HELP for FARMERS

Wisconsin Farm Center
(800) 942-2474 (Madison)
http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Wisconsin_Farm_Center/index.aspx
Provides resources for dairy herd health, free financial and business counseling for farmers, and mediation and arbitration to help resolve farming-related disputes. On the website, click on Farm Transfers for its Farm Link program, which links farmers looking to retire with beginning farmers or farmers wanting to relocate, to find a match that fits and provide support through the farm transfer process.

Harvest of Hope Fund
(608) 836-4633 (please leave a message)
www.madisonchristiancommunity.org
Harvest of Hope is a faith-based program that provides gifts of up to $1,000 to eligible farm families of any faith who need financial assistance to address a range of immediate problems: drought, floods, frost, power cut-offs, medical or veterinary bills, house or barn fires, machinery repairs, spring planting expenses, or to put food on the table or fuel in the tank.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
(800) 334-6873 (Madison)
www.wheda.com, or email info@wheda.com
Provides guarantees on loans for eligible farmers, including:
* Credit Relief Outreach Program (CROP)—For fertilizer, seed, fuel, land rent, animal feed, equipment rental or repair, and pesticides and herbicides.
* Farm Asset Reinvestment Management (FARM)—For agricultural expansion and modernization of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, and livestock.
* Drought relief

Marathon County Farm Service Agency (FSA)
(715) 848-2330
www.fsa.usda.gov/wi
Offers agricultural credit to farmers, including:
* Emergency Loans—For farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in areas declared as federal disaster areas or quarantine areas.
* Farm Ownership Loans—To purchase farm real estate, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings, and/or improve structures, and to improve the environmental soundness of the farm.
* Farm Operating Loans—For normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, livestock, real estate repairs, and refinancing debt.
* Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)—Financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.
* Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)—Emergency funding and technical assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Farmers’ Health Cooperative of Wisconsin
(800) 539-9370 (Madison)
http://www.farmershealthcooperative.com/
A cooperative service for farmers and others in agribusiness that offers its members health and dental insurance coverage, prescription drug coverage, an accident benefit plan, and a vision plan. (Administrative fee and insurance premiums apply.)

U. W.-Extension, Marathon County
(715) 261-1230 or (800) 236-0153
http://marathon.uwex.edu/
County Agents offer programs in:
* Farm succession planning
* Reproduction efficiency
* Cover crops and no-till education
* Dairy revitalization
* Low-cost dairy facilities modernization
* Milk quality improvement
* Conservation Program support
* Farm business management

U.W.-Extension also hosts these websites:
* Farming Through Difficult Times
  http://fyi.uwex.edu/farmfinances
  Website provide the latest news and research-based educational information to help farmers manage through difficult financial times.
* Farmer to Farmer Exchange
  http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu
  Website puts Wisconsin farmers in touch with one another for the purpose of buying and/or selling corn and forage.

BadgerCare Plus
Marathon County Department of Social Services
(888) 445-1621 Income Maintenance Call Center
https://Access.wisconsin.gov
State/Federal program provides health coverage to income-eligible families and individuals.

Health Insurance Marketplace
(800) 318-2596
www.healthcare.gov
Provides information about health insurance options for individuals & families, as well as small businesses, through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Certified Application Counselors
Counselors can assist with enrollment on the Health Insurance Marketplace at these locations:
* Bridge Community Health Clinic: (715) 261-2137
* Aspirus: (715) 847-2121 Ext 72304
* Marshfield Clinic: (800) 847-0016 Ext 7-3904
* Ministry Saint Claire’s Hospital: (715) 393-3094

Compiled by:
United Way of Marathon County
Rural Health Initiative  
(715) 650-1027  
www.wiruralhealth.org  
A non-profit, community-supported program focused on improving and sustaining the health & safety of farm families, including agricultural producers and hired staff. Free in-home preventative health screenings, education and information.

National Farm Medicine Center  
(800) 662-6900  
http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/  
Conducts environmental research, disease and injury prevention, cancer control, and education services aimed at improving the health of those involved in agricultural work and rural life.

Easter Seals FARM Program  
(800) 422-2324 ext. 106 (Madison)  
http://farm.eastersealswisconsin.com  
Helps farm families return to farming after a disabling injury or illness, by providing on-site rehabilitation assessments and recommendations. Also provides information on equipment, worksite modifications, community and health care options, and job restructuring; and referrals to funding sources.

Hazardous and Special Waste Collection Program  
(715) 446-3101 (to schedule an appointment)  
Disposal site for agriculture-related chemicals, which may qualify for a rebate through the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection’s Hazardous Waste Program. Please call ahead to pre-register.

COUNSELING FOR FARMERS:  
Crisis Line  
(715) 845-4326 or (800) 799-0122  
Hotline offers telephone crisis counseling and intervention 24 hrs./day to individuals in Marathon Co. It also provides information and referral to other services when appropriate.

Sowing the Seeds of Hope Counseling Program  
(800) 942-2474 (Madison)  
This program makes cost-free, confidential behavioral health counseling available to Wisconsin farm families and farm workers. Farmers who apply will get the names and telephone numbers of participating mental health providers in their area, along with 3-5 vouchers. Each voucher can be converted to one hour of counseling service at the participating provider of their choice. (Vouchers must be used within 90 days.)

Visions Counseling  
(715) 551-1970  
A local counseling agency with a counselor that specializes in farmers’ issues, with reduced fees.

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Give Help
When you want to help others, United Way’s 2-1-1 can link you with the opportunity that suits you best.  
Want to volunteer to serve a meal, support grieving families, help out in a disaster?  
Want to donate to a program that helps abused children or homeless families?  
Want to Give Help?  Call 2-1-1 or Search Online at www.unitedwaymc.org  
➢ Click Volunteer, then Volunteer Now  
➢ Find A Volunteer Opportunity that matches your interests, skills, and schedule

Get Help
When you need information about community services, or are looking for help with a personal or family matter, United Way’s 2-1-1 will answer your questions about what’s available, who to contact for the details you want, and how to take the next step toward solving your problems or meeting your needs.  
Need Help? Call 2-1-1 or Search Online at www.unitedwaymc.org/211.htm  
➢ Click Search Database to search the 2-1-1 database of Community Services

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