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Announcements

Please join us in welcoming Gail Kraus to the Dairy CAP team. Gail is the Agricultural Outreach Specialist who reports directly to project Co-Director, Molly Jahn at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Gail will be based at Vincent High School in Milwaukee and is charged with developing an agricultural curriculum for this urban high school. The goal is to replicate this model in other urban high schools throughout the region so that youth who are underrepresented minorities or from low-income households will see agriculture as a viable career option.

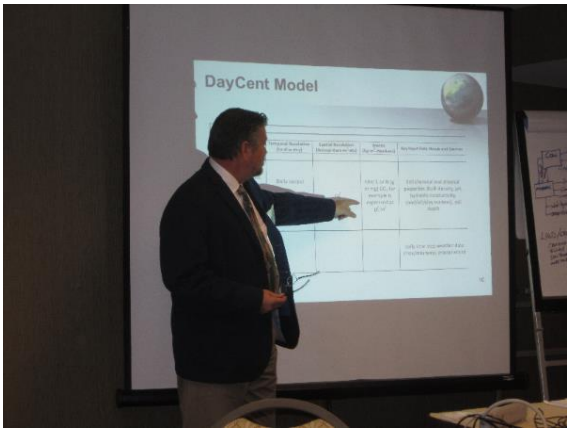
Gail grew up on a hobby farm in Mosinee, Wisconsin. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – River Falls with a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Education and the University of Phoenix with a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

For the last five years Gail has been working for the University of Wisconsin – Extension as a Youth Development Educator. Prior to that, she taught Agricultural Education and served as a FFA Advisor. Gail has a passion for youth education through agriculture and is excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Agriculture Outreach Specialist for the Dairy CAP.

Innovation Center for US Dairy

Members of the Sustainability Council for the Innovation Center for US Dairy were in Madison for a meeting on October 15-16, 2013. Many of the Dairy CAP researchers and business partners were in attendance to learn more about the Farm Smart Tool, the Sustainability Guide and to take a tour of nearby Mystic Valley dairy farm. Project director Matt Ruark addressed the group about the Dairy CAP grant.

PIs in Madison



Many Dairy CAP PIs were in Madison in mid-October to discuss objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the grant. Pictured: Marty Matlock (University of Arkansas). leader of Modeling Objectives 2a and 2b; Project Director Matt Ruark (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Post-doc Sarah Coller (Molly Jahn), Post-doc Matias Aguerre (Michel Wattiaux) - both from UW-Madison, Project Director Molly Jahn (UW-Madison), Juan Tricarico and Michael Johnson (DMI); Ying Wang (DMI) and Greg Thoma (University of Arkansas) listen to Olivier Jolliet from University of Michigan.

Team Talk

- Many from the Soil Measurement Team (Objective 1c) will meet in Tampa, Florida on November 5th as an add-on to a Tri-Societies meeting. The group will finalize sampling methodologies, equipment needs, data storage, and other issues to satisfy their objective in the grant.
- Members of the Modeling and LCA teams (Objectives 2 and 3) met in Florida on October 3 while attending a LCA conference.

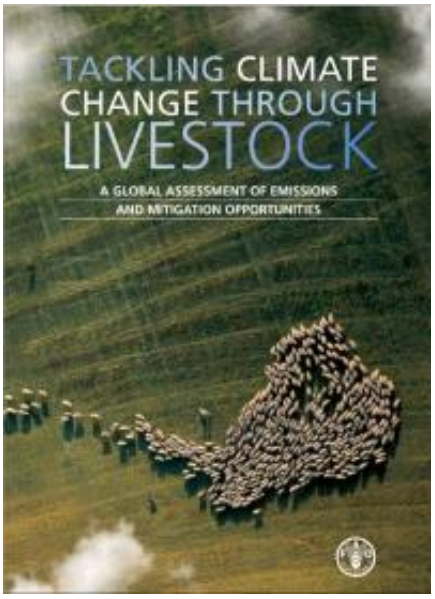
Reports

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has issued a new report, Tackling Climate Change Through Livestock -- A Global Assessment of Emissions and Mitigation Opportunities. The first of two complementary technical reports, Greenhouse gas emissions from ruminant supply chains – A global life cycle

assessment is also available.

The livestock sector should be a part of any solution to climate change: its GHG emissions are substantial but can readily be reduced by mitigation interventions that serve both development and environmental objectives.

To download a copy of this important and relevant report to the Dairy CAP project, please click here.



Other News

Scientists say climate change is challenging Iowa agriculture

More than 150 scientists from 36 colleges and universities in Iowa are jointly issuing a call for action against global warming.The director of the Climate Science Program at Iowa State, Gene Takle, is one of the lead authors of the group's Iowa Climate Statement for 2013. "The last couple of years have underscored the fact that we are very vulnerable to weather conditions and weather extremes in Iowa," Takle says.

He's encouraging farmers to update their management plans to make the land more resilient to extreme weather. "Practices that were installed 30 years ago just need to be updated for the current climate that we're experiencing with these heavy rains," Takle says.

Read their call for action here.

Innovating To Feed A Growing Planet

Prospects of a 2°C or even 4°C warmer world by the end of this century are very real, and agriculture is particularly vulnerable. Ironically, while agriculture is a primary victim of climate change, it is also one of the main culprits: food system emissions contribute roughly 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions, directly and through associated changes in land use from deforestation.

The good news is that there are steps we can take to make agriculture part of the solution. For example, agriculture is the only sector that can suck carbon out of the atmosphere. It has the potential to sequester 20% of global carbon dioxide emissions annually in the soils of croplands, grazing lands and rangelands.

Read the full article from Forbes here.

Websites of Interest

Socioeconomics and Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region

This interactive website shows how the social and economic characteristics of the Great Lakes Region are impacted by regionally specific changes in climate. It was developed in partnership with the Great Lakes Adaptation Assessment for Cities at the University of Michigan.

Climate change has the potential to affect government finances. Expenditures on potential climate related infrastructure are shown on the website, along with land cover and residential growth. - Take a look...

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