

For Immediate Release:

Three Aquaculture Workshops Being Offered This Summer

Farm Pond Management Workshop August 13, 2011- Merrill, WI
Beginning Aquaculture Workshop August 27, 2011 – Baldwin, WI
Beginning Aquaculture Workshop September 17, 2011 – Juneau, WI

The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (UWSP NADF), the University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) and the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association (WAA) are sponsoring three Aquaculture Workshops. All workshops will be held on a Saturday with the first, on Farm Pond Management, to be held at the Cadwallader farm near Merrill on August 13, 2011. The Beginning Aquaculture Workshops will start on August 27, 2011 at the Future Farm Aquaponics facility at Baldwin and the second one will be held September 17, 2011 at Woods and Water Enterprises at Juneau.

The Farm Pond Management Workshop is being held on retired UW-Extension Agriculture Agent Tom Cadwallader's farm and is designed for farmers who have ponds and are looking for information on how to better manage them for recreation, enhance wildlife or for fish production. Wisconsin has over 2000 farms with registered ponds. Workshop topics include: Management strategies to control nutrients and weeds, Pond design, Plant and fish production, How to maintain good oxygen levels, Rules and regulations for farm ponds, and an open discussion on pond problems farmers are facing, and farmers will receive information sheets on the presentations. If you are having trouble with your farm pond or just want to manage it better, this is the workshop to attend.

The Beginning Aquaculture Workshops will begin with morning presentations and include sessions on: Wisconsin Aquaculture, Starting a fish farm, Economics/Business planning, and Rules & regulations. Participants will receive packets of information and a CD containing economic worksheets. Each Beginning Aquaculture Workshop will also be sponsored by the host fish farm. Lunch will be provided at all workshops and in the afternoon there will be a tour of the sponsoring farm, giving participants the opportunity to see firsthand how a fish farm operates and the ability to ask questions of the owners about their operation.

The workshops will be conducted by Wisconsin's two Aquaculture Specialists; Jim Held, and Ron Johnson. All three workshops will incorporate farms that specialize in farm pond management (Merrill), aquaponics (Baldwin) and commercial pond culture (Juneau) and are part of an ongoing series. Wisconsin's \$14 Million aquaculture industry comprising 125 business fish farms is very diverse, consisting of farms raising fish for food, stocking, bait and recreational fee fishing.

Who should attend: Anyone with a farm pond and who wants information on how to manage it better, or anyone with an interest in fish and who would like to find out what fish farming entails. Emphasis will be placed on providing information that will help participants make informed decisions on pond management and the business of aquaculture.

Cost: The registration for the all day workshop is \$35.00 per person and includes breaks, lunch, tour of the hosting fish farm, handout materials and a one year complimentary Associate Membership with WAA. Online registration and brochure found at www.WisconsinAquaculture.com

Locations: August 13, Tom Cadwallader Farm, Merrill; August 27, Future Farm, Baldwin; and September 17, Woods & Waters Enterprises, Juneau.

Contacts: For registration information contact Cindy Johnson, Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, 715-373-2990 or email Cindy@WisconsinAquaculture.com . For workshop information contact Ron Johnson, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist at 715-779-3189.