FIELD & FEEDLOT



ISU EXTENSION—NORTHWEST REGIONS JANUARY 2011 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/

Beginning Farmer Resources

Submitted by Tom Olsen, ISU Extension Farm Management Program Specialist

There are several programs and resources for beginning farmers. Most are funded by the State of Iowa, and are available to experienced farmers over 18 years of age (no upper limit) with a net worth less than $300k.

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit
A state income tax credit is available to those who own agricultural assets and lease them to beginning farmers. These leases could include land, machinery, and livestock. A 5% state income tax credit is available for the lessor for a qualifying cash lease and a 15% credit for crop/livestock share leases. The beginning farmer gets certified by the state and approved leases of 5 years or more are qualifying. To date, there are $3.1 million in leases in Iowa that have been qualified for 870 applicants. 550 arrangements remain active. The program is capped at $6 million, so there is room for more participants.

Beginning Farmer Loan Program
The Beginning Farmer Loan Program provides lower interest loans to assist beginning farmers in acquiring agricultural property. The program provides a tax-exempt bond status for the bondholder, which can be individuals, businesses, or lenders, which then allows for a lower interest rate. This program is for new landowners with a net worth less than $577,845(changes annually). There are no loan guarantees provided and there are loan maximums of $477,000 for land, $250,000 for improvements, $125,000 for new depreciable property, and $62,500 for used depreciable property.

The first two programs are managed by the Iowa Ag. Development Authority http://www.iada.state.ia.us/ the contact person is :

Jeff Ward, *Executive Director, 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 327, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2322, Tel: 515-281-6444, Fax: 515-281-8618, jeff.ward@iowa.gov*

Beginning Farmer Center
The Beginning Farmer Center, http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc / *, since 1994, has been assisting new farmers with various programs. The objectives of the center are:*

- Coordinate education programs and services for beginning farmer efforts statewide.
- Assess needs of beginning farmers and retiring farmers.
- Develop, coordinate, and deliver targeted education to beginning and retiring farm families.
- Provide programs and services that develop skills and knowledge in financial management and planning, legal issues, tax laws, technical production and management, leadership, sustainable agriculture, human health, the environment, and leadership.

In addition to the one-on-one consultations, several programs are featured for beginning farmers:

- **Farm On** is a service to help preserve the family farm business by matching beginning farmers who do not own land, with retiring farmers who do not have heirs to continue the family farm business. Farm On maintains a database of potential beginning farmers and landowners.
- **Ag Link** is a seminar for ISU juniors and seniors who plan to join their family farm operations after they graduate.
- The Center supports the analysis of individual farm situations using the FINPACK computer program. Extension Farm Financial Associates perform the analysis in individual sessions with farm families.
- Development of the **Farm Savvy**, a 200-page manual which outlines a process for the transition of a farm business to the succeeding generation.

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Comparison of Herbicide Programs for Liberty Link, Round-up Ready and Conventional Soybean Production

By Paul Kassel, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

Soybean growers have some options this year when it comes to a herbicide/herbicide resistant seed program. The question of total seed and herbicide costs needs to be evaluated. So, the question becomes, how does conventional soybean compare to Liberty Link or to Roundup Ready in terms of costs per acre? Of course, like so many things, it depends on how you farm, your weed pressure, how dedicated you are to the system and how willing you are to make changes in your weed control program during the growing season.

The following herbicide and seed costs summaries might help you make a decision if you are considering switching to a different soybean production system from a Roundup Ready based system.

There are few assumptions that need to be made. For example, this discussion figures that you have moderate to light weed pressure with no difficult waterhemp or lambsquarter problems. This also figures that you are going to do two pre-plant tillage passes, which will necessary if you are going to use the trifluralin. Also, this assumes that you will cultivate the conventional soybean once. The added expense for that cultivation is not included in this discussion. Additionally, there is no addition of application expense, because each system will have two herbicide applications. There is also volunteer corn control with each pass of PowerMax or Ignite –which may not be necessary.

The two passes of glyphosate will cost (using 22.0 oz/a of PowerMax plus 4.0 oz/a of a generic Select and 1.0 lb/a of AMS) a total of $10.40.

The Liberty Link system will cost $19.88 for two passes. This comparison figures 22.0 oz/a of Ignite and 4.0 oz/a of generic Select for each application.

The conventional system will cost $26.37 for the herbicide. There is a cost of $3.90 for 1.6 pt/a of trifluralin, and a cost of $22.47 for 3.0 oz/a of Pursuit, 6.0 oz/a of Flexstar, 6.0 oz/a of generic Select, 14.0 oz/a of oil concentrate, and 2.0 lb/a of AMS.

You could almost generalize that the glyphosate based system costs $10.00/acre, the Liberty Link system costs $20.00/acre and the conventional system costs almost $30.00/acre. Costs will vary some with products selected, but you get the general idea.

It is pretty clear that the herbicide cost advantage goes to the Roundup Ready system. Therefore you need to save money on the seed costs somewhere and/or increase your income per acre.

The seed costs for Roundup Ready 2 Yield (RR2Y) soybeans will be about $45.00/acre, Roundup Ready (RR1) soybean seed will cost about $42.00/acre, Liberty Link soybean seed will cost about $37.00/acre and conventional seed will cost about $22.00/acre. These seed costs do not include any fungicide or insecticide seed treatment.

A little more math shows that the total cost of seed and herbicide for a Roundup Ready to Yield (RR2Y) system will be around $55.00/acre, Roundup Ready (RR1) will be around $52.00/acre, Liberty Link will be around $57.00/acre and conventional will be around $50.00/acre.

The grain yield of each system will play a big part in your final decision. That part of this discussion is really difficult. It is not easy to find good unbiased information comparing the yield performance of the different seed systems. Obviously any yield advantage to the Liberty Link system or Roundup Ready 2 Yield system will sway a person in that direction. Also, there are some premiums for conventional soybeans that can make that system real attractive.

So push those pencils and figure out what is best for you. Many operations will be content to stay with a glyphosate/Roundup Ready system based on convenience and ease of operations. However, there is definitely room for some creativity and diversity here. One argument for Liberty Link will be the slight difference in the herbicide mode of action and the concern for glyphosate resistant weeds. Similarly an argument can be made for conventional soybeans if a premium can be attained with a reasonable amount of extra effort.

Swine Education Opportunities Update

By Dave Stender, ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist

There is a lot happening in swine education this winter. With continuing volatile markets for corn and market hogs, ISU Extension is offering more risk management workshops to learn fundamentals, tools and strategies for risk management. Women involved in swine production are encouraged to attend a session: February 7th in Harlan at 1 pm or February 8th in Sac City at 4:30 pm.

Employee management is also a workshop available; the sessions start February 15th in Sheldon.

Swine producers are asked to update their PQA Plus certification once every three years. If in doubt, producers can call the National Pork Board to check on their status. Sessions will be held periodically in NW Iowa. Check the calendar at the Iowa Pork Industry Center Web site www.ipic.iastate.edu.

A swine finisher seminar will be held March 8th in Sheldon and March 9th in Carroll, and ventilation workshops are being planned for NW Iowa.

Stayed tuned and stay in touch regarding these opportunities. Contact dstender@iastate.edu for more information.

Study Underscores Hog Farming's Positive Impact on Iowa
News release from IPPA Oct. 4, 2010;
Contact: Ron Birkenholz, rbirkenholz@iowapork.org

(CLIVE, Iowa) - A 10-year study recently completed by Iowa State University confirms what many farmers already know to

be true: that farm families raising hogs in modern barns have a positive social and economic benefit on their neighborhoods and communities.

Dr. Steve Sapp, ISU professor of sociology, and recent ISU graduate student Daniel Sundblad examined 99 Iowa communities — one in each county — and used both subjective and objective indicators to determine quality of life. Towns were selected if their population was below 10,000 residents, was not adjacent to a large city, and relied mainly on agriculture for jobs and income.

Funded by USDA's National Research Initiative, the study's goal was to seek a better understanding of key factors regarding the effects of large-scale agriculture on the quality of life in the small, rural Iowa communities.

Measurements included total household income, income inequality, poverty, infant mortality and crime rates. Respondents also were surveyed about their attitudes toward community members, government, and neighborhood services. The study also gauged people's involvement in their community and the extent of "good neighboring."

Sapp says the study's findings suggest a modest favorable effect of large-scale agriculture on quality of life in the 99 Iowa communities. The research team went a step further by also analyzing the direct impact of hog production on local communities.

Titled *"Pork Production and the Quality of Neighboring in Rural Iowa: A Report to the Iowa Pork Producers Association,"* the study included such variables as trustworthiness, fairness, caring, citizenship, environmental trends, stewardship and expertise involving co-existing relationships between small-town residents and large-scale pork producers.

Sapp says they found that the greater the scale of hog production in the county, the higher quality of life ratings from the community. For example, residents tended to rate their government services and community services higher with increases in the scale of agriculture in their county.

"Farmers have known for a long time that modern livestock production contributes not only economic advantages to the surrounding area, but also social benefits," said Iowa Pork Producers Association President John Weber, a producer from Dysart. "This study demonstrated that communities can become more vibrant with the presence of livestock in the area."

After living in Iowa for nearly 25 years, Sapp says the study's results reaffirmed what he anticipated would be a close connection between agriculture and quality of life in small, rural communities. "I was expecting that there would be an overall favorable effect, and that is what we found," Sapp says. He hopes to obtain funding to repeat the study in 2014 and continue to learn more about trends in the relationship between agriculture and rural communities' quality of life.

Milk Quality is Based in Sound Dairy Herd Management Practises

By Chris Mondak, ISU Extension Dairy Program Specialist

ISU Extension hosted 13 on-farm workshops around the state to provide a research-based educational program about dairy herd management practices that contribute to clean, comfortable, healthy cows that produce high quality milk.

Milk quality doesn't start in the milking parlor. Instead, it starts with how cows are managed in the lactating cow barn and in the dry cow/heifer area. Workshop instructors emphasized the importance of adhering to the ABC's in the cows' environment:

A. Air quality: Good ventilation is important for cow respiratory health, and important to prevent excess moisture that promotes bacterial growth and a resulting stressor or challenge to udder health.
B. Bunk space and good nutrition: A balanced ration and adequate bunkspace (24" for lactating cows and 30" dry cows) are key principles contributing to good cow health, immune function, and optimal body condition (On a 1-5 scale, cows at dry off should be 3.25-3.75, and should not lose more than 1-1.5 in condition score (1 point = 120 lbs.) during early lactation.)
C. Comfortable, Clean stalls: Provides several inches of bedding to make comfortable resting area, surface must be clean and dry, and the stall dimension must be appropriate for size of the cows. Workshop participants received a flow chart created by Nigel Cook and Ken Nordlund, University of Wisconsin, that summarizes stall evaluation process: A comfortable stall is one that provides good surface cushion, ample body resting space, front or side lunge space, "bob" space, and rising room. (see www.ewex.edu/ces/ag/team/dairy for articles on cow comfort)

In the dry cow management area, additional key principles apply: Use dry-off antibiotic tubes at the time of dry off to help cure existing udder infections and to help prevent new infections in early dry off. After inserting the dry off antibiotic tube to each quarter, the management practice of inserting an internal teat sealant product to protect against bacterial entry to the udder is recommended.

In the milking area, key principles of good milking routines were reviewed: Handle cows quietly and calmly before and during milking. Use correct milking routine that includes these components: Adequate teat disinfectant contact time of 15-30seconds; 10-15 seconds of teat drying and stimulation, fore-stripping to check for abnormal milk and provide teat stimulation and application of milking machine 60- 120 seconds from the start of teat stimulation step. Regular milking equipment evaluation should be done to check vacuum levels, regulator function, and cleanliness. Use DHI records and CMT (California Mastitis Test) to detect problem cows. Use a milk culture to determine bacterial infection, and work with veterinarian to select the correct antibiotic plan.

In summary, achieving good milk quality and the resulting increased profits that go along with it, requires the ability to make many things right for the dairy herd in terms of nutrition, health, comfort, and cleanliness. Many US dairy herds have a good track record in these areas already, and their willingness to perfect their management systems bodies well for the US dairy industry.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

ISU Extension Workshops will Focus on Business and Farm Succession Conversations and Planning

A family business, whether a dairy farm or a main street business, represents a lifetime of hard work and a commitment to a certain lifestyle that often times spanning generations, says Beginning Farmer Center farm transition specialist David Baker. Good communications and planning make the transition from one generation to the next move smoothly and more successfully, according to Baker.

Iowa State University Extension is offering business and farm succession workshops to help business and farm families begin those conversations and start putting transition plans on paper. The workshops are planned as a multi-generational event for exiting owners and spouse, and succeeding owners and spouse. The two session workshops will be held on consecutive days to allow for the initiation of conversations and written plans. David Baker and John R. Baker, Beginning Farmer Center Administrator and Attorney at Law, will present the workshops. Workshops are scheduled for Jan. 28-29 in Storm Lake, Feb. 4-5 in LeMars and March 2-3 in Sheldon.

The Buena Vista County Extension office will be the location of the Jan. 28-29 workshop that will be held Friday 1-8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The LeMars Convention Center is the location of the Feb. 4-5 workshop that will be held Friday 1 – 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The March 2-3 workshop will be held at the Northwest Iowa Community College, Building A, 603 West Park Street. The Sheldon workshop will be held on Wednesday 1 – 8 p.m. and Thursday 1 – 5 p.m.

The cost of the workshop is $150 per family of four; $25 per each additional person. Pre-registration can be made contacting one of the hosting county extension offices – Buena Vista County, 712-732-5056, xbuenavista@iastate.edu; Plymouth County, 712-546-7835, xplymouth@iastate.edu; or Sioux County, 712-737-4230, xsioux@iastate.edu .

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