

# Cartoonist returning to World Dairy Expo

By Jim Massey  
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Nationally syndicated cartoonist Leigh Rubin will be back at the World Dairy Expo in 2015.

Rubin's syndicated "Rubes" cartoons appear weekly in more than 400 newspapers and media outlets worldwide, including The Country Today.

Rubin will have an exhibit in the south foyer of the Alliant Energy Exhibition Hall. He will also discuss his work and demonstrate live cartooning during a pair of presentations, Sept. 30 at the Central Library in Madison and Oct. 1 at the Verona Public Library. Both presentations will be at 7 p.m.

Rubin will be joined at both presentations by Wisconsin State Journal editorial cartoonist Phil Hands.

World Dairy Expo visitors are also encouraged to stop

For more information, contact Leigh Rubin at 805-478-1174, rubes2@earthlink.net, or www.rubescartoons.com.

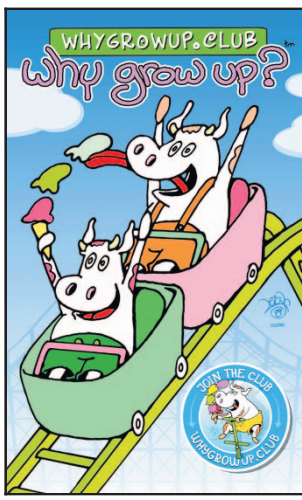
by The Country Today booth to sign up for a daily drawing featuring Rubes' "Wild Life of Cows" books, "Zoo in a Box" calendars and magnets.

Visitors to Rubin's booth will also have an opportunity to sign up for his new "Why Grow Up?" club. The whimsical idea uses cows in the promotional artwork and on the stickers that will be distributed to club members.

"The whole philosophy of the club is you're never too old to be young," Rubin said.

People who stop by the booth will be able to "take the pledge" and join the club.

The pledge is as follows: "I solemnly swear to smile readily, to laugh easily and



Submitted artwork

Rubin uses cows in the artwork to promote the "Why Grow Up" club he has created.

not to take life so very seriously."

Rubin began his cartooning career in 1978 by establishing his own greeting card company, Rubes Publications. His first cartoon col-

lection, the popular Notable Quotes musical cartoons, was published in 1981.

Originally self-syndicated, Rubes is now distributed by Creators Syndicate. Rubes appears in major metropolitan newspapers such as the Los Angeles Daily News, the Toronto Sun, the Oregonian, The Washington Times, the Sacramento Bee, The Orange County Register, and the Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle.

Books, calendars, T-shirts and other Rubes items will be available for sale and signing at the Expo booth and the library.

He said his work generally pokes fun at "the absurdity of everyday situations and human nature."

Rubin lives in Nipomo, Calif., with his wife, Teresa, and their three sons, Jeremy, Ryan and Andrew.

Hands is the only cartoonist on the staff of a newspaper in Wisconsin.

He is a fierce political moderate, and his cartoons attack the extremists on both the left and the right. He said he learned long ago that no political party has a monopoly on bad ideas.

His cartoons have appeared in publications like USA Today, Newsweek, Time and The Washington Post. While many of his cartoons tackle national issues, they are generally crafted specifically for his audience in Wisconsin.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1980, Hands grew up in the Detroit area, and his experience with that dysfunctional town has shaped his political philosophy. He remains conscious of the caustic politics of race, sympathetic to the plight of the urban poor, and skeptical of big government theories that helped destroy his hometown.

Hands lives in Madison with his wife, Tricia, and their children, Owen and Claire.

## If you go

**What:** Cartoonists' appearances at Dane County libraries.

**When:** 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 30, and Thursday, Oct. 1.

**Where:** Madison Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin St. on Sept. 30; Verona Public Library, 500 Silent St., on Oct. 1.

**Details:** Cartoonists Leigh Rubin and Phil Hands will discuss their work and show how the twisted minds of two very different cartoonists work.

**Information:** Madison Public Library at 608-266-6363 or visit www.madisonpubliclibrary.org; Verona Public Library at 608-845-7180, ext. 127, or tlorandos@scls.lib.wi.us.

## New tech digester plans start-up by WDE

Majestic Meadows Dairy of Sheboygan Falls and Digested Organics of Ann Arbor, Mich., hope to have a new design of manure digester operational on the Sheboygan County farm in time for World Dairy Expo.

The Integrated Manure Management System will process 20,000 gallons of manure per day, harvest energy through biogas generation, concentrate nutrients for targeted crop use and reclaim clean water for farm use and surface water discharge.

Unlike most other available digester systems, the IMMS does not use polymers or chemical flocculants to remove solids from manure, the company says. It relies on a patented ultrafiltration system that can remove more than 99 per-

cent of the suspended solids and phosphorus. The concentrated nutrients can be dried or pelletized for easy storage or transport out of the watershed.

The system is described as fully integrated and scalable, combining high efficiency/low residence time anaerobic digestion with an ultra-filtration and reverse osmosis system that concentrates nutrients into 30 percent of the original manure volume while recovering about 70 percent of the original volume as drinkable clean water.

"We have been looking at manure treatment systems for years, but we just couldn't get comfortable with either the technology or the costs involved," said Dean Strauss, managing partner and co-owner of Ma-

jestic Meadows Dairy.

He said the Digested Organics system fits the farm's needs by concentrating key nutrients into less volume at a competitive operating cost.

"That means getting trucks off the road and reduced hauling costs," Strauss said. "We also like the fact that it's highly automated, has a small footprint and is environmentally sustainable; something that is important to us and to our community."

A free shuttle will leave at 9 a.m. each day of the Expo from the Sheraton Madison Hotel and arrives at the farm for a 11:15 a.m. tour of Majestic Meadows Dairy, N5854 Meadowlark Road, Sheboygan Falls. For more information, go to www.digestedorganics.com or call Robert Levine at 844-934-4378.

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