

## Registration & Information

**UW-Madison:** Richard Cates, WSBD Director, 608-265-6437 or 608-588-2836; [rlcates@wisc.edu](mailto:rlcates@wisc.edu)

### Distance education sites:

(locations may vary from year to year with student enrollment; call or email to determine availability)

**Appleton:** Randy Tenpas, Fox Valley Technical College, 920-735-5673, [tenpas@fvtc.edu](mailto:tenpas@fvtc.edu)

**Chilton:** Jeremy Hanson, Fox Valley Technical College, 920-735-2597, [hansonj@fvtc.edu](mailto:hansonj@fvtc.edu); or Greg Booher, Lakeshore Technical College, 920-693-1241, [greg.booher@gotoltc.edu](mailto:greg.booher@gotoltc.edu)

**Eau Claire:** Maria Bendixen, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 715-937-5058, [mbendixen2@cvtc.edu](mailto:mbendixen2@cvtc.edu)

**Elkhorn:** Peg Reedy, UW-Extension, Walworth County, 262-741-4961, [peg.reedy@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peg.reedy@ces.uwex.edu)

**Fennimore:** JoAnn Peterson, Southwest Technical College, 608-577-0221, [jpeterson@swtc.edu](mailto:jpeterson@swtc.edu)

**Green Bay:** Amy Kox, NE WI Technical College, 920-498-6908, [Amy.Kox@nwtc.edu](mailto:Amy.Kox@nwtc.edu)

**Independence/Sparta:** Brad Sirianni, Western Technical College, 715-533-8081, [siriannib@westerntc.edu](mailto:siriannib@westerntc.edu)

**La Crosse, WI or Lewiston, MN (site TBD):** Aimee Finley, Western Technical College, 507-273-7722, [finleya@westerntc.edu](mailto:finleya@westerntc.edu)

**Ladysmith:** Rich Toebe, UW-Extension, Rusk County, 715-532-2151, [richard.toebe@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:richard.toebe@ces.uwex.edu)

**Medford:** Sandy Stuttgen, UW-Extension, Taylor County, 715-748-3327, [sandy.stuttgen@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:sandy.stuttgen@ces.uwex.edu)

**Menomonie:** Mark Denk, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 715-577-3036, [mdenk1@cvtc.edu](mailto:mdenk1@cvtc.edu)

**Prairie du Chien:** Vance Haugen, UW Extension, Crawford County, 608-326-0223, [vance.haugen@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:vance.haugen@ces.uwex.edu)

**Reedsburg:** Doug Marshall, MATC-Reedsburg, 608-524-7727, [dmarshall@matcmadison.edu](mailto:dmarshall@matcmadison.edu)

**Spooner:** Otto Wiegand, UW-Extension, Washburn, Sawyer & Burnett Counties, 715-635-3506, [otto.wiegand@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:otto.wiegand@ces.uwex.edu)

**Waupaca:** Lynn Jerrett, Fox Valley Technical College, 920-831-4387, [jerrett@fvtc.edu](mailto:jerrett@fvtc.edu)

**Wausau:** Victoria Pietz, Northcentral Technical College, 715-803-1414, [pietz@ntc.edu](mailto:pietz@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.

Sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Farm and Industry Short Course, both within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; and by American Transmission Co., Culver's Restaurants, Faith Technologies, Family Dairies USA, Organic Valley, We Energies, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Assoc., Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, and Wisconsin Farmers Union; with additional support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative and NIFA Beginning Farmer/Rancher Development Program, 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](http://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 either on the [Madison campus](#) or at any one of our [distance education sites](#), download application materials from [www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html](http://www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html) under the “How to Apply” link or request an application packet by calling 608-265-6437. Details for where to send your completed application are online.

By enrolling in the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course\* (see info below), you will receive credit for the Madison seminar. To be considered for scholarships, submit your application by April 1; late applicants may be accepted as space and funds are available.

For the [distance education](#) option (see list of sites included in this brochure), apply to the location you wish to attend by November 1. Email or call the site facilitator for course information and fees. If you would like to take the class for credit, please discuss options with your site facilitator. Internships and scholarships may also be available at distance education sites as well.

\*To learn more about the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC), call 608-263-3918 or visit their website <http://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/>



## 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
- **WSBDF is an approved vendor of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Beginning Farmer Loan Program for new borrower business training**
- **WSBDF is part of the core curriculum for the GrassWorks Inc. Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA), a new guided pathway to independent dairy farm ownership**
- 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

## 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.

## Internships

Student interns usually live on the farm as they work side by side with experienced mentor farmers. Through the WSBDF, 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.

## 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.