



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 24, 2009

**Wisconsin Dairy Sheep School to Launch in March at Spooner Agricultural Research Station**

MADISON, Wis. – With Wisconsin leading the nation with the number of dairy sheep farms and overall sheep milk production, the Dairy Business Innovation Center, the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension have teamed up to host the first Wisconsin Dairy Sheep School in March 2010.

While Wisconsin produced more than 1 million pounds of sheep milk in 2009, the demand for sheep milk still outpaces supply. The new Dairy Sheep School will be offered to train new producers in an effort to increase the supply of quality sheep milk.

The five-day course will be held March 6-10 at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station in northern Wisconsin. The course will feature lectures on topics such as weaning and artificial rearing of lambs, mastitis and milk quality, parlor design and milking machine function, ewe nutrition, and milk handling regulations. Speakers will include:

- Dr. Pamela Ruegg, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Dr. Doug Reinemann, University of Wisconsin- Madison
- Dr. Bob Leder, United Veterinary Services
- Tom Kieffer, Dream Valley Farm
- Larry Meisegeier, Wisconsin Sheep Dairy Cooperative
- Brenda Jensen, Hidden Springs Creamery

In addition, the five-day course will provide hands-on experience in the milking parlor and caring for young lambs, reinforcing information provided in daily lectures.

The Spooner Agricultural Research Station remains the only dairy sheep research facility in North America and this will be the first course of its kind held in the United States. As space in the milking parlor and barn are limited, course enrollment will be capped at 14 students. Enrollment preference will be given to Wisconsin residents and those interested in commercial dairy sheep production.

For a course brochure and application, visit the DBIC website at [http://www.dbicusa.org/sheeps\\_milk.php](http://www.dbicusa.org/sheeps_milk.php). For more information about the Dairy Sheep School, contact Claire Mikolayunas, DBIC Dairy Sheep Specialist, at 608-332-2889 or email [clairemikolay@gmail.com](mailto:clairemikolay@gmail.com).

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*The Dairy Business Innovation Center offers technical assistance to dairy producers and processors in developing value-added dairy products, business planning and market development. For more information, visit [www.dbicusa.org](http://www.dbicusa.org) or contact Jeanne Carpenter, 608-358-7837.*