

## Crop Happenings

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Issue 1



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*Serving Boone,  
Hamilton, Hardin,  
Humboldt, Marshall,  
Story, Tama, Webster,  
and Wright County*

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**Greetings.** This newsletter is written to supplement the [Integrated Crop Management NEWS](#) webpage. The hope is to provide a quick update on local conditions, crop progress, and current problems. Comments and photos are always welcome.

**Field work update.** It is April 16<sup>th</sup> and field work has started. In most cases anhydrous ammonia has been recently applied or is being applied now. Farmers in the Iowa Falls area hope to get into fields today or tomorrow. It's not uncommon to hear that someone is planting corn. Many stalk fields have been worked as well.

**Nitrogen/corn planting comments.** It's been a while since we've seen this much spring applied anhydrous ammonia. A common question is, "How long should I wait to plant corn after applying anhydrous ammonia?" Free ammonia in the injection zone or in the injection track can cause crop injury but this is normally a problem in dry years. Anhydrous ammonia will attack soil water and convert to  $\text{NH}_4^+$  so crop injury should not be a concern if the anhydrous ammonia was applied at the correct depth and it sealed well. Joel DeJong, Extension Field Agronomist from LeMars, wrote an excellent piece for his [newsletter](#) about potential crop injury from spring applied nitrogen. Joel also pointed out that Dr. John Sawyer wrote an excellent article for [ICM News](#) last year. Check both out. The best tip I saw was to actually dig in the planting zone and smell the soil. You would want to wait if you smelled ammonia.

**Integrated CROP MANAGEMENT NEWS.** Plan to check the [ICM NEWS](#) web page regularly to receive the latest updates from ISU Extension pertaining to crop management. Right now there are articles about Steward's wilt prediction, consults needed for aerial applicators, soybean seed treatment, soybean aphids, and cold injury to alfalfa. Most Extension field agronomists write a crop newsletter. They are available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/fsnews.html>.

**ISU Entomology changes.** On February 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Marlin Rice accepted a position in industry. I wish him well in his new position and will definitely miss his sense of humor. Dr. Erin Hodgson has accepted the position of ISU Extension Entomologist for field crops. Dr. Hodgson did her work with Dr. David Ragsdale in Minnesota studying soybean aphid.

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