

# AG newsletter

Washington County Extension  
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Late November 2010

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

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

## ISU EXTENSION OFFERS AG CHEMICAL DEALER UPDATE

Updates on the latest crop production products and recommendations for seed, fertilizer, and ag chemical dealers are the featured topics of the Ag Chemical Dealer Update on December 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Highlander Conference Center in Iowa City. "These meetings are a chance for ag input dealers to meet with Extension specialists to review current research, discuss new products, and learn of new recommendations," says Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist in eastern Iowa.

Featured speakers will be Bob Hartzler, ISU Extension Weed Specialist; Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist; Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Plant Pathologist; and John Sawyer, ISU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist. There will also be similar meetings in Ames on December 8 and Storm Lake on December 14. The meetings are approved for Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits, and Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicators can renew their certification for 2010 in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Registration fees for the meetings are \$70 one week prior to the event (\$85 at the door).

For more information about this program call Jim Fawcett at (319) 337-2145 ([fawcett@iastate.edu](mailto:fawcett@iastate.edu)) or Virgil Schmitt (563) 263-5701 ([vschmitt@iastate.edu](mailto:vschmitt@iastate.edu)). Registration materials and additional information about the meetings is available at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/>

## BEEF FEEDLOT PROGRAM

Iowa State University Extension in cooperation with Great Plain Livestock Nutrition and the Stutsman Family are hosting a beef feedlot program on December 2 starting at 3:00 p.m. Topics to be covered include: 1) Beef Hoop Structure-Design & Performance 2) Addressing High Feed Costs 3) Deep-Bed Manure Systems Presenters: Dr. Dan Larson, Great Plains Livestock Nutrition; Dr. Dan Loy, ISU Beef Feedlot Specialist; Byron Leu, ISU Extension Program Specialist; Greg Brenneman, ISU Extension Program Specialist. Directions: Take Hills Exit off Hwy 218, turn east and proceed to W64, turn north on W64, proceed .5 mile turn west on 500<sup>th</sup> St SE (F62), travel 4 miles and turn north on SW Lackender Ave., travel 1.5 miles and turn west on 480<sup>th</sup> St. SW, 0.2 miles to shop on north side of road. The hoop building is directly across the road from the shop. This program is free of charge and hosted by Region 15 serving Johnson, Washington, Keokuk & Iowa County. See enclosed flier!



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## ISU EXTENSION ANNOUNCES MILK QUALITY WORKSHOPS

With anticipated major changes in milk quality standards, producers need to be at the top of their game with herd management practices that lead to improved cow health and milk quality. ISU Extension in partnership with area milk, veterinary, nutrition, and milk equipment associates are hosting several workshops to help producers prepare for the new quality standards. Dr. Leo Timms, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist and recognized expert on udder health topics will start the discussion at each farm. Producers will visit five stations during the workshop including the milking center and housing areas.

**Dec. 6 Tim and Joan Goedken**, 2856 Quarter Road, Hopkinton, IA 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

**Dec. 7 Mike Deutmeyer**, 21710 Clear Creek Road, Holy Cross, IA, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

**Dec. 8 Ervin Lambright**, 15294 215<sup>th</sup> St., Bloomfield, IA, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**Dec. 9 Schema Holsteins, Marlin Bontrager**, 1881 John Wash Road, Kalona, IA 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

There is no cost to attend. For more information, please contact Larry Tranel at the Dubuque County ISU Extension office at 563-583-6496.

## BEGINNING FARMER WORKSHOP DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> IN AMANA

Andy Larson, ISU Extension program specialist for small farm sustainability, and Dave Baker, ISU Beginning Farmer Center, will be leading this workshop. They will help beginners write and design a vision for their local food production business, inventory their resources and evaluate their next steps to becoming a successful local food producer. Veteran producers will be available to share their stories and dreams, offer suggestions, and answer attendees questions. The program is offered December 4 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development Office located at 920 48th Avenue, Amana 52203. Pre-register by contacting Jason Grimm at 319-622-3264. Attendance is limited to 20. The program is sponsored by Leopold Center, Beginning Farmer Center, ISU Extension, Small Farm Sustainability and funded by a grant from the National Institute of Food & Agriculture.



## 2011 COUNTY BEEF WEIGH-IN DATES SET

The 2011 market beef weigh-ins are set for 8 a.m. to NOON for Washington County youth - Dec. 18, Kalona Sale Barn and January 8, Johnson County 4-H fairgrounds, for Johnson County exhibitors. Contact your local Extension office for the full set of guidelines. Each youth is limited to nominating 6 head of halter cattle.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2010-2011 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. Pre-registration is not required.

December 16	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
December 16	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Wash. County Extension
January 3	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
January 3	7:00 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
February 9	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. room
February 9	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. room
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
February 21	7:00 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
March 29	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Wash. County Extension
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Wash. County Extension

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

## HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP DEC. 3-4

Current commercial fruit or vegetable growers and traditional farmers interested in diversifying can learn more about high tunnel production and marketing at a Dec. 3-4 workshop in Mt. Pleasant. The workshop is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Pathfinders RC&D.

High tunnels are inexpensive, simple, passive-solar greenhouses in which crops are grown directly in the soil. They allow growers to extend the season and produce high yields of quality produce earlier than field-grown crops, thus commanding a higher price at market.

Topics to be covered at this in-depth workshop include site and high tunnel selection, construction, soil management, irrigation, pest management, bed design and cropping systems, market plan development and business plan development.

The workshop will be held at the Henry County Extension office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. This workshop is funded through an Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship specialty crop grant. Pre-registration is required by calling Sue Woods at 515-294-9483 or e-mailing at [swoods@iastate.edu](mailto:swoods@iastate.edu). Fees for the workshop are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple, which includes a training manual and refreshments. Registration deadline is Nov. 29.

## IOWA BEEF CENTER FORAGE TESTING PROJECT 2010-11

2010 weather has severely impacted the quality of forages produced, which will also impact the nutritional status of the beef cow herd. Know the quality of your forages to better balance the ration for your cow herd and minimize nutrition related calving problems next spring. Producers can receive 50% cost-share on forage samples analyzed and assistance in ration balancing. Bring samples to county Extension offices in Iowa, Keokuk, Johnson or Washington. Samples must be core samples. Special information forms need to be completed. All



forms and materials available from participating county Extension offices. Focus will be on hay and silage samples impacted by flooding, excess rain, late maturity, etc. Producer's cost is \$6.19 per sample. Contact your County Extension Office or Extension Beef Program Specialist for details.

Sponsored by the Iowa Beef Center and the Leopold Center's Grass Based Livestock Working Group.

## CATTLE RISK & MARGIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS SET

The Iowa Beef Center (IBC) at Iowa State University (ISU) invites cattle feeders to one of a series of risk and margin management workshops this winter. The nearest location for Region 15 is Jan. 12, Fairfield -- Jefferson County Extension Office. Russ Euken, ISU Extension beef program specialist, said producers will learn about risk management tools like futures, options and livestock insurance, and how to use those tools in their operations. "We'll guide participants in using actual market prices from a two-year period to make marketing and feeder cattle and corn purchase decisions," Euken said. "Attendees will explore the concept of locking in a margin between the selling price of fed cattle and the cost of corn and feeder cattle. You'll learn a great deal and have fun at the same time." Sponsored by IBC, Land O'Lakes Purina and local cooperatives, the \$25 per person fee is payable at the door, but preregistration is required to ensure adequate materials and resources for attendees. Each workshop location must have at least eight and no more than 26 preregistrations. Be sure to check the IBC website on workshop locations [www.iowabeefcenter.org/riskworkshops.html](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/riskworkshops.html). To preregister for the Fairfield site contact ISU Extension beef specialist, Byron Leu, [bleu@iastate.edu](mailto:bleu@iastate.edu) 641-472-4166.

## 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 & mixed: SmSq \$2.75-5.50/bale Grass : SmSq \$1.75-3.00/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.75-4.00/bale

**Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Wed, Yr-round 11:30AM Wed. (& 3rd Wed Oct-winter) Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: (SmSq \$3.00-4.70/bale Sept); LgSq \$53-61/bale ; LgRd \$62.50/bale Grass: (SmSq \$2.00-3.30/bale; LgSq \$36-42/bale Sept); LgRd \$60/bale Corn Stalks LgRd \$25/bale

## PQAPlus™ Training December 8th in Washington

The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension are teaming up to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (PQAPlus™) program. One certification session has been set for December 8th in Washington County.

The session will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250<sup>th</sup> St. Washington, and will be taught by ISU Extension swine field specialist Tom Miller. The session is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who plans to attend should contact the Extension as soon as possible to ensure that there are adequate materials for everyone.

Cost for this certification program is \$25 per person and is payable at the door. To preregister, contact the Washington County Extension office at (877) 435-7322 or (319) 653-4811.

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## INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE DEC. 1-2

The Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management Conference will be held Dec. 1 – 2 on the Iowa State University (ISU) campus. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 in the Scheman Building and the program concludes at 4 p.m. Dec. 2.

Conference attendees can choose from 36 workshops that offer the latest information on crop production and protection technology in Iowa and surrounding states. Workshops are offered by ISU faculty and staff and invited speakers from around the Midwest. The conference is hosted by ISU Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

A popular feature of the conference is the variety of guest speakers on the program. "Each year ISU specialists invite colleagues in their field to share their research activities with conference attendees. This provides an opportunity to hear expertise and opinions from across the region and country at one location," said Brent Pringnitz, conference coordinator with ISU's Corn and Soybean Initiative. Invited speakers this year include:

- Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture, State of Iowa, speaking on the Iowa statewide nutrient reduction initiative
- Peter Thomison, Ohio State University, on selecting corn hybrids for performance and profit
- Richard Fawcett, Fawcett Consulting, presenting on 50 years of atrazine and its benefits, impacts and current status
- Paul Fixen, International Plant Nutrition Institute, discussing the 4R nutrient stewardship program
- Robert Mullen, Ohio State University, speaking about nitrogen additives, what they are and do they work
- Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Kansas State University, on managing poultry manure nitrogen for optimum corn yields
- Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska, speaking on no-tillage and water issues

In recent years the conference has filled to capacity with nearly 1,000 producers and agribusiness people in attendance. "The conference is fortunate to have a loyal following of people that attend each year. While filling to capacity is a good problem to have, we hate to turn people away. We encourage people to register early," Pringnitz said. Attendees can obtain Certified Crop Adviser credits as well as recertification for Commercial Pesticide Applicators in categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 4 and 10.

To register online for this event or for more information, visit the conference website at [www.aep.iastate.edu/icm](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm). Registration is \$185. After Nov. 19, registration increases to \$235. Enrollment is limited and no registrations will be accepted at the door.

## JOIN US FOR CROP ADVANTAGE 2011

The Crop Advantage Series has something to offer everyone involved in crop production in Iowa. These 14 meetings feature over 40 different workshops presented by nearly 30 different experts. In addition, each location also offers private pesticide applicator recertification.

**Region 15 with Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk and Washington County** is served by the Crop Advantage meeting to be held January 19, registration starts at 9 a.m. at Kirkwood Community College, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd, Cedar Rapids. Advance registration (at least one week before the meeting) is \$35 and includes lunch, refreshments and a copy of the series proceedings book. For additional program details and registration information, visit [www.cropadvantage.org](http://www.cropadvantage.org), or contact Jim Fawcett at 319-337-2145 fawcett@iastate.edu. The Crop Advantage Series is brought to you by your local Extension Field Agronomist, Jim Fawcett, serving Region 15. **Register today for this informative event you won't want to miss. We look forward to seeing you in January.**

## WINTER FEEDING DECISIONS FOR THE COW HERD

During most Iowa winters, hay is an adequate choice to meet nutritional needs of gestating beef cows when fed free choice. However, this summer's continual rain caused over-mature or otherwise damaged hay resulting in decreased feed value. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension beef program specialist, Byron Leu, said the problem is widespread.

“Almost one-half of the forage samples submitted to date through our forage testing project are marginal in energy and nearly 20 percent are marginal in meeting the protein needs of a mature beef cow in late gestation,” Leu said. “It’s important to know the nutritional value of your available forages so you can make good feed and feeding decisions this winter.”

ISU Extension and Iowa Beef Center (IBC) are hosting meetings in several locations in December designed to help producers learn how to make these nutrition-based decisions. Two of those meetings are set for December 13, 7p.m., Iowa County Extension Office and the other December 16, 7 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office. The cost is \$5 per person. You may pre-register by calling the Iowa County office at 319-642-5504 or the Washington County office at 319-653-4811.

In addition to providing a current summary of the forage testing project and to-date results, Byron Leu will present information on allocating feed inventory, sample rations to meet cow nutrient needs and tools to control feed cost and waste. He also will work through various ration examples using results from the forage test project and IBC’s Beef Ration and Nutrient Decision Software, known as BRaNDS.

“The beef cow is an amazing animal that’s able to utilize almost any forage as long we know the nutrient content and balance it correctly,” Leu said. “We’ll work with you to design the rations that meet the needs of your herd.” Byron Leu said IBC’s forage testing project is ongoing, and encourages producers to consider submitting samples.

“The cost to producers is less than \$7 per sample, and can provide you with information that’s specific to your operation,” Leu said. “Contact me or your country ISU Extension office for more information on how to participate.” See enclosed flier.

## EXTENSION WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS ROLE OF FARM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

AMES, Iowa – Subsurface drainage, commonly known as ag tile systems, is an important part of agricultural systems in Iowa. A drainage workshop planned for December will examine various aspects of farmland drainage, according to Iowa State University engineers who will conduct the workshop.

The 2010 Drainage Workshop will cover the basics of planning a new drainage system or retrofitting an existing system. Economic and long-term benefits of tiling of interest to producers, drainage contractors, landowners and others interested in farmland drainage also will be discussed.

“To function most efficiently, all components of a subsurface drainage system should be designed to work together for optimum efficiency,” said Kapil Arora, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. “While the economic benefits of tiling are well recognized, there are also environmental impacts from drainage.” New technologies that may be useful in minimizing environmental impacts will be discussed at the workshop, Arora added.

A morning session will focus on drainage concepts, economics and long term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on implications of drainage water management, compliance with USDA-NRCS requirements, discussions on controlled drainage, bioreactors, and managing drainage water quality with wetlands.

The same workshop will be offered at three locations. All programs begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 3:30 p.m. The dates and locations are listed below.

- Dec. 7, Comfort Inn & Suites, 910 West 16th Street, Pella
- Dec. 8, Clover Hall, Greene County Fairgrounds, East Lincoln Way, Jefferson
- December 10, The Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, 1527 Highway 150 South, Calmar

The program is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, industry partners and United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The pre-registration fee, including lunch and refreshments, is \$35 for those registered by Dec. 1. Registrations after the pre-registration deadline will be \$45. Walk-in registrations will be accepted only if space is available.

Registration information is available online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/story](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/story) or by calling ISU Extension – Story County Office at 515- 382-6551.

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## NEW PUBLICATION HELPS PRODUCERS IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOG BUILDINGS

AMES, Iowa -- Wasted heating energy due to excessive ventilation is a costly problem for hog producers during the winter months. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension illustrates examples for evaluating minimum ventilation to improve energy efficiency in hog buildings. "[Sizing Minimum Ventilation to Save Heating Energy in Swine Housing](#)," PM 2089J, is available to download from the Extension Online Store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/). Eighty to ninety percent of heat loss in swine housing during the winter months is due to over-ventilation, according to Jay Harmon, ISU professor in Ag and Biosystems Engineering. "Unfortunately, over-ventilation during the winter months is more common than you would think," said Harmon. "In particular, wean-to-finish buildings present one of the greatest challenges to efficient winter heating and proper ventilation."



Proper sizing of minimum ventilation and use of variable speed fans can improve overall energy efficiency. This publication addresses recommendations regarding air flow, fan speed and wind protection. It also describes factors that affect fan performance. "Weather conditions this fall have allowed farmers to catch up on many outdoor projects that may have fallen through the cracks in years past," said Dana Petersen, ISU Extension program coordinator. "Investing time to winterize livestock buildings can improve efficiency and conserve energy during the coming months." The publication is 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 of the initiative is to increase farmers' awareness of farm energy conservation practices. Sponsored by a grant from the Iowa Energy Center, it is also helping farmers explore alternatives to reduce farm energy demand and to improve their farms' overall profitability in a rapidly changing energy environment. To find other publications in the series, go to the ISU Extension Online Store, [www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/), and search for farm energy.