

Newsletter Highlights

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ASABE WISCONSIN SECTION

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Section of
the American Society of Agricultural
Engineers



*The Society for engineering
in agricultural, food, and
biological systems*

www.wiasabe.org

July 2009

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WISCONSIN SECTION MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND 2009 FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

The ASABE Wisconsin Section meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd in conjunction with the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is the state's largest outdoor agricultural show, with a history dating back to 1954. The annual three-day event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture, including practical applications of recent research findings and technological developments. This year's show is being hosted by Crave Brothers Farms, a 750 cow dairy farm that features an anaerobic digestion system and their own cheese production facility - Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese. The show will run from July 21-23.

At 4:00pm, there will be a picnic in conjunction with WALSA. The picnic will be held at Northcrest Dairy and will include brats, burgers, salads, dessert, and beverages. No business meeting is planned. Instead, you are invited to join in a friendly game of Sheepshead or Euchre.

Schedule of Events/Information

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days:

Crave Brothers Farms, W11555 Torpy Rd, Waterloo, WI 53594

www.wifarmtechnologydays.com

Farm Show:	Tuesday/Wednesday – 9:00am – 5:00pm
	Thursday – 9:00am – 4:00pm

Admission is \$5/person (12 & under free). Parking is free.

The following is a portion of the press release from the Crave Cheese website (www.cravecheese.com):

The Crave Brothers Dairy Farm and its cheesemaking enterprise, Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, have a sophisticated, computer-controlled anaerobic digestion system that generates electricity -- enough to run their rural Wisconsin farm and cheese plant *and* power up to 120 homes - that runs on organic waste from their 750 pampered and productive Holsteins.

Now, even city folks know that on a dairy farm, "organic waste" means "manure." The Craves, already known as agri-business innovators, are industry leaders in using this technology to transform the manure from their herd into a dependable, renewable source of clean and sustainable energy. When the Crave Brothers system was installed in 2007, it was one of only a handful in Wisconsin.

"Our family has a history of working in harmony with the land to produce quality milk and cheeses," said George Crave. He and his family are partners with his brothers, Charles, Thomas and Mark, and their families. George, a licensed cheesemaker, explains: "We want to build our business for future generations of our family, and we are committed to doing that in a way that respects the earth."

On 1700 acres of rich, rolling land an hour west of Milwaukee, the Craves grow soybeans, corn and alfalfa to use as nutritious feed for the herd. Each cow produces about 28,000 pounds of milk per year (about 3300 gallons).

The fresh milk is piped from the dairy across the road to the 6,000-square-foot cheese plant, where cheesemakers use a combination of modern-day equipment and Old World techniques to craft the award-winning Crave Brothers Farmstead Classic Cheeses. These include Mascarpone, Fresh Mozzarella, and their own creations, a European-style cheese called "Les Frères" ((French for "the brothers"), a parchment-wrapped 2 ½-lb. wheel), and Petit Frère (French for "little brother"), an 8-oz. wheel of Les Frères, packed in a wooden box.

But, as on all dairy farms, along with the milk produced by the herd, there's also manure, a byproduct that's unavoidable and often hard to dispose of. The Craves plan to expand their businesses in the future, so there will be even more "organic waste" in years to come. That's where the anaerobic digester comes in. It is owned and installed by Clear Horizons, a firm that specializes in organic waste management solutions and biogas energy systems, and is computer-controlled over the Internet from the company's office in Milwaukee.

The digester helps manage the farm's manure, provides clean, renewable energy for the farm, and produces excess electricity, which Clear Horizons sells on the electrical grid. What's more, the digester reduces odor from the manure, and provides some saleable byproducts. The Craves

use the liquid byproduct as fertilizer on their fields. Solid byproducts are used as animal bedding, and in a line of organic potting mixes.

For the Crave family, the decision to use the anaerobic digester grew out of their usual consideration of what is best for the environment, the consumer and the cows. For them, a commitment to go green is a natural way of doing business.

WALSAA Picnic / Sheepshead-Euchre Tournament

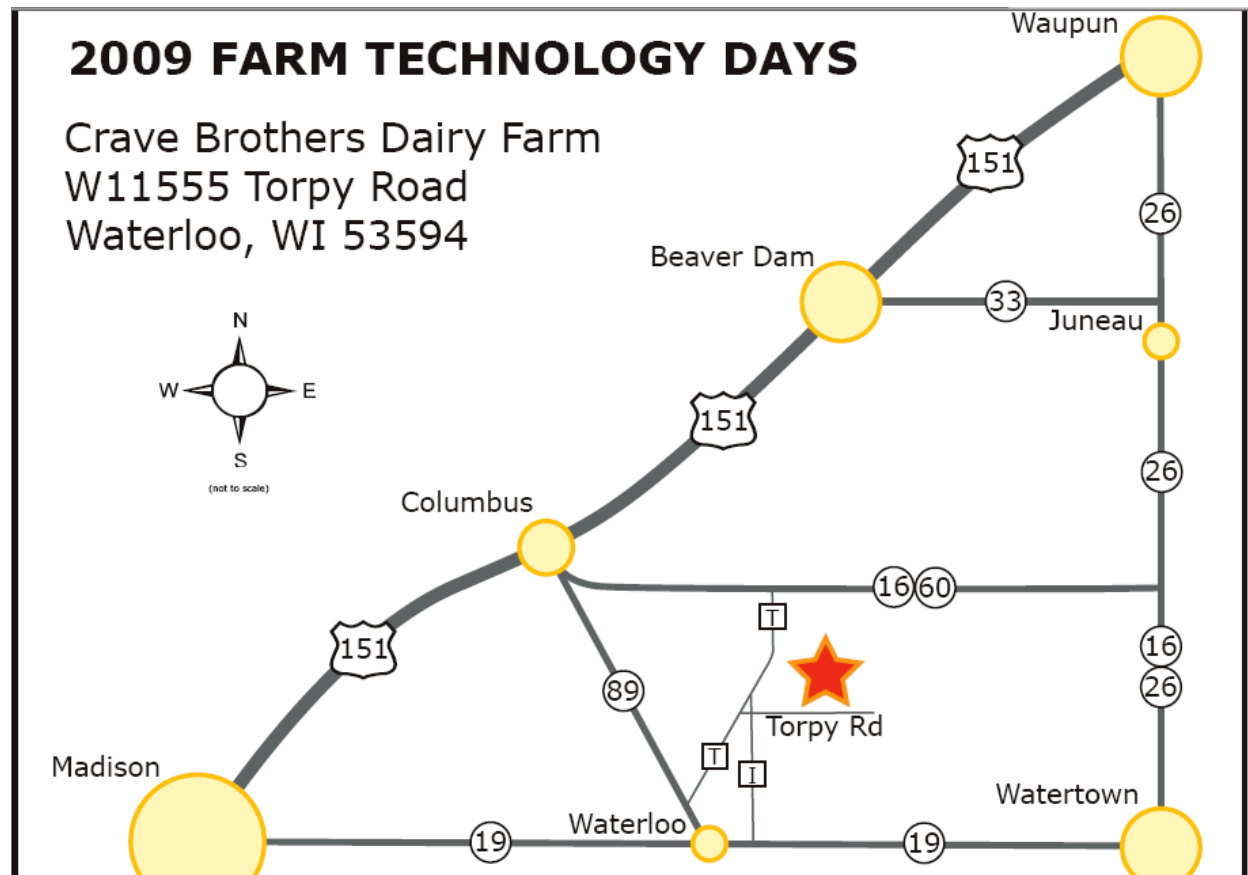
Northcrest Dairy, W11673 Ridge Rd, Waterloo, WI 53594

The hosts for the picnic are Bob and Chris Topel and Jeff and Jenny Spoke.

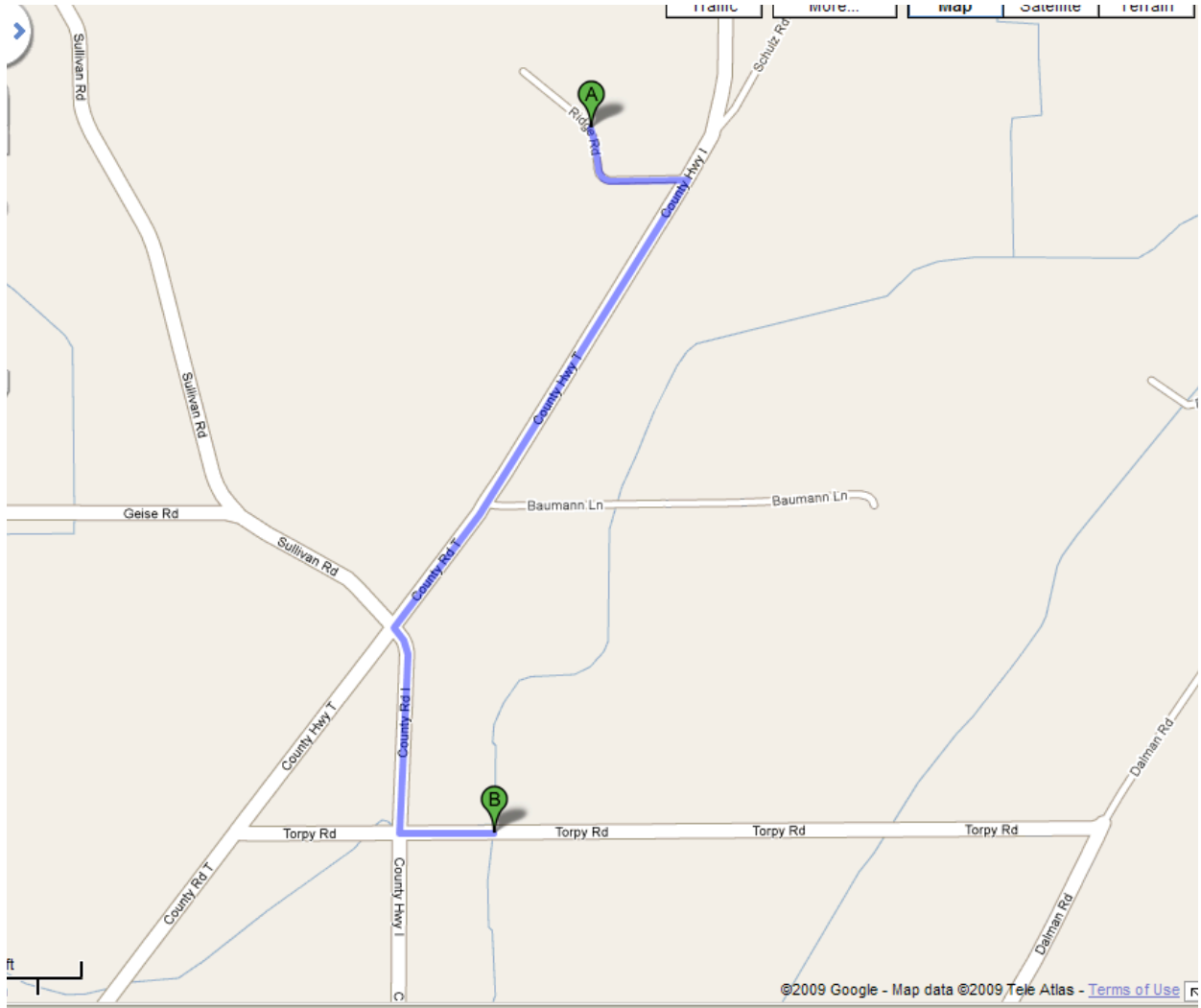
Social time/Dinner: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Sheepshead/Euchre: 5:00 pm - ??

Directions to Farm Technology Days



Directions to WALSAA Picnic



Secretary's Report

30 June 2009

The June 10th ASABE Wisconsin Section meeting was held in conjunction with the Farm Progress Hay Expo at Trinity Farms near Hixton, WI.

Following the show members and guests toured Mathews Inc. in Sparta, Wisconsin. During the tour members were able to see several of the processes used by Mathews for producing what many consider to be the best archery products in the industry.

Following the tour a business meeting and dinner were held at Jake's Northwoods.

1. The business meeting was called to order at 5:22 PM by Neal Stoffel.

2. 18 people attended the meeting.

3. The following officers reported:

- **Vice Chair of Program – Damion Babler reported that the next meeting will be held in conjunction with Farm Tech Days in Waterloo, WI. The idea of a card party to be held at the WALSAA picnic is being considered.**

- **Secretary and Treasurer – Jeff Marggi reported that as of June 10th, 2009, the Wisconsin Section had a balance of \$7634.14.**

4. New Business – It was reported that 13 new members joined the Wisconsin Section. Half of these are students from either the University of Wisconsin – Madison or the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

5. Naomi Uhlenhake will be attending the ASABE 2009 – Annual International Meeting, in Reno, Nevada.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey M. Marggi
ASABE Wisconsin Section Secretary 2009-2010

Treasurer's Report

30 June 2009

Opening Balance**\$7,765.31****Revenue:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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Expenses:

<u>Date</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
05/13/2009	JB's Italian Grill	Officer's Meeting		\$131.17
06/10/2009	Jake's North Woods	June 10 th Meeting		\$305.74

*Check is outstanding (has not posted on our account).

Total: \$436.91**Closing Balance****\$7,328.40**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey M. Marggi
ASABE Wisconsin Section Treasurer 2009-2010

REGISTRATION
WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS
July 22nd, 2009

	Number Attending	Cost	Total
WALSAA Picnic/meal – 4:00 pm	_____	\$10.00/person students free	\$ _____

Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ FAX: (____) _____ - _____

e-mail: _____

Return completed form and send by **July 15th** to:

Damion Babler

ASABE Wisconsin Section Program Chair

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