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

Annie's Project: Education for Women in Agriculture

Farming is a complex business. More and more farm women are becoming active business partners in their operation. *Annie's Project* helps farm women learn more about managing today's agricultural technology and becoming an effective farm business partner.

Annie's Project is a critical decision making and information management course which begins February 17 for six weeks. Topics include: financial statements and records, production records, marketing plans and risk management, legal records and documentation, human resources and time management. Classes run once per week from 6:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. Four of the classes will be held at the Washington County Extension Office, one at the Kirkwood College Center in Washington and one at Farmers Savings Bank in Keota. The cost of the program is \$75.00 per person for the series which includes a light meal. Class size is limited to 25.

Classes combine lecture, discussion, individual work, small group work, computer work and audio/visual support. Speakers include Iowa State University Extension Program Specialists, Farm Service Agency personnel, insurance agents and grain marketers.

According to Gene Mohling, Region 15 Extension Director, *Annie's Project* has been a big success. "The course was offered in Iowa for the first time in February of 2004 right here in Washington County," said Mohling. "Since that time it has been offered all over Iowa and currently in 19 other states," he added. Past participants agree that they have a better knowledge of what farming involves and have become more active in their family farming operations. Several of these women have gone on to help promote agricultural education for women in other ways.

Sponsors include: Keokuk County Farm Bureau, Farmers Savings Bank in Keota, Community First Credit Union, Kirkwood Community College Washington Center, Federation Bank, US Bank, Washington State Bank, West Chester Savings Bank and Iowa State University Extension. For more information on Annie's Project or to register for the class contact: Washington County Extension at 319-653-4811 or email nadrian@iastate.edu. Registrations are due February 10, 2010.

2010 Ag Market Outlook Seminar

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, Professor Emeritus 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 319-337-2145 to pre-register.



Dr. David Kohl

2010 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

- **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

- **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.

FREE Income Tax Services Coming to Brighton

Need tax help, but can't afford to pay for it? Are you confused by the tax law changes and which exemptions, deductions and credits you can claim? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program sponsored by Washington Earned Income Credit Campaign Committee can help you complete basic tax returns free of charge. Volunteer Tax Assistors have completed an IRS training and certification course. Federal and state returns are able to be filed electronically.

VITA offers free assistance to those with low-to-moderate incomes under \$49,000. Help with basic income tax returns will be offered by appointment only on February 6th and 13th from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Brighton Community Center. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Nancy, Washington County Extension Office, at 319-653-4811. Appointments are on a first come, first serve basis.



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.

Iowa Fence Law & Rules for Trespassing Livestock

Under Iowa law, adjoining landowners are deemed to own a partition fence (a fence that is located on the property line) in common. Thus, adjoining landowners have an obligation to share equally in building



and maintaining partition fences. That's the case even if one landowner doesn't have livestock – that's what the Iowa Supreme Court said in 2001.

Prior to that, in 1995 the Court upheld the law as constitutional against a challenge by a non-

livestock owner claiming that the rule constituted a taking of private property without compensation. So, the place to start is to discuss the matter with your neighbor on the other side of the fence. Many landowners use the so-called "right-hand" rule to settle the building and/or maintenance issue. That means they meet at the mid-point of the fence facing each other with each agreeing to fix that portion of the fence to their right.

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, as well as online at www.iowabeefcenter.org.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Test Help Sessions

All commercial pesticide applicators must take exams in order to become initially certified and some choose to become recertified by exam rather than by attending continuing instructional courses. With the increased interest in fungicide applications on corn and soybeans, many commercial applicators are considering adding agricultural diseases (category 1C) to their certification so that they can apply fungicides.

Two training sessions designed to help prepare individuals for the commercial pesticide applicator examinations will be offered in SE Iowa. One session is in Marion on Tuesday, February 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Linn County Extension Office at 3279 7th Ave. A second session will be offered in Bettendorf on Monday, March 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Scott

Beginning Farmers Conference - Feb. 6

The Beginning Farmer Network (BFN), an organization made up of Iowa State University students interested in entering farming, is sponsoring the Beginning Farmers Conference on Feb. 6, at the Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. Three sets of one-hour breakout sessions will cover topics ranging from value added ag and livestock in the future, to farm succession and expanding or maintaining farm operations. Session speakers from the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Agriculture Development Authority, Farm Service Agency, Beginning Farmers Center, Center for Agriculture Law and Taxation, and the Chair of Iowa Ag Committee are on the agenda. Online registration is available at www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/beginningfarmer/home.html. Registration can be made by calling (515) 294-6222. The registration fee is \$35 prior to Feb. 1; \$45 after that date. Registration includes all conference materials, lunch and networking breaks. A complete agenda can be viewed at <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/beginningfarmer/schedule.html>

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



County Extension Office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane.

The training sessions will cover the Iowa Core Manual and categories 1A (Agricultural Weed Management), 1B (Agricultural Insect Control), 1C (Agricultural Crop Disease Management), 3O,T, and G (Ornamental, Turf, and Greenhouse Pest Management), 4 (Seed Treatment) and 6 (Right-of-Way). Training on the Iowa Core Manual will be given for the first 1.5 hours with training on the other categories following.

There is a \$25 fee per person at each training session. These training sessions do NOT qualify as continuing instructional courses. For more information, please contact Jim Fawcett at (319) 337-2145, Patrick O'Malley at (319) 337-2145, or Virgil Schmitt at (563) 263-5701.

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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 county.

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:

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.

This newsletter brought to you by:

Iowa State University Extension - Region 15

Serving Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington Counties

Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, Plant Disease Course Set for Feb. 10

The Commercial Ag Weed, Insect and Plant Disease Management Continuing Instructional Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators will be offered Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, call 319-653-4811.

The course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Topics to be covered include safe handling and storage of pesticides, PPE, laws and regulations, pesticide stewardship, pests and pest management. Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) also will be offered this year. Interested participants should bring their CCA number to the program.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PME program can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/.

Seed Treatment Course Feb. 24

The Seed Treatment Continuing Instructional Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators will be offered Wednesday, Feb. 24 at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, call 319-653-4811.

The course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 4 and 10. Topics to be covered include pesticide stewardship, soybean seedling diseases, corn nematodes, laws and regulations, and safe handling and PPE.

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) also will be offered this year. Interested participants should bring their CCA number to the program. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PME program can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/.

Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators Course Offered March 3

The Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators Continuing Instructional Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, March 3 at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and the course runs from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$35. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, call 319-653-4811.

The course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 2, 3O, 3T, 3OT and 10. Topics to be covered include laws and regulations; pesticide stewardship; preharvest and restricted entry intervals; safe handling, pesticide storage and personal protective equipment; bagworms and borers; bur oak blight; designing landscapes for low impacts; and new pesticides for turfgrasses. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses being offered by the PME program can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PM

Farm Anaerobic Digestion Topic of Extension February Event

Iowa State University Extension and the Amana Farms Renewable Energy Center have rescheduled the education outreach program "On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion: Considering the Options." Originally scheduled for December, the information session and tour will be held Tuesday, Feb. 16 in the Amana Colonies at the Iowa Artists Theatre Co. The three-hour program, which will begin at 9 a.m., will be followed by an afternoon digester tour at the Renewable Energy Center. Pre-registration for the educational program is not required, although a registration slip available online can be completed in advance and brought to the event with the \$25 registration fee. Lunch is on your own. The registration form and full agenda are available at www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/amana-program.html. For additional information, contact Lara Moody, ISU Extension agricultural engineering specialist, at lmooody@iastate.edu, (515) 294-7355 or John McGrath of Amana Farms at jmcgrath@amanas.net, (319) 622-7557.

New Ag Decision Maker Blog

A new Iowa State University Extension blog has been created for Ag Decision Maker users. Contributors will include ISU Extension campus and field farm management specialists.

This new web site will answer frequently asked questions regarding farm management, information on emerging issues in agricultural outlook, and news about upcoming ISU Extension farm management events. Short videos on how to use the Ag Decision Maker web site resources will be featured occasionally. Users can offer comments or questions by sending an e-mail message to agdm@iastate.edu.

Readers are encouraged to check back often or subscribe for updates. New posts will be added to the blog two to three times each week. For more information on Ag Decision Maker, visit the web site at: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm. The blog can be accessed by clicking on "AgDM Blog" on the Ag Decision Maker home page, or by going directly to <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>.

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/ to view or download a copy or stop by the Washington County Extension office for a copy.

Interactive Risk Management Workshops for Pork Producers Set for Mid-February

AMES, Iowa -- Iowa pork producers are invited to attend one of four workshops focusing on risk management education and decision making tools scheduled for next month in northern and eastern Iowa. The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), Iowa State University (ISU) Extension, Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC), and Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) are sponsoring this interactive swine edition of "Margin Maker" in Nashua, Manchester, Tipton, and Washington.

ISU Extension swine field specialist Tom Miller said the workshops provide a hands-on opportunity for attendees to practice risk management skills without risking actual assets. "Producers will learn how controlling cost is just as important as protecting revenue, and learn how to 'strike when the iron is hot,'" Miller said. "They'll practice risk management skills in a market simulation and learn strategies in an enjoyable environment, with interaction and good-natured competition among others in the workshop."

Workshop presenters are ISU extension agriculture economics specialist Shane Ellis and, depending on location, ISU extension swine field specialists Mark Storlie, Tom Miller and Russ Euken.

Prior to attending any of these workshops, attendees are strongly encouraged to visit <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/margins> for updated informational videos and written materials on Risk Management and Hog Crush Margin. Knowledge and understanding of these topics is required to participate in the workshops. A special online session set for noon on Feb. 5 will provide the opportunity for workshop attendees to ask questions about the Web materials and to become more comfortable with the topics and tools they'll use in the workshops. To take part in this session, go to <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/rma>

Although there is no cost to participate in the workshops, preregistration is requested to ensure the minimum of six participants per site is met. To register for any of the following sites, contact Tom Miller by phone at (319) 653-4811, by fax at (319) 653-6712 or by e-mail at tmiller@iastate.edu

* Wed., Feb. 17, 1 p.m. Nashua, Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, Borlaug Center, 3327 290th St.

* Thur., Feb. 18, 10 a.m. Manchester, Delaware County Extension Office, 1417 N. Franklin.

* Thur., Feb. 18, 4 p.m. Tipton, Cedar County Extension Office, 107 Cedar St.

* Fri., Feb. 19, 10 a.m. Washington, Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St.



Crop Scout School Offered

If you plan to work as a crop scout for the 2010 crop season, you will want to attend the upcoming Crop Scout School offered by Iowa State University Extension. Hands-on sessions will cover identification and scouting methods for weeds, insects and diseases. Workshops on plant growth and development of corn, soybean and alfalfa will be included along with discussion of common field crop problems.

Crop Scout School will be held Saturday, March 6, on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. in Kildee Hall with sessions beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. Registration is limited to 140 participants and pre-registration is required. The program brochure and registration form are posted on the Web at www.aep.iastate.edu. The cost is \$85. Registration and fees must be received by March 3. Registrations will not be accepted at the door for this program. The fees cover a scouting notebook, lunch and breaks.

Soil Fertility Short Course

Understanding crop nutrient needs and soil fertility issues is vital to profitable crop production. ISU Extension is offering a two-day short course focusing on principles of soils, soil fertility and nutrient management to help crop production professionals make better decisions. In addition to classroom work, attendees will also be visiting the ISU Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory. The Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Short Course will be held Feb. 9-10 at the Knapp-Storms Dining Complex on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. with class work beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Feb 10. Registration is limited to 40 participants and pre-registration is required. The program brochure and registration form are posted on the Web at www.aep.iastate.edu. The cost is \$275. Registration and fees must be received by Feb. 3. Registrations will not be accepted at the door for this program. The fees cover a reference notebook, lunches and breaks.

Registrations for either can be completed online with a credit card (MasterCard or VISA only) at www.aep.iastate.edu. Registrations may also be faxed with a credit card to (515) 294-1311 or be mailed along with a check or credit card information to: ISU Agribusiness Education Program, 2104B Agronomy Hall, Ames, Iowa, 50011-1010. For more information, contact the Agribusiness Education Program at (515) 294-6429 or email aep@iastate.edu.

Eastern Iowa Forage Prices

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets. Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended. **Keosauqua** (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.50-4.00/bale; Grass: SmSq \$2.00-4.00/bale; Straw: SmSq \$4.50-5.50/bale; **Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Wed, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Wed Oct-winter) Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.90-4.20/bale; LgSq \$37.50-68/b; LgRd \$47.50-60/bale; Mixed Leg/Gr: LgSq \$37.50-68/bale; Grass: SmSq \$2.40-4.00/bale; Straw: \$2.50-3.20/bale; Cornstalks: LgRd \$24-30/bale

The following article is excerpted from the EcoNewsLetter which was published the first part of December. There is a lot of misunderstanding of the proposed rule and hopefully this will be beneficial in understanding. The law was passed last spring by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor. Remember that law supersedes rules so even though the rules are still open for public comment the law is in effect.

Limits on Land Applying Confinement Manure Started on December 21

DES MOINES – A new state law started on Dec. 21, limiting the land application of liquid manure on snow-covered ground to emergency situations. The law does not apply to manure from open feedlots or dry manure. It applies to confinement (totally roofed) facilities with liquid manure that have 500 or more animal units. Generally, 500 animal units would be 1,250 finishing hogs; 5,000 nursery pigs; 500 steers, immature dairy cows or other cattle; or 357 mature dairy cows.

“However, all livestock and poultry producers need to protect water at all costs,” said Gene Tinker, DNR coordinator of animal feeding operations. “All producers must prevent pollution as they land apply manure.” The law limits liquid application from Dec. 21 to April 1 if the ground is snow-covered. If manure can be injected or incorporated, there is no limit on land application during this time. Snow-covered ground is defined as soil having one inch or more of snow cover or one half inch or more of ice cover.

“Under those conditions, producers can only apply in emergency situations, defined in the law as unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the producer such as natural disaster, unusual weather conditions, or equipment or structural failure,” said Tinker. “They need to notify the regional DNR field office before they apply, and they can only apply to fields that are identified for emergency application in their manure management plans and have a Phosphorus Index of 2 or less.”

Tinker also said that because they are surface applying, producers and commercial applicators need to observe the separation distances, generally applying at least:

- 750 feet from buildings such as residences, businesses and schools;
- 200 feet from environmentally sensitive areas such as a drinking water well, lakes, rivers, streams or ag drainage wells; and 800 feet from high quality water resources.

“The research shows that the later in the season and the closer to spring snowmelt that you apply, the greater the risk that manure-laden runoff will reach a stream,” he said. He recommends that producers who might run out of storage this winter should consider emergency application early in the winter, not late.

“Most important, they should use good common sense, applying on flat land with the least snow cover, located far from a stream,” Tinker said. “If there are tile intakes down gradient of the application area, they must temporarily block the intake – PVC pipe sleeves are the most common method.” They must report emergency applications starting Dec. 21 to the local DNR field office. If they have questions about a specific site or risks, they can also contact a DNR field specialist. Field office locations and phone numbers are available at www.iowadnr.gov/fo/index.html.

Starting Feb. 1, confinement producers with 500 or more animal units will also be limited to emergencies if applying liquid manure on frozen ground. Producers can read the law at <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=SF432>. More information on the protected areas is available at www.iowadnr.gov/afo/landapp.html. Recommendations from the Iowa Manure Management Action Group about applying manure in winter are available at www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/pubs/imms/vol3.pdf

Iowa State University Cooperative Extension

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Region 15**

Areas of Expertise:

Swine, beef, and sheep production. Management areas include ration development, performance/financial projections, swine facilities, genetic improvement, pasture and forage management, enterprise record analysis, value-based livestock production, carcass evaluations, and public policy issues related to livestock production. Coordinator of CHIPS Program.

Frequent Clients:

Livestock producers, veterinarians, agribusiness representatives, lenders, youth livestock participants, media, USDA and other public staff.

What do you enjoy most about your position as beef specialist?

Livestock field specialists receive a diverse variety of livestock questions and requests that require a broad knowledge base – plus these requests vary depending on the specific operation and its goals and direction. This variety makes the position both fun and challenging – plus it keeps your “feet solidly on the ground”! Expect the unexpected...

What sort of activities are you involved in and which ones do you enjoy the most? Topics presented and addressed vary from year to year due to market changes, environmental issues, feed quality and quantity, and so on. Over time, I have enjoyed working with producers to develop their beef “system” – including development and coordination of genetic selection, ration and feedstuff management, grazing systems, and the operation’s marketing approach.

What activities do you think producers benefit from most when they attend? Challenging producers to modify their existing operation and consider implementing new technology or ideas that can improve their current and future bottom line is a common goal for many of our extension livestock staff. It is my goal to provide that type of information so producers are aware of the industry changes that are occurring and how best to adapt these concepts to remain cost competitive.