

FIELD & FEEDLOT



ISU EXTENSION—NORTHWEST REGIONS

OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE

Extension Web Sites

Ag Decision Maker

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

Beef Center

<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/>

Manure Management

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/>

Pork Center

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>

ISU Extension Dairy Team

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

Prepare for Fall Manure Application

By Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

Using manure as a source of crop nutrients can be a very effective way to manage your crops. But, you need to take time to do it very well. The following is a “**Top Ten List: Preparing for Fall Manure Application**” adapted from Angela Rieck-Hinz, Iowa State University, who is the coordinator of the Iowa Manure Management Action Group web site (found here: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/homepage.html>). More information about any of these topics is available at that web site.

1. Manure Management Plans. Prior to land application, review your manure, nutrient, or comprehensive nutrient management plan, make any necessary updates such as adding new fields. Review the plan, application methods and separation distances with employees and/or commercial manure applicators. Also consider evaluating fields for application. Because winter application of manure is prohibited for confinement feeding operations with liquid manure, plan ahead in the event you may have to apply manure under emergency situations in the winter. Save fields with the flattest slopes and P-Index ratings of 2 or less for emergency application.

2. Know and Follow Land Application Separation Distances. Confinement site operators are subject to land application separation distances to neighbors and public use areas, but all animal feeding operations, regardless of size, are subject to separation distances from designated areas (water sources). Get a copy of an aerial photograph of your fields, map out neighbors' houses,

churches, businesses, school, cemeteries and other public use areas as well as all designated areas. Identify all other sources of concern for manure application. Sketch out separation distances. Train your employees to read the maps and stay away from areas where manure application is not allowed. If needed, flag out the areas in the field. Share copies of the maps with your commercial applicator. Make sure you understand the definitions for incorporated and injected manure. Make sure you understand that separation distances for designated areas (water sources) must have the manure injected or incorporated on the same date it was applied.

3. Manure Applicator Certification. If you are required by law to be certified to handle, haul, transport or land-apply manure make sure your certification status is current. Contact your **ISU County Extension Office** to schedule an appointment to attend training. If unsure, contact the DNR Licensing Bureau at 515-281-5918.

4. Develop an Emergency Action Plan. Manure spills happen so plan accordingly. Train employees in manure spill response. Ask your commercial manure applicator if they have a plan of action in the event of a spill. Keep important phone numbers and contact information for excavators, neighbors with pumps and tractors, and local officials and emergency response units up-to-date and posted where everyone knows where to find them. Be aware of safety issues regarding gases when pumping and agitating manure. **NEVER** enter a building or manure storage when pumping or agitating manure.

5. Take Manure Samples. Taking manure samples prior to land application will give you nutrient analysis results for planning application rates this fall. Sampling during land application or manure agitation may provide better results to use in future planning, but will not provide nutrient analysis results to use in planning application rates for this fall. Build a history of nutrient analyses for manure sampling to help better manage the nutrients in manure for crop production.

6. Soil Sampling. Will you need to update an MMP in the next year or two where you need soil samples to re-do your P-index? If so, taking the required soil samples this fall will keep you from getting caught needing to update the MMP at a time you can't get soil samples taken. Samples should be taken prior to manure application. Remember sampling size requirements!

7. Calibrate your Application Equipment. Calibrating manure application equipment takes a little time, but in the long run it will help you meet the correct application rate and make better use of your manure nutrients.

8. Timing, Timing, Timing. A new law has been passed prohibiting the application of liquid manure from confinement facilities on snow-covered or frozen ground during certain times of the year. However, regardless of the source of manure, or the size of operation, application of manure under these conditions is not recommended due to the increased risk of nutrient loss and movement to surface waters.

9. Consider the Neighbors. There is no doubt - the number one complaint about manure application is the odor. Work with your neighbors to let them know about your manure application plans. If possible, tell them how long it might take, how you plan to apply the manure, and how long they might expect to smell the manure. Inquire about any outdoor events in the neighborhood to avoid manure application prior to those events. Good communication is the key.

10. Be Safe. Fall is a busy time of year for farmers and commercial manure applicators. Many manure spills happen because people are in a hurry or are tired from long hours of application work. Get plenty of rest, take breaks and slow down. Take time to inspect equipment. This will help protect employees and reduce the chances of equipment malfunction. Observe all laws of the road and watch out for the "other driver". They may not realize you are moving at a much slower rate of speed or how long your tractor and tank wagon are when they go to pass you on the road. Check "slow moving vehicle signs" and replace as needed. Check lights to make sure they are working and are visible.

Hog Financial Crisis

By Dave Stender, ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist

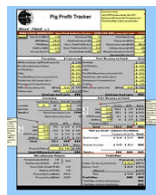
First porcine circo-virus associated diseases (PCVAD) resulted in high death loss and reduced numbers to market; then the Iowa flood increased the corn price to \$7/bushel more than doubling the cost of feed; then the hog price collapsed with the global economy; and finally they called H1N1 the swine flu in the media resulting in soft demand and reduced exports. None of these things have been good for the swine industry. One hog industry analysis has said that the average swine producer went from 70% equity to 30% equity over the last 18 months, a loss of billions of dollars.

As producers look for options there are some tools that producers can use to facilitate adjustments. One of the best tools available, currently at no charge is Iowa State University Extension's farm financial analysis program. It consists of one-on-one financial counseling with a computerized analysis of the farm business. The technician in our area is Wendell Williams. You can reach Wendell at (712) 338-4958 or email Wendell at cwwilli@evertek.net

Farm Financial Planning is for anyone who wants to understand a complete picture of their farm financial situation. It helps take the guesswork out of whether or not a change would increase profitability and improve cash flow. A FINPACK analysis may provide a more in-depth evaluation of the farm business, which many lenders are requiring before they will extend further credit.

The computer analysis looks at profitability, liquidity, solvency, and risk-bearing ability. This information is provided for three or more alternative plans at a time. Farm Financial Planning can help evaluate ways to correct negative cash flow and profitability problems.

There are also a couple of decision aid spreadsheets available for swine producers and lenders to use to help make decisions. A simple tool called Profit Tracker is available to quick, simple breakeven analysis as corn and hog prices fluctuate widely.



Pig Profit Tracker v3.21, Excel® format
Allows producers to vary input and operational costs to see how differing scenarios affect their operation's economic bottom line. Available on CD or as arranged. \$20 per copy. Contact IPIC by phone at 515-294-4103 to order.



Budget Cash Flow v1.1, Excel® format.
Use to help evaluate a current or potential swine producing scenario in terms of both budget and cash flow for a period of up to 11 years. Available on CD or as arranged. \$50 per copy.

There is also some software developed by Dr. Derald Holtkamp at ISU that budgets the sow herd productivity and resulting profit in detail. Dave Stender has used this software to model a sow reduction, showing that sow reduction resulting in older weaning weights will reduce losses during low margin periods. Dave is available to run the software for a swine operation looking for alternatives. Give him a call at (712) 261-0225 if you are interested.

Managing Tough Times is an ISU resource to address economic challenges for Families/Households, Businesses/Communities and Farms. Visit the site address: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes/>

Rural Concern Hotline is at 1-800-447-1985. Confidential, 24 hour, free resource to access a range of expertise to aid people make quality of life decisions.

IBC Starts New Online Community With Blog

By Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist,
Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist
Russ Euken, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist

The Iowa Beef Center is debuting its new blog in an effort to keep everyone “in the know” on the latest happenings with the Iowa Beef Center, but we’re also beginning blogging to have more conversations with the growing online community of those in the livestock industry.

Hoping to hear about upcoming Iowa Beef Center events and the latest research and publications put forth by the organization? Check out the blog! Looking for timely tips and advice by Extension experts and guest “speakers”? Check out the blog!

The Iowa Beef Center blog will not only be your place to hear about livestock production - it’s also your place to chime in! Members of the Iowa Beef Center team and guests will be entering short entries into the blog and through the “comments” feature you can respond to them!

Maybe you want more information on the blog topic, or you have a completely unrelated question - feel free to comment on the blog and we’ll make sure to respond. Comments, questions, and suggestions are all welcome, so stop by today and see what’s happening! You can find us through the IBC Web site at:

www.iowabeefcenter.org or go directly to the blog at: <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/iowabeef>.

The New Iowa Beef Center Online Meeting Homepage!

By Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist
Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist
Russ Euken, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist

Rather than attending a meeting in person, you can take advantage of our new online meeting format and access our valuable information at any time, conveniently located in one location for you. We hope you’ll take advantage of this new type of meeting to gain knowledge in between meetings you attend in person.

One of the best things about this online meeting is that you can attend it on your own schedule! Feel free to “attend” one session at a time, whenever it’s convenient to you, or set aside an afternoon to experience the entire meeting all at once. You’ll get the same information as you would in person – listen to presentations and podcasts by some of the Iowa Beef Center’s beef cattle experts, and read the latest information on the meeting’s topic. Check out our first online meeting on weaning management "[Fall Cowherd Decisions: Herd and Calf: Weaning Marketing and Management](#)" and stay tuned for future online meetings to come on the IBC Web site at www.iowabeefcenter.org !

LRP—Lamb Sales Resume September 14

By Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist
Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist
Russ Euken, ISU Extension Livestock Program Specialist

The Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb (LRP-Lamb) plan of insurance will again be available for sale on Sept. 14. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) suspended sales under the 2009 and 2010 LRP-Lamb Specific Coverage Endorsement (SCE) due to the unavailability of pricing information.

The American Sheep Industry Association’s (ASI) Sheep Venture Company and the Livestock Marketing Information Center have been working with RMA and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) for nearly a year on several requested enhancements to LRP-Lamb.

Included in the changes are:

- a new pricing procedure that uses a lamb carcass price converted to a calculated live price using Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) data
- the addition of a 20-week endorsement
- expansion to the state of Washington; and
- a reduction in the maximum size of the SCE from 7,000 head to 2,000 head.

Producers interested in purchasing an LRP-Lamb SCE must contact a crop insurance agent and complete an application that will be submitted through the approved insurance provider to FCIC.

The 2010 reinsurance year LRP-Lamb materials may be accessed on the RMA Web site from the livestock page at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/livestock/>

MANAGING Tough Times

www.extension.iastate.edu/answers