

CUSTOMNews

Representing Custom Farming in Wisconsin | FALL 2017



Casey Halopka owns and operates Halopka Field Services with his family in Dorchester. Read their profile on page 3.

Employee of the year applications due Dec. 1

It's no secret that labor is a huge issue in agriculture. According to the WCO annual survey, members cite labor as one of their primary challenges. Despite this challenge, there are countless men and women employed by custom farming operations who make significant contributions to your team.

Each year, WCO honors an employee of a custom farming operation who demonstrates excellence in the areas of safety, efficiency, customer service, environmental stewardship and profitability. This award is particularly focused on acknowledging and recognizing member-employee contributions that are beyond the normal job expectations.

All employees, both full-time and part-time, of a WCO member-business are eligible for the award. The individual must have been employed by a WCO member during the last calendar year prior to the award year. The winner will

receive \$750 and the nominator will receive \$250.

"Many of our members have had the same crew for several years. These employees are highly skilled and keep our businesses going during the height of the season," said Bryce O'Leary, WCO president. "Their commitment to safety, the environment and our clients is outstanding – and this award is our opportunity to honor them."

Applications for the 2017 WCO Employee of the Year Award are currently being accepted and are due December 1. Interested members should visit wiscustomoperators.org/about_us/EOTY.php for more information including eligibility, criteria and application.

This past January, WCO honored Steve Burclaw, an employee of Biadasz Farms, Amherst, Wis. as the first ever Employee of the Year. Burclaw played a critical role at Biadasz Farms in the wake of their son's tragic death. 🇺🇸

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Forage Symposium
February 19-21, 2018
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Spring Business
Development Workshop
March 2018, location TBD

CONTACT WCO:

Membership or Sponsorship:
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(608) 577-4345



From the President's Cab

By Bryce O'Leary



Hello all, as the 2017 harvest season comes to a close, and things are beginning to slow down, it is time to reflect on the last year. Like every year, we had high hopes of a great season where everything goes as planned.

But Mother Nature had some plans of her own. Planting and the first three crops of hay were a challenge. August was good, still the corn crop was behind in many parts of the state. Then some of the early corn started but was wetter than expected. By mid-September, much of the corn silage was still waiting to be harvested. And then all of a sudden so much corn was ready that it took the help all the kings horses and all the kings men to get to the silage in time.

Now that the job is done, if any of those horses or men (or women) provided extraordinary help or ideas that made harvest go smoother or easier, please nominate them for our Employee of the Year award. For those of you at the Annual Meeting last year, no doubt you were moved by the Biadasz family and their employee Steve Burclaw. Our July newsletter featured a compelling story of excellent employees from Four Star Ag. The nomination is easy, please consider making a submission.

The education committee has been hard at work planning the 2018 Symposium and has developed a great program. This year, the PNAAW group will have their own separate event. We are offering the full spectrum of sessions including level one nutrient applicator training, and new this year, we are offering Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training. Applying several products widely used in the custom industry requires that we be certified and licensed. This is also the time to renew your WCO membership.

With the continuing increase in regulations that the industry faces, being a member gives you and WCO a strong voice to help guide those regulations to cause as little impact on our business as possible. If you know any operators in your area who are not members, encourage them to join. The more members we have, the stronger the voice we have on these policies. Our Symposium in 2018 will be a little later, Feb. 19-21. Make plans to attend to see old friends make new friends and learn the latest information about your business and equipment. 🍷

-Bryce

Policy Center *issues to watch*

Department turnover

In September, DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp resigned to take a presidential appointment with the Environmental Protection Agency. Gov. Walker appointed former legislator Dan Meyer to take her place.

In July, DATCP secretary Ben Brancel announced his retirement. Gov. Walker is expected to announce his replacement in November.

NR 151 - Runoff Management

This rule has been revised to include targeted performance standards for the eastern side of the state in areas with Silurian Dolomite topography.

State Budget

In September, Gov. Walker signed the \$76 billion budget that includes \$402 million of borrowed funds for roads but does not increase the gas tax. 🍷

Forage Symposium Date Change!

Due to scheduling conflicts, we have moved the Forage Symposium to February for 2018 only. **Mark your calendars for Feb. 19-21, 2018** again at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Our 2019 date will return to our normal time in January.

Join the WCO Board

At the 2018 Forage Symposium, WCO will elect two operator representatives (south east and south west regions). Contact us if you have interest in running.

Welcome new members!

The following list represents individuals/sponsors who joined WCO from July - November, 2017

BWS Trailers
Amy Boson, V&H Trucks
Ronnie Zalewski, Ron Zalewski Farms, LLC

Corn silage came late to several parts of the state, which has complicated the harvest season.

Despite wet spring, excellent season overall

By Whitney Beahr, WCO Communications

With his dad, Gary Halopka, working as a custom operator, Casey Halopka always knew he wanted to get into custom work. In 2012, Casey purchased half of the equipment from his dad and later his brother, Adam Halopka, bought the other half, making Casey and Adam Halopka co-owners of the business. Originally, Halopka Field Services, located in Dorchester, Wis., provided services ranging from chopping to corn planting to manure hauling. The increased demand for manure hauling led the Halopka brothers to specialize in custom manure hauling. Today their operation includes draglines, semis and tractor tankers.

Like most farmers and custom operators, the rain this spring was a huge challenge for Halopka Field Services. “We actually did well for how bad the season was this spring,” says Casey. “We worked hard and when we finished, we looked at each other and thought ‘how did we do this?’”

Being stopped on the road with large equipment (mostly in Marathon County), has caused issues for Halopka Field Services in the past, but they haven’t had any trouble for the past two years.

“With the road regulations, we switched to more semis and hoses, so we are on the road less than we were before,” said Casey. “This spring went really well, and I hope it will continue to go well during future seasons.”

During the interview, Casey commented that they just built a break room this past winter. “I never would have dreamt of having two shops and a break room. And this building isn’t even our big shop,” he said.

“If you would have asked me if I wanted to expand last fall, I would have said ‘no way in heck’. But after how well things went this spring, expanding is definitely a consideration for the future.”

Halopka Field Services hauls 250 million gallons of manure a year, with

forty percent of hauling done in the spring and sixty percent done in the fall. With a range of 150 miles, Halopka Field Services keeps busy and this past season even had to turn down jobs. “The jobs are there, and it’s for us to get it done,” said Casey. 🇺🇸



Halopka Field Services hauls 250 million gallons of manure a year





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Membership incentive program

Don't forget - WCO has a membership incentive program! If you sign up a new member and they list your name on the paper application or online, you receive \$25 towards your 2018 membership. Sponsors can participate also. Simply list your company name on the "referred by" line and earn money towards your 2018 sponsorship.

Incentive not to exceed cost of membership or sponsorship. We already have members and sponsors taking advantage of the program. Help WCO grow our membership base!

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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.

Name: _____

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SAFETY INFORMATION



Mike Biadasz Manure-Gas Monitor Rebate Program
 Contributed by the Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Fund

Gas H
 Direct-reading gas monitors can alert you to hazardous conditions. These monitors can help you identify hazards and prevent accidents. Below are guidelines to identify hazards and prevent accidents.

Gas	Health Effects		
	Low	Medium	High
Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)	2-20 ppm: nausea, headache, dizziness	100-300 ppm: altered breathing, fluid in lung	500-700 ppm: collapse, death
Methane (CH₄, LEL)	< 0.1% (1000 ppm): not harmful	< 1% (10,000 ppm): no known toxicity	5-15% (50,000 ppm): explosive
Ammonia (NH₃)	5-20 ppm: odor, eye irritation	20-50 ppm: Moderate eye and upper respiratory tract irritation	2500 ppm: chemical pneumonitis, edema, cyanosis, death
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	600-2000 ppm: muscle stiffness, drowsiness, poor judgement	5000 ppm: 8-hr maximum	30,000 ppm: increased rate, nausea, mental impairment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	<9 ppm: comfortable living concentration (35 ppm = 8-hr allowable)	200 ppm: headache, dizziness, nausea in 2 hours	400 ppm: life threatening in 3 hours

Children, elderly, pregnant women are at risk at lower CO concentrations. The concentrations are relevant only at "see instructions" levels.

www.gpca.org

On the morning of August 15, 2016 the Biadasz family received the worst news anyone can receive. Mike Biadasz, loving son, brother and uncle tragically lost his life while agitating a manure pit on his farm. He had succumbed to hydrogen-sulfide gas. In the wake of tragedy, Mike's family turned their grief into action.

This program will provide rebates for farmers and manure haulers who rent gas monitors, protecting them, their workers, and their family from the hazards of manure gas. Four-gas hand monitors are expensive to purchase and require calibration every 3-4 months to ensure it is working properly. Calibration can also be expensive. This program allows you to rent the right equipment at a reduced cost.

How the program works:

- Rent any four-gas monitor, up to 5 monitors per operation
- Use it to protect you, your workers, and your family

- Mail in the rental receipt and the completed Rebate Form

Those who mention the Mike Biadasz Manure-Gas Monitor Rebate Program will receive special pricing from Premier Safety, Inc. (call 586-840-3204). If you place your rental order by 2:00pm central time it will ship that day and arrive the next day. The rental will start the day you receive the monitor(s). You are not obligated to use our preferred vender, but any rental must be from a legitimate gas monitor rental company (not from another individual). This is to insure that the devise is working properly and is calibrated.

Benefits of Participating in the Program:

- Receive a \$75.00 rebate after the rental of a four-gas monitor
- Receive this rebate on up to 5 monitors
- Use the program every six months

Eligibility:

- You must be a Wisconsin farmer or manure hauler
- The rented monitor(s) must be a four-gas model
- Rebates are not applicable to the purchase of any gas monitor
- Monitors maybe used for other farm use (ex: silos, grain bins, bunkers)

To request the Rebate Form or if you have any questions or comments, please email us at: farmforeverrebates@gmail.com

The Mike Biadasz Manure-Gas Monitor Rebate Program is a collaboration between the Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Fund, Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach, the National Farm Medicine Center, and the Wisconsin farming community. 🇺🇸

Hazards in Agriculture

Alert farmers to life-threatening concentrations of gases on the farm. Sensors are relatively inexpensive and easy to use. Select sensor types based on potential hazards in your farming operation.

Livestock Production



Manure Storage
Under slatted floor
Outside lagoon, pit, or tank

Manure Pumping
Under slatted floor
Outside lagoon, pit, or tank

Foaming Manure
If foaming is present,
significant methane risk
(see additional materials)

Pressure Washing
Inside building

Animal
Exhaled breath

Gas-fired Heaters
Combustion byproducts



Inside Bins
Out-of-condition grain
Gas-fired dryers

Equipment
Overheated equipment
Smoldering product

Sensor Types



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Remember to renew your WCO Membership!

Memberships expire in December - renewals are sent at the end of November. You can renew with your Symposium registration, via the WCO website or by mail. Thank you for supporting Wisconsin's custom farming industry!

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**

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training @ Symposium

WCO is hosting a PAT training and test at noon on Monday, Feb 19 at the Chula Vista.

- Sign up when you register for the conference.
- \$30/person + \$47 for training manual.
- Purchase training manual **BEFORE EVENT** on WCO website. Bring with.
- Certification is required for numerous chemicals used in forage harvesting and manure handling.

Registration opens in December. Link to buy manual and register at **wiscustomoperators.org**