



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Dairy Production Systems of the Great Lakes Region

August 2013 Dairy CAP Newsletter

Announcements

Although it seems as if the Dairy CAP project has just begun, it's already time to submit the paperwork for the **second year of funding**. Pls and budget officers at UW-Madison, Penn State, Cornell, Arkansas, Michigan, ARS Labs (Arkansas, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania), and AgInformatics should have received an important email from Kate Pemberton, dated August 13th, with information about what is needed to renew your contracts for Year 2. Please be sure to read the email carefully and send Kate all necessary information by September 6th. Thanks for your cooperation on this deadline. Kate can be reached at kpemberton@cals.wisc.edu.

Another reminder to Pls: if you haven't already done so, please **return your database questionnaire** to Jerry Hatfield. He has only received a few from different investigators. He would like to compile the results into a set of descriptors of parameters and outputs. You can reach Jerry at Jerry.Hatfield@ARS.USDA.GOV.

Outreach Specialist Joins Dairy CAP Team



Allison Dungan has come on board as the Outreach Specialist for the Dairy CAP. She was born in Sequim, WA and grew-up on the east coast of the United States, on Maryland's Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. After completing an undergraduate degree at Randolph-Macon College, in Ashland, VA, Allison returned to Maryland's Eastern Shore where she was active in working on Chesapeake Bay watershed protection as an

environmental planner and science communicator. In January 2013, she completed a master's degree in Agroecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While in school, Allison worked to pilot a project that facilitated mentorship opportunities between high school students and agricultural science researchers.

Allison is passionate about rural communities, food systems, and the natural environment. Please be sure to welcome her to our project.

Soils Team Meets by Conference Call

The soils team is having its second conference call on Wednesday, August 21st from 10-11 Central Time to continue its discussion of sampling methodologies. After the first conference call, everyone involved submitted documentation of their samplers (including photos) to help reach consensus on which are the best to use. The documents are on a share-drive site called Basecamp.com. The team is interested in using a standard methodology so that results can be shared and compared at points in the future.

If your team would like help setting up a conference call, please contact cbetz@wisc.edu.

If your team has documents you would like to share, a Basecamp folder can also be set up for you, too. Contact [Carolyn Betz](#).

Upcoming Events

For those of you in Madison, this sounds like an interesting event you might consider attending.

Louis Uccellini, the National Weather Service Director and an alumnus of UW-Madison, will lead a Town Hall discussion titled "Building a Weather-Ready Nation." The discussion will address the question of how we as a nation can better prepare for extreme weather events and other key influences of weather on society.

The event will be held on August 22, 2013 from 5-7pm in the Hector DeLuca Forum at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. For more information, visit the Town Hall Web site:

<http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/townhall/2013/>

Reports

The Food and Agriculture Organization has released a new report, *Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Livestock Production A review of technical options for non-CO2 emissions*. This report presents a unique and exhaustive review of current knowledge on mitigation practices for greenhouse gas emissions in the livestock sector. It focuses specifically on non-CO2 emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management.

The report references over 900 publications on the mitigation of direct nitrous oxide and methane emissions and highlights the most promising options, given their demonstrated effectiveness and feasibility for adoption. The review was deliberately limited to in vivo experiments to reflect what can be achieved with available mitigation practices.

[Click here to read the report.](#)

Other News

Could cows and sheep halt climate change and tackle rural poverty?

Agriculture is destructive, but doesn't have to be. Livestock could help tackle climate change, desertification and rural poverty. [Read the whole article.](#)

Agriculture is embracing climate change reality

From Bill Berry with Madison's Capital Times

Agriculture seems to be embracing the need to address climate change. Some still dance around the words “climate change” and its causes, but most accept that we are now subject to regular and dramatic weather events, ranging from drought and floods to violent storms. The word “resilience” comes up more and more at these meetings, as in, “How can we ensure that our farming systems are resilient enough to withstand weather extremes?”

In agriculture, it means using a combination of new farming techniques and a suite of conservation practices to keep soil loss to a minimum and prevent dramatic runoff events. [To read more, click here.](#)

Farming chief says extreme weather threatens UK agriculture

Extreme weather fuelled by climate change represents the biggest threat to British agriculture, according to the president of the National Farmers' Union. “A gentle increase in temperature is fine but extreme weather events completely stuffs farming: just look at last year. Farming is risky enough as it is.” [Read more...](#)



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