

SPOONER MILLS

Cadott • Gilman • Thorp

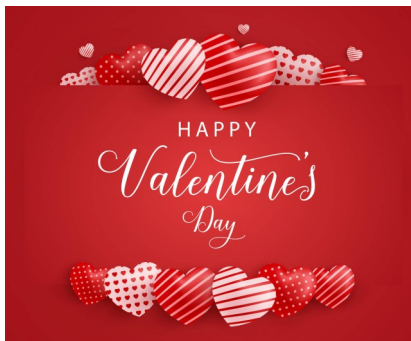


News & Notes

February 2024

To:

www.cloverleaffarmsupply.com



**Sunday, February 11
5:30PM CST on CBS**

How to Increase Milk Fat and Protein Content

- Emphasis on high-quality forage: It is important to harvest and preserve high-quality forages
- Delivery of correctly mixed dairy feed rations
- Evaluation of forage digestibility as well as fiber levels
 - Constantly check starch and fat levels
- Balance amino acids like Methionine and Lysine
 - Breed for increased butterfat and protein

Cloverleaf Farm Supply Cadott

Seed Day/Open House

Wednesday, March 13th

Mill office or new seed
shed at mill-TBD

10AM-2PM, lunch served

Spooner Mills of Thorp

Seed Day/Open House

Tuesday, March 19th

CAM Building
W8872 Pine Rd Thorp

10AM-2PM, lunch served

Cloverleaf Farm Supply

(715) 289-4366 / 800-241-4366

127 Elm Street / PO Box 63

Cadott, WI 54727

Gilman Feed Co

(715) 447-8243

400 N Railroad / PO Box 147

Gilman, WI 54433

Spooner Mills of Thorp

(715) 669-5644 / (715) 669-3500

213 E Soo / PO Box 598

Thorp, WI 54771

Email

spoonermills@gmail.com

*Feel free to email us concerning any
information you see in News & Notes*

From the Agronomy Desk...

From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "A third of Wisconsin is still in drought. What does that mean for our winter?"

Madeline Heim, December 8, 2023

How has drought impacted Wisconsin this year?

In late spring, summer and early fall, Wisconsin experienced a near-historic drought. The month of May was the fourth-driest on record, according to the state climatology office, and the drought peaked in mid-September after a few weeks of unseasonably hot, dry weather.

The week of Sept. 19, almost all of the state was feeling some level of drought conditions. Some southwest counties were classified as having "exceptional drought" by the U.S. Drought Monitor — its most intense ranking. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources issued special fire warnings, farmers struggled to nourish their crops and low water levels even caused mussels to be stranded on the banks of the Wisconsin River.

Much of the state got rain in late September and October that proved beneficial to alleviating the drought, [Steve] Vavrus said. But November was very dry — only receiving about a quarter of the precipitation that typically falls during that month, Vavrus said — meaning in some regions, drought is still lingering.

If Wisconsin gets lots of snow, could it relieve the drought?

It's tempting to think that if there's a foot of snow on the ground, it'll get rid of dry soils, Vavrus said. But that's usually not the case. When snow melts, most of it runs off the landscape into streams and other bodies of water.

The winter months are also some of Wisconsin's driest, he added, because there's not much liquid content in snow. Even if the winter bears substantially more precipitation, it may be hard to break out of drought until the spring, when that precipitation falls as rain.

What would a dry winter mean for plants and crops?

Once the ground freezes, soil moisture is hard to replenish, Vavrus said — which means if Wisconsin stays dry until that happens, "we're kind of stuck" until spring.

Dry soils during winter can actually benefit agriculture come spring. Because dry soil is less compact and warms up quicker, it means farmers can get into their fields earlier and start planting. Drier soils can also encourage deeper root growth, Vavrus said, allowing the plants to tap into more moisture underground. That's why this year, farmers who planted early still saw big yields despite the extreme dryness of the summer, he said.

But it's not all good news.

"Farmers would welcome warm and dry (conditions) to get out and have things planted in a timely fashion, but they need moisture in the soil for germination and early growth," said Chris Kucharik, a plant and agrosystem sciences professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Even now, if farmers are planting cover crops to protect the soil during winter, they still need moisture for germination so the plants can establish themselves before winter, Kucharik said.

Standard Ogle Oats

Certified Pearl Oats

Robust Barley—Standard

**4010 Peas, Peas & Oats, Peas & Barley, Peas
& Triticale, Spring Triticale**

Bulk & Bagged Soybeans

**Insecticide/Fungicide and
Inoculant-treated Beans**

Alfalfa, Clovers, and many Grasses

Custom Mixing Available

Everyone is cordially invited...

Chippewa County

**WISCONSIN FARM
TECHNOLOGY DAYS**

Growing to the tune of success



Hosted at

Close Farms & Country Fest

45° 2' 22.92" N

91° 10' 43.932" W

AUGUST 13-15, 2024

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
growing to the tune of success

If you have room for your seed orders, let us know so we can get them to you as soon as we have the inventory in!

If you haven't been contacted about manure management, let us know so we can work out a plan before the beginning of March.