthen areas that have been planned and designated as local farmland preservation areas in a certified county farmland preservation plan. Agricultural conservation easements may also provide additional protection to areas that have been designated as agricultural enterprise areas.

What is an agricultural conservation easement? An agricultural conservation easement prohibits development that would make the land unavailable or unsuitable for agricultural use. Easements are voluntary and allow a landowner to be compensated for limiting development on his or her farmland. Easements are permanent and are carried over to subsequent landowners if the property is sold. With an agricultural conservation easement, a landowner continues to pay property tax on the land at the current required rate.

What does it mean to have an easement on my land? Land with an agricultural conservation easement cannot be developed for any purpose that would prevent the land from being used for agriculture. Land with an agricultural conservation easement will remain on property tax rolls.

With an agricultural conservation easement on the property, a landowner will continue to:

- Privately own and manage the land;
- Keep farming the land;
- Keep the title to the property;
- Be eligible for the farmland preservation income tax credit (if standards are met for tax credit eligibility);
- Control public access

When can I apply for an easement? 2011 PACE application materials will become available in November 2010. A deadline for 2011 applications is anticipated in February 2011. They can be found at http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/pace.jsp

What are the easement criteria for receiving state PACE funds? PACE funds can be used as long as the proposed land is located in a farmland preservation area as identified in a certified county farmland preservation plan. Landowners must be willing to relinquish the easement or development rights. Proposed easements must protect or enhance waters of the state or other public assets and the location of the easement should be consistent with county and local farmland preservation plans.

Easements considered for PACE funding will be also judged based on the ability to:

- Preserve agricultural capacity and conserve important or unique agricultural resources
- Be consistent with county and local farmland preservation zoning
- Enhance an agricultural enterprise area, as designated by the state
- Be practical and consistent with other methods of land preservation
- Be close to other protected lands or enhance other protected lands
- Be cost effective
- Be in danger of conversion from agricultural use

How will the PACE approval process work?

- An interested landowner applies to the local cooperating entity for easement consideration.
- A local government or non-profit organization submits a proposal for an easement. DATCP will solicit proposals at least annually, in consultation with the PACE council.
- After preliminary approval by DATCP and the PACE council, the cooperating entity must submit the following information to DATCP:
  — A copy of the legal document used to convey the easement
  — An appraisal of the fair market value of the easement by a state-certified appraiser commissioned by the cooperating entity

(Continued on page 26)
— Easement purchase cost
— Estimate of the reimbursable transaction costs (incurred by cooperating entity)
— A complete title search
— Documentation showing that any material defects or conflicting property interests have been resolved
— After receiving this information, DATCP will enter into a contract with the local cooperating entity for the purchase of the easement

2010 PACE Update

Sixteen farms from across Wisconsin have been selected to participate in the state’s PACE program. The farms cover more than 5,000 acres in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, and Waupaca counties and represent Wisconsin’s wide diversity of agriculture.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection received 36 applications in response to its first call for proposals for the PACE program where farmland is protected through the purchase of permanent easements.

“This was the first time we have offered this program and we’re very pleased with the response and quality of the applications,” said Tom Lyon, chair of the 17-member PACE Council. “Landowners and local governments across the state are looking at PACE as a way to invest in agriculture and its role in the community and local economy. PACE is one of the best ways to ensure that land stays available for Wisconsin’s farmers.”

PACE applications were scored and ranked based on a number of evaluation criteria including farmland quality, consistency with local planning and zoning, water quality benefits, and community support. The PACE Council, which advises DATCP on the administration of the program, recommended that the department move forward with the top 16 applications.

“The applications that the Council selected contain some of the best farmland in the state and represent the diversity of Wisconsin’s agriculture. The applicants are backed by their local communities so this land will remain in agriculture and will continue to play a vital role in the local economy,” explained Dan Poulson, PACE Council member, grain farmer from southeastern Wisconsin and one of five council members to assist in the evaluation of the applications.

“Protecting these farms will make sure the land is available to be farmed by our children and grandchildren.”

Under the PACE program, the state agriculture department will provide up to 50 percent matching funds to local cooperating entities to purchase permanent easements. While the landowner is compensated for the fair market value of the easement, the landowner retains ownership and continues to farm, but non-agricultural development of the property is restricted and applicable soil and water conservation practices must be followed. The easement remains with the land and all future landowners are bound by the terms of the easement, which allows landowners to continue farming and earning income through agricultural businesses.

As a next step in the process, DATCP will negotiate contracts with the cooperating entities that detail the purchase price and the specific terms landowners must follow under the easements. Information on the selected applications is available on the DATCP website at http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/working-lands/pace.jsp.

Applications that were not selected this round will have another opportunity for consideration in the 2011 grant cycle.

At its September 15 meeting, the PACE advisory council will review application materials and make recommendations for improvement based on suggestions and comments from landowners, cooperating groups and staff.

2011 PACE application materials will become available in November 2010. A deadline for 2011 applications is anticipated in February 2011. They can be found at http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/pace.jsp

For more information about the PACE Program, contact Lisa Schultz at LisaJ.Schultz@Wisconsin.gov, or 608-224-4604.
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Announcing the 2011 Wisconsin Crop Management Conference

January 11, 12, and 13
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The Wisconsin Crop Production Association and University of Wisconsin Extension

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The annual Wisconsin Crop Management Conference features the All Industry Reception, product premiers, wide-ranging product and equipment displays, service industries displays, Exhibitor Luncheon, wide-ranging CCA accredited educational programming, management training, association meetings, WCPA Awards Ceremony, scholarship recipients and much more.

Registration materials to attend will be sent soon!

A special thank you to last year’s Wisconsin Crop Management Conference Tradeshow Exhibitors as shown below:

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**Booth Rental:** Please observe booth rates on the chart to the right. Prices are for WCPA members and non-members. **First-time exhibitors qualify for WCPA member rates.** Please indicate the number of booths requested along with a check or credit card information payable to WCPA for the amount shown. **There is an Early Bird Special of 5% savings if paid in full by September 30, 2010.** Exhibitor payment is required with this application unless other arrangements have been made. Please contact the WCPA office with questions regarding exhibitor space rental. Contracts may be cancelled with full refund on or before September 30, 2010. No refunds will be granted after September 30, 2010.

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**Booth Location:**
Refer to the enclosed exhibit hall map or visit www.wicrops.org for updated exhibitor map and listings. Priority for booth assignments is given to the 2010 exhibitors who return contracts to the WCPA office by September 30, 2010. If your choices are not available, you will be contacted to determine an alternate booth location. We will attempt to honor, but do not guarantee, requests for placement away from or near other exhibitors (list on separate page).

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**Conference Program:**
Exhibitor will be listed in the program in this manner:

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**Agreement of Terms:**
Submission of this application, with the authorized signature below, indicates that we have read, understand and agree to abide by all rules, regulations and restrictions outlined in this application and contained within the exhibit contract. The terms are made part of this application by reference and are fully incorporated herein.

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Please copy this form for additional registrants

Advance Registration Form

Name: ___________________________________________________________

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Company Address: ___________________________________________________

City:___________________________________________________ State:____________________ Zip Code:____________________

Telephone Number:_____________________________________ E-mail______________________________

Registration Fees

Conference Registration Includes: parking, admission to education sessions, trade show, All-Industry Reception, a copy of the conference proceedings, and lunch on Wednesday, January 12 & Thursday, January 13, 2011.

Sorry, No Refunds.

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*Exhibitors only, 2 gratis pre-registrations per each 10x10 booth rented, maximum of 6. No on-site gratis registrations will be granted.

For Single Day registration, which day will you be attending?   _____Tues.     _____Wed.     _____Thurs.

Pre-Registration for Special Session - Snap Plus for Beginners

Registration is limited for the Snap Plus for Beginners session. You will be contacted if the session is full by the time you register. There is no fee for this session.

Snap-Plus for beginners (limited to the first 30 people to pre-register) __________________________________________

Payment Information

1. Make check payable to: WCPA
2. Return registration and payment to:
   WI Crop Production Association
   2317 International Lane, Suite 102
   Madison, WI 53704
   - or -
   Fax with credit card information: 608-249-5311

Visa, MasterCard and American Express Payments

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Advance registrations must be received by December 24, 2010
Wisconsin Crop Production Association ph: 608-249-4070 fax: 608-249-5311
A brief history of agriculture in Wisconsin

From WI Mosaic

Any account of economics in early Wisconsin begins with agriculture, and any account of agriculture in Wisconsin begins with wheat production. The crop became the state’s early favorite for a number of reasons. The farmers who first settled Wisconsin from New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio were primarily wheat farmers by habit and tradition. Furthermore, the crop could be sowed and largely ignored until harvest time, leaving farmers more time to clear and break new land, and fence the land already settled. Wheat stored well and brought relatively good prices in the 1850s and early 1860s.

The settlement of the state and its preference toward wheat production coincided with innovations in harvesting machinery. Cyrus McCormick patented his reaper in 1834, and began manufacturing them in Chicago in 1846. The threshing machine of J.I. Case was implemented around the same time, and by 1850, both inventions had become widespread in Wisconsin, enabling greater and greater yields. The booming yields of the mid-1850s were complemented by newly completed rail lines of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, which made marketing the crop easier and more profitable. By 1860, wheat growing in Wisconsin had reached its apex; over 27 million bushels were produced in the state.

After the “golden year” of 1860, wheat growing steadily fell off. Farmers had often sowed wheat on the same soil year after year, depleting it of necessary nutrients. Plant diseases and pests further hindered wheat growers, and prices for the crop declined.

By the late 1870s, wheat farming had run its course in southern Wisconsin, and farming necessarily became diversified. The production of corn and oats as cash crops increased dramatically. Greater experience and innovation meant that corn, originally thought to require lands farther to the south of Wisconsin, could be grown and marketed successfully. The production of corn and oats rose from just over 5 million bushels in 1849 to over 67 million bushels in 1879. Hay also enjoyed a rise in production over the same period, from 275,000 tons in 1849 to 1,907,000 tons in 1879. Wheat production, meanwhile, declined by almost 4 million bushels from 1860 to 1879.


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Limestone Products for Agriculture
Atrazine: safe, needed, and effective

Kiefner and other farmers worry that the cost of farming will go up if atrazine is banned. They simply can’t do without atrazine. The EPA’s own numbers back this up—losing atrazine would cost farmers $28 per acre in lost yields and increased weed control costs. U.S. corn, sorghum, sugarcane, and other growers would suffer losses of more than $2 billion if atrazine were no longer available.

When he was campaigning for the White House in 2008, President Barack Obama wrote Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer regarding his thoughts about government agencies and science. He stated, “I will restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best available, scientifically valid evidence and not on the ideological predispositions of agency officials or political appointees.”

With clear scientific evidence that atrazine is safe and effective, it’s now time to see that promise put into practice. EPA must do the right thing and ensure that atrazine continues to be a crop protection tool available to America’s farmers and ranchers.

Atrazine and the Environment

Growers, conservation officials, agricultural organizations and state and federal regulators work to promote the use of best management practices for the application of atrazine. Whether used with traditional or no-till agriculture, atrazine provides the following environmental benefits:

- Preventing soil erosion: No-till agriculture dramatically lessens the loss of soil and its nutrients, and prevents the kind of soil run-off that clogs streams and waterways.
  - Preventing erosion protects aquatic ecosystems and preserves the quality of our nation’s water.
  - No-till agriculture reduces soil erosion by as much as 90 percent when compared to intensive tillage.
  - United States Department of Agriculture USDA ranks sediment runoff as the number one pollutant in our nation’s waterways.
- Conserving water: Because crop residue from previous harvests (stalks, husks, etc.) is left on the ground, and the soil is not plowed up, evaporation is limited and more water stays in the soil.
- Safe for wildlife: Atrazine does not affect wildlife diets, because it does not accumulate in the tissues of insects, fish, or other animals which may be food sources in the animal feeding chain.
- Cutting fuel costs to farmers: Less plowing means lower production costs and reduced emissions because of fewer equipment trips across the field.
- Reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions: the constant plowing up of agricultural land required by old-style agriculture to control weeds results in the massive release of CO2 into the atmosphere from decomposing organic matter in the soil. No-till keeps that CO2 trapped in the ground. Switching to no-till promotes the storage of about 600 pounds of carbon in an acre of soil each year.
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Plant Performance is about controlling disease while enhancing plants’ physiology to maximize yield, profit and growers’ return on investment. Growers can see the advantages not only in their bottom-line but also in the field with greener and healthier plants. So use Quadris®, or Quilt® fungicides and watch your plants and profit potential grow. Contact your local Syngenta Representative today to learn about programs and incentives for 2010 on Quadris & Quilt.

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www.farmassist.com
“Employers today are struggling to find the right people,” says Gary Maas, president of AGRIcareers, Inc. “It’s hard to find employees who have the skills and competencies for the job, the values and behaviors that promote job satisfaction, and the attitudes that motivate them to excel.”

Maas questions, how can you spend an afternoon with someone and know if you would like to work with him or her for years?

The cost of hiring an unqualified person may far exceed the time requirements of finding out if the person is right for the job. Experts say the risk of hiring a bad worker can be minimized with a sound selection process and deliberate employee management system and by following a few guidelines.

1) Know what you need. Take time to evaluate the credentials of prospective employees says Melvin Brees, farm management specialist at the University of Missouri.

Understand the job, and you’ll understand the best possible person to fill it. There are skills, licenses, personality traits and abilities that an employee must have to be successful and employers should take no skills for granted.

Create a job description that details the tasks of the position and establishes specifications and requirements needed to do the job. Also, remember that a job description should evolve with the business, position and employee.

The best way to recruit skilled new employees is to make your business the kind of place where talented and hard-working people feel appreciated and valued, Maas says. Being a great employer makes it easier to retain quality people and develop a reputation of being the employer of choice.

Recruitment channels can include government agencies, schools/universities/colleges, want ads, private agencies, and through increasingly popular websites. Concentrated recruitment efforts are much more effective in the long run than a shotgun approach where efforts are scattered and include random groups of people.

2) Evaluate the applicants. A complex position will require a multi-dimensional evaluation to determine if an applicant has all the necessary skills. Ask questions pertaining to specific situations and see how the person responds.

“It’s best if an employer can use his own application form to equally compare all candidates while getting information relative to the needs of the position,” Mass says. “Make sure you compare apples-to-apples so that every applicant has the same start.”

Written tests are good to gather general information and are an excellent tool when technical knowledge is required, while oral tests may help assess the applicant’s communication ability and technical expertise. Individual interviews allow potential employers and employees to get to know each other. However, some applicants may sound very impressive during an interview and disappoint once on the job, or be nervous in an interview and miss their opportunity to shine.

A practical test is useful because it requires the applicant to perform one or more of the skills the job requires, Maas says. These tests also demonstrate the applicants’ thought process—did they ask questions, prioritize tasks, and keep their composure if something went wrong?

Require the applicant to provide the names and phone numbers of past employers. While keeping in mind people have different perceptions and personalities, Maas recommends looking for patterns with previous employers.

(Continued on page 35)
If the new employee will be working with current employees or family members, include them in the evaluation process. Also, remember that evaluation goes both ways, you may not get a great employee if you don’t put your best foot forward, too.

3) Be the boss you would want to work for. Ask yourself the question, “Would you like working for you?” No one ever said that employee management would be easy, but it doesn’t have to be difficult.

Employee surveys have shown that the most important thing to employees is working for someone they trust and having a boss that looks out for them,” Maas says.

4) Lay the ground rules. No one likes to play in a game where the other players make up the rules as they go along,” For many agricultural employees, that’s exactly the kind of situation in which they work.

Many agricultural managers fall into the common trap of assuming their employees know what’s expected of them. The best way to establish rules is through an employee handbook.

5) Provide proper training. “Even employees who are experienced in the industry will need training and orientation specific to your venture,” Brees says. “Each person approaches tasks differently and each farm and farmer has a certain way of doing things. It’s important that both employer and employee understand each other.”

In fact, studies show it takes 30 days for a new employee to be fully oriented into a business and a year for an employee to be fully trained.

It’s also important to learn that there is more than one way to accomplish most tasks. “Training can help clarify the differences between the right way, the wrong way and your way,” Brees says.

Every business speaks its own language and has its own routines, so be patient and thorough when teaching a new employee.

6) Meet the employee’s needs. Successful compensation packages are really total rewards systems, containing non-monetary, direct and indirect elements all based on the objectives of the employer and the needs of the employees.

“Money is a big consideration in labor management, although other factors may be equally important,” Brees says. “As a manager, you should reappraise both the size and the composition of the wage package you offer employees.”

Creative compensation alternatives are the small business’s competitive advantage in hiring. Consider what monetary and non-monetary rewards your operation has to offer, and be sure employees comprehend them.

7) Understand employee satisfaction. Every employer should be concerned about how satisfied their employees are with their jobs. Unfortunately, that’s something that is usually hard to quantify.

“Especially in agriculture employment, there is a feeling of achievement and many people find the work itself to be very rewarding,” Maas says. “Let employees grow in their job to increase skill level. Start out with a basic set of responsibilities and then offer advancement as the employee develops. People enjoy having responsibility and challenges.”

Mass also says that sometimes over-analyzing situations can be destructive. “So many times managers focus on the employees that got away rather than the ones they have or could be missing out on,” he says. “One-sixth of employees that leave their job do so for reasons completely unrelated, and there’s nothing that can be done about that.”

8) Making it work. “People consider more than wages, hours and fringe benefits of a job, so good employer-employee relations are important,” Brees says. “As in any job, loyalty to the business is a two-way street. The employer must believe in and support employees in their decisions and be willing to accept that employees will make a mistake. In turn, employees are more likely to devote themselves to jobs in a happy working environment than in an unhappy environment, even with higher wages and fringe benefits.”

Brees adds that employees desire good “mental wages” — such as recognition and respect from their employer. On the other hand, the employer wants employees to show initiative and pride in their jobs and to contribute to a profitable business.

Putting time and thought into employee relations is not complicated and it is worth the effort. “Being a good employer simply makes good economic sense,” Maas says. “Management is really just common sense—what you put in is what you get out.”
Scouting for corn diseases late in the growing season

By Paul Esker, Field Crops Extension Plant Pathologist

During the 2010 growing season, weather conditions have been more favorable for the development of foliar diseases in corn than in previous years. In this article, we will discuss scouting for late season foliar diseases of corn. In a previous Wisconsin Crop Manager article we have already discussed conditions that have been favorable for eyespot (Fig. 1). We are continuing to monitor the development of eyespot as the season progresses and assessments in the field can be aided with the use of a standard area diagram.

Common rust (Puccinia sorghi) has been observed at fairly low levels this growing season although recent reports have indicated some increase in levels, especially in high value corn like seed production fields (Fig. 2). The symptoms of common rust include pustules that erupt through the surface of the leaf and will have a rusty brown appearance. Estimating the severity of common rust on a leaf can be helped with the use of a standard area diagram. Our foliar fungicide research over the past few years has not shown an economic return for control of common rust.

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The longer period of warmer and humid (and rainy) weather has increased the favorability for the occurrence of Northern corn leaf blight (NCLB; Exserohilum turcicum) (Figs. 1 and 3) and we are starting to see this disease show up in both research plots and production fields. Symptoms of NCLB include a cigar-shaped, gray green to tan-colored lesion that is from 1-6 inches long. In susceptible hybrids, lesions can spread to all leafy structures and husks and a severe epidemic of NCLB may look like frost damage. The likelihood of yield loss increases if symptoms were found at or around the tasseling into silking period. As with common rust, estimating disease severity can be helped with the use of a standard area diagram.

Furthermore, based on the weather conditions this year, there is an increased risk for gray leaf spot (GLS), caused by Cerco- spora zeae-maydis (Fig. 4). Initial symptoms of GLS can often be confused with several other diseases like eyespot and Northern corn leaf spot but will have a yellow to tan color with a faint watery halo. As lesions expand, they will become tan to brown, often with a rectangular appearance. Individual lesions may be from 3-4 inches long and 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide. There is a standard area diagram available to help in rating GLS.

(Continued on page 37)
Lastly, in several of our research trials, we are seeing evidence of anthracnose stalk rot and top dieback (Fig. 5). Symptoms of the stalk rot on the outer portion of the stalk include shiny black, linear streak and blotches. Continue to monitor fields as the season progresses using push-tests to determine early evidence of lodging. Also, consider splitting some stalks at black layer to determine how severe anthracnose may be.

One additional disease that is being noted in several states in the region is Southern corn rust, including from locations in Indiana and Illinois. Southern corn rust is caused by Puccinia polyspora. Symptoms of southern corn rust are orange to brown masses of spores that erupt through the upper leaf surface. The key way to differentiate southern corn rust with common rust is location of pustules. With southern corn rust, pustules are found only on the upper leaf surface and often in clusters, whereas common rust pustules can be found on both upper and lower leaf surfaces and will appear more scattered. To date, we have not observed southern corn rust in Wisconsin.

To see where Southern corn rust has been detected, consult the ipmPIPE at http://scr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi

WCPA summertime event wrap-up

As the weather is starting to feel cooler, we’ll take a look back at some of the WCPA events from the past summer.

On August 18 – 19th, 12 retail agronomy managers and employees participated in the WCPA Agribusiness Managers Assessment Program (AMAC). This program is designed for small, hands-on experience to assess leadership, communication, and decision making skills. The event was held at Northern Bay Resort in Arkdale, and all the participants believed the program was exceptional and well worth their time. Watch for more information on the next AMAC program coming in 2011.

Once again, WCPA had two golf outings this summer. Sixty golfers turned out for the outing at Skyline Golf Course in Black River Falls on August 11, and 110 participated at Kestrel Ridge Golf Club in Columbus on September 1. The weather on both days looked like it could be a factor, but it held off and a fun time was had by all. Flight winners for both locations included:

**First Place Flight Winners**
- Federation Coop: Tom Gearing, Ron Wyss, Gregg Burgau, Nate Johansen
- Landmark Services – Brodhead: Al McGuire, Chad Butts, Aaron May, John Busse

**Second Place Flight Winners**
- BASF Corp.: Al Roland, Blake Lunde, John Quinken, Mark Hebest
- Ag Systems: Kent Syth, Guy Mathias, Dan Sherben, Adam Urban

**Third Place Flight Winners**
- ADM/Countryside Coop: Chad Poeschel, Kyle Poeschel, Ken Milliren, Lance Bauer
- Agriland Coop/CPS: Brian Madigan, Rick Porter, Lucas Kinyon, Paul Simon

WCPA also held a trap shoot for members at Columbus Sportsmen’s Association on August 26. The afternoon included gorgeous weather, a grilled steak lunch, and a great time blasting clay pigeons. Many of the shooters said they are already looking forward to another WCPA Trap Shoot for next year.

Thank you to all the sponsors and everyone else that turned out for each of these events. It was a great time, and we’re already looking forward to more fun for next year!
The holidays are just around the corner, and the American Red Cross is gearing up with an array of options for Americans to show their support for U.S. service members and their families.

In addition to responding to disasters, overseeing more than half of the nation’s blood supply and providing first aid and CPR training, keeping the American people connected with their loved ones serving in the U.S. military is a fundamental mission of the American Red Cross through its Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES). Why not join the nearly 1,000 American Red Cross field units around the world in helping the public bring holiday cheer to U.S. service members and their families?

The American Red Cross supports members of the U.S. military and their families by: (1) facilitating emergency communication; (2) mobilizing and deploying Red Cross workers to live and work alongside troops; (3) reaching out to the “changing face” of the military, including members of the National Guard/Reserves and their families; and (4) other social services through a worldwide communication network that includes workers who live and work alongside troops. Urgent news of death, serious illness or birth are delivered wherever troops are—to the frontlines or on the home front. Since January 2003, demand for American Red Cross services has increased significantly and remains at record levels.

“The American Red Cross is dedicated to bringing a touch of home to the frontlines,” said Larry Hyde, chairman of the Stanly County Chapter. “From as far away as Tikrit, Iraq to right here in Stanly County, we work around the clock and all year long to keep the U.S. military connected to home. The Stanly County Chapter wants Stanly County residents to know they can turn to their American Red Cross to show support or send well wishes to neighbors, family and friends deployed this holiday season.”

Here are some ways residents can help:

- **Bestow treasures.** Treasures for the Troops can offer some fun and relaxation for down time on the frontlines. The durable, lightweight, compact and reusable shaving/make-up bag contains “treasures” like a deck of cards, book of crossword puzzles, snacks and candy, an electronic pocket game, batteries, and a multi-tool. $20.00 includes shipping and handling. “An overwhelming generosity coupled with security concerns dictated that we offer this alternative to our past practice of collecting in-kind items from community members,” said Larry Hyde, chairman of the Stanly County Red Cross. “We’re very excited about Treasures for the Troops because we continue to be a resource for those who want to show support for service members in general, but the human and financial resources of the chapter are not strained. And even better, like the Quality of Life Items program, this is not just a holiday thing. The public can show support anytime of the year!”

- **Support keeping families connected.** Make a financial donation to your local Chapter so that it can continue emergency communications, deploying workers, outreach and financial support efforts of the family members of career and reservists.

- **Donate a Phone®.** An estimated 30 million old wireless phones lay idle in American homes and businesses according to the CTIA Wireless Foundation. Through the end of the year Nextel Communications will donate an average of $1.50 per old wireless phones (regardless of manufacturer, make or model) brought into any of its 400 plus retail stores nationwide www.nextel.com. Donations benefit American Red Cross services for U.S. military members and their families.

- **Don’t forget those here at home.** A great way to take care of a service member is to help take care of his or her loved ones back home. Offers to baby-sit, pick up groceries, do laundry or mow the lawn may be especially appreciated.

- **Save up to three lives in about an hour.** The simple act of giving blood can touch up to three lives in the time it takes to run an errand. Every two seconds a person in the United States needs a blood transfusion, yet only five percent of the eligible U.S. population donates. And because blood is perishable, the supply needs to be replenished constantly. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit www.givelife.org to schedule an appointment today.

(Continued on page 39)
• **Volunteer.** Reach out to Veterans Administration hospitals and nursing homes, coach children’s sports teams, provide meals for the homeless or volunteer for other organizations, including the American Red Cross. “We know that many service members who normally do this volunteer work are now deployed.”

In times of both celebration and loss, Red Cross workers speed messages across thousands of miles to US service members separated from loved ones. Through Red Cross emergency communications, these messages are received and delivered 24 hours a day to locations around the globe, including ships at sea, remote locations, and U. S. Embassies.

The American Red Cross was there for more than a half-million service personnel last year, relaying more than 4,000 messages each day. We also provided access to financial assistance for military families in crisis, as well as a confidential environment in which service men and women can receive counseling, referrals, and other social services.

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**Passing through: Wisconsin’s use of migrant farmworkers**

*By Doris Slesinger, Professor Emerita at UW-Madison’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.*

**Early history (1900 - 1955)**

The first use of migrant agricultural workers in Wisconsin was tied to the expansion of sugar-beet and vegetable production in the early 1900s. Most seasonal workers were recruited from low-income areas of Midwestern cities, including Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. Early migrants were often of Belgian origin; as time passed Germans and Russians gradually replaced them. Many of these migrants eventually bought their own farms, settled out of the migrant stream and became permanent residents of the state.

The employment of migrant workers of Spanish-speaking origin became more prevalent in the 1920s and early 1930s. Sugar-beet companies actively recruited workers from the American Southwest. About 3,000 Texas-Mexicans came to Wisconsin annually during the 1930s.

To cope with increased demand for canned goods and a simultaneous shortage of labor during World War II, the U.S. government adopted the Emergency Farm Labor Program (1943-47), which permitted the contracting of foreign workers. Under this program, Wisconsin growers imported male workers from Jamaica, the Bahamas, British Honduras and Mexico. German and Italian prisoners of war were also used in the fields.

Because of Wisconsin’s largely German ethnic heritage, the German prisoners were easily accepted as farm laborers. At the end of the war, 6,700 foreign agricultural workers were employed in Wisconsin, of whom only 1,300 were Mexican.

Following World War II, Wisconsin farm population declined, as many farmers took higher-paying urban jobs. However, Wisconsin agriculture still required a large seasonal labor force. Chippewa, Oneida and Menominee Indians from northern Wisconsin performed seasonal agricultural work, and growers continued to recruit workers. Most were now domestic workers from south Texas and neighboring Southern states. By 1950, Latinos made up the majority of out-of-state agricultural workers.

**1955- present**

The number of migrants employed in Wisconsin agriculture increased from an annual average of 8,000 in the late 1940s to a peak of about 15,000 around 1955. After that, a slow decline in numbers continued.

(Continued on page 40)
to about 1990, when it leveled off at about 6,000 per year. Today, more than 90 percent of Wisconsin migrants are of Spanish-speaking origin, primarily from the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas. The mechanization of planting and harvesting is a major cause of the decline in hand labor.

**Mechanization**

Mechanization began affecting migrant employment in the early 1950s, beginning with the sugar beet, potato and snap-bean harvests. Less delicate than other fruits and vegetables, these crops were relatively conducive to machine handling. Engineers steadily improved the potato-harvesting machine, and by the 1960s, it had virtually supplanted hand harvesting. A snap-bean harvester was adopted around 1954, and it was instrumental in making Wisconsin the nation’s top producer of snap beans for processing. Between 1950 and 1960, complete mechanization of the green bean and corn harvests was also achieved.

The story is different for the cucumber harvest. Attempts at mechanization began in the early 1960s, and designers had developed 18 different experimental cucumber pickers by 1967. However, the results were not satisfactory, as mechanical harvesters tended to damage the vegetables. The mechanical harvesters tended to blow the sandy soil in which they grew into the cucumbers’ skin, producing sandy pickles. The machines also damaged the vines, making it impossible to pick the fields more than once a season, or to get small, medium and large cucumbers from a single field. Cucumber harvesting still requires more hand labor than any other crop grown in Wisconsin.

The cherry harvest was also mechanized in the mid-1960s. Wisconsin cherry growers saw mechanical tree shakers as a way to trim labor expenses and make them competitive with their Michigan counterparts, where yields were higher due to better soil and weather conditions. By 1968, 40 percent of the crop was harvested by machine, and by 1978, almost the entire crop was. The number of migrant workers employed in the cherry harvest dropped precipitously, from about 6,000 workers in 1949 to 2,150 workers in 1967 to 50 in 1978, where it remains today.

Other factors reducing demand for workers

Intensive hand hoeing and weeding was once essential for such high per-acre value crops as onions and mint. Onions compete poorly with weeds, and mint, which is grown primarily for its oil, must be entirely free of weeds before pressing. Since WWII, however, the use of chemical herbicides has greatly reduced the need for hand cultivation. Finally, the conversion of farms to “pick-your-own” operations has further reduced demand for workers. About 99 percent of the strawberries grown in Wisconsin are now harvested in this manner.

**Employment in food processing**

While demand for field labor has declined, demand for cannery workers has increased. Plants that process fresh vegetables, such as corn and peas, as they are harvested have high seasonal demands for workers. The produce must be picked, transported to the cannery and canned within a few days. Otherwise the chemical composition of the vegetables will change, and the product will deteriorate. Thus, packers require workers who can work two shifts per day for only a few weeks.

Because this schedule is not appealing to full-time residents, migrant workers are hired for the job. By the late 1960s, more migrant workers were employed in food processing plants in Wisconsin than in fieldwork. Today, there are about two migrant workers in food processing plants for each one in the fields.

(Continued on page 41)
The Use of Migrant Workers in Wisconsin Today

More than 90 percent of migrant workers today are of Mexican heritage. Many come from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, between Eagle Pass and Brownsville; others live in Mexico. For many years, workers migrated in family units, bringing their children as well as some aging parents. Today, many families still travel together, although elders rarely accompany their children unless they are able to work.

An emerging trend is for employers to hire a group of young men from Mexico through contractors. They usually are transported by charter bus and live in single-sex dormitories while here.

Some Spanish-speaking migrant workers have started to find employment in non-agricultural industries like printing, bicycle manufacture, meat-packing or non-seasonal work like dairy farming. Although most employers would like these seasonal workers to remain in Wisconsin all year, many still return home in the winter months. However, each year a greater number of migrant workers “settle out” of the migrant life-style and make Wisconsin their permanent home.

Protections for Migrant Workers in Wisconsin

From the 1950s through the 1970s, the state passed a number of increasingly stringent protective laws requiring registration, inspection and certification of migrant camps. The 1977 law (Chapter 17, Sections 103.90-103.97) regulates housing, job contracts, guaranteed minimum wages and transportation. It is enforced by the Department of Workforce Development, Migrant Labor Services. The 1977 law also created the Governor’s Migrant Labor Council to oversee the general compliance with the law and be a sounding board for concerns by grower/food processors; migrant organizations and representatives, and migrant workers themselves.
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**WCPA Industry News Quarterly**

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**Classified Advertisement**

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