

**October, 2006**

## **Greetings,**

Harvest is upon us. The soybean harvest is in full swing and even completed in some cases. The corn harvest will be a real challenge for many. Harvest of the down corn will be frustrating. Be safe - take your time and don't take safety shortcuts.



## **Ag Outlook Meeting**

This year's Ag Outlook Meeting will be held on Monday, November 13 at the Western Iowa Tech Building in Cherokee.

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Roger McEowen - ISU Professor of Agricultural Law - Impact of Changing Ag Sector on Your Farming Operation
- Brian Hoops - Midwest Market Solutions - Outlook on Crops and Livestock

Everyone is welcome!

Sponsors are Heritage Bank, NA; First Trust & Savings Bank of Aurelia, Cleghorn, and Marcus; Cherokee State Bank; and Iowa State University Extension.

More details will be included in next month's newsletter. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

## **6th Annual Iowa Organic Conference to be Held Nov. 20**

The Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program (Departments of Agronomy and Horticulture) will be holding their 6th Annual Iowa Organic Conference on Monday, November 20 in the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus. The all-day conference includes an organic lunch and trade show.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference will be Jim Riddle, former chair of the U. S. National Organic Standards Board and international organic expert, speaking about "From Local to Global-Growing Organic Values."

Featured sessions include:

- How to Transition to Organic Farming
- Marketing Innovations
- Organic Grains, Fruits, Vegetables, and Herbs
- Organic Livestock
- Marketing Skills and Incentives
- Iowa Organic Association inaugural meeting

To register or obtain additional information, go to [www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/organic06/home.html](http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/organic06/home.html).

## **Women in Denim Conference**

The 3rd Annual Women in Denim Conference has been scheduled for January 19-20, 2007 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. Friday evening's activities will include registration, banquet, choice of 5 workshops, vendors, and time for visiting. Saturday's agenda includes a continental breakfast, a large selection of workshops (Farm Financials, Grain Marketing, Freedom Quilts, Scrapbooking, Cancer-What's Happening, Del's Garden Center, Identity Safety, Tension Busters, Altering Recipes, and more), luncheon, and door prizes.

Keynote speaker Pat McGill will address "Who am I? Who are you? Who are we together?" using a combination of wit and humor.

Registration fee before December 15 is \$25 and \$40 after December 15 (includes 2 meals and continental breakfast). For registration information, contact Diane Radke, Ag Partners, LLC, at 1-800-242-5022. Program and registration information can also be found at [www.womenindenim.com](http://www.womenindenim.com).

## Harvesting Lodged Corn

Mark Hanna, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, recently wrote this article for the ICM Newsletter. A lot of NW Iowa acres with lodged corn will be harvested this year.

Nearly every year, adverse weather and crop conditions result in lodged corn in a few fields in the state. Lodging may be caused by wind storm, stalk rot or other disease, rootworm activity, or some combination of these. Regardless, it is a frustrating situation. Combine operators need to accept that harvest will not be routine in these areas and recognize that extra time will be required.

A careful assessment of the situation should be made prior to harvest. How many acres are lodged? How severe is the lodging? What percentage of the total acres that must be harvested does this represent? Will labor and equipment availability be adequate to handle the situation? Each situation is unique and different combine operators will respond in various ways according to the conditions. Generally, lodged fields should be harvested when they are first ready to avoid increased lodging by further stalk disease development or wind storm.

In order to evaluate possible changes that may improve combine harvest, it is important to measure losses in the field behind the combine. Ears that stay below the combine head and are not gathered in by the gathering chains on to the stripper bars are the most common source of machine loss in lodged corn. Each 3/4-lb ear found in a hundredth of an acre plot equals a loss of one bushel per acre. For example, an operator using an eight-row, 30-in. corn head (20 ft wide) would check an area 21 ft 9 in. long and 8 rows wide behind the combine (area equals 435.6 sq ft or 1/100 of an acre). Finding five 3/4-lb size ears would equal a loss of 5 bushels per acre. If losses are excessive, check a similar unharvested area ahead of the combine for ears already lying on the ground and not attached to stalks. These would be preharvest losses that would be unlikely to be able to be picked up by the head regardless of adjustment. Kicking through

cornstalks on the ground may help to find dropped ears hidden by stalks and leaves.

Slowing combine travel speed may reduce the amount of missed ears. Harvesting “against the grain” (e.g., harvesting toward the west in east-leaning cornstalks) also may reduce losses. Evaluate possible improvements by measuring losses. Make sure ear savers on the corn head are in good condition. Keep gathering snouts as low as practical to pick up downed ears. Gathering chains may need to be more aggressive. Place stripper bars closer together if ear butt-shelling occurs on the stalk rolls.

If many acres of severely lodged corn are present and the window of time for harvest is anticipated to be short, consider procuring a corn head reel or other attachments such as crop dividers or lifters. Several after-market manufacturers market reels that can be mounted over the corn head to help lift and guide stalks into the head. Check availability through dealers or the Internet. Even if a reel does not decrease losses, it may allow faster combine travel speed with similar losses, allowing harvest to proceed in a more timely manner. Crop dividers mounted on each side of the head help to lift ears into the head that might otherwise escape.

**Most important for a successful and safe harvest, develop the right attitude.** Recognize that harvest will not be business as usual, but more time and effort will be required in areas with lodged crop. Do not let the inherent safety hazards involved compound field problems with the loss of your time during harvest. Stalk rolls pull in crop at about 12 ft/sec, much faster than reaction time to release the grip on a stalk. Do not attempt to unplug stalks from the corn head before disengaging power to the head and stopping the combine engine. Remove the operator’s key if there is any chance that another person will be in the cab. Take the time to have a safe and efficient harvest. Rushing through activities, particularly early in the season before any weather-related pressures have developed, can be counterproductive.

## **Soybean Cysts in Beans**

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a widespread and serious pest of soybeans in Iowa. But the nematode often does not cause obvious aboveground symptoms, at least not until population densities become extremely high.

One fairly consistent, albeit somewhat indirect, symptom of SCN parasitism that is apparent at this time of the year is early senescence of the soybeans. Growers and agronomists should consider checking for the presence of SCN in fields that have areas that mature earlier with no apparent reason.

What is the best time to sample for SCN? If a grower simply wants to sample a field to check for the presence of SCN, sampling the field after soybean harvest is recommended. The chances of finding SCN after a soybean crop are greater than sampling after a corn crop because soybeans are a host for SCN. Of course, if the grower discovers SCN in a soil sample taken from a field in which soybeans were just harvested and corn will be grown the next year, he or she also should collect another sample after the corn harvest in those fields if soybeans will be grown again following the corn crop. Knowledge of the SCN population densities (numbers) in a field is important in making management decisions.

Remember, if there are any cysts present in your test, then the recommendation is to use an SCN variety the next time you plant soybeans. Numbers can rise very rapidly without these varieties – and yield losses can be severe – even with little or no visible symptoms in the field! Check out the ISU SCN web page for answers to all of your SCN questions – find it here: <http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/soybeancyst/>.

Detailed information on the proper way to collect good soil samples can be found on the back of the ISU Plant Nematode Sample Submission Form (publication PD-32). Single copies of this publication are available free of charge from county Extension offices. Currently, there is a \$15 per sample charge for processing each sample from Iowa, \$20 per sample for out-of-state samples.

## **Commercial Manure Applicator Training**

A commercial manure applicator certification/recertification satellite downlink is scheduled for January 5, 2007 from 8:45 a.m. to noon at various county Extension offices. The Cherokee County Extension Office will be a viewing site.

## **Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training**

Confinement site manure applicator training in Cherokee County has been scheduled for January 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Western Iowa Tech Building in Cherokee.

## **Fall Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training**

During fall 2006, continuing instructional courses (CIC) will be provided at sites across Iowa for certified commercial applicators. Applicators should have received a large postcard in the mail recently with course dates and information on how to register for the courses. Registration forms can be obtained on the Web at [www.extension.iastate.edu/pme](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme) or by visiting your local county Extension office.

### **Fall 2006 CIC Course Dates:**

**Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management -**

October 26, 8:45 a.m., Categories 7D, 8, 10

**Grain Fumigation (commercial and private fumigators) -** November 8, 8:45 a.m.,

Categories 7C, 10

**Ornamental & Turfgrass Applicators -**

November 15, 1:15 p.m., Categories 2, 3O, 3T, 3OT, 10

**Pest Control Operators -** November 29, 8:45 a.m., Categories 7A, 7B, 8, 10

**Commercial Ag Weed, Insect & Plant Disease Management -** December 5, 8:45 a.m.,

Categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 10

**Aerial Applicators\***, Categories 10, 11

**Wood Preservatives\***, Categories 7E, 10

**Animal Pest Control\***, Categories 1E, 10

\*Employers will be contacted when program is available.

## ISU College of Agriculture Scholarships

Agriculture scholarships are awarded in varying amounts to students studying majors in the College of Agriculture at ISU. The application period is from October 15 through January 15 prior to year of entry. Applications must be submitted online at [www.ag.iastate.edu/scholarships/freshman](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/scholarships/freshman). Scholarship recipients are notified in March and April.

## Christina Hixson Opportunity Awards for High School Seniors

The Christina Hixson Opportunity Award is a grant of \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year for four years) to be used at Iowa State University. The Hixson Opportunity Award is granted on the basis of character, ability to overcome adversity, academic commitment, financial need and other qualities.

The program at Iowa State University provides awards to high school seniors from each of Iowa's 99 counties. The students have faced challenges of personal and/or financial hardship, must be residents of Iowa and must be admissible to Iowa State University. Students may major in any curriculum and must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average for renewal. Additional information and an application form can be found online at <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/hixson/procedures/>. Applications are also available at county Extension offices or from high school guidance counselors. Application deadline is February 1, 2007. Recipients will be notified by May 1, 2007.

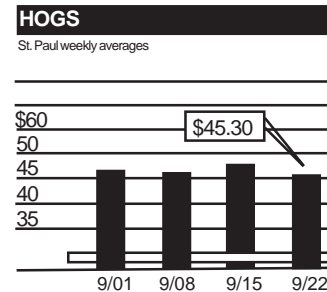
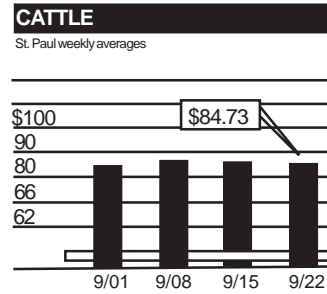
## October - Pork Month

- Pork is the world's most widely eaten meat.
- To stop free-roaming pigs rampaging through their grain fields, Manhattan Island residents built a long wall on the northern edge of what is now Lower Manhattan. The street that came to border the wall was named...Wall Street.
- The pig is rated the fourth most intelligent animal.
- Hogs are a source of nearly 40 drugs and pharmaceuticals on the market.

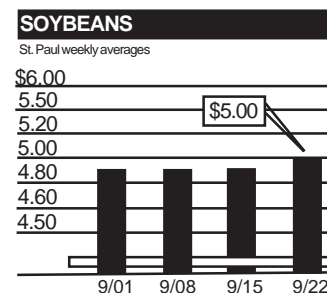
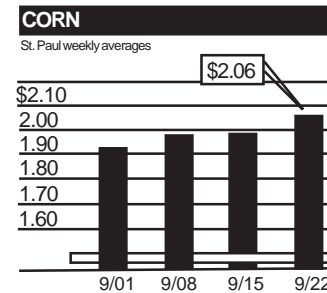


## Facts and Figures

### 1. Livestock



### 2. Crops



Have a good month.

\* "No legacy is so rich as honesty."

Sincerely,

Donald G. Avis  
County Extension Education Director

DA/ss

\* William Shakespeare