

Registration & Information

UW-Madison: Richard Cates, WSBD Director, 608-265-6437 or 608-588-2836; rlcates@wisc.edu

Distance education sites:

(locations may vary from year to year with student enrollment; if the site nearest you is not available, please consider attending the next closest site)

Antigo: Alex Crockford, UW-Extension, Langlade County, 715-627-6236, alex.crockford@ces.uwex.edu

Balsam Lake: Ryan Sterry, UW-Extension Polk County, 715-485-8600; ryan.sterry@ces.uwex.edu

Chilton: Jeremy Hanson, Fox Valley Technical College, 920-849-4416; hanson@fvtc.edu or Greg Booher, Lakeshore Technical College, 920-693-1241; greg.booher@gotoltc.edu

Hayward: Otto Wiegand, UW-Extension, Washburn, Sawyer & Burnett Counties, 715-635-3506; otto.wiegand@ces.uwex.edu

Independence: Mary Anderson, River Country RC&D, 715-538-4396 ext 33; mary.anderson@rcdnet.net

Jefferson: Peter Pitts, Town and Country RC&D, 920-541-3208, peterpitts@townandcountryrcd.org

Lancaster: Arin Crooks, Agricultural Research Station, 608-723-2580; aecrooks@wisc.edu

Neillsville: Maria Bendixen, UW-Extension, Clark County, 715-743-5121; maria.bendixen@ces.uwex.edu

Medford: Sandy Stuttgen, UW-Extension, Taylor County, 715-748-3327; sandy.stuttgen@ces.uwex.edu

Menomonie: Mark Denk, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 715-577-3036; mdenk1@cvtc.edu

Phillips: Mark Kopecky, UW-Extension, Price County, 715-339-2555; mark.kopecky@ces.uwex.edu

Prairie du Chien: Vance Haugen, UW Extension, Crawford County, 608-326-0223; vance.haugen@ces.uwex.edu

Reedsburg: Doug Marshall, MATC-Reedsburg, 608-524-7727; dmarshall@matcmadison.edu

Thorp: Brad Sirianni, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 715-579-5834; bsirianni@cvtc.edu

Viroqua: Jean Stramel, Grazing Specialist, 608-647-8874 ext 110; jean.stramel.wi.usda.gov

Waupaca: Lynn Jerrett, Fox Valley Technical College, 920-831-4387; jerrett@fvtc.edu

Wausau: Melissa Klein, Northcentral Technical College, 715-803-1671; klein@ntc.edu

About the WSBD

This five month certificate course is offered within the UW Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) curriculum and includes additional opportunities for on-farm internships, conference attendance, mentoring, and networking. Students attending at UW Madison must enroll for credit; distance education students have credit or non-credit options. Please contact the site facilitator where you wish to attend for more information, including application materials and course fees.

A free informational CD about the WSBD is available by calling 608-265-6437.

Sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and the Farm and Industry Short Course, both within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and lead partner donors: Culver's Restaurants, United FCS and Organic Valley; with additional support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, and individual and corporate contributions to the UW Foundation WSBD Endowment fund.

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy & Livestock Farmers

A training and mentoring program emphasizing business planning and pasture-based farm management



Giving you a head start in dairy or livestock farming

- classes across Wisconsin
- on-farm internships
- networking opportunities

www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html

If you have a passion to start farming, we are here to help you...

To apply

To participate in the WSBDF on the [Madison campus](#), download application materials from www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html or request an application packet at 608-265-6437. You must also enroll in the UW-FISC (see below) to take the seminar in Madison. To be considered for a scholarship, submit your application by April 1; late applicants may be accepted as space and funds are available.

For the [distance education](#) option, apply to the location you wish to attend by November 5. Email or call the site facilitator for application materials and course information. If you would like to take the class for credit, the site facilitator can help you with the additional requirements for UW or WI Technical College credit. Internships and scholarships may be available in your area.

To learn more about the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC), call 608-263-3918 for information or log onto www.cals.wisc.edu/students/shortCourse



What do we offer?

- 15-week Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar led by experienced graziers, business leaders and UW faculty; meets once a week
- Local facilitators at your site to lead class and provide materials and discussion
- NEW! WSBDF is now an approved vendor of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Beginning Farmer Loan Program for new borrower business training**
- Networking with farmers, lenders and agriculture professionals to help with your farming career
- Internships on Wisconsin dairy or livestock farms
- Option to receive UW System or Wisconsin Technical College credits
- Conferences, pasture walks, farm tours
- Scholarships for tuition and internships
- Assistance identifying opportunities to start your own farm business

Internships

Student interns usually live on the farm as they work side by side with experienced mentor farmers. Through the WSBDF and PDPW, students may intern at one or more successful operations that include large, small, managed grazing, organic, conventional, cattle, sheep or goat dairy or livestock enterprises. Scholarship support is available.

Training includes milking systems, animal housing, breeding, calving, herd health, pasture and water systems, paddock design, financial management and labor management. Students who demonstrate competency in these areas receive letters of recommendation from their farmer mentors and a WSBDF certificate.

Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar

The Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar will familiarize you with the development and management of pasture-based dairy and livestock farm businesses. The course is held on Thursdays from 11:00-1:15, mid-November through March on the UW-Madison campus. A distance education option allows students to enroll and participate via live webcast and interactive audio feed from closer to home.

A local facilitator will lead the seminar at each site, provide networking with area farmers and resource personnel, and conduct a discussion session each week. Topics of the seminar series include the economic, environmental, and agronomic principles of managed grazing; milking center design; dairy, beef, goat and sheep production; organic marketing and herd health; farm selection, design and remodeling; winter feeding and housing strategies; goal-setting and farm enterprise development.

During the course, students will develop their own business plan for a current or desired farm operation. The final class consists of the opportunity to present the plan to a panel of successful farmers and agricultural lenders.

Requirements:

To attend the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers you need to:

- have a strong desire to become a dairy or livestock farmer
 - have a serious interest in managed grazing
- Some previous experience in dairy or livestock agriculture is desirable.