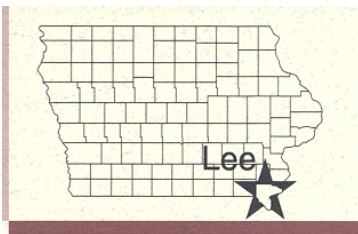




Lee County Extension Farm and Acreage Newsletter September 2004

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Dear Friend,

Before harvest begins, I would like to take a minute of your time and share with you information which I believe will be of interest and helpful. For the future, if you are connected to the Internet, I would really like to ask that you bookmark the Lee County Extension Website: www.extension.iastate.edu/lee/. The site is new and will allow us to post current, up to the minute information and educational opportunities. With postage costs and the time needed to place letters in the mail or newspapers, we are going to rely more and more on our website.

Shimek Forestry Field Day October 5th

Lee County Extension will host the Shimek Forestry Field Day on Tuesday, October 5th. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an optional tree identification program beginning at 9:00 a.m. I am very pleased with the topics selected this year and believe you will find them of interest. Mark Carlton and I will discuss sprayer selection for special situations as well as herbicides for tree and woody plant production.

We will also have a saw mill at this year's event. Forestry specialists will talk about what makes a quality log, the visual appraisal and from there we will saw the log to see what qualities lay beneath the bark. They will also discuss drying techniques and how to avoid damage to the lumber.

A new topic will be "Gullies and Erosion in Woodlands". Jim Sutter NRCS District Conservationist will discuss questions on causes, and most important how to control gullies in wooded areas once they occur.

To register, please call the Lee County Extension Office by **September 30th**. Registration cost \$8.00 which covers refreshments, lunch, materials.

Lee County Plat Books

This is the time of year we have a number of out of county and out of state hunters visit Lee County. The Extension office has plat books available at a cost of \$25.00.

New and Timely Publications

AE -3112

Setting Combines for Harvesting Best Quality Seed and Field Corn

NCH-33

Planning a Subsurface Drainage System

NCH-49

Corn Silage Harvest Techniques

Pm-1168

Corn Suitability Ratings, an Index to Soil Productivity **NEW!**

Pm-287

Take a Good Soil Sample to Make a Good Decision

Pm-1310

Interpretation of Soil Test Results

Pm-1584

Cornstalk Testing to Evaluate Nitrogen Management

Pm-1688

General Guide for Crop Nutrient and Limestone Recommendations in Iowa

Fm-1698

2004 Custom Rate Survey

Fm-1538

Iowa Farm Lease

Fm-1825

2003 Iowa Farmland Value Survey

To obtain copies of these and many other publications contact the Lee County Extension office or visit the Lee County Extension website where all publications are available either to order or print.

2004 Year in Review

This is the time to take pencil in hand and document the positive and negative growing season. If you haven't already done so, prepare a crop diary to help you remember situations from this year, and map out who, what, where and make focused decisions in future years.



4

Generate a set of field maps and couple them with a detailed field record book and you have a crop season diary that can make you money in your operation.

As I look back at 2004, I will note that we experienced few insect problems but that leaf diseases in both corn and soybeans will have an impact on yields. The SDS in soybeans has been extreme and may cause one to think about delaying the planting of soybeans. I was reminded in 2004 of the importance to rotate crops as a means to control plant diseases. I saw a fair amount of nitrogen deficiency in corn this past year and potassium in soybeans. Again it is critical to reevaluate the timing and application amounts of nitrogen especially as fertilizer costs increase. A soil sample taken correctly is critical to soil fertility applications.

One of the key questions I receive from the media and marketing services is what I believe the corn and soybeans will yield in Lee County. I believe our corn crop will be above our county average by 10-15 bushels and our soybeans will exceed the yearly yields of the past 5 years by 5 bushels. Harvest will tell the actual story.

Understanding Proposed Sale of Farm Credit Services of America

In response to a steady stream of requests for information about the buyout, Iowa State University has established a website containing background information and analysis of the transaction. The website address is www.rabobankbuyout.org.

For persons who prefer printed material from this site, please call the Extension Office. This information is in response to the July 30th, 2004 announcement by Rabobank, a Dutch financial institution, stating that they intended to purchase Farm Credit Services of America.

HazChem Toxic Cleanup Day

There will be a household hazardous waste disposal cleanup day on Oct. 9, 2004 at the Dupont Parking Lot in Ft. Madison. Call 1-877-429-2436 to set up an appointment or for more information.

Horticulture KOKX **AM 1310**

For persons who have an interest in horticulture, I would invite you to join us every Saturday morning by listening to KOKX 1310 AM at 7:30 a.m. For thirty-five minutes I share with listener's information pertaining to the home garden, landscaping, houseplants, and answer questions from the previous week pertaining to horticulture. Guest interviews from ISU Horticulture Specialists are also a part of the program.



ISU Specialists, Mark Carlton, and Byron Leu, discussed fall fertilization of pastures, inter-seeding, grass and legume identification and weed control at the Pasture Improvement Program held in August.

National Farm Safety Week

September 19th -25th

The 2004 theme
"Agricultural Safety and Health Yields for a Lifetime."

Forages an Important Lee County Crop

In August, the Lee County Extension Service held a special forage meeting for landowners and producers. The topics included fescue control and its impact on livestock health, performance and efficiency. In addition, Mark Carlton, ISU Crop Specialist and Byron Leu, ISU Livestock Specialist discussed fall fertilization of pastures, inter-seeding, grass and legume identification and weed control. Jim Sutter, NRCS District Conservationist shared information on government payment programs which assist landowners with pasture improvement.

A follow-up winter meeting will be held.

If you are considering late summer seeding, I would offer a few suggestions for success:

- Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test and control perennial seeds ahead of seeding. Review past herbicide applications to the field as they can have residual soil activity.
- A culti-packer or culti-mulcher is an excellent last pass tillage tool. The soil should be firm enough for a footprint to sink no deeper than 3/8 to 1/2".
- Don't plant alfalfa immediately after older established alfalfa. Auto toxic compounds are released by old alfalfa plants that inhibit growth and productivity of new alfalfa seedlings.
- Seed when soil moisture is adequate or a good rain system is in the forecast.
- Seedlings require 6 to 8 weeks of growth after emergence to have adequate vigor to survive the winter.
- Use high quality seed, cheap seed often results in disappointment.

It is time to prepare grain storage facilities for the fall harvest season.

Insect damage and fungal growth are both problems that can cause grain to lose value during storage.

The best way to avoid storage losses is to clean bins before grain is placed in them, coupled with managing moisture and temperature within the grain mass after binning.

Thoroughly sweep out residual grain and chaff from the walls, floor and if possible the plenum where insect problems can be harbored. Grain protectants added to the grain stream as labeled during binning can help especially for grain that will likely be held for an extended time.

When you move air to chill or dry the grain, don't stop the airflow until the cooling or drying front has passed through the entire grain mass.

“Who’s Got Your Number?”

In the course of a busy day, you may write a check at the grocery store, make calls on your cell phone, charge on a credit card, or complete a form. Chances are you don’t give these everyday transactions a second thought. But someone else may. These transactions may require you to share personal information such as your bank and credit card account numbers; your income; your Social Security number; or your name, address and phone numbers. An identity thief accesses your personal information and uses it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft.

Identity theft is a serious crime. Personal information is stolen and used against you by identity thieves to obtain credit cards, loans, cell phone contracts, etc. in your name and make large purchases. Unfortunately, identity theft often goes undetected for an average of 14 months from the time the information is stolen and when a victim discovers the theft. One reason is that fraudsters often use change of address forms or fraudulent addresses to divert a victim's mail (e.g., credit card bills) to another location.

Many people discover that their identity has been stolen only after they request a credit report and see new accounts listed that they did not open. Victims are deep in debt with their credit history destroyed. They may lose job opportunities; be refused loans for education, housing, and cars; or arrested for crimes they didn’t commit. Often, it takes victims months or years—and thousands of dollars—to repair the damage thieves have made of their good name and credit record.

Identity theft cannot be prevented entirely but being aware of its causes and knowing some preventive strategies can reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Iowa State University Extension provides educational presentations on protecting your privacy.

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