

June 19, 2014—Save the Date!

Organic Vegetable Production Field Day

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2014 Organic Vegetable Production Field Day. Location and details are still coming together, so save the date and look for details to arrive via mail or email in the coming month. In attendance we'll have several of our Fresh Market and Vegetable Crop Specialists, including:

Erin Silva is UW-Extension Organic and Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist

Amanda Gevens is UW-Extension Vegetable Disease Specialist

Russ Groves is UW-Extension Vegetable Insect Specialist



St Croix County Recycling Looking for Composting Sites

Saint Croix County lacks a central location where residents can dispose of grass and leaves. But as we in horticulture realize, these items can become a valuable soil amendment when composted.

The county's recycling program is looking for businesses and/or homeowners who would be interested in receiving these materials from other residents and be willing to be listed on the county's website. We would share only your first name and phone number and/or email – we would not list your address to reduce the chance of improper dumping.

If interested, please contact Jon Tulman at the county recycling office: 715-531-1907 or email him at Jon.tulman@co.saint-croix.wi.us.



Heidi Doering
Horticulture Educator
St. Croix County
715-531-1947
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<http://stcroix.uwex.edu/>



Spring & Early Summer Change in Heidi's Office Hours

Scheduled Office Hours
for April—June will be
Monday & Thursday
8 am—4:30 pm



Spring 2014 Newsletter

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

Attention Tree/Shrub Nurseries and Garden Center Retailers!

Did you know that UW-Madison has a great, free information resource available to your gardening clients and customers? The Learning Store is a great resource for horticultural producers of all types. If you regularly have home gardeners asking frequently-asked questions, it may be useful for you to refer them to UW-Madison's 'Learning Store'. The Learning Store site is a portal for all home gardener and commercial grower resources that UW Extension has published in the past 15+ years. <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/AdvancedSearch.aspx>

Click on 'Select Category' and scroll down to Lawn & Garden

Choose topic area you wish to search; Click 'Search'

A list of publications will be listed.

Click under heading 'Name' to view copy of publication you need

Click on 'Print PDF' to print a copy at no charge or click on 'add to cart' if you'd like a printed copy

All are free to download – from there you can print your own copy at no charge. Charges are only applied if you click on 'add to cart' and order a printed copy to be sent to you via mail.



2014 Farm Fresh Atlas

The new Fresh Food Atlas for Western Wisconsin has been finalized and is now at the printer. If you'd like copies to distribute at your horticultural business throughout the season or if you'd like to stop and pick up some to drop off at your local library, food co-op, grocery store, convenience store or other venue, let me know of your interest and where you'll drop them off. We will physically have them here in the Baldwin office ready for pick up on April 17. You may download a copy from the UW Extension website at:

<http://stcroix.uwex.edu/files/2014/04/Farm-Fresh-Atlas-2014.pdf>



Call for Producers!

FARM TO SCHOOL

The School District of the Menomonie Area is interested in providing wholesome, nutritious, unprocessed local produce as part of our school lunch program. If you are a local food producer and you are interested in more information, please contact:

Michelle Kloser, Director of Food Service

715-232-1642 ext. 11064 or e-mail

Michelle_kloser@msd.k12.wi.us

Updated Custom Rate Guide Now Available



If you are considering expanding your operation but do not want to invest in equipment, you may find the information contained in the updated version of the Custom Rate Guide for Wisconsin useful to you and your agricultural operation.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/custom_rates_2013.pdf

PASTURED POULTRY RESOURCE

Do you raise chickens or have you thought about adding chickens to your small farm operation? If so, you may want to have a look at some pastured poultry resources we have available through UW Extension's Learning Store. You can download them at no charge and print your own copy if you wish. If you don't have internet access, call or stop into the Extension Office in Baldwin and we can print out any of these resources for you.

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu> — enter "poultry" and search





2014 Special Events Calendar for Recycling

The Saint Croix County recycling program has released its schedule of special collections for 2014. The dates and locations of these events are as follows.

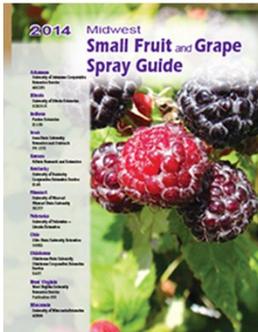
The **Clean Sweep** hazardous waste collections will be held on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17 at the county highway shop on US Highway 12 in the Town of Hudson. On May 16, businesses that qualify as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) may bring their wastes from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A business qualifies as a VSQG if it generates less than 200 pounds of hazardous waste per month. This is a fee for service event and participating businesses must pre-register with the county recycling program by May 11.

Farm operators may also participate during the business event and must also preregister by May 11. There is no fee charged for the first 500 pounds.

Households may bring waste on Friday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Residents do not need to preregister and there is no fee charged for the first 500 pounds.

Jon Tulman, Recycling Specialist
715-531-1907

Midwest Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide (A3899)



This detailed publication tells you all you need to know about spraying small fruits for pests, with special sections on grapes, blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries as well as fungicides, insecticides, weed control, and other special pest problems (89 pages; January 2014). To order copies, visit the [A3899 page](#) on the Learning Store.

Midwest Tree Fruit Spray Guide (A3314)



This publication, one of a series of publications for fruit growers in the Midwest developed by the Midwest Fruit Workers Group, offers the latest spray recommendations for apples, cherries, pears, peaches, and plums (69 pages; 2014). To order, visit the [A3314 page](#) on the Learning Store.

Turf Grass Announcement

Paul Koch has joined in the UW-Madison Department of Plant Pathology as Turfgrass Specialist and Assistant Professor. Paul began his position on January 1, 2014, with a 70% Extension, 20% Instruction, and 10% Research appointment. Areas of research focus will be related to (1) golf course turfgrass, (2) snow mold diseases on golf course turfgrass, and (3) root-infecting diseases of both golf and lawn turfgrass. Paul received his Ph.D. in plant pathology from UW-Madison in 2012 while simultaneously earning a focused minor in molecular and environmental toxicology.



USDA Enhances Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2014 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the expansion of the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program, which provides low-interest financing to producers. The enhanced program includes 23 new categories of eligible equipment for fruit and vegetable producers, and makes it easier for farmers and ranchers around the country to finance the equipment they need to grow and expand.

This is part of a broader effort to help [small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers](#), as announced today by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Producers with small and mid-sized operations, and specialty crop fruit and vegetable growers, now have access to needed capital for a variety of supplies including sorting bins, wash stations and other food safety-related equipment. A new more flexible alternative is also provided for determining storage needs for fruit and vegetable producers, and waivers are available on a case-by-case basis for disaster assistance or insurance coverage if available products are not relevant or feasible for a particular producer.

Additionally, Farm Storage and Facility Loans security requirements have been eased for loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Previously, all loans in excess of \$50,000 required a promissory note and additional security, such as a lien on real estate. Now loans up to \$100,000 can be secured by only a promissory note.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

More information about tools and resources available to small and mid-sized farmers will be rolled out in the coming months, including information about access to capital, risk management, food safety, and locating market opportunities on [USDA's Small and Mid-Sized Farmer Resources webpage](#).

Visit www.fsa.usda.gov or an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans, including the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Have you heard of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)? If you are running an agricultural business in Wisconsin, you've likely been in contact with them at some point. What you might not know is the vast amount of information around business development & start-up, licensing, and food safety that exists on this site. There are links to resources on identifying and monitoring for emerald ash borer and other insect and disease pests and invasive plants as well as information for honey producers and information on the Farmland Preservation Program. Next time you're online and ready to click on a cat video, instead dive into the DATCP portal and have a look around! <http://datcp.wi.gov/>

