

CROP NOTES for Jan. 12, 2009

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan.-Mar., Beginners Bee Keeping Course, Various Locations in Iowa

The Iowa Honey Producers Association will conduct courses in several locations across Iowa to help those interested in starting beekeeping:

- 1) Winterset Library, Jan. 26 – Mar. 5 with no class on Feb. 26. Instructor: Pat Randol. Contact Pat, 515-210-7445.
- 2) Ankeny, DMACC Campus, Jan. 29 & following 6 weeks. Instructor: John Johnson. Contact Lois Kiester, DMACC, 515-964-6685.
- 3) Marshalltown, classes Feb. 5 & following 6 weeks. Instructors: Phil Ebert & Margaret Hala. Contact Jean Brownlie, 800-284-4823.
- 4) Washington, Kirkwood Center, classes expected to start mid- to late Feb. for four weeks. Instructor: Ron Wehr. Contact Ron, 319-698-7542.
- 5) Spencer, classes begin in March. Contact Larry or Marlene Boernsen, 712-735-4205.
- 6) Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center, classes start Jan. 22 with 8 sessions. Contact the Center, 319-362-0664.
- 7) Knoxville Library, classes Jan. 6 – Mar. 3. Instructor: Craig Greene. Contact Craig, 641-842-2112.

8) Indianola Library, classes Jan. 6 – Mar. 3. Instructor: Mike Wyatt. Contact Mike, 515-961-0357.

To enroll, call the contact for the course in their area. Early enrollment is important so courses can meet minimum enrollment. Fees will vary by location and are expected to range from \$30 to \$60. For more information, go to: www.abuzzaboutbees.com or contact Andrew Joseph, State Apiarist, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship at (515) 725-1481 or andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Jan. 5-29, Crop Advantage Conference, 13 Locations Across Iowa

Waterloo location on Jan. 28. Crop Advantage Conference provides practical usable information that you can apply to your operation, the latest research conducted by ISU and other institutions, and topics localized to your region of Iowa. Corn and soybean management, soil fertility, conservation tillage, grain marketing decisions, insects and weeds are just a few of the many topics presented at these meetings. For locations and brochures specific to those locations go to:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas/homepage.html>

Jan. - Feb., Annual Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops, various County Extension Offices

ISU Extension will be offering 2-hour workshops in Jan. & Feb. for confinement site manure applicators and anyone else interesting in learning about manure application.

For the News Release go to:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/dec/161405.htm>

Program brochure is at:

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/2009ConfineSP277.pdf>

Jan. 14, Strategies for Marketing Crop Margins, Manchester.

Program at Delaware County Extension Office from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Craig Chase, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist will discuss planning and management strategies for maintaining crop profitability. For more information and registration call the Delaware County Extension office at 319-882-4275.

Jan. 20-Feb. 12, Dairy Days, Various Location in NE Iowa.

Program: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Agenda: 1) Using Genomics-What will change in building your Genetic Base. Genomics will be part of the Jan. Sire Summaries. How will that affect your sire selection. 2) Positioning your feeding program when feed prices or milk prices are volatile. 3) Shrink, the hidden feed cost. Where are we losing feed, how much do we lose and what is it costing the dairy. 4) Your labor management force-best management practices. How to get more from your labor team. 5) Health issues in today's dairy herds, producer panel (only Calmar location). Optimum milk, low SCC and profits all in one package.

Jan. 20, Legion Hall, Ryan.

Jan. 21, Dubuque County Fairgrounds, Dubuque.

Feb. 10, KC Hall, Elma.

Feb. 11, NE Iowa Dairy Foundation, Calmar.

Feb. 12, Civic Center, Waverly.

Dairy Days speakers include: Lee Kilmer, ISU Extension State Dairy Specialist; Dale Thoreson & Larry Tranel, ISU Extension Dairy Field Specialists; Robert Tigner, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist; and local veterinarians. Cost is \$10 per person. Vouchers are available from some local vets or agribusiness. For more information call: Dale Thoreson at 319-267-2707.

Jan. 22, Beef Cow Ration Workshop, Vinton.

9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Benton County Extension office. These are computer workshops for cattlemen interested in building their own rations. Participants will have the opportunity to develop several rations for their cow herd, determine if they meet the National Research Council standards, and evaluate the costs of their rations. The morning will be on the cow herd ration balancing, and the afternoon on feedlot ration balancing. Registration is required by Jan. 21. Call the Benton County Extension office at 319-472-4739.

Jan. 27, Beef Cattle Marketing, Keystone.

10:00 am to 2:30 pm at Turner Hall, 91 2nd Ave., Keyston. The program will look at the look at basic risk management using futures, options and insurance programs to market beef. It will include a panel of cattle producers sharing how they manage risk and marketing. For registration and questions on the meeting, please contact the Benton County Extension Office at 319-472-4739.

Jan. 27, Commercial Pesticide Applicator Test Help Sessions, Marion, Linn County.

Starts at 9:00 am. A session to help prepare individuals for the Commercial pesticide applicator examinations will be held in eastern Iowa at the Linn County Extension Office, 3279 7th Ave., Marion. The training offered includes the core manual and categories 1A (Ag Weed), 1B (Ag Insect), 1C (Ag Diseases), 3O, T, & G (Ornamental, Turf & Greenhouse), 4 (Seed Treatment), and 6 (Right-of-Way). The core manual training is from 9:00 am to 10:45 am followed by training on the other categories from 10:45 am to about 1:00 pm. There is a \$25 fee per person at each training session. These training sessions do NOT qualify as continuing instructional courses, they are simply offered to help prepare individuals for the Commercial pesticide applicator examination.

Jan. 28-29, Iowa Pork Congress, Des Moines

For more information, go to: <http://www.iowaporkcongress.org/>

Jan. 29, Tri-State Beef Days, Prairie du Chien & Waukon

Program at Prairie du Chien, 9:30 am registration, 10:00 to 3:00 at the Administrative Bldg.

Program at Waukon, 3:30 pm registration, 4:00 to 9:00 at the NICC Waukon Center.

Agenda: General Sessions: 1) Market Outlook for 2009, John Lawrence, ISU Economist; 2) Show me the Money, Jim Munsch, Beef Producer; 3) Storing Distiller's Grains, Robert Tigner, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist. Cow-cal Breakout Sessions: 1) Genomics and the Future, Brian Kirkpatrick, UW Animal Scientist; 2) The Impact of COOL, John Lawrence, ISU Economist. Feed-Lot Breakout Sessions: 1) New Strategies

for Feeding Cattle, Dan Loy, ISU Extension Beef Specialist; 2) The Value of Feedlot Manure, Dale Thoreson, ISU Extension Livestock Specialist.

Registration: \$25 per person (\$15 per additional person from the farm with advanced registration). Advanced registration is received by January 22. After Jan. 22, registration is \$30 per person. Walk-ins welcome on the day of the event, but the meal may be on your own. Make checks payable to: UW Extension. Send to: Dave Wachter, PO Box 31, Lancaster, WI 53813. For more information call: Dale Thoreson 319-267-2707; Teresa Wiemerslage 563-568-6345; Dave Wachter 608-723-2125; Vance Haugen 608-326-0223.

Feb. 23, North Iowa Strip Till Expo, NIACC, Mason City

10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Muse-Norris Conference Center, NIACC, Mason City.

Registration procedures and program details are incomplete at this time. The program will include speakers including a producer panel and likely static displays of commercial strip till equipment. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Feb. 28, The 38th Annual Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference, Ottumwa

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. The one-day event typically draws more than 500 people and costs just \$10 to enter. No preregistration is required and all participants receive a copy of materials presented at the conference. The conference includes more than a dozen presentations in general and breakout sessions, as well as more than 70 exhibits. For more information go to: www.iowabeefcenter.org

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