

CUSTOMNews

Representing Custom Farming in Wisconsin | FALL 2022



Online equipment auction benefits WCO; now accepting consignments *By Maria Woldt for WCO*

WCO is proud to announce an online auction, Nov. 22–Dec. 6th, coordinated by Hansen Auction Group. Consignments are being accepted through November 18. The auction includes machinery typical for custom operators, but virtually all items will be considered.

As an association, WCO is looking for creative ways to maintain a strong financial position. Like all of our members, WCO's investments have taken a hit and membership is slowly recovering from the pandemic. In addition, we have ideas for several new programs that could become a reality with additional funds.

The WCO board wants to continue supporting our members through quality content at Symposium, increased

scholarships, industry data, and policy initiatives.

WCO will receive two percent of the buyers fee which represents an exciting opportunity for the association.

Consignments from WCO members and outside sellers are accepted and sellers commissions will be 10 percent at most. To make a consignment, contact Parker Massey from Hansen Auction Group at parker@hansenauctiongroup.com or by phone at (715) 642-3981.

To preview and purchase items, go to hansenauctiongroup.com and search for the WCO auction. We will also send an email and promote on our social channels. The auction runs from Nov. 22 thru Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. 🇺🇸

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UPCOMING DATES:

WCO Mini-grant program
Accepted on a rolling basis

WCO Fundraising Auction
Nov. 22–Dec. 6
Online

Forage Symposium
Feb. 20-22, 2023
Chula Vista, Wis. Dells

CONTACT WCO:

execdir@wiscustomoperators.org
(608) 577-4345



From the President's Cab: *blessed to have each other*

By Raymond Liska



Shaking, rattling, grinding, knocking, are all too familiar to farm equipment operators. Torn belts, loose bolts, and failed bearings are just a few things that could be wrong and must be dealt with immediately.

Having a good sense for something going wrong is as important as being able to turn the wheel when the harvest is on the line. Operators use their skills and experiences to manage their machines persistently day in and day out.

Sometimes the shaking occurs outside of the cab. Tragedy falls on people and families in all businesses, and from all walks of life. These situations are difficult and can't be fixed with wrenches, or diagnostic devices.

I was unfortunate enough this fall to witness tragedy strike my own crew. It was a day like any other day, and I got the call from my senior employee that our close friends and co-workers had to suddenly say good-bye to their baby girl. A parent's worst fear had come true for them, and it shook us all to the core.

Knowing how to diagnose and repair machinery with tools is easy for a custom crew leader but knowing how to comfort people in a time of loss seemed impossible. Prayer and presence were the only things that could be done to help comfort broken hearts. Overwhelming emotions have stayed with all of us, but togetherness has given us strength.

“Often as crew leaders we get so good at helping people through the fields that we forget we may have to help them through life as well.”

We are so blessed to have each other, and we are grateful to have her memory. Often as crew leaders we get so good at helping people through the fields we forget that we may have to help them through life as well. It touched my heart to see several custom crews stop their

machines on a perfect fall day to pay their respects to the parents of this beautiful soul. They will always be in our thoughts, our hearts, and our prayers.

Shaking isn't always bad, sometimes it's an awakening. The members of WCO are a family of operators with a goal to protect our way of life. Networking is our mission and to share our story so that we can learn from one another. We can all be grateful for the experiences of each individual and I encourage you to keep sharing.

Coming together this winter for our annual Symposium is always a great opportunity for everyone who attends. Many topics new and old will surely help us learn and grow together. You are the seed and education provides the nourishment to help grow your ideas, ultimately providing solutions to an ever-changing industry. I thank all of you so much for your dedication to your families, businesses, and WCO.

May God be with you on your journeys and have a safe and happy harvest season. 🍁

-Ray

Nutrient management resources

From UW-Madison Nutrient and Pest Management Program

New online nutrient management curriculum released

UW-Madison's Nutrient & Pest Management (NPM) Program released a new, online, self-paced Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Curriculum! This curriculum is an evolution of a classroom-based format that has trained farmers across Wisconsin for years on the process of preparing farm nutrient management plans.

Most farms across the state need a nutrient management plan for their farm. In addition, nutrient management plans must meet the criteria contained in the USDA-NRCS Nutrient Management Standard (commonly referred to as the "590 standard").

The new NMFE curriculum is in an online, video format that allows for self-paced learning by users. Access the curriculum at:

nmfe.webhosting.cals.wisc.edu/

Please allow a few minutes for the initial download. For best results, use a computer for this training (vs. mobile).

Have you calibrated your manure spreader lately?

Manure spreader calibration is necessary for determining manure application rates and properly crediting manure nutrients. These credits are extremely valuable in 2022 and 2023 due to high commercial fertilizer prices.

Calibrating a manure spreader is simple. First, the manure spreader needs to be filled with manure.

Next, the weight of the tractor and full manure spreader needs to be recorded. This can be done using portable axle scales or a large machinery scale, such as the scales commonly located at grain elevators and cooperatives.



The NMFE curriculum is delivered in an online, module-based format that allows for self-paced learning. Users still have access to the same experts and resources, but now can use the curriculum when it is convenient for them. Photo by UW NPM

Then, manure needs to be applied to a pre-determined field, simulating a typical manure application on your farm.

After spreading, the weight of the empty manure spreader needs to be recorded.

The final in-field step is to measure the area covered with the spread manure. The width and length should be measured to calculate the total acreage spread.

The NPM program has a worksheet and video to help with this process, **scan the QR code for more information.**



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Issues to watch

Elections: Nov. 8 was the general election. WCO has not historically endorsed candidates (although we can as a 501c5 non-profit organization). Our Issues are bipartisan and WCO works with all elected leaders for solutions in the agriculture community.

Farm Service CDL: WCO has been looking for flexibility with the Farm Service CDL program to help more drivers gain credentials. Post elections, WCO will continue to work with transportation committee members to extend the 180 day window to 210 days. This extension is part of the federal infrastructure bill, however, states must opt-in to gain these extra days.

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC): The USDA began accepting applications for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program October 17, 2022 for enrollment in 2023. The DMC program is designed as a risk management program, offering protection between the milk price received and the average feed price for a farm.

This program is replacing the Dairy Margin Protection Program. The deadline to apply for this program is December 9, 2022. More information on the DMC program can be found on the Farm Service Agency's website page at <https://bit.ly/2023DMC>.

Don't forget to renew your Commercial Pesticide Applicator License:

Individuals who need to complete their certification can take the exam in person at no cost or online for a fee. In person exams must be scheduled in advance. Those who pass the exam receive a five-year certification.

DATCP can only issue a pesticide applicator license if an individual's certification credential(s) are current. Go to datcp.wi.gov and search 'commercial pesticide applicator'.

All exam takers must first purchase the training materials from University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension.

Continued from p. 4

Pesticide Applicator Certification exam available online:

Commercial pesticide applicators can now take the exam online proctored through a personal computer that includes a web-enabled camera and broadband internet.

Those who take the exam online will receive their results immediately, along with their certification by email 1-3 business days after the exam.

Remember, if you treat manure, you are required to have a 'field and vegetable crop' commercial pesticide applicator certification.

Complete the WCO member survey, win \$1,000!



Remember this guy? Jeremy Heim won \$1,000 because he completed the WCO member survey. Be like Jeremy. The survey is sent to WCO operator members in January and everyone who makes a submission is compensated and entered to win our grand prize.

Continued on p. 5

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New product showcase: new manure spreaders and an in-line wrapper *From KUHN*

KUHN recently introduced new larger spreader models, extending the popular ProPush® line for commercial producers and custom operators.

The new KUHN Knight HP 170 M and HPX 195 ProPush® high-capacity, commercial hydraulic push spreaders provide large operations and custom operators with reliable, heavy-duty machines designed for high usage. The HP 170 M, with a heaped capacity of 700 ft³, and the HPX 195, with a heaped capacity of 950 ft³, are designed for agricultural and commercial applications that haul a wide array of semi-solid and solid materials, including gutter manure, yard scrapings, bedding pack and feedlot manure.

The hydraulic push-type design means no apron chains, fewer moving parts and dependable service life.

New to the ProPush family is the moving floor design. The moving floor allows these new models to have a greater capacity without sacrificing overall length or loading height. All-steel welded frames provide a solid foundation for the spreader sides and floor.

Heavy-duty VertiSpread® vertical beaters provide a wide, 25'-30' spread pattern at rates ranging from 5-30 tons/acre. Both models come standard with 5/8" flighting and hardened beater teeth to ensure superior strength and durability of beaters in heavy-use conditions.

Save on fertilizer costs by combining your spreader with an optional scale system to monitor application quantities and take maximum advantage of the nutrient value of your manure.

Also new to the KUHN lineup, the KUHN OWR 6000 inline round bale wrapper offers exceptional wrapping productivity, while minimizing film and fuel use. This inline wrapper is designed for demanding farmers and custom operators looking for maximum productivity and profitability in a wrapper. The OWR 6000 quickly wraps round bales of various size, including 4- and 5-foot wide bales up to 6 feet in diameter.

The OWR 6000 leverages KUHN's 35 years of experience with individual wrappers by utilizing the same pre-stretchers with an industry leading 70% plastic stretch ratio. This higher stretch ratio provides more efficient plastic utilization and better bale compression reducing plastic cost per bale.

Greater management and control of the wrapping process can be achieved by our unique IntelliWrap™ technology. IntelliWrap uses sophisticated electronics and hydraulics to control the wrapping process and allows the operator to easily adjust film layers by one-layer increments. The BaleEye photoelectric sensor accurately and reliably detects a bale on the loading platform with no mechanical moving parts, unlike competitive mechanical sensors.

Left: Kuhn has introduced a new inline bale wrapper that uses less film and fuel. Facing page: Kuhn also made improvements to the ProPush® manure spreader with the addition of a moving floor. Photos contributed.



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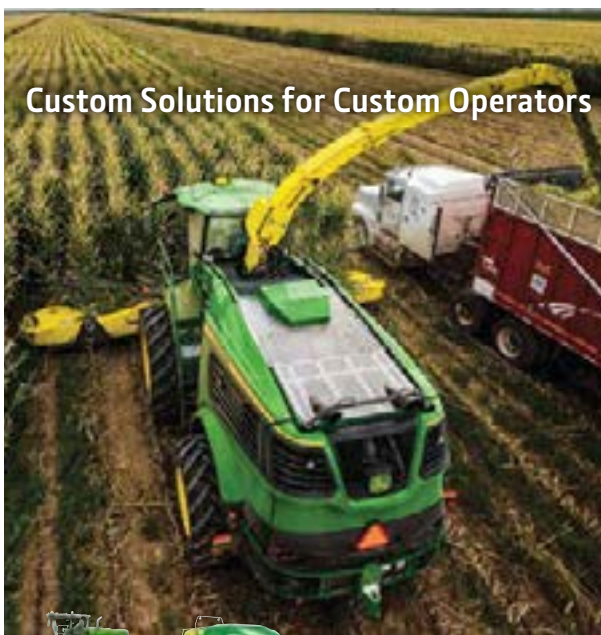
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Membership incentive program

Don't forget - WCO has a membership incentive program! If you sign up a new member you receive \$25 towards your 2023 membership. Sponsors can participate also. Simply list your company name on the "referred by" line and earn money towards your 2023 membership or sponsorship.

Incentive not to exceed cost of membership or sponsorship. Help WCO grow our membership base!

Welcome to WCO

General Members (\$50/year) derive their income (whole or part) from custom farming. Receive full voting rights and featured on website with business information.

Associate Members (\$50/year) support the custom farming industry, but do not engage in custom farming themselves.

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Secretary – Josh Bartholomew (corp. rep)
Treasurer – Isaac Lemmenes (corp. rep)
North region – Derek Ducat
At-large – Amanda Krepline
South East region – Pat Johnson
Honorary Representatives:
Dr. Matt Digman, UW-Madison
Dr. Brian Luck, UW-Madison
Dr. Joe Sanford, UW-Platteville

In 2023, WCO will elect the following:

- At-large director
- North region director
- Corporate director

Join a committee

If you are looking for a small but important way to get involved, consider joining a committee:

- » Education/Conference
- » Media
- » Scholarship & Awards
- » Safety/Regulations

Renew your membership or sponsorship

Membership renewals mail at the beginning of December and will include information to register for Forage Symposium. You can renew your membership when you register or you can renew directly with WCO. Either option is acceptable, but we always appreciate direct renewals by check or online payment. Sponsorship renewals will mail the week of Thanksgiving and must be paid direct to WCO. 🇺🇸

Board nominations & annual meeting

WCO is looking for board of director nominations. Elections will take place during the annual meeting at 8 a.m. on Feb. 22, 2023 held at the Chula Vista resort in Wisconsin Dells. Directors must be members of WCO and serve three-year terms with no more than two consecutive terms.

The board meets four times per year:

- February** - At Forage Symposium
- March** - At WCO safety event or conference call
- July** - At WI Farm Tech Days
- December** - Stand alone meeting

If you are interested in running or know someone who is, contact Maria Woldt, executive director at execdir@wiscustomoperators.org or (608) 577-4345. 🇺🇸

Welcome new members!

These individuals/sponsors joined WCO from July - October 2022

- » Lease Custom Farming

Please send your photos to WCO

Photos featured in the *Custom News* are taken by staff or submitted by members and sponsors. We are always looking for high quality images and we do our best to feature diverse equipment brands and custom farming practices.

Please e-mail your high-resolution images (1MB or larger) to execdir@wiscustomoperators.org and we will be sure to feature you on our social media channels and in our publications. Thank you in advance!



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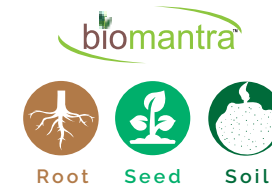


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In 2023, WCO will elect an at-large director, a north region director and a corporate director. If you are interested in running please contact us.

To complete your no fee IoH/Ag CMV permit applications
(Required as of January 1, 2015), go to
wisconsin.gov and search “no fee ag permits”

Questions about IoH definitions and rules? Go to
wiscustomoperators.org/resources

photo by Melissa Maass, Maass Farms