

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems

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To: Candidates considering application to the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

From: Richard Cates, Director

Application deadline for full scholarship consideration: April 1

Applications will be accepted after April 1, but scholarship consideration cannot be guaranteed. No applications will be accepted after October 1.

We are seeking individuals who have a strong desire to start a grass-based dairy business. The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers (WSBDF) is a one-of-a-kind school in the Upper Midwest that offers:

- Pasture-based Dairy and Livestock Seminar, November – March, on the UW-Madison campus. [Note: The seminar is also offered at other sites in WI through distance education (DE), but scholarships are not available for this enrollment option. You still need to complete this application package for the DE option, but you will send it to the facilitator of the site you wish to attend. Please feel free to contact us and let us know you are interested in DE enrollment, and we'll connect you with the correct facilitator].
- Attendance at the Wisconsin Grazing Conference and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Conference.
- Farm and Industry Short Course program, November – March, UW-Madison campus.
- Two- to six-month internships on grass-based Wisconsin dairy or livestock farms.
- On-farm workshops
- The opportunity to develop lifelong relationships with mentor farmers, UW faculty, and peers who share the same goal to begin farming.

You may choose to enroll in any of the above alone, or in combination. However for full scholarship consideration, and the opportunity to earn a Certificate of Graduation from the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers, candidates must complete the entire program.

Please feel free to contact us directly at 608 265-6437 (UW), 608 588-2836 (Home office), nalber@wisc.edu (Nadia Alber) or rlcates@facstaff.wisc.edu (Richard Cates) with any questions you may have about the WSBDF or this application.

- 4) What kinds of knowledge and skills related to your ten-year goals do you hope to gain by attending the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers?
- 5) The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers includes:
- University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course curriculum
 - The Pasture-based Dairy and Livestock Seminar, November through March
 - **Two- to six-month internship on several pasture-based Wisconsin dairy or livestock farms.**
 - Attendance at the Wisconsin Grazing Conference and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Conference
 - Mentoring and networking opportunities

You may be eligible to be considered for a scholarship award to be used as you choose during the winter course work and/or during the internship portion of the WSBDF program. However, you must agree to successfully complete all coursework and the internship, to be considered for any scholarship awards, and to graduate and receive a diploma from the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers.

Please indicate here that you have read the application thoroughly, and that you understand the opportunities the WSBDF offers as well as the obligations that accompany a scholarship award. .

Your signature:

- 6) How did you hear about the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers?

Emphasizing management intensive grazing and dairy farm business start up

Sponsored by the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, and the Farm and Industry Short Course in cooperation with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program-Education Grants and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wisconsin, GrassWorks, Inc., Cooperative Extension, UW-Extension, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Farm Link Service.