

ADAIR COUNTY EXTENSION AG NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 2

April/ May 2009

*Special points of interest:*

- May 15 - Deadline for 4-H Livestock ID Sheets. Last day to enroll in 4-H program and add projects.
- Trees Forever Community Tree Planting, April 25, 9:00 a.m. Adair County Fairgrounds. All volunteers welcome, bring your spade & a bucket.
- Start tracking farm records earlier this year. The “orange” account record is available for \$6.00

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## Anhydrous Ammonia Applicators Have New Safety Issue

High nitrogen fertilizer prices have producers and ag-input suppliers searching for ways to reduce costs and gain efficiency. Some anhydrous ammonia applicators have responded by modifying equipment to allow control of flow to individual sections of an applicator, or even to individual knives. These modifications avoid unwanted nitrogen application on overlapping rows, near field boundaries or into waterways.

Individual section or knife shutoff valves on an anhydrous ammonia toolbar can trap pressurized ammonia at various locations within the system. Operators should take care to bleed all lines including those to individual soil injectors

that may still be under pressure before attempting any servicing or work on or around the system.

Installing a small bleeder valve upstream of any section or knife shutoff valve allows an operator to bleed off trapped, pressurized ammonia before working on those sections or lines. These systems are relatively new, and bleeder valves may not be present, it is important to empty all lines before working around the equipment. Operators take the following steps to bleed pressure from the applicator:

1. Shut off ammonia flow first at the supplying field nurse tank.
2. Then open individual knife or section valves farthest down-

stream in the plumbing system.  
3. Follow this by opening any upstream section-control valves.

4. Finally, open the main flow valve.

This procedure opens valves successively upstream in the plumbing system allowing system pressure to be released.

Read the Iowa State University Extension publication [Play it safe with anhydrous ammonia – PM 1518d](#) for additional information regarding the safe handling of anhydrous ammonia. The publication is available from the extension online store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/).

## Tackling Tough Times Together Event April 18

Get involved in the countywide Tackling Tough Times Together event on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Nodaway Valley High School

Participate in the days events. Including an omelet brunch, commu-

nity resource fair and free garage sale. Anyone looking for a job, including high school students, won't want to miss the workshops on landing a job. Bring your entire family to this come and go event. Everything is free and the first 100 Adair County

families to register and attend the resource fair and a workshop will get a \$20 grocery certificate.

For more information or to volunteer, please call the Adair County Extension office at 743-8412 or e-mail [powell@iastate.edu](mailto:powell@iastate.edu).

# Business Planning for Aronia Growers

Aronia berries are one of the new super foods, high in anti-oxidants and other health benefits. Aronia berries are well suited to Iowa's climate. If you are thinking about an aronia berry plantation plan to attend this workshop offered by the Rural Development Resource Center (RDRC). They are offering a free business plan writing workshop to assist anyone considering getting into the aronia berry industry.

The workshop will be offered from 9:00am- 3:00 pm on Saturday May 2nd at the Mills County Extension office in Malvern. In addition to discussion on the market plan, participants will be given materials to begin writing their plan and receive one-on-one assistance from the RDRC's business development specialist.

The following topics will be covered that day:

- Defining your product and how you will promote it
- Identifying who will purchase your product
- Analyze your competition
- Distribution and pricing

The Rural Development Resource Center's goal is to promote economic growth in Southwest Iowa by providing training, tools and resources to new and existing entrepreneurs. Services include full business training, conducting feasibility studies, writing business plans, preparing financial projections, marketing plans, organizational structure, and securing funding. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Contact the RDRC at 712-623-5521, or visit the website [www.EnterprisingIowans.com](http://www.EnterprisingIowans.com).

## Crop Yields for Adair County

### Corn

- 10 yr. average 152 bu.
- High 182 bu. (2004)
- 169 bu. (2008)

### Soybeans

- 10 yr. average 45 bu.
- High 53 bu. (2007)

## Animal Agriculture and Air Quality

To learn more about the EPA ruling regarding animal agriculture go to- <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/airquality/homepage.html>

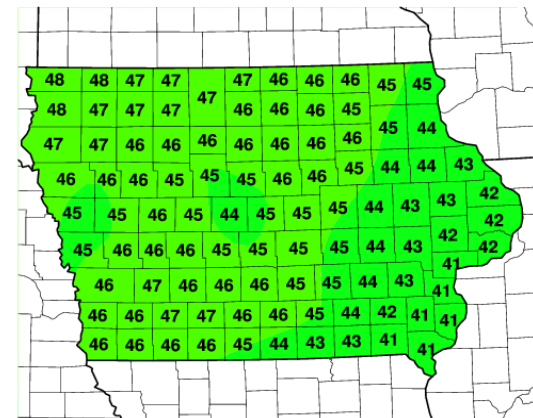
## Late Spring Soil Nitrate Test for Corn

The time will soon be here when corn will be about 6 inches tall and ready for sampling for the late spring soil nitrate test. Remember that these samples should be taken from the top foot of soil. The cost of this test is \$5.00 per sample. The soil lab's goal is to have results available within 24 hours or the next business day after receiving the sample. Results can be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed to the submitter. Submit samples immediately or keep them cold before submitting. Do not mail samples on Friday because the Lab is not open on Saturday or Sunday and the samples will not be received until Monday. Please see Extension Publication Pm-1714 for sampling and recommendation information. This publication and other related nitrogen publications are available at the Adair County Extension office. More information is available at: <http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/>

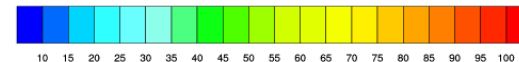
### Check soil temperatures daily at:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKknowledge/soiltemphistory.html>

### Iowa 4 inch Soil Temperatures Apr 14 2009



[Fahrenheit]



## New Estrus Synchronization System

Advances in synchronizing the beef cows estrus cycle continue to move forward. More than three decades ago, all producers had to work with synchronization systems involving feed-based progesterone products and prostaglandin.

Today, researchers from the Beef Reproduction Task Force continue to do research trials and develop new and better systems for synchronizing the heat cycle of the beef heifer and cow.

“These new synchronization systems have lead to better AI pregnancy rates and less or no labor necessary for heat detection,” Daryl Strohbahn, Iowa Beef Center beef specialist, said. At the recent Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle meeting in Colorado in January, the task force introduced a new fixed-time AI protocol called the “5-day CO-Synch + CIDR” for beef cows.

This system is an eight-day program that involves the use of a gonadotropin-releasing hormone injection at the beginning, the CIDR implant for five days and two injections of prostaglandin eight hours apart after CIDR removal. Seventy-two hours after CIDR removal and the first prostaglandin injection, cows are fixed-time inseminated in conjunction with a gonadotropin-releasing hormone injection. “This new 5-day CIDR program is exciting because it gives producers a fixed-time AI option for cows that can be completed in just nine days with very good AI pregnancy rates,” Strohbahn said. Successful results have been observed with the “5-day CO-Synch + CIDR” program in cows with a range of 55 to 80 synchronized pregnancy rates in 1162 cows.

Applying synchronization systems successfully has been a challenge to many producers; the most significant problem has been getting the dates and timing of the injections and implants done correctly. To assist producers with this problem, the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University has provided the beef industry with the spreadsheet software program called “Estrus Synchronization Planner.”

A newly updated 2009 version of this software, which contains the most recent recommended protocols, is available from Publications Distribution, University Extension at Iowa State University. Cost of the CD is \$25 plus shipping and handling. To learn more, go to the Extension Distribution online store at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/>

## Feedlot Conference, June 10 - 11

The livestock industry has seen dramatic changes in a tumultuous climate, but an upcoming conference will help feedlot producers learn how to handle both external and internal challenges they are facing in today’s world.

The Iowa Beef Center, in partnership with the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association, will be hosting a feedlot conference June 10-11, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Ames, IA. The conference, “Cattle Feeder’s Conference: A New Era of Management – People, Cattle, Business,” will provide cattle feeders with valuable information for tackling today’s troubles.

“The business climate for cattle feeding is changing,” said Dan Loy, Iowa Beef Center beef specialist and conference committee member. “Internal challenges such as finding and keeping good people as well as answering consumers’ questions about how their food is raised and its impact on the environment are growing issues. This conference will help cattle feeders transform these challenges into opportunities in the future.”

Speakers will touch on issues ranging from the livestock industry’s carbon footprint to labor and employee relations.

Invited speakers include Steve Fogelson, an Illinois cattle feeder and

president-elect for the National Cattleman’s Beef Association, and John Lawrence, a livestock economist and director of the Iowa Beef Center. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Don Tyler, an author whose expertise lies in agricultural employee management and relations.

Further details and registration information will be available shortly at [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).



# April 2009

| Sun                                 | Mon                                | Tue   | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                                     |                                    |   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| 5                                   | 6                                  | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11   |
| 12                                  | 13                                 | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18 Tackling Tough Times Together, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, NV High School                           |
| 19<br>SOFA Planning Committee, 2 pm | 20                                 | 21 Healthy Sexual Development of Children<br>5:15-6:45 pm NV East Elementary. Sign-up by calling 743-8412 | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25 Trees Forever, Community Tree Planting, Fairgrounds, 9 am<br>Cat Workshop, 10-11:30 am, *EO |
| 26                                  | 27<br>Extension Council, 7 pm, *EO | 28 4-H Dog classes begin, 6:30 pm, Fairgrounds  | 29  | 30  |     |  |

# May 2009

| Sun                          | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu | Fri   | Sat  |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|-----|---|--|
|                              |   |   |  |     | 1   | 2 Clover Kids,<br>10-11:30 am *EO<br><br>Trees Forever Rain<br>Date  |
| 3 Youth Council, 4<br>pm *EO | 4   | 5 Shaken Baby Syn-<br>drome, 5:15-6:45 pm<br>*FRB<br><br>4-H Dog Classes,<br>6:30 pm, Fairgrounds | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9 Lamb & Meat Goat<br>Weigh-in, 8 – 11 a.m.,<br>Fairgrounds<br>Home Improvement<br>Workshop, 1:30 – 3:30<br>pm, Union County |
| 10                           | 11  | 12 4-H Dog Classes,<br>6:30 pm, Fairgrounds   | 13 NV Early Out<br>11:15 am – 3:30 pm,<br>Fontanelle Commu-<br>nity Center<br>Horse practice be-<br>gins, 6:30 pm, Fair- | 14  | 15 ID sheets due to<br>the Extension Office<br>Office open 7:30 am –<br>7:00 pm | 16   |
| 17                           | 18  | 19 4-H Dog Classes,<br>6:30 pm, Fairgrounds   | 20 Horse practice,<br>6:30 pm,<br>Fairgrounds  | 21  | 22  | 23 4-H & FFA<br>Lamb Clinic<br>10 am – noon Fair-<br>grounds   |
| 24                           | 25 Memorial Day –<br>Extension Office<br>Closed | 26 4-H Dog Classes,<br>6:30 pm, Fairgrounds   | 27 Horse practice,<br>6:30 pm,<br>Fairgrounds  | 28  | 29  | 30   |
| 31                           |   |   |  |     |   |  |

## 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/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/adair/)

*Websites:*

### **2009 Custom Rate Survey**

Is posted on the Adair County Extension home page

## SOFA XV - June 24 & 25

Speak Out For Agriculture, SOFA XV is heading south to St. Joseph and Kansas City, Missouri. Participants will tour the American Angus Association, Bio-zyme, Cabelas, and the Kansas City Board of Trade, Powell Gardens, attend workshops at Johnson County Community College and lend a helping hand at Harvesters - the Community Food Network. June 24 and 25 will be two full days for the 7th - 12th graders going on the trip.

On June 5 SOFA XV participants will learn more about five agriculture fields - Ag Engineering, Horticulture, Beef, Dairy and Swine production in the morning with local tours. That afternoon they will have the opportunity to hone their communication skills at the Learning Center near Lewis. During Greenfield's Farmers Market on June 11 students will have displays to educate the public about agriculture.

Planning Committee members from Adair County are Kelsie Cass, Rachel Herr, Joceline Holliday, Kyle & Zach Jorgensen and Velista Martin. Cass County members are Erin Steele, Jack Brown and Jenna Ferguson.

Watch for an application on the Adair County Extension website.

## Container Gardening

Plants grown in containers require a well-drained growing medium. Garden soil alone is not a good growing medium. Garden soil compacts when placed in a container, resulting in poor water drainage and aeration. Soil also pulls away from the inside of the container when it dries, making it difficult to properly water plants. A homemade potting mix can be prepared using equal amounts (volumes) of garden soil, sphagnum peat moss and perlite.

A commercial potting mix often is the best choice when gardening in containers. The quality of commercial potting mixes varies considerably. Poor quality potting mixes are often inexpensive, black, heavy and don't drain well. High quality commercial potting mixes are light-

weight, well-drained, free of plant disease organisms and weed seeds, retain moisture and nutrients well, and don't readily compact. Commercial potting mixes can be purchased at garden centers and many other retail businesses.

For more information on vegetable container gardening get publication PM0870B. It includes information regarding: container construction, size, and capacity; crop selection and planting density; summer care (location, watering, fertilization, tomato tips). Lists suggestions for 12 container garden vegetables (more than 40 cultivars) including: carrots, cucumber, pepper, spinach, and tomatoes.

## County Fair Trophy Donors Needed

Become an Adair County Fair trophy donor if you haven't already done so. Donors are still needed for 38 trophies presented to 4-H and FFA exhibitors during the Adair County Fair.

Trophy prices:  
\$17.50 Large  
\$12 Skill-A-Thon, Top FR/  
CS, Communications

Contact the Adair County Extension Office at 641-743-8412 or 1-800-ISUE399 or email [wallaced@iastate.edu](mailto:wallaced@iastate.edu) to become a trophy donor.

