

ADAIR COUNTY EXTENSION AG NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 2

August 2011

**Your Ideas Needed:**

It's time to make a list of ideas for 2012 Adair County Fair. Each year fair changes are based on the ideas that are submitted. A special worksheet Compliments & Considerations is available at our website

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/kidsteens.htm>

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## Farm Leasing Meeting - August 23

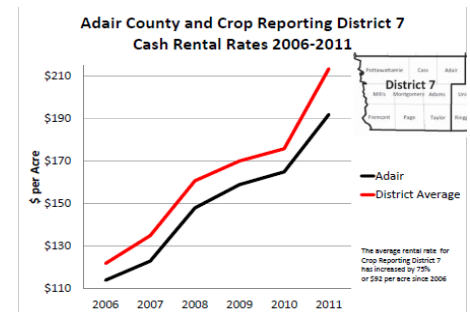
According to the Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2011 Survey, the average cash rental rate in Adair County has increased 68 percent from 2006 to 2011, or \$114 per acre to \$192 per acre. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension conducts the survey and supplies the results annually. Cash rental rates have risen as profitability has increased for corn and soybean farmers. Both landlords and tenants are asking questions about the changes in rental rates.

Adair County Extension will be sponsoring a Farm Leasing Arrangements meeting on Tuesday, August 23 from 1:00 to 2:30 a.m. at

the ISU Extension office, 202 South 1st Street, in Greenfield. Tim Eggers, ISU Extension Field Agricultural Economist, will be the presenter. Eggers will be explaining land value trends, cash rental rate trends, how to calculate a fair cash rental rate, and how property taxes on ag land are determined.

The Farm Leasing Arrangements meeting costs \$5 per person, which includes the 100-page Farm Leasing Arrangement booklet. Pre-registration is requested by August 22. To pre-register, email [powella@iastate.edu](mailto:powella@iastate.edu) or call the Adair County Extension office at 641-743-8412 or toll free at 800-ISUE-399.

Meeting sponsors are: Adair County & Iowa State University Extension; Adair County Corn & Soybean Association; Exchange State Bank; Farmers & Merchants State Bank; First National Bank; First State Bank; Iowa Corn Growers Association; Rolling Hills State Bank and Union State Bank.



## Farm Lease Termination Notices - September 1

September 1 is the deadline for either tenant or landowner to notify the other party of their intent to terminate the lease. Lease agreements begin on March 1st and end on the last day of February. But notice of termination must be done by September 1 according to Iowa

law.

Several forms are available in our office regarding lease agreements - FM 1874 Iowa Cash Rent Lease Form, Cash Rental Rates survey and Notice of Farm Tenancy, free of charge. Downloadable forms are at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wdleasing.html#forms>

Tim Eggers, ISU Field Ag Economist, will hold a Farm Leasing Arrangements meeting at the Adair County Extension, Tuesday, August 23 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

## Greenhorn Grazing Series - August 25 & September 15

The 2011 Greenhorn Grazing series offered in the Corning area has three segments remaining. Organizer Joe Sellers said that while these individual classes will build on the sessions held in May and June, the topics also will be of interest to new participants. Sessions are set for Aug. 25, Sept. 15 and Nov. 15 starting at 10 a.m. each date. Fee is \$15 per person for each session including lunch.

Sellers, an Iowa State University Extension beef program specialist with the Iowa Beef Center, said the August session features presentations on fencing and watering technologies, mineral supplementation and forage quality. A pasture walk

will include display and demonstration of electric fencing and watering options.

“The September session will provide information on a wide variety of areas and a local grazing systems tour,” Sellers said. “Topics include fence laws, pasture leasing, planning for stockpiled grazing, grassland management for wildlife habitat, and weed and brush control.”

August and September sessions begin at St Patrick’s Catholic Church Hall, 607 6th St., in Corning, and conclude with a pasture tour.

The final session on Nov. 15 will cover stockpiled

grazing, cornstalk grazing and winter feeding strategies, and will be held at the Jim and Ann Werner farm near Diagonal, Sellers said.

The Greenhorn Grazing Series is sponsored by ISU Extension, IBC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Southern Iowa Forage and Livestock Committee. For more information about these southwest Iowa Greenhorn Grazing sessions, contact Sellers by phone at 641-203-1270 or by email at [sellers@iastate.edu](mailto:sellers@iastate.edu), or NRCS Grasslands Specialist Rick Sprague by phone at 712-542-8765 or by email at [richard.sprague@ia.usda.gov](mailto:richard.sprague@ia.usda.gov)

## Begin Scouting for Sudden Death Syndrome in Soybeans

Sudden death syndrome (SDS) typically appears during the last week of July or the first week of August in Iowa. Researchers do not expect SDS to be as widespread or as severe as the 2010 growing season, there have been some counties within the state that have received higher-than-normal precipitation. Scientists expect the risk of SDS in these counties to be higher since disease development is favored by wet conditions.

Begin scouting for SDS soon - the first symptoms of the disease are usually found on more compacted and low areas of the field. First symptoms are seen on the leaves of infected plants as scattered, yellow spots between leaf veins. Large sections of leaf tissue between veins turn yellow as spots grow together. These yellow blotches soon turn brown, but the veins remain

green. Eventually, the leaves die and drop, but the petioles remain on the stem. Infected plants are also easily pulled from the soil because the roots are rotted. When split lengthwise with a knife, the internal tissue of the main or tap root will be gray to reddish brown, not healthy white.

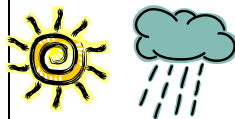
ISU researchers emphasize that, while there are no in-season management options for SDS, scouting is still important for several reasons.

First, this is a good time to evaluate soybean varieties for resistance to SDS. Growing resistant varieties is the most effective way to reduce losses to SDS.

Identifying fields or parts of fields with SDS can help with future management practices.

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is usually, but not always, associated with SDS and may increase its severity, especially in varieties that are SCN-susceptible.

Iowa State University pathologists and agronomists continue research to improve our understanding the biology of the fungus that causes SDS and develop improved management options for the disease. The ISU soybean breeding program continues to develop and release germplasm with improved resistance to SDS that is available to all private soybean breeding companies.



**WEATHER INFORMATION:** Receive timely weather updates by following Elwynn Taylor on Twitter <http://twitter.com/ElwynnTaylor> Gowning Degrees Day website: [www.mesonet.agron.iastate.edu](http://www.mesonet.agron.iastate.edu)



## Timely and Careful Stockpiling of Fescue Pasture

Beef producers who attended a recent series of pasture management meetings in southern Iowa learned of the importance of timely and careful stockpiling of fescue pastures. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach and Iowa Beef Center (IBC) sponsored the meetings that focused on fescue management and featured ISU Extension beef program specialist Joe Sellers and Craig Roberts of the University of Missouri.

“Producers planning to stockpile fescue pastures for late fall and winter grazing should think about reducing alkaloid levels in the fescue with good management practices,” Sellers said. “Most tall fescue stands have an endophyte that produces alkaloids that can hurt cattle performance.”

Sellers said producers often think of higher body temperatures, less grass consumption, more time in shade and ponds, and symptoms like loss of tail switches and lameness as negative effects of fescue, but there can be more to that story. While these are a concern, the biggest effects from fescue are reduced gains, lowered milk production and poor rebreeding rates in cattle.

According to Roberts the problem has a high price tag. “It’s estimated that fescue toxicosis costs the Missouri beef industry over \$160 million per year,” Roberts said. “Similar problems exist in Iowa, but there are several proven management steps that can reduce the problem regardless of the location.”

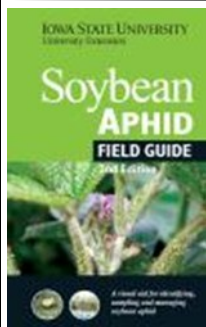
Practices that help cattle perform better on fescue have to do with managing the levels of alkaloid consumed by cattle. These practices include reducing spring nitrogen fertilization rates, providing more diverse stands with legumes and other grasses, rotating cattle to non-fescue based summer pastures, haying or clipping fescue during the late spring and early summer to reduce stems and seed heads, and supplementing feeds like soybean or corn co-products, Roberts said. His presentation is available on the Iowa Beef Centers website [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org)

Using several of these steps can alleviate the effects of fescue, but there is no “silver bullet” that will eliminate the problem. Studies looking at other methods like mineral additives and de-worming have found mixed results.

This past winter, several producers had more intense cases of fescue foot and other fescue related problems than during previous years. In part this was due to longer than recommended rest periods, followed by grazing during very cold weather, Sellers said.

“Many years of research in Iowa and Missouri on stockpiling resulted in recommending stockpiling periods of 70 to 100 days. Much longer rest periods will increase plant volume, but also will reduce forage quality and increase the alkaloid levels in the grass,” he said. “If pastures are rested longer than 100 days, producers must be careful when those plots are grazed, graze mature bred cows in mid-pregnancy and dilute the fescue with other feeds. Late summer applications of moderate nitrogen rates can result in more grass growth and extended winter grazing, with less impact on alkaloids.”

For more information on stockpiled grazing and managing fescue, contact Sellers by phone at 641-203-1270 or by e-mail at [sellers@iastate.edu](mailto:sellers@iastate.edu).



## Updated Soybean Aphid Field Guide Available

ISU Extension and the Iowa Soybean Association have released a collaborative second edition of the Soybean Aphid Field Guide by Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension entomologist, and Matt O’Neal, ISU research entomologist.

The second edition of the Soybean Aphid Field

Guide is expanded in every section - incorporating research from around the region with a more comprehensive management program. Growers are encouraged to use multiple tools to protect soybean yield against aphid loss. New to the aphid management toolbox is aphid-resistant soybeans.

This resource is a must-have for all Iowa soybean producers. It is the most comprehensive reference guide available for sustainable management of Iowa’s most serious soybean insect pest. Copies of the Soybean Aphid Field Guide can be ordered from Adair County Extension 641-743-8412 or the ISU Extension Online Store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/) Cost is \$5.

# Tomato Diseases

## Fruit Cracking

Fruit cracking is a common problem on tomatoes. Cracks usually appear at the top or stem end of the fruit. Cracks radiate out from the stem (radial cracks) or circle the fruit in concentric rings (concentric cracks). Fruit cracking is associated with wide fluctuations in soil moisture levels. A heavy rain or deep watering after a long, dry period results in rapid water uptake by the plant. The sudden uptake of water results in cracking of ripening fruit. Generally, fruit cracking is most common on the large, beefsteak-type tomatoes.

Fruit cracking can be prevented by supplying the tomato plants with a consistent supply of moisture during the summer months. During dry periods, a thorough soaking once every seven days should be adequate for most tomato plants. Conserve soil moisture by mulching the area around tomato plants with dried grass clippings, straw, shredded leaves or other materials. Also plant tomato varieties that possess good crack resistance like, Jetstar, Mountain Spring and Mountain Fresh.

## Blossom End Rot

Blossom end rot is a common problem on tomatoes. It appears as a brownish black spot on the blossom end (bottom) of the fruit. Secondary organisms invade the brownish black spot and cause the fruit to rot. Blossom end rot is most common on the earliest maturing fruit that ripen in July and early August.

Blossom end rot is caused by a calcium deficiency in the developing fruit. Wide fluctuations in soil moisture levels impair calcium uptake by the root system of the tomato plant. Excessive nitrogen fertilization may also contribute to blossom end rot. To reduce blossom end rot, water tomato plants on a weekly basis during dry weather to provide a consistent supply of moisture to the plants (tomato plants require about 1 to 1½ inches of water per week during the growing season). Mulch the area around the tomato plants to conserve soil moisture. Avoid over-fertilization. There is no need to apply calcium to the soil as most Iowa soils contain more than adequate levels of calcium.

Pick and discard fruit affected with blossom end

rot. The removal of the affected fruit will allow the tomato plant to channel all of its resources into the growth and development of the remaining fruit. Blossom end rot can also occur on pepper, eggplant, summer squash and watermelon.

## Sunscald

The white or yellow areas on your tomatoes are due to sunscald. Sunscald occurs on fruit exposed to the sun during periods of extreme heat. Initial symptoms of sunscald are the development of shiny white or yellow areas on the fruit. Later, the affected tissue dries out and collapses, forming slightly sunken, wrinkled areas. Secondary organisms invade the affected areas causing the fruit to rot.

Losses due to sunscald can be reduced by growing tomatoes in wire cages. Cage-grown tomato plants provide good foliage protection for the fruit. Also, control Septoria leaf spot and other foliar diseases which defoliate the plants and expose the fruit to direct sunlight.

Contact the experts at [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu) or call 515-294-3108 if you have additional questions.

# Armstrong Farm Field Day August 9

Corn fungicides, corn nematodes and Marestalk weed management in soybeans are featured at this year's Armstrong Farm Field Day scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 9:30 a.m. near Lewis.

Field days give farmers and the public a chance to see research projects in progress and talk with the researchers involved in the experiments. But they also provide the opportunity to view the latest in modern agriculture. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Armstrong Research Farm is located 12 miles southwest of Atlantic on Highway 6, half a mile south on 525th Street, and a half mile east on Hitchcock Avenue, or 13 miles east of Oakland on Highway 6, half a mile south on 525th Street, and half a mile east on Hitchcock Avenue. The field day is open to the public at no cost.

For more information, call 712-769-2650.



Presented by the ISU-Extension  
Nutrition and Health Team

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension  
Healthy People, Healthy Environments, Healthy Economies

With a new program from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, gardeners will learn updated and safe methods for canning and

other types of food preservation. [Preserve the Taste of Summer provides both online courses and hands-on workshops](#) to adults interested in learning how to safely preserve foods.

# August 2011

E.O.\* Extension Office

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Saturday Break 10 - 11:30 am NV Elementary School
7	8 SOFA Planning Committee mtg. 12 noon E.O.*	9 Armstrong Research Field Day, Lewis 9:30 am	10	11 Iowa State Fair August 11-21	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Extension Council mtg. 7:30 pm E.O.*	23 Farm Leasing Arrangements mtg 1-2:30 pm E.O.*	24	25 Greenhorn Grazing Series - Corning 10 am	26	27
28	29	30 Farm Progress Show August 30 - September 1 Decatur, IL	31	<p><b>All Pesticide Applicator Testing</b> (commercial &amp; private) is now done at Southwestern Community College in Creston. Contact Marilyn Werner to set up an appointment 641-782-7081. Cost is \$20. Testing is no longer available at the Wallace Building in Des Moines.</p>		

# September 2011

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	<p>5 LABOR DAY Extension Office Closed</p>	6	7	8	8	10
11	12	13	14	<p>15 Greenhorn Grazing—Corning 10 am</p>	16	17
18	19	20	21	<p>22 AK-SAR-BEN September 22-25 Omaha, NE</p>	23	24
25	<p>26 Extension Council 7:30 pm E.O *</p>	27	28	29	30	