

ADAIR COUNTY EXTENSION AG NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 1

January 2009

Special points of interest:

- Adair Co. 4-H'ers are hosting a soup supper on Sunday, January 4 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the 4-H/FFA Center. Proceeds will buy meat certificates for needy families.
- Sign up for the 100-day Live Healthy Iowa wellness challenge. Teams of 2-10 can enroll. Call the Extension Office for more information.
- Dr. Grant Dewell has joined ISU as Extension Veterinarian, Beef Production.

Pro Ag, January 21st

Get a clearer picture of agricultural economic trends at the Pro Ag Outlook meeting set for Wednesday, January 21st at the 4-H/FFA Center at the Adair County Fairgrounds in Greenfield. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m with the program to run from 10:00-1:00. Lunch will be provided. Producers, landowners, and agribusiness representatives are all encouraged to attend.

Both grain and livestock market conditions will be examined during the program. Chad Hart will address the outlook for the grain markets. Hart became the new ISU Grain Marketing Specialist in August 2008.

He will discuss grain, oilseed, and bio-fuel production, prices, and trade for 2009. John Lawrence, ISU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist, will talk about livestock market conditions and drivers that will shape costs and returns in the year ahead.

Tim Eggers, ISU Field Agricultural Economist, will describe tools to manage crop margins, such as the rotation profitability calculator and the corn nitrogen rate calculator.

The Pro Ag Outlook meeting is sponsored by Adair County Farm Bureau; Exchange State Bank – Adair & Winterset; Farm Credit Services of America– Creston & Red

Oak; Farmers & Merchants State Bank – Winterset, Orient, St. Charles; First National Bank – Fontanelle, Greenfield, Anita, Massena & Correctionville; First National Bank – Creston; First State Bank – Stuart; Iowa State Savings Bank – Creston & Lenox; Rolling Hills Bank & Trust – Atlantic, Adair, Anita, Casey, Menlo, Stuart, and Union State Bank – Greenfield & Bridgewater.

There is no charge to attend thanks to the generosity of our sponsors but reservations are requested. Please register by Friday, January 16 by calling 641-743-8412, 1-800-ISUE-399 or emailing powella@iastate.edu

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Private Pesticide Applicator Training Dates

Private pesticide applicator continuing education training is scheduled for **Monday, January 12** at 1:30 p.m. at the Orient United Methodist in Orient and 6:30 p.m. at the Adair Community Centre in Adair.

Additional private pesticide applicator classes are slated for **Tuesday, February 3**; both will be held at the Adair County Extension Office. The trainings are scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

State law forbids admitting late-comers, so license holders are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes early to complete registration.

You must attend a continuing education each year to be eligible to renew your license using the training option. If you have not attended classes, you are required to take and pass a test every three years for licensing.

There is a \$20 class enrollment fee, payable on-site to ISU Extension. If your license expired December 31, 2008 there is an additional \$15.00 licensing fee due to IDALS.

For more information about the private pesticide certification process or to make an inquiry about the status of your license, contact the Adair County Extension office at (641) 743-8412 or 1-800-ISUE-399.

2009 Crop Cost of Production Estimates

ISU Extension economists have released the 2009 Estimated Cost of Production Budgets FM 1712.

For Corn (**Corn following Soybeans**): Variable cost of production (seed, fertilizer, chemical, crop insurance, fuel, etc) has increased from last years \$1.85/bu to the 2009 estimated variable cost of \$2.57/bu. The total economic cost has increased from last years \$3.48 to the 2009 estimated cost of \$4.32/bu.

For Soybeans (**GMO-Soybeans**) following Corn) Variable cost of production (seed, fertilizer, chemical, crop insurance, fuel, etc) has increased from last years \$2.93/bu to the 2009 estimated variable

cost of \$4.51/bu. The total economic cost has increased from last years \$7.79 to an estimated \$9.81/bu.

The development and implementation of a good risk management strategy in 2009 is a must. Input cost management, crop insurance and an implemented marketing plan will be the key to profits in 2009. Crop production estimate worksheets are available on the Ag Decision Maker website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html> or at the Extension office.

Contact Tim Eggers, Field Ag Economist, 712-542-5171 or tegg@iastate.edu for more info.

Women's Ag Conf

The 2009 Overall Women's Conference will be Thurs. Jan 29– Friday, Jan 20 in Bettendorf. Roger McEowen, the Director of the Center of Ag Law and Taxation at ISU will be one of the key note speakers. He will discuss structuring farm operations for continuity and identify common mistakes to avoid. Beth Collins a commodity broker with VPI Company will lead a session on Beginning Grain Marketing.

For more information visit: <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html>. Registration is needed by January 15th.

Corn, Soybean, Alfalfa Yields Available

2008 Iowa Crop Performance Tests for alfalfa, corn, and soybeans are now available at the Adair County Extension Office. The alfalfa test includes hay yield, stand persistence, and potato leafhopper tolerance. ISU highly recommends leafhopper tolerant varieties, especially if producers do not spray, and particularly in central and southern Iowa.

Corn tests are conducted by regions. Plots at Winterset, Corning, and Malvern are used for the Southwest Iowa test. Variety information includes insecticidal seed treatment, GMO traits, yield, moisture, lodging, relative maturity, and adjusted gross value.

Soybean tests provide basic yield and maturity data along with a host of other characteristics. Among the 10 traits evaluated are susceptibility

to iron-deficiency chlorosis, lodging, resistance to soybean cyst nematode, and protein and oil content.

Free copies of the test results can be picked up at the Extension Office.

Other new publications

- 2008 Iowa Seed Directory –free
- 2008 Native Species Seed for Conservation or Restoration Directory– free
- Soybean Cyst Nematode Mgt. Guide-free
- 2009 Garden Calendar- \$6.00
- Iowa Farmer's Tax Guide-Free
- Farmland Ownership and Tenure in Iowa 2007 (for check-out only)

Fruit Tree Workshop

Madison County Extension is offering a Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop Saturday, January 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Winterset Public Library. Dr. Paul Domoto, ISU Fruit Specialist, will cover the following topics – Proper Care of Fruit Trees, Cultural Practices of Fruit Trees and Proper Tree Pruning Techniques.

There is no cost to attend the fruit tree workshop but pre-registration is required. Call the Madison County Extension office at 515-462-1001.



Watch Your Stored Grain

2008 was a challenging year for corn harvest and drying. Some grain quality was lower than normal, and many bins did not get fully dried. All grain should be cooled for winter storage. Shawn Shouse, ISU Extension Agricultural Engineer offers the following tips for cooling grain.

Grain should be cooled to 30-35 degrees for winter storage. Lower temperatures, sometimes called freezing the grain, do not have any particular advantage, and can cause frozen condensation problems in the spring.

Large drying fans (1 cfm per bushel) can cool a bin in one day. Small aeration fans (0.1 cfm per bushel) may take about a week. Watch the air temperature coming out of the grain to know when

the cooling front has moved completely through the grain.

Natural air drying season is over. Wet corn up to 18-20 percent moisture can be safely stored through the winter if cooled as noted above. Natural air drying can resume in mid to late March, but must be completed before temperatures get too high in the spring.

Watch all stored grain closely. Check wet grain at least weekly and dry grain every 2 weeks. Probe the grain to record temperatures and look for sticky spots. Smell a quick flush of aeration air for signs of musty or sour smell. Be ready to cool or move grain that develops problems.

Crop Advantage

Get the latest crop production information at the upcoming Crop Advantage program on January 29th in Atlantic or January 15th in Osceola. Both programs will feature Soybean Aphid Management by Marlin Rice, Extension entomologist and Fertilizer Decisions in Uncertain Times. The complete listing of topics for the Atlantic site is enclosed.

Save money and pay only \$35 for the day long program at Atlantic by registering by January 22nd. For more information or to register for the program call the Extension office at 743-8412 or visit <http://www.cropadvantage.org>

Manure Applicator Trainings

Commercial manure applicators can attend three hours of annual training to meet commercial manure applicator certification requirements on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct the training.

The training workshop on January 7th focuses primarily on application of wet manure including manure from swine operations.

A special dry manure workshop for commercial applicators will be held on February 24 at the Greenfield Chamber of Commerce from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Commercial applicators working primarily with chicken litter will want to attend the February session.

All currently certified commercial manure applicator licenses will expire on March 1, 2009. Those wanting to renew must complete training requirements and submit forms and fees to the DNR prior to March 1, 2009, to avoid paying late fees. If an applicator attended training for the first time in the fall of 2008, they should make plans to attend training again in January 2009 to meet the annual requirements. Those unable to attend the program on Jan. 7 or Feb 24, schedule a time with the Extension office to watch the training videotape.

A **confinement site applicators training** is scheduled for January 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Adair City Hall in Adair. Anyone with questions concerning either commercial or confinement site manure applicator certification or re-certification should contact the Adair County Extension office at 641-743-8412 or 800-ISUE399.

Financial Planning

Farm Financial Planning is ISU Extension's farm financial analysis program. It consists of one-on-one consultation and a computerized analysis of farm business records. The computer analysis looks at profitability, liquidity, solvency, and risk-bearing ability. The information is provided for up to three alternatives at one time. For example you can explore addition, expansion or phasing out of a livestock enterprise or buying, selling or renting land. A trained associate sets up a confidential consultation to discuss the completed analysis with you. Currently there is no charge for the program due to a generous grant from C.F. Industries, Inc. If you are interested in taking advantage of this terrific program contact the Extension office or go to <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/farmanalysis>

January 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Aiming High Workshop 10-12E.O.* SOFA XV Planning Team Mtg. 12:30-2 p.m. E.O. * | 3 Clover Kids 10:00-11:30 a.m. E.O.* |
| 4 4-H Youth Council Mtg, 4:00 Soup Supper, 5:30-7 p.m. 4-H/FFA Center, Fairgrounds | 5 Crop Fair, 9-1, Guthrie Center Extension Council 5-7 p.m., E.O.* ICA Convention, Ames | 6 A Good Start w/ Nutrition, 5:15-6:45 p.m., FR* | 7 Commercial Manure Applicator Training 9-12 E.O.* | 8 | 9 Registration Deadline for 4-State Beef Conference | 10 |
| 11 | 12 PPAT 1:30-3:30, Orient Methodist Church PPAT 6:30-8:30 pm, Adair Community Ctr. | 13 Success4Kids, 3-5 p.m., FR* Book-of-the-Month Club, 6:15-7, FR* | 14 Youth Action Committee, 7:30 p.m., E.O.* | 15 4-State Beef Conference, 10am, ISU Armstrong Research Farm Lewis Crop Advantage Mtg, Osceola | 16 Registration deadline for Pro-Ag | 17 Fruit Tree Workshop, 9-12 Winterset Library |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Baby Wearing, 5:15-6:45 p.m., FR* | 21 Pro Ag Outlook 10-1 4-H/FFA Center, Fairgrounds | 22 | 23 Confinement Site Applicator Training 1:30-3:30 pm, Adair | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Crop Advantage Mtg., Atlantic Overall Women's Ag Conference, Bettendorf | 30 Scholarships due: 4-H, Adair Co. Cattlemen, Adair County Pork Producers | 31 |

February 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|-----|---|---|--|
| 1 4-H Youth Council Valentine's Party, 3:00, Greenfield Manor | 2 | 3 PPAT 1-3 pm PPAT 6-8 pm Extension Office, Greenfield | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Clover Kids, 10:00-11:30 a.m., E.O.* |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Book-of-the-Month Club, 6:15-7 p.m., FR* | 11 | 12 Rumble Tumble Night 5:15-6:45 p.m., Adair County Fitness Center | 13 IDALS Pesticide Testing, 10-2, E.O.* | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Iowa Legal Aid, 5:15- 6:45 p.m. | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Adair County Cattle- men Banquet, 6:30 pm 4-H/FFA Center |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Commercial Manure (dry) Applica- tor Training 9-12, Greenfield Chamber Building | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference, Ottumwa |
| | | | | | | |

ISU EXTENSION - ADAIR COUNTY

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Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

Check out our website—

www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/

Websites:

www.iowabeefcenter.org

Topics include: economics, forages, feedlots, cow-calf, backgrounding, environment, management & research

4 State Beef Conference, January 15

The ISU Armstrong Research Farm near Lewis will be hosting the 25th Annual 4-State Beef Conference on Thursday, January 15th. The all-day program is slated to begin at 10:00 a.m. and will feature speakers from across the nation.

The 4-State Beef Conference is designed to provide an annual update on current cow-calf and stocker topics. Speakers and their topics for the 2009 conference are as follows: Dr. Rick Rasby, University of Nebraska – “Update on Storing Co-Products.”; Dr. Darrell Mark, University of Nebraska – “Economics of Storing Co-Products.”; Dr. Vern Anderson, North Dakota State University – “Drylotting Beef Cows.”; Dr. Barry Dunn, Executive Director of the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas A&M, Kingsville – “Whole Herd Management Strategies for Tough Times”.

Registration fee is \$25.00 per person and includes lunch and the conference proceedings. Sign up is needed by **Friday, January 9th, 2009**. Producers and others interested in the beef industry can sign up by calling the Adair County Extension office at 743-8412 or 1-800-ISUE399 or e-mailing powella@iastate.edu. For more information or to register for the conference, contact your local county extension office, or visit our website at: www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef/.

Crop Fair - Guthrie Center, January 5

Three ISU Extension specialists will key note a special Crop Fair planned for Monday, January 5th in Guthrie Center. The free informational event will run from 9-1 at the Activity Center located at 212 State St. in Guthrie Center. Extension Climatologist, Elwynn Taylor, will share his forecast for the 2009 crop year. Tom Olsen, Extension Economist, will share ideas for managing margins. Corn plant populations for 2009 will be covered by Roger Elmore, Extension Corn Specialist.

The event is hosted by the Iowa Corn Growers, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, ISU Extension Corn and Soybean Initiative and ISU Extension-Guthrie County. Even though the program is free, pre-registration is needed so sufficient hand-outs can be available and to plan for the complimentary lunch provided by Butler Agronomy Services, Inc

and ISU Extension-Guthrie County. Sign up by Friday, January 2nd by call the Guthrie County Extension office at 641-747-2276.

A private pesticide applicator continuing education session is set for 1:00, immediately following the Crop Fair. There is a charge for all private pesticide continuing education classes.

Beekeeping Classes

The Iowa Honey Producers Association will conduct beekeeping courses in several locations. Winterset will be one of the host locations. Classes are scheduled for Mondays January 26th through March 5 with no class on March 5th. For more details or to sign up contact Pat Randol at 515-210-7445.

2008 Farmland Survey

The average value of an acre of farmland in Iowa reached \$4,468 in 2008, continuing to increase for the ninth year in a row, according to an annual survey conducted by ISU Extension. Mike Duffy, ISU Extension farm economist said the indicators toward the end of the year imply the upward trend may be slowing as the national economy battles recessionary pressures.

The timing of the ISU survey is especially important this year because of the trends in the national economy this fall. The survey is conducted in November each year and the current numbers are based on estimated values as of Nov. 1, 2008, compared to one year earlier. Land value in Adair County increased 12.4% on average to \$3,081.

Free copies of the farmland value survey are available at the Extension office or can be found at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-75.html>