

AG newsletter

October 2011

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

... and justice for all

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AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK & MANAGEMENT SERIES OFFERED AT AMANA

In 2011 Iowa's farm economy is flourishing despite increased market volatility, higher input costs, rents and land values. The biggest challenge in helping producers and clients will be gathering sound research based information. Iowa State University Extension Economics will be holding the annual Agricultural Outlook and Risk Management meeting, Tuesday, November 15th, at 4:00 PM. This program, being held at the Clarion Inn in Amana, I-80 at exit 225, is designed to meet the needs of agricultural lenders, farm managers, and agribusinesses serving producers, giving you the tools to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing Iowa producers in 2012 and beyond. Presenting research based information, Dr. William Edwards, ISU Extension Agricultural Economist will discuss and offer tips on dealing with Farm Finances in Stressful Times. Dr. Chad Hart, ISU Grain Marketing Specialist will present current trends in grain marketing, crop outlook and the direction of the next farm bill. Additionally, Shane Ellis, ISU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist will give Iowa's livestock outlook and talk about current industry trends. Advance registration is recommended by calling the Henry County Extension Office at 319-385-8126. Registration includes workshop materials, breaks and a meal.

COOL STORED GRAIN NOW

In just the past couple of weeks a lot of corn and soybeans went into storage with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. With grain this warm, moisture migration within the grain mass and spoilage can occur very quickly, even with fairly dry grain.

With average daily temperatures now in the mid 40s to low 50s, newly stored grain should be cooled down as soon as possible. While stored grain should be cooled to 30-40 degrees for winter storage, the sooner we get grain temperatures down, the better. Fans might need to be run several times during the fall to get grain down to wintertime storage temperatures.

The time required to completely cool a bin of grain depends on fan size. In general terms, a large drying fan will take 10-20 hours to cool a bin of grain. However, a small aeration fan can take a week or more to completely cool a full bin. In either case, it is best to measure the temperature of the air coming out of the grain to see if cooling is complete. It is also much better to error on the side of running the fan too long rather than turn it off too soon.

If grain is dried down to the proper moisture and correctly cooled, it should store very well through the winter. Even so, it is best to check stored grain at least every two weeks during the winter and once a week in warmer weather. To do a good job checking grain, inspect and probe the grain for crusting, damp grain, and warm spots. Also, run the fan for just a few minutes and smell the exhaust air for any off odors. For more details, order a copy of "Managing Dry Grain in Storage" AED-20 from Midwest Plan Service at www.mwps.org or check out more post-harvest grain information at www.bbe.umn.edu/ExtensionandOutreach/FoodProductionandProcessingSafety/Post-HarvestHandlingofCrops/index.htm

MOSQUITO/PUBLIC HEALTH PEST MANAGEMENT COURSE OCT. 27

Washington Extension Office will host a Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management Continuing Instructional Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011. The program will be shown at locations across Iowa through the Iowa State University Extension Pest Management and the Environment (PME) program. The local site for the Oct. 27 CIC is your County Extension Office. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by sessions from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35 on or before Oct. 20 and \$45 after Oct. 20. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the Extension office by phoning 319-653-4811. The 2011 course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 7D (Community Insect Management); 8 (Public Health Pest Control); and 10 (Demonstration and Research). The course will cover topics such as laws and regulations; pesticide toxicity and exposure; mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders. Additional information about this and other courses offered through the PME Program may be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2011-2012 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 19	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension
December 19	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
January 5	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 16	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 16	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension
March 13	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 13	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension

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 Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk and Washington County Extension Office.
- Confinement site certification - Thurs., Jan. 19 2012, 9:30 a.m.-Noon, Expo Building, Sigourney Fairgrounds
- Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7:00-9:30 p.m. , Washington Co. Extension
- Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Tues., Feb. 21, 2012, 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 PUBLICATION MAKES INTERPRETING MANURE NUTRIENT ANALYSES EASIER

By Angie Rieck-Hinz, Department of Agronomy and Tom Miller, Extension Swine Specialist

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has recently released a publication that complements existing extension manure management resources. [How to Interpret Your Manure Analysis, PM 3014](#), explains the value of manure sample analyses that indicate nutrient concentrations. Such analyses help define application rates that increase the potential of manure as a crop nutrient source.



Having manure analyzed is the best way to determine nutrient concentration. This publication explains the numbers producers see in laboratory analysis results and tells how to use those numbers in the nutrient management planning process.”

The publication explains how frequently to sample, what tests to request, what the results mean and how to use those results in a nutrient plan. “How to Interpret Your Manure Analysis” also provides examples of lab reports and a list of common conversions. By viewing the publication online, readers can click on highlighted text and reach Web pages with additional nutrient planning information. The publication can be [viewed or downloaded from the ISU Extension Online Store](#). The print version of the publication can be ordered from the store online, by calling 515-294-5247 or emailing pubdist@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 \$5.00-7.50/bale Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$3.50-5.50/bale; ([private sales LgSq 200/T; LgRd \$45/bale] Aug) Grass : SmSq \$2.75-4.50/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.25-3.50/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) (SE IA) 1st Weds, 11:30AM (winter 1st & 3rd Weds Oct-) Alfalfa: (SmSq \$4.50-5.40/bale Aug) ; LgSq\$62.50-82.50/bale; (LgRd \$107.50/b Aug) Mixed Leg/Gr : SmSq \$6.00-6.10/bale; (LgRd \$72.50- 122/b Aug) Grass: LgRd \$42-65/bale Straw: SmSq (\$1.70-2.40/bale Aug) Cornstalks: LgRd \$33/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa: SmSq \$4.10-6.00/bale Mixed : SmSq \$4.20/bale; LgSq \$32.50-42.50/b; LgRd \$37.50-125/bale Grass: SmSq \$2.85-4.00/b Straw: (SmSq \$2.25-2.40/bale; LgRd \$42.50/ bale Aug)

2011 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey Available Online

Producers and property owners seeking the latest custom rates for machinery operations can visit the following site for a copy of the 2011 custom rates



www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/fm1698.pdf

2011 COUNTY BEEF WEIGH-IN DATES SET

The 2012 market beef weigh-in dates are set for Region 15 (counties of Iowa, Keokuk, Johnson & Washington)

Washington County—8:30 a.m. to NOON on December 17 at the Kalona Sale Barn

Johnson County—January 7, Johnson County 4-H fairgrounds

Keokuk County—Tuesday, December 27, 8:00-10:30 a.m. at the sale barn in Sigourney

Iowa County—Saturday, December 10, 8-10 a.m. at Iowa Valley Vet.

Each youth is limited to nominating 6 head of halter cattle. Contact your local Extension office for the full set of guidelines.

Stay Informed - www.extension.iastate.edu/washington

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HARVEST CROP INSURANCE REMINDER CHECKLIST

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The 2011 growing season saw extreme weather conditions that will likely result in yield variability even within a field. Harvest projected prices are determined in the month of October by using the average futures price for December corn and November soybean. These final projected prices will be watched closely as they have the potential for increasing final indemnity payments. It is estimated that 90 percent of Iowa's row crops are covered by crop insurance in 2011. Most producers use farm level policies such as Revenue Protection (RP) or Yield Protection (YP). Special attention to detail prior to and during harvest is recommended. Always practice good communication skills with your crop insurance agent. Consider these reminders to maximize your potential indemnity payment:

1. Any old crop grain still stored on-farm should be measured by an adjuster prior to harvest.
2. Notify your agent before destroying or chopping corn for silage.
3. Contact your agent within 72 hours after discovering damage to a crop.
4. Keep production records so that yields for each unit can be separated.
5. Mark production records including yield monitor data and scale tickets by unit, farm name or specific reference.
6. Keep track of feed records for production that is being fed.
7. Report your actual production history (APH) for each unit to your agent immediately following harvest.

Should you have questions, notify your crop insurance agent.

NEW PUBLICATION HELPS FARMERS USE DATA FOR TRACTOR SELECTION

Dana Petersen, Farm Energy Conservation and Efficiency Initiative, petersen@iastate.edu; Mark Hanna, extension engineer, hmhanna@iastate.edu

Eyeing a new tractor? Your fleet of farm equipment represents a significant capital investment, second only to land in many farm businesses. Likewise, tractor operations represent a significant portion of annual on-farm fuel costs. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension discusses tractor test data to consider when leasing or purchasing a tractor. "Fuel Efficiency Factors for Tractor Selection" (PM 20890) is available to download from the ISU Farm Energy Initiative at <http://farmenergy.exnet.iastate.edu>. "During the decision making process, tractor test data can be used to evaluate drawbar power and to estimate fuel consumption," said Mark Hanna, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. "For example, before purchasing a larger or heavier tractor, consider that at least seven percent of tractor power is commonly required just to overcome rolling resistance created by the tractor's weight."

This publication illustrates the most relevant data that is available to estimate tractor fuel efficiency before purchasing a new tractor. Test measurements include drawbar load tests, lift capacity, hydraulic power and power and fuel use during power-take-off (PTO) operations. Tractor test data for tractors manufactured in the U.S. is available from the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory (NTTL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "If you're considering adding new equipment to your fleet before harvest begins, the tractor test data can help you compare newer and older models effectively," said Dana Petersen, ISU Extension program coordinator with ISU Farm Energy. "Seeking the best tractor to suit your operation can reduce costs by conserving fuel."

YARD & GARDEN: FALL LAWN CARE

By Richard Jauron & Willy Klein

As lawn mowing comes to an end, it is a good time to perform other lawn maintenance. This week Iowa State University Extension horticulturists address fall lawn care. To have additional lawn questions answered, contact them anytime at hortline@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-3108 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m to noon and 1-4 p.m.

Is fall a good time to fertilize the lawn?

Fall is an important time to fertilize the lawn. Spring and late summer fertilizer applications mainly stimulate leaf growth. A fall fertilizer application promotes root development, enhances storage of food reserves and promotes early green-up next spring. Early November (once the turfgrass foliage has stopped growing) is the ideal time to apply fertilizer in fall. Nitrogen is the most important nutrient to apply in fall. Apply one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

When should I stop mowing the lawn in fall?

Continue to mow the lawn until the grass stops growing. The foliage of cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, stops growing when daytime high temperatures are consistently below 50 F. In central Iowa, bluegrass usually stops growing in early to mid-November. Once the foliage stops growing, the lawn mower can be put away for the winter.

Do I need to rake the leaves on my lawn?

Turfgrass plants use light, water and nutrients to manufacture food. In fall, lawn areas beneath large trees are often completely covered with leaves. The leaf debris prevents the turfgrass plants from manufacturing and storing food prior to winter. A thick layer of leaves (little or no grass is visible) will need to be raked up and removed. It's possible to deal with a small amount of leaves (areas of grass are clearly visible) by shredding the leaves with a mulching mower. Small amounts of leaf debris will filter down into the grass.

Are broadleaf herbicides effective when applied during dry weather?

Broadleaf herbicides are most effective when applied to weeds that are actively growing. During prolonged periods of dry weather, some weeds are likely to curl up or wilt. An application of a broadleaf herbicide to drought stressed weeds likely will be less effective as wilted foliage will absorb less herbicide than healthy foliage. Broadleaf herbicides can be applied from mid-September to early November in Iowa. In dry fall weather, wait for a good rain or irrigate the lawn before applying a broadleaf herbicide. One-half inch or more of water (either from rainfall or irrigation) will quickly revive most drought stressed weeds.

Go Green

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email akauff@iastate.edu and we will put you on our virtual mailing list!

WOMEN MARKETING GRAIN CLUB TO MEET OCTOBER 24

Join us for a conversation with other women in your area and learn about techniques for success in today's market!

Women Marketing Grain Clubs provide an outlet for women to focus on marketing and learn from other women about contracts and marketing opportunities in their area. ISU Extension is offering programs in three locations in Iowa. The first meeting in Washington was held on August 29 with thirteen women attending.

"Grain marketing is one of the hardest jobs on the farm," said one participant. "It is something you have to pay attention to every day. Marketing plans are a necessity in every farming operation," she stressed.

The next meeting of the Women Marketing Grain Club will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250th Street, Washington, Iowa, Monday, October 24, beginning at 6:00 PM. There is no cost for this meeting, however, to make sure we have enough materials and handouts please pre-register by calling the Washington County Extension office at 319-653-4811. This program is made possible by a grant through the North Central Risk Management Education Center. The Clubs are an expansion of a successful marketing club started in Hardin County and a Women Marketing Grain Series held in Southwest Iowa.

MANURE APPLICATOR PROGRAMS TO BE SHOWN

Washington County Extension will reshew both the Commercial and Confinement Manure Applicator Programs on November 4, 2011 for those that were unable to attend a workshop. These programs are shown free of charge on the first Friday of each month. Applicators that need to schedule a reshew at any other time will be charged a \$10 fee per person. The Commercial Manure Program (3 hours in length) will be shown at 8:30 am and the Confinement Manure Program (2 hours in length) will be shown at 1:30 pm at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington, IA 52353. Anyone not able to attend training should schedule an appointment with their DNR field office to take the certification exam. Please contact the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 with any questions.

NEW PUBLICATION PROVIDES MINIMUM ILLUMINATION GUIDELINES FOR FARM LIGHTING

by Dana Peterson, Laura Sternweis



AMES, Iowa – Farm lighting systems should be designed to meet minimum lighting requirements in a manner that is both energy efficient and cost effective. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach addresses minimum illumination levels for various production agriculture settings.

“Indoor lighting for livestock, poultry, and farm shop facilities” (PM 2089R)

is available to download from the Extension Online Store, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/>.

“When selecting lighting for farm applications, consider energy efficiency in addition to the initial cost of ballasts and fixtures,” said Jay Harmon, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. “Also keep in mind that bulbs may not achieve their ‘rated life’ as shown on the package in a typical farm facility where dust, humidity and temperature fluctuations often shorten bulb life.” This publication explains different types of indoor lighting and addresses minimum recommendations for lighting levels inside farm production facilities. It also includes a cost comparison for replacing incandescent bulbs, which are beginning to disappear from retail shelves. The incandescent phase-out officially begins with 100W bulbs this coming January and will grow to include the lower wattage bulbs during the next few years.

“Energy efficient lighting can significantly reduce farm operating costs,

especially in a large production facility with many fixtures,” said Dana Peterson, ISU Extension program coordinator with ISU Farm Energy. “Contact your local electric utility provider to learn about available rebates for energy efficient lighting alternatives.” For more tips on energy efficiency around the farmstead, visit <http://farmenergy.exnet.iastate.edu> or follow @ISU_Farm_Energy on Twitter.

The Farm Energy publications are part of a series of farm energy conservation and efficiency educational materials being developed through the [ISU Farm Energy Initiative](#). The purpose is to increase farmers’ awareness of opportunities for improving efficient use of farm energy. The initiative also will help farmers and utility providers to explore alternatives to reduce farm energy demand and to improve overall profitability in a rapidly changing energy environment.

FINAL PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE (PQA) PLUS ADVISOR CERTIFICATION SESSION OFFERED

AMES, Iowa — The final Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus® Advisor Certification session in 2011 offered by the [Iowa Pork Industry Center](#) (IPIC) will be held Nov. 15, and IPIC Associate Director James McKean urged people to submit their applications before the Nov. 8 deadline. “If you’re interested in attending, please check the qualification requirements and submit your application soon,” McKean said. “There is a limit on the number of attendees and not everyone is guaranteed a spot.” To become certified, attendance at the day-long training session and passing an exam given at the conclusion of the session are required. To be eligible to submit an application, people must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a veterinarian, extension specialist or agriculture educator (defined for this program as a person who spends full time in adult education or at least half time in production training), and
2. have a D.V.M. or B.S. in animal science or an equivalent combination of education and swine production experience as determined by the PQA Plus trainer reviewing the application, and
3. have two years of recent documentable swine production experience.

Those who qualify and are interested in the program should download, complete and submit the two-page application form available online at www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPapp111511.docx. The form also is available by fax by calling Sunny Hsu at IPIC at 515-294-4103. If interested in attending, submit the application as soon as possible. Applications are due on Nov. 8, with \$75 due from approved applicants by the certification session on Nov. 15. PQA Plus was developed by the Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition to be a continuous improvement program. The coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being. PQA Plus® merges the food safety and animal well-being concepts of the original PQA program into three steps: individual certification through education, farm site assessment and the opportunity for project verification that gives customer credibility. For more information on PQA Plus contact the National Pork Board at 800-456-PORK or go to <http://www.pork.org/certification/default.aspx>.

YARD AND GARDEN: LAWN WEED CONTROL By Richard Jauron, Willy Klein

The overall appearance of a lawn is directly related to the maintenance provided. September is an ideal time for many lawn maintenance practices—such as weed control. To have additional questions answered, contact the horticulturists at hortline@iastate.edu or call 515-294-3108.

When is the best time to apply a herbicide to the lawn to control dandelions and other broadleaf weeds? Fall (mid-September through October) is the best time to control perennial broadleaf weeds in the lawn with broadleaf herbicides. In fall, perennial broadleaf weeds are transporting food (carbohydrates) from their foliage to their roots in preparation for winter. Broadleaf herbicides applied in fall will be absorbed by the broadleaf weed's foliage and transported to the roots along with the carbohydrates, resulting in the destruction of the broadleaf weeds. Broadleaf herbicides can be applied as liquids or granules. Before applying any herbicide, carefully read and follow label directions.

What is the proper way to apply broadleaf herbicides to the lawn? Broadleaf herbicides can be applied as liquids or granules. Before applying any herbicide, carefully read and follow label directions. When applying liquid formulations, potential spray drift problems can be avoided by following simple precautions. Don't spray when winds exceed five miles per hour. Also, don't spray when temperatures are forecast to exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit within 24 hours of the application. Since coarse droplets are less likely to drift than fine sprays, select nozzles that produce coarse droplets and use low sprayer pressure when applying liquid broadleaf herbicides. When spraying, keep the nozzle close to the ground. If only a few areas in the lawn have broadleaf weed problems, spot treat these areas rather than spraying the entire lawn. Apply just enough material to wet the leaf surfaces. Granular broadleaf herbicides are often combined with fertilizers. Apply granular broadleaf herbicides and fertilizer/broadleaf herbicide combinations when the weed foliage is wet. Broadleaf herbicides are absorbed by the weed's foliage, not its roots. To be effective, the granules must stick to the weeds and the herbicide must be absorbed by the weed's foliage. Apply granular products in the early morning when the foliage is wet with dew or irrigate the lawn prior to the application. To ensure adequate leaf surface and herbicide absorption, don't mow the lawn two to three days before treatment. After treatment, allow three or four days to pass before mowing. This allows sufficient time for the broadleaf weeds to absorb the herbicide and translocate it to their roots. To prevent the broadleaf herbicide from being washed off the plant's foliage, apply these materials when no rain is forecast for 24 hours. Also, don't irrigate treated lawns within 24 hours of the application.

How do I control creeping Charlie in my lawn? Ground ivy ("creeping Charlie") in lawns can be controlled with broadleaf herbicides. Products that contain 2,4-D or triclopyr are most effective. 2,4-D is an active ingredient in many broadleaf herbicide products. Triclopyr can be found in Ortho Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover, and Oxalis Killer for Lawns and a few other products. In Iowa, herbicide applications should be made between mid-September and Nov. 1. Two applications are necessary to effectively control ground ivy. The first application should be made in mid to late September, the second a month later.

How do I control violets in my lawn? Violets are very difficult to control. Digging up the plants is an option for home gardeners with a small infestation of violets. Broadleaf herbicides are the most practical solution when dealing with large numbers of violets. Broadleaf herbicides containing triclopyr usually provide good control of violets. Applications can be made in spring (during bloom) or fall. Two applications, two to three weeks apart, are usually necessary to achieve good control.

2012 GARDEN CALENDAR

AMES, Iowa — Many of Iowa's beautiful public gardens are in the spotlight next year with the 2012 Garden Calendar from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The full-color, 12-month calendar highlights a different public garden each month with several photos and information about the garden.

"We wanted to spotlight public gardens next year because we have so many wonderful gardens in Iowa," said Cynthia Haynes, ISU Extension horticulture specialist. "Additional extension information and resources are listed in the calendar for gardeners interested in finding out more about various garden topics." Public Gardens of Iowa PM 0815 is available for \$6 from the ISU Extension and Outreach online store at www.extension.iastate.edu/store or from local extension offices. This is the 34th edition of the ISU Extension and Outreach garden calendar.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DON'T LET YOUR GRAIN BIN KILL YOU

Greg Brenneman – Ag Engineering Specialist

Because last fall's harvest was late and much of the grain was wet, there has been more spoiled grain and an increase in grain bin accidents. In just the last couple of weeks, there have been at least 3 accidents in the upper Midwest where workers have been trapped by grain resulting in 2 deaths.

While many of us know that grain entrapments are a dangerous situation, these accidents continue to occur. Flowing grain can trap a farm worker within five seconds. Most adults are helpless when trapped at knee level. The further down the person is buried, the more strength is needed to pull the person out.

Grain entrapment inside a grain bin can happen in three different ways. Submersion in flowing grain occurs because the flowing grain acts like quicksand, pulling a person under within seconds. A grain bridge, due to frozen or spoiled grain, can collapse, causing a person to fall and be buried alive. A third way workers are trapped is the collapse of a vertical grain wall when the grain breaks free and covers a person.

Purdue University information shows over 75% of grain bin accidents occur when grain is being unloaded and nearly half of bin accidents occur with grain that is out of condition. If spoilage problems develop, following are suggestions to safely deal with the situation:

[Is the grain bridged? Stop the auger and do not go in the bin. Instead, look for a funnel shape at the surface of the grain mass after some grain has been removed. If the surface of the grain appears to be undisturbed and has not funneled down toward the auger, then it has bridged and there is a cavity under the surface.](#)

- Never enter a bin to try and break down grain which has "set up" in a large mass.
- Attempt to break up the grain mass either from the top of the bin with a long pole on a rope, or from outside of the bin, through the door, with a long pole. **Entering the bin to do this work can cost you your life!**
- Expect, and be prepared for, the grain mass to break free at any time and to cascade down.
- Prevent grain from "setting up" in the bin by storing grain in good condition and avoiding spoilage which leads to this problem. The easiest way to reduce the risk of grain entrapment is prevention. Also, never work alone when unloading or dealing with grain bin problems.