

## *Extension Crop Update*

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February 29, 2008

Volume 11, Issue #1

This newsletter, and previous issues from last year, can be found on-line at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm>

**Attend the NW Iowa No-till Conference in March!** The Northwest Iowa “No-Till Conference” is scheduled for March 13 at the Sheldon Community Services Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The “No-Till Conference” is a cooperative effort between Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Cherokee, Lyon, O’Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury Counties.

Jerry Hatfield, Director, National Soil Tilth Lab in Ames, will lead off the conference discussing “No-Till; Building Better Soil and Crops”. Dr Hatfield is internationally recognized as one of the leading authorities on the impact of crop and livestock components of agricultural systems on air, water, and soil quality. Greg Brenneman, Iowa State University Extension Ag Engineer, will discuss “No-Till and Manure – Making it Work Together.” Brenneman will share his observations and experiences in setting up planters for no-till corn after corn, corn after beans, and beans following corn.

Tom Oswald, a farmer from Cleghorn, will discuss “Making No-Till Work for Me.” Craig Struve, C-S Agrow in Calumet, will address the topic of “Plan for Success,” a discussion of what needs to be done before diving into no-till production. A “No-Till” farmer panel will talk about their experiences and give “Tips and Traps for No-Till.”

The NW Iowa No-till Conference does have a registration fee of \$20 if registered before March 7, and \$25 after that date. See the brochure, found here:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/news/notill.htm>, for more details.

**County Crop Production Clinics March 19 & 20 – 4 NW Iowa sites!** ISU Extension will be offering Crop Clinics at 4 sites in two days! The agendas are similar at all 4 sites, but the timing will likely be a little different for each. Palle Pedersen is the keynote presenter at this year’s NW Iowa County Crop Clinics. Palle is ISU Extension’s Soybean Specialist, and has done extensive research on soybean management responses, pathogens and pests. Ron Hook, NW Iowa Extension Farm Management Specialist, will discuss “Marketing Considerations for 2008.” I will also be on the agenda – covering crop production issues not discussed at pesticide training meetings this year.

Lyon and Osceola County Extension will hold their session from about 10 am to 2 pm in Rock Rapids and Sibley on March 19; Cherokee and Plymouth Counties will be hosting their Crop Clinics on March 20 in Cherokee and LeMars. Thanks to some generous sponsors, these are free programs (including the noon meal!). Advance registration is needed for meal planning, however.

For more information or to register, contact the appropriate County extension office, or click the link below for the county of your choice:

Lyon County - see Crop Clinic 2008 link on right hand side of this page:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/lyon/crops.htm>

Osceola County – will have a news article on this page:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/osceola/>

Plymouth County: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/news/crop.htm>

Cherokee County: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cherokee/crops.htm> - look for the link under “events.”

**Does Optimum N Rate Change when Prices rise?** – What rate should I use? ISU Extension, and other North Central crop production states, now encourages you to use the N Rate Calculator to determine what rate of N will likely give the best economic returns to your investment in N, based on research. Go to the N Rate Calculator page, put in your expected corn and N price, and see the projected response curve based on different application rates:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nrate.aspx> . This calculator allows you to put in what you think N will cost you, and also allows you to put in what price you think you will receive for the corn you sell. Interestingly, the ratio between the two has not really changed a lot, so the optimum N rate calculated hasn't changed a lot, either. But, everyone probably has their own assumptions for those two prices. Go to the page, put in some different price scenarios, and see how the numbers work out for you!

### **Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Dates Remaining in NW Iowa –**

As of today, in the 7 counties where I work, I have only 4 sites left for PPAT-CIC meetings for this winter. They include March 10, 7:00 p.m., in Sibley; March 11, 1:30 pm, Marcus; March 11, 7:00 p.m. in Cherokee; and April 1, 7:00 p.m., in Sheldon.

Do you need a site to take the test? Check this web site for a list of IDALS testing opportunities: [http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/pesticide\\_testing.htm](http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/pesticide_testing.htm)

**Estimating a Value for Corn Stover** – I receive multiple requests for this information each year. ISU recently revised a publication with this name – it might be a good reference piece for you! To get a copy, go to this web link: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/FM1867.pdf>.

**NW Iowa On-Farm research Results from 2007** – In 2007, our NW Iowa On-Farm Research project had 19 cooperators, and they completed 38 replicated on-farm projects. Most of the work was conducted in Sioux, Lyon and Osceola counties, with a few in Buena Vista County, too. To see the results of the projects conducted in 2007, and also the 34 projects completed in 2006, check out our web site: <http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu/>.

### **Thanks for "Subscribing!" For more information contact:**

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