



## Can You Say Expansion?

By Scott A. Mackintosh

What a fantastic time it is to be a member of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. Members can participate in a great field day, a top shelf winter conference and enjoy a first class facility which supports pertinent turfgrass research.

As we all know, the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility was opened for business in August 1991. The maintenance area consisted of a turf truck, a couple of John Deere mowers and a handful of research experiments. Today the Facility supports over 35 research experiments and has a maintenance area packed full of turf equipment. After this year's fall harvest, the Facility will expand by over 20 acres! Not only will the Facility expand in acreage but it will also expand its administrative role within the WTA.

What am I talking about? In April, the board members of the WTA provided funding for a part-time Program Assistant at the Facility. The primary responsibilities of the Program Assistant are to help run the Association and help make the Facility the central focus for the WTA.



Audra Anderson

The Program Assistant position was filled by Audra Anderson on May 9, 1994. Like many of the employees in the turfgrass industry, Audra grew up on a dairy farm helping her parents farm 150 acres and milk 45 Holsteins in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. For the past six years Audra, her husband Scott and four-year old daughter Amanda, farm 140 acres and milk 50 Holsteins just outside of Madison. In

addition to her responsibilities at the O.J. Noer Facility and farming, Audra is also a Customer Service Specialist for The Pleasant Company in the evenings.

She will be the first to admit she doesn't know anyone in the WTA, but has been impressed with Association for some time now. Since Audra lives close to the Facility she was able to watch it being constructed. Now actually working in the Facility and observing how it operates, she knows first hand just how dedicated and hard working the WTA is in supporting turfgrass research in Wisconsin. As an added benefit with her position, she hopes to learn a lot about different types of grasses and weeds that in turn may help her and her husband grow better alfalfa, corn and oats.

Audra is looking forward to meeting and working with the members of the WTA. Currently, she is busy preparing the mailing list for the upcoming Field Day and Winter Expo-95. For information about turfgrass research and administrative information such as membership dues, upcoming WTA events and registration, call (608) 845-6536. 🌿

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