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Contact: Roger Palmer, 608-265-8957, [rwpalmer@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:rwpalmer@facstaff.wisc.edu)

### Modernization guide to preparing dairies for the new millennium

A new Dairy Modernization Planning Guide from University of Wisconsin-Extension explains the options available to producers considering modernizing their dairy. The guide is a valuable resource for producers, lenders and other field support people seeking to better understand dairy modernization.

While many think dairy modernization means expansion to large-scale operations, UW-Extension agriculture agents and specialists are taking a new approach to modernization. UW-Extension programming in dairy production and marketing is designed for farms of all sizes and includes a wide spectrum of efforts to strengthen Wisconsin's dairy industry.

Roger W. Palmer, University of Wisconsin-Madison associate professor of dairy science and Extension dairy systems management specialist, is the planning guide's author.

"I would like to see the guide used as a vehicle for existing producers to consider the option of modernization," Palmer said. "It can help producers determine if modernization would help their dairy become viable over the long-term."

"Using the guide in the planning process will get producers thinking about their options, what they would need to consider if they modernize their facilities. If any of the options fit their situation, this guide will give them a good starting point for making informed decisions."

The 72-page, full color guide provides comprehensive information on a full range of dairy management issues, including evaluating an operation, strategy development, business and facility planning, animal handling and housing, freestall barn and bedding options, site selection and milking centers. Also covered in the guide are feeding the dairy herd, manure handling, animal acquisition, heifer raising, labor requirements and scheduling, labor management, record keeping, contracting for services, and finally, fitting all the pieces together.

To order a copy of the Dairy Modernization Planning Guide, contact the Midwest Plan Service (MWPS) at 800-562-3618, or by email at [mwps@iastate.edu](mailto:mwps@iastate.edu). You may also visit the MWPS web site at [www.mwpshq.org](http://www.mwpshq.org) or send requests to Midwest Plan Service, Iowa State University, 122 Davidson Hall, Ames, Iowa 50011-3080. When ordering, be sure to specify the "Dairy Modernization Planning Guide."

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