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*"The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension Program."*

## Average Value of Iowa Farmland Declines by 2 Percent in 2009

The average value of an acre of farmland in Iowa declined in 2009 for the first time in a decade, according to an annual survey conducted by Iowa State University Extension. Mike Duffy, ISU Extension farm economist who conducts the survey, said the statewide average as of Nov. 1 this year was \$4,371 an acre, down 2.2 percent or \$97 from the 2008 figure of \$4,468.

The last time the statewide average dropped was in 1999, when the survey reported the average was \$1,781 an acre, or \$20 less than in 1998. In the decade since 1999, owners of Iowa farmland have watched their holdings increase in value by 145 percent on average.

Duffy said the slight decrease in 2009 in the ISU survey may contain some good news compared to other surveys that look at land values in Iowa. He noted the 2.2 percent decline covered sales for the time period between November 2008 and November 2009. It compared with a 7.6 percent decrease reported by the Realtors Land Institute for a survey covering the period from September 2008 to March 2009, and a 7 percent decrease from October 2008 to October 2009 reported by the Seventh District of the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board report included an increase of 4 percent from July to October of 2009.

"The decrease in land values appears to have stopped," Duffy said. "The situation has stabilized but for how long is unknown."

While land values on average declined slightly in 2009, the survey reported that 14 counties showed increases. The counties with increases included several in east central Iowa where the 2008 flooding held down the gains shown in other parts of the state last year.

Duffy said the recent trends in the value of Iowa land are not surprising given the relative change in the value of crops produced in Iowa over the past few years. "The value of corn production in Iowa increased 64 percent from 2006 to 2007, but decreased 15 percent from 2007 to 2008, based on year-end summaries by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," Duffy said. The value of the soybean crop increased 40 percent two years ago and then decreased 9 percent last year. Year-end reports are likely to show additional declines in total crop income, based on crop prices and the difficult harvest, Duffy said.

The survey found a major decrease in the amount of land sold during the past year. The trend toward greater demand for higher quality land continued, and there also was an increase in the percentage of land being purchased by existing farmers, correlating with a decline in investor land purchases.

Of the nine crop reporting districts in the state, Northwest Iowa reported the highest average value at \$5,364 per acre. The lowest average in the state was in South Central Iowa at \$2,537 per acre. The only district that showed an increase over 2008 was East Central, up 1.1 percent. The highest county average in the state was Scott County at \$6,361 per acre, up 0.8 percent from last year when it also was the highest. Decatur County was lowest at \$1,957 per acre. Lyon County led the state with the largest dollar increase at \$237 per acre, while Allamakee County had the largest percentage increase at 5.7 percent. The greatest dollar and percentage decreases were \$384 and 6.6 percent, both in Black Hawk County.

Low grade land in the state averaged \$2,884 per acre, medium grade land averaged \$4,076 per acre, and high grade land averaged \$5,321 per acre. Information is available online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/)

## Conference to Discuss Farm Succession Plans

Families looking toward establishing a multiple generation farm or passing the family farm to the next generation have an opportunity to learn how to accomplish those goals at a four-day conference.



The 13th Annual Ag Link conference addresses these questions. The four day program, sponsored by Iowa State Uni-

versity's Beginning Farmer Center and Iowa State University Extension, is for families who are looking at a multiple generation farm business. This program is offered in Ames in two two-day sessions on Jan. 15-16 and Feb. 12-13.

Issues that will be discussed during this conference include:

How to address major issues that can lead to failure in a multiple generation farm business.

Determining whether an existing operation is profitable enough to support another generation.

The basics of estate planning.

Alternatives for transfer of farm assets.

Developing a farm family business succession plan.

ISU students attending this year's conference are able to earn up to two ISU credit hours (visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/credit.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/credit.htm))

The cost for a family is \$200 for a group of four or fewer and \$40 for each additional attendee. Meals, breaks, and a resource packet are included in the registration fee. Registration deadline is Jan. 6.

For additional information and on-line registration visit: [www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/) or contact the Beginning Farmer Center at (877) BFC-1999.

## 2010 Ag Market Outlook Seminar - Feb. 24

The 6th Annual Ag Market Outlook Seminar will be held Wednesday, February 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hills Community Center in Hills.

Featured speakers leading the discussion include David Kohl, Ag Economist from Virginia Tech, Greg Brenneman, ISU Extension Ag Engineer, and Chad Hart, ISU Extension Ag Economist. The program agenda will include the vision for the ag economy for 2010, farm bill legislation, grain market outlook for 2010, grain demand & exports, and drying & storage issues for the 2009 crop.

Sponsored by Hills Bank & Trust, Latta, Harris, Hanon & Penningroth LLP, Eldon C. Stutsman Inc., and ISU Extension, the program is free of charge and includes lunch. Call Don Wilson, Hills Bank, 319-679-2291 or Gene Mohling, [mohling@iastate.edu](mailto:mohling@iastate.edu) 319-337-2145 to pre-register.



**February 4-5, 2010**  
**Isle Casino Hotel • Bettendorf, Iowa**

### Learn about:

- farm business
- value-added ag
- personal growth
- and more

### For registration information:

call 1-800-262-0015,

go online <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html> or contact your local ISU Extension Office.

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
 University Extension

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

## Dairy Days to Be Held In Kalona

Dairy producers are invited to attend an informational meeting in Kalona on Tuesday, February 2, at the Kalona Chamber of Commerce. Topics will include: Current Issues in Pasteurization of Calves Milk, Manure Stewardship-Responsibility before Regulation, Am I Making a Profit?, Cutting Feed Costs without Cutting Profits, Breed 'Em or Weep—Heifer and Cow Pregnancies Affect the Bottom Line, Feed & Forage Quality- the Mycotoxin Concerns.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The event is sponsored by Freedom Security Bank and is free of charge. The Kalona Chamber of Commerce meeting room is located at 514 B Ave in Kalona.

Speakers include *Larry Tranel, Extension Dairy Field Specialist, NE/SE Iowa; Jenn Bentley, ISU Research Technician, NE IA Dairy Foundation; Angie Rieck-Hinz, ISUE Extension Program Spec, Agronomy; Dr. Lee Kilmer, ISU Extension Dairy Nutritionist; Dr. Leo Timms, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist or Dr. Jan Shearer, ISU Vet Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine and Dale Thoreson ISU Extension Dairy/Beef/Forages Field Specialist, NE Iowa.*

ISUE will have available the Penn State Particle Separator to do particle separation on forages and TMRs at no fee. Bring about one pint of sample. For more information contact Washington County Extension at 319-653-4811.

## Cornbelt Conference Returns with Fresh Topics to Bring Profit to Cow-Calf Businesses

Best practices paired with profitability during difficult economic times are the topics on hand at this year's cow-calf conference held in Ottumwa.

The 39th annual Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference — the largest such conference of its kind in the state — provides producers with the opportunity to learn and share ideas that will help make the cow-calf business profitable and competitive on a long-term basis. This year's conference is Saturday, Feb. 27, starting at 9:30 a.m., at the Bridge View Center.

This 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 presentations from producers and industry professionals alike, as well as several dozen exhibits, which will feature everything from live animals to mowers to feed. Along with several general sessions held throughout the day, there will also be two breakout sessions, sponsored by John Deere and Company in Ottumwa.

Several producers will be giving presentations on profitable practices, including Raymond Coope, who will discuss using forages in your operation; Jennifer Peters, who will offer a presentation on women's roles in agriculture; and Gary Goehring, who will discuss using dogs when handling cattle.

Industry professionals and extension specialists from Iowa State University and other universities and organizations will offer additional insight into issues faced by cowherd operators, including information on herd health programs and useful reproductive strategies.

Additional information about the 2010 Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference is available through Iowa State Extension beef specialist Byron Leu at 641-472-4166 or [bleu@iastate.edu](mailto:bleu@iastate.edu), as well as online at [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).

## Iowa Beef Center offers Feedlot Forum 2010 Series

Production and financial information to help feedlot producers tackle current issues will be presented by Iowa State University Extension staff during the Iowa Beef Center winter meeting series, Feedlot Forum 2010.

Presentations at each workshop will include Dan Loy, ISU Extension beef specialist, who will discuss feed management. Dr. Grant Dewell, ISU Extension veterinarian, will speak on keeping compromised cattle out of the marketplace and cattle health. John Lawrence, Iowa Beef Center director and ISU Extension livestock economist, available via voice-over PowerPoint, will talk about the market outlook for 2010; and Brian Waddingham from the Iowa Beef Industry Council will present the council's feedlot animal welfare assessment tool. Remaining workshop agendas will vary by location, but will include area beef program specialist presentations on the management and performance of cattle in hoop and mono-slope barns.

The following are meeting locations and extension beef pro-

## Crop Advantage Series Jan. 21

The Crop Advantage Series will be held Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kirkwood Continuing Education Center, Cedar Rapids. Craig Johnson, long time meteorologist, will be one of the featured speakers at this year's conference discussing "Global Warming or Global Cooling?" Choose from many workshops on pest management, soil fertility, crop production and marketing. CCA credits and private pesticide applicator re-certification will be available. Registration fee is \$35.

Contact Jim Fawcett at 319-337-2145 for more information.

## Winter Gardening Fair Feb. 13

The Winter Gardening Fair, presented by the ISU Extension Linn County Master Gardeners will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education, 7725 Kirkwood Boulevard SW, Cedar Rapids.

Choose 4 classes from over 45 horticulture topics for the new and experienced gardeners. "What Makes A Picture-Perfect Garden" is the keynote presentation by former Better Homes and Gardens magazine garden editor, Susan Appleget Hurst. The cost of \$49 includes a box lunch. For a complete list of all topics and registration information visit: [www.extension.iastate.edu/linn](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn)

## Winter Cow Series: "Doing Business in an Information-Based Marketplace"

Topics include improving profit by adding value to the calf crop, improving health, backgrounding decisions, what auctions tell us, and price outlook. Program will be held Jan. 27, noon-4 pm at Buzzy's in Welton and 7-9:30 pm at Turner Hall, 119 E. Greene St. in Postville. Contact Denise Schwab at 319-721-9624 or [dschwab@iastate.edu](mailto:dschwab@iastate.edu) for more information.

gram specialist contact information for each site:

- Jan. 14 (both 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) – Charles City, Russ Euken, (641) 923-2856, [reuken@iastate.edu](mailto:reuken@iastate.edu)
- Jan. 22 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) – Cascade, Denise Schwab, (319) 472-4739, [dschwab@iastate.edu](mailto:dschwab@iastate.edu)
- Feb. 1 (1-4 p.m.) – Lewis, Joe Sellers, (641) 774-2016, [sellers@iastate.edu](mailto:sellers@iastate.edu)
- Feb. 10 – Lidderdale, Clint McDonald, (712) 644-2105, [clint@iastate.edu](mailto:clint@iastate.edu)
- Feb. 11 – Creston, Joe Sellers, (641) 774-2016, [sellers@iastate.edu](mailto:sellers@iastate.edu)

To register for any of the meetings, contact the program specialist in charge of the location or download the registration form at [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org). Registration for each meeting location is \$20 if pre-registered (up to three days before the meeting date). After that and at the door, the fee is \$30.

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319-330-4681 (cell)

## 2009-2010 Private Pesticide Appli- cator Re-certification Dates Set

The 2009-2010 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any

DATE	TIME	CITY	ADDRESS
Feb. 10	1:30 p.m.	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. room
Feb. 10	4:15 p.m.	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. room
Feb. 15	1:30 p.m.	Hills	Community Center
Feb. 15	7:00 p.m.	Hills	Community Center
Feb. 17	7:00 p.m.	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Victor	KC Hall, 210 Washington St
March 31	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington Co. Extension
March 31	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington Co. Extension

## Check your Manure Applicator Certification Requirements

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. "My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season," says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist.

Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee.

Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service.

Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:

Commercial manure applicator certification is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk and Washington County Extension Office.

Confinement site certification - Thurs., Jan. 14, 2010, 9:30 a.m.-Noon, Expo Building, Sigourney Fairgrounds

Confinement site certification - Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, Hills Bank in Hills

Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., Washington Co. Extension

Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Tues., Feb. 16, 2010, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Washington Co. Extension

For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at gregb@iastate.edu or 319/337-2145 and Tom Miller, Program Specialist tmiller@iastate.edu 319-653-4811.

## New Publications Help Examine and Explain Agricultural Energy Use

New publications from Iowa State University are part of a series of farm energy conservation and efficiency educational materials being developed through the Farm Energy Conservation and Efficiency educational initiative. The purpose is to increase farmers' awareness of opportunities for improving efficient use of farm energy. The initiative also will help farmers explore alternatives to reduce farm energy demand and to improve their farms' overall profitability in a rapidly changing environment.

"Farm Energy: How Much Energy Is Being Used on Your Farm?" (PM 2089A) offers initial steps that help farmers analyze their farm energy use.

"Electric Savings: Understanding Demand and Three-Phase Motor Use" (PM 2089B) helps farmers learn how to control demand charges on their electric bills and use three-phase motors to avoid problems with electric supply.

"Tracking the Energy Use on Your Farm" (PM 2089C) includes an energy log that can be downloaded for use with Microsoft Excel or printed and completed by hand, said Jane Flammang, ISU Extension program coordinator for the new statewide Farm Energy Conservation and Efficiency educational initiative. Farmers can use the log to track all their on-farm energy use, whether electricity, diesel fuel, gasoline, propane or natural gas. The Excel spreadsheet will automatically calculate a farmer's per-unit cost whether kilowatt hour, gallon or cubic foot. The spreadsheet also will calculate the total energy cost month to month and throughout the year.

Publications are available to download from the Extension Online Store, [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/) or stop by the Washington Co. Extension Office.

## New Publication Explains Meaning of Grain Test Weight, Unravels Misconceptions

A new ISU Extension publication, "Grain Test Weight Deceptions," PMR 1005, discusses the purpose for grain test weight, how it can be used to determine grain value and how calculations can be deceptive.

Deception often occurs when one believes that an increase in test weight equals an increase in the weight of grain sold, but this is not true. Instead, test weight is a measure of grain quality and density.

According to the publication, prepared by ISU agricultural and biosystems engineering faculty, increased test weight simply means the corn occupies less total volume because of greater bulk density. However, at sale, one bushel of corn is 56 pounds regardless of test weight.

Test weight can affect the price a seller receives. Additionally, drying methods can increase test weight, and there are various methods of drying that produce different results.

Visit the ISU Extension online store, [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/) to download a copy or stop by the Washington County Extension office.

## 2009 Iowa Farm & Rural Life Poll Results

Highlights from the 2009 farm and rural life poll include: the next generation of farmers, farm policy and commodity production, mixed livestock and grain farming, farming and food systems in rural communities, value-added agriculture, targeted conservation, nutrient removal wetlands, and personal and financial well-being.

"This year one of the major topics that our annual survey of Iowa farmers examined was the choice of farming as an occupation," said ISU Extension Sociologist J. Gordon Arbuckle Jr., who co-directs the survey with ISU Extension Sociologist Paul Lasley.

"As the average age of Iowa farmers increases, it's important that we understand more about how the children of farmers weigh their career options," he explained. "We asked farmers with adult children to share their thoughts about the factors that influenced their kids' decisions to either become farmers themselves or to follow another career path."

The report, PM 2093, can be downloaded at the Extension Online Store, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/> or stop by the Washington County Extension Office for a copy.

## ISU Resources for Managing Livestock Financial Issues

The new web page, Managing Financial Tough Times for Livestock Producers, at [www.extension.iastate.edu/livestock/managingFinancialLivestock.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/livestock/managingFinancialLivestock.htm), has materials organized on seven sub-pages – Iowa Concern; Ag Decision Maker; Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation; financial management tools specific to beef, dairy and pork producers; and tips to help parents talk to kids about the financial situation.

The Iowa Concern page brings forward legal, financial and emotional support by providing a toll-free number, Web chat, frequently asked questions on its Web site.

What Do We Tell the Kids? Is a presentation linked to the new site that covers a topic related to livestock financial crisis, but not often discussed.

The Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation page has links to livestock financial issues information on the topics of bankruptcy, civil liabilities, contracts, insurance and secured transactions. The financial management section provides Ag Decision Maker files and tools that are specific to livestock economics.

Species specific information has been pulled from ISU Extension center resources for beef, dairy and pork.

## End-of-Year Publications

[Suggested Closing Inventory Prices for 2009 Records: FM-1490](#)

[Estimated Costs of Crop Production Iowa - 2010: FM-1712](#)

[2009 Iowa Crop Performance Tests for Corn \(PM 0660\) and Soybeans \(AG 0018\)](#)

[Farmer's Tax Guide for use in preparing 2009 returns: P 0225](#)

Visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/) to view or download a copy or stop by the Washington County Extension office for a copy.

## 2010 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar

Gringer Ag, Inc., in cooperation with Iowa State University Extension will host the 2010 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar. The program will be held at Gringer Ag, Inc, on Monday, Feb. 8, from Noon to 3:30 p.m. Topics include in the program:

- **Production Management Decisions in 2010**

Jim Fawcett, Iowa State University Extension Agronomist, will provide management tips for 2010 to reduce costs and optimize yield. He will provide a look into the high cost of NPK with application suggestions plus take your questions. [www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops)

- **2010 Cost of Production**

Jim Jensen, Iowa State University Extension Agribusiness Management Specialist, will examine the 2009 cost of production and the projected break even costs for corn and soybeans. This discussion will help determine the available funds for the payment of cash rents. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/farmmanagement/>

- **2009-2010 Grain Drying & Storage Issues**

Greg Brenneman, Iowa State University Agricultural Engineering Specialist, will review grain drying issues and principles concerning the 2009 crop and storage considerations. [www.bbe.umn.edu/Post-Harvest\\_Handling\\_of\\_Crops](http://www.bbe.umn.edu/Post-Harvest_Handling_of_Crops)

- **2010 Farm Program Update**

Steve Carson, Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, will provide an update on the farm bill and ACRE program.

- **Grain Market Update** Gringer Ag, Inc. will provide a brief update on the grain markets.

*Call Terry Trenkamp, Gringer Ag, Inc. 319/338-2280 or the Johnson County Extension Office 319-337-2145 to pre-register. There is no charge to attend this program and lunch will be provided courtesy of Gringer Ag, Inc.* This program is brought to you by Gringer Ag, Inc., and Iowa State University Extension Johnson County.



For more information on crop and livestock management tips along with business management tools that are provided by Iowa State University Extension visit Ag Decision Maker at:

[www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/)

## Still Time to Order Long-Term Care Planning Kits

Many people don't want to think about someday needing long-term care. But more than 20,000 Iowans are facing that reality, armed with the facts they need to make an informed decision.

They ordered the Own Your Future long-term care planning kit, said Jason Cooper, long-term care insurance specialist with the Iowa Insurance Division. Own Your Future provides information and resources on planning for long-term care, financial and legal issues in retirement, and related topics. The kits have been available since August, when more than 400,000 Iowans age 45 to 65 received a letter from Gov. Chet Culver encouraging them to start planning for their future long-term care needs now, rather than waiting.

*ISU Extension county offices throughout the state have brochures available that describe the Own Your Future initiative and include a postage-paid card to request the planning kit.*

*Iowans also can order the kit by calling (866) 752-6582 or download it online from <http://www.ownyourfutureiowa.gov>.*

The Own Your Future planning kit includes information on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and deciding whether to modify a home to improve safety for daily activities or move to another home that can better meet future needs. Legal and estate planning are discussed, as well as financial planning for long-term care. Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care insurance also are explained.

**Stay Informed - [www.extension.iastate.edu/washington](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington)**

## Annie's Project - Program for Women in Agriculture



If you are a farm woman with a passion for business involvement, then you need to attend this six-week series designed just for you! Learn critical decision-making and management information on topics such as: (1) Financial Records (2) Production Records (3) Marketing Plans and Risk Management (4) Legal/Regulation Records and Documentation (5) Human Resources and Time Management (6) Estate Planning, Insurance. The program will be offered on six Wednesday evenings—February 17, 24 & March 3, 9, 17, 31, 2010, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. with light meal provided. Four classes will be offered at the Washington County Extension Office and two sessions held in Keota

(location to be determined). The cost to enroll is \$75 per person (fee includes all materials, software program and meals). Contact the Washington Extension Office at 319-653-4811 or email Nancy Adrian at [nadrian@iastate.edu](mailto:nadrian@iastate.edu) to register. Space is limited to the first 25 enrollees. The program is sponsored by Keokuk Co. Farm Bureau, Washington State Bank, West Chester Savings Bank, Federation Bank, US Bank, Community First Credit Union, and ISU Extension in Washington & Keokuk County.

## Managing Soybean White Mold in 2010

By X.B. Yang, Department of Plant Pathology

The 2009 growing season had record cool weather in July that was ideal for soybean white mold occurrence. The disease was widespread in the north central region of the U.S. and agronomists even in southern Iowa observed this disease in many soybean fields. In northern Iowa, patches of soybean killed by this disease were obvious in many soybean fields along the highways. Some farmers reported losses totaling more than \$10,000 from this disease.

Previously, white mold epidemics occurred mainly in even-numbered years because of the use of corn-soybean rotation plans. The outbreaks in 2009 were the first in an odd-numbered year since 1997 and they covered almost entire north central region of the country except for areas west of Missouri River. The 2009 epidemic suggests that there are plenty of white mold inoculum in the soil in the region and that it will be necessary to take precautions in 2010 to minimize the white mold risk for the 2010 season and following years. Following are recommendations for 2010 for specific field conditions.

**If your soybean field had white mold in 2009 and the field will be in corn in 2010:** If you found severe white mold in your fields in 2009 season, use no-tillage if corn is the 2010 rotation crop. Rotation with corn in no-till can reduce soybean white mold risk. Tillage will bury the sclerotia into soil, which increases the survival rate of white mold fungus. Sclerotia can survive in deep soil up to seven years. Sclerotia within 2 inches of the soil surface germinate and produce spores even in corn fields. Under no-till a large portion of the sclerotia germinate under the corn canopy, which reduces the amount of pathogen in the soil. White mold risk in tilled fields was 2-4 times higher than in no-till fields according to a study conducted 10 years ago.

Rotation with seed corn fields will not be effective in white mold management because sclerotia do not germinate in an open corn canopy field caused by detasseling. Don't plant seed corn in a field that previously had white mold on soybean as rotation with seed corn fields increases white mold risk. Fields that had white mold in 2009 should not be in soybean in 2010. It will be a mistake to plant soybean after soybean in 2010. The risk can be high unless 2010 is a dry season.

You can also consider applying Contans to break the disease cycle. Contans is a product from a biological control agent proven to be effective in white mold control in many crops. It has been used to control white mold in many high value crops and is labeled for soybean. Unfortunately, little research data from public sector are available on using Contans to control soybean white mold.

### **If your field was in corn in 2009 and will be in soybean in 2010:**

If a field had a white mold outbreak in the last few years and will be in soybean in 2010, you should avoid using susceptible varieties in 2010 and consider using white mold tolerant varieties for your next soybean rotation. High yielding, white mold-tolerant varieties are available. One thing to keep in mind is that the tolerance protection sometimes may not work due to a lack of consistency in disease pressure during the breeding of the mold-tolerant variety. Also, avoid planting soybean with narrow rows (15 inches or less) in fields that had white mold in the past.

Chemical control is an option if white mold risk is high in the coming season. Unlike many years ago when there were only two fungicides available for white mold control, there are several fungicides on the market for white mold control now. Not all fungicides are effective for white mold and it is very important to use the right fungicides to control white mold. Read labels when you making your plans this winter. Knowing the risk of white mold infection in July is the key to a good economical return in control of white mold.



Mycelia (a) and sclerotia (b) formation on white mold infested plant

