



Attend The 2015 WCO Forage Symposium, Jan. 19-21

Plans are well under way for another informative and fun Symposium Jan. 19-21 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Registration opens in December. Go to www.wiscustomoperators.org for details and to register.

Don't miss these exciting WCO highlights:

Tom Wall, also known as the "Dairy Coach," will teach the session "Learning to Lead," on how to build a winning team with solid employee management. He has been helping business people make their teams more productive and accountable for nearly twelve years.

A past speaker, Robert Battaglia, director of the USDA-NASS Wisconsin Field Office, will discuss the current custom harvesting rates and the survey that tracks that data.

Other presentations will discuss "On-Farm Moisture



Testing" and "Eating On The Go: How To Eat Healthy And Fuel Your Body During The Busy Season."

Product sessions will take a look at what's new with forage harvesters as well as with inoculants.

For more program information, check the WCO website at www.wiscustomoperators.org.

New Safety Certification Program Available For WCO Members

A safety certification course has been created that will be available to WCO members. The special projects committee of the WCO Board has been working with the insurance company Vincent Urban Walker & Associates of Green Bay to develop the program.

The course is a free service to WCO members that will not only keep employees up-to-date on the latest in safety rules and regulations but also meet the requirements for discounts offered by a variety of insurance companies.

Insurance companies feel strongly about safety, and they are willing to offer discounts to WCO members who have become safety-certified and embrace the content of the safety certification program.

The certification program

addresses a variety of safety issues so that harvesters and their employees will stay engaged with safety matters throughout the year. All employees are encouraged to attend, but for a business to become safety-certified, at least one representative from each custom operator's business must also attend.

Attendees must complete one day-long, semi-annual training session at which the following topic areas will be discussed:

- a) Pre-field and road safety checks and maintenance,
- b) Safety on the road,
- c) Safety during field operations,
- d) Handling emergencies.

Trainees are expected to convey the information gained in the program to their colleagues. Paper

and electronic copies of training materials will be available. Upon completion of the course, the WCO will issue a certificate to attendees.

The course will need to be completed every two years to maintain certification. On the alternate training year, each custom operator's representative or employees are expected to attend at least one session of safety training at the WCO winter conference.

To learn more about the program, please attend the WCO Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells as part of the Forage Symposium event.

The first training session will be the week of March 16, 2015. Potential location: Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CAB

By Kathy Vander Kinter
Vander Kinter Farms

Hopefully, this newsletter finds you at a time when the harvesting world has slowed down for the season. We always say “such a weird year” when describing the current year – but what is a “normal” year? I hope everyone has made it through another year safely, profitably and ready to continue on again next year!

As I look back on a year of WCO happenings, there are a lot of things we can be proud of as an organization. After hiring our executive director, Maria, in December, it was only a short time until the annual symposium in January.

It was very exciting to be elected onto the Board of Directors for a second term and then chosen to lead as your President. I thank you for such a wonderful opportunity.

Behind the scenes, it does not end with the Symposium. In February, our education committee began the planning for the 2015 Symposium, Maria set out to revamp the website and WCO logo and the scholarship committee began receiving and reading scholarship applications.

After quite some time of listening and discussing, there was an actual Implement of Husbandry (IoH) bill that was developed and finally signed into law. This was a momentous accomplishment for all who were involved in the project.

Before long, it was mid-summer and Farm Technology Days was under way. WCO partnered with UW-Extension, DATCP and DOT at the Applied Technology tent to promote new IoH and Lighting and Marking laws. It was great to see and interact with farm and non-farm people about what the new IOH law means to everyone. Another productive board meeting

after a day at Farm Tech Days only had the board revved up to create a safety certification program that we will unveil at the annual meeting!



This brings us to the fall ... corn silage ... and ... nailing down details for our big conference in January, searching for some motivated candidates to run for a board position and trying to fine-tune the way we handle our annual meeting.

As I sit back and reflect on what WCO has accomplished this year, all I can say is that “it is a great time to be a WCO member and sponsor” with all the strides we have made as an organization this year alone. It’s only going to get better!

WCO Seeks Nominations For Board Of Directors

Have you thought about getting more involved in WCO? This is your chance!

WCO is looking for Board of Director nominations. Elections will take place at this year’s annual meeting on January 21, 2015, held in conjunction with the Symposium event at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Directors must be members of the Wisconsin Custom Operators and serve three-year terms with no more than two

consecutive terms. WCO board members work to support the efforts and activities of the organization, including member and sponsor recruitment, program development and relationships with related groups.

As directors, board members are expected to attend quarterly meetings and actively serve on at least one committee.

Committees include: scholarship, education, safety, media, membership and special projects.

If you are interested in a position on the Board, contact Maria McGinnis, Executive Director, at execdir@wiscustomoperators.org or 608-577-4345.

New WCO Membership Incentive Program Is Formed

To promote membership and the hard-working WCO members who advocate for the organization, WCO is pleased to announce its 2015 membership incentive program.

Any WCO member who refers a new member will receive \$25 towards their membership for the following year. For example, if an employee of a current member joins WCO and lists the member name in the “Referred By” field on the membership application, the member will receive \$25 towards membership for the next membership cycle. If that same member encourages two people to join,

their membership would be FREE for the next membership cycle! Incentive dollars will not exceed the cost of a membership. As WCO members – we know the value of the organization – please help spread the word and grow WCO!

Sponsors Can Get Involved, Too! The incentive program also applies to sponsors. Those encouraging customers, employees and colleagues to join WCO, with the sponsor name listed on the “Referred By” field, will receive \$25/member towards their next sponsorship cycle. If a sponsor refers 10 people to join WCO, \$250 will be applied towards their sponsorship fee. Incentive dollars will not exceed the cost of the sponsorship fee. It’s a great way to help grow the organization and allow marketing dollars to go even further.

Video Series Outlines New Implement Of Husbandry Law

Is my farm equipment Category A, B or C? What's my per axle weight limit on a state highway? What's an Ag-CMV?

These are all good questions about Wisconsin's new Implements of Husbandry (IoH) law that can be answered in a series of IoH-Act 377 videos produced by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the University of Wisconsin Extension.

"These training videos are designed to give farmers and local government officials easy access to basic information they will need before harvest equipment starts hitting the roads and highways this (next) fall," says Jim Dick, DATCP Communications Director. "Many farmers may not even realize there are new requirements for the equipment they've been driving on public roads for years."

The topics for these nine videos include new

New 'Platinum' Level Sponsorship Available

Is your company looking for an exclusive way to engage with WCO members? Consider becoming a Platinum level WCO sponsor! Brand new for 2015, Platinum level sponsors will enjoy several new promotional opportunities, including logo placement on the WCO home page, advertisements in the WCO newsletter, involvement in the WCO Education Committee, the ability to offer free WCO memberships and more. In year one, WCO hopes to welcome three to four Platinum sponsors. For more information, contact Maria McGinnis at execdir@wiscustomoperators.org or 608-577-4345.

A complete list of sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.wiscustomoperators.org/sponsors.

2014 WCO Board Of Directors

President – Kathy Vander Kinter, kvanderkinter@gmail.com
Vice President – Cole Olson, cole.olson@plantpioneer.com
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definitions of IoH and an Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicle (Ag-CMV), weight limits, lighting and markers, rules of the road, local options for municipalities and more. The series of videos can be found at: www.youtube.com/user/widatcp/videos.

These videos supplement in-person educational IoH sessions being held around the state that are coordinated by the UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. You can find a regularly updated list of these training sessions by going to fyi.uwex.edu/ioh. Anyone interested in hosting one of these IoH training sessions can contact your local county Extension office.

"UW-Extension is also getting requests for programs to help farmers determine the axle weights and gross vehicle weight of their equipment," said Cheryl Skjolaas, UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health Interim Director. "We have portable scales on loan from the Wisconsin State Patrol that can be used for weight limit demonstrations. Anyone interested in such a program should also contact their county extension office."

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation website, AgVehicles.dot.wi.gov, is another source of information regarding the new IoH law. There you will find more details on IoH/Ag CMV definitions, weight limits, permits and answers to frequently asked questions.

There are a number of changes in this new IoH law that will affect farmers immediately. Other changes won't take effect until next year. The Wisconsin State Patrol will only issue warnings for most IoH violations until Jan. 15, 2015, but operators are still subject to county and local ordinances and enforcement.

IOH 2015 Update Deadlines To Consider

Jan. 1 – No-Fee Permit will be required to be used for state and local government roads.

Jan. 15 – Local governments must pass ordinances or resolutions for which local option they will operate under (County vs Town).

Nov. 1 – New Lighting and Marking rules and rules of the road.

Learn more at www.agvehicles.dot.wi.gov.

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Find WCO On The Web

Visit our newly updated website, www.wiscustomoperators.org, or find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/WisconsinCustomOperators](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCustomOperators). We're also on Twitter at twitter.com/WICustomOps.

Reach Maria McGinnis, WCO Executive Director, at execdir@wiscustomoperators.org.

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The Wisconsin Custom Operators is an organization comprised of individuals throughout the state who derive their income in whole or part from providing custom farming services. These services include: forage harvesting (alfalfa and corn silage), forage bagging and baling, tillage, planting, combining, trucking, manure handling and spraying, among other services.

Wisconsin Shredlage Feeding Trial Shows 2.5 lb/Cow/Day Milk Increase

The latest feeding trial comparing Shredlage to conventionally processed corn silage maintained findings of the first University of Wisconsin study. Shredlage, from alternate processing rolls, produced an average of 2.5 lbs/cow/day more milk than did corn silage.

The long particles in Shredlage did not, in the second study, show an increase in milkfat percentage or rumination activity, says Randy Shaver, the UW Extension dairy scientist who conducted both trials.

“But because we saw greater milk production, the yield of fat, the yield of protein and the yield of lactose were all highest for the Shredlage compared to the conventionally processed silage.”

The 2014 experiment recorded milk production data from 120 mid-lactation cows equipped with rumination collars to assess physically effective fiber. They were fed a brown midrib hybrid processed conventionally or as Shred-

lage. Each silage treatment was fed as 45% of the diet along with 10% alfalfa silage in a total mixed ration.

A third treatment fed 10% chopped, dry hay with 35% conventionally processed brown midrib (BMR) corn silage and 10% alfalfa silage.

“Adding the hay in had a significant negative effect on milk production.” Cows produced an average 104 lbs on that treatment, 110 lbs on the conventionally processed corn silage and nearly 113 lbs on Shredlage over the 16-week continuous lactation trial.

Results from fiber and starch digestibility data, as well as some nutrient-intake information, had not been completed, he adds.

“The main difference with the second experiment was that we used a brown midrib hybrid to produce the silage,” Shaver says.

For more info, visit bit.ly/1u5jVxd.
– **From Hay & Forage Grower**