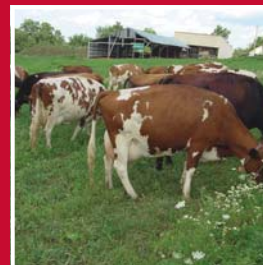


FIELD & FEEDLOT



ISU EXTENSION—NORTHWEST REGIONS

JUNE/JULY 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/>

PorkBridge Educational Series Returns

By Dave Stender, ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist

The sixth year of the successful distance education series, PorkBridge, begins June 30. The 2011-2012 lineup includes a variety of topics presented by recognized industry experts. Operating through the collaboration of 11 land-grant universities, PorkBridge reaches producers and industry professionals across the country and around the world in an every-other-month series of six sessions.

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension swine specialist Ken Stalder is the Iowa contact for PorkBridge. He said the distance education series provides relevant and accurate information for those who own, manage or work in swine grow-finish facilities.

PorkBridge combines electronic information viewed on a computer with live presentations delivered by topic experts via phone, Stalder said. About a week before each session, subscribers receive a CD or Web link (depending on their location) that contains that topic's specific presentation and additional information provided by the presenter. Participants call in for the audio portion of each session and follow along with the presentation on their computer. All sessions begin at noon Central time and last approximately 90 minutes. Time for questions of the presenter is part of each session.

Stalder said the cost to participate in PorkBridge for the 2011-2012 year is \$125.

An informational brochure with subscription information is available on the Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC) website at www.ipic.iastate.edu/PorkBridge/IPIC2011PB.pdf. Iowa residents who want more information can call Stalder at 800-808-7675.

Session dates, speakers, their industry affiliations and topics are as follows.

- June 30, 2011, Eric Farrand, Pfizer Inc., "How to Most Effectively Identify Pigs Needing Treatment"
- Aug. 4, 2011, Jay Harmon, Iowa State University, "Energy Use and Conservation in Barns"
- Oct. 6, 2011, Steve Dritz, Kansas State University, "How Do We Manage Immune-Castrated Pigs?"
- Dec. 1, 2011, Joel Nerem, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic, "Biosecurity for Non-Unit Personnel"
- Feb. 2, 2012, Robert Thaler, South Dakota State University, "Quality Control When Using Alternative Ingredients"
- April 5, 2012, Mark Whitney, University of Minnesota, "Tailbiting – Triggers, Prevention and Treatment"

Fungicides on Corn

By Joel Dejong – ISU Extension Field Agronomist

We are approaching the time period when a decision needs to be made on whether to treat a cornfield with a fungicide or not. My suggestion? Check fields for corn leaf diseases. Different weather encourages different diseases. Warm, moist weather seems to encourage more diseases than dry weather does. Fields that are the most likely to benefit from fungicide applications are corn on corn fields, fields with susceptible hybrids, and fields with a high yield potential. However, our on-farm projects in NW Iowa, and projects from around other states in the Midwest have shown inconsistent results, as data from previous years has shown. Recently, Dr. Carl Bradley from the University of Illinois published an article in their crop newsletter, **The Bulletin**, summarizing research from several Midwest states in 2010. If you want to review the article, go to this web site: <http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=1503f>. There 30 studies that looked at fungicide application at the R-1 stage (early silking). They averaged almost a 5 bushel per acre yield increase. 13 studies reported treatments at R-2 (brown silk), and in 2010 this treatment didn't perform as well – it only increased yields, on average, a little more than 1 bushel per acre. In 2010, timing seemed to be of greater than average importance.

Again – this is not an easy decision. Our own work has shown fields with very good responses to fungicide applications – and also showed many where the response would not have paid for the treatment. Know which hybrids you are using and if they are "responsive" hybrids, look at the forecast to try and

guess if we will have an environment conducive to foliar diseases after pollination, take into account your crop rotation and field disease history, and review whatever good local data you can for making an informed decision. IT's a tough one!

Beef News & Field Days

By Beth Ellen Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist

Heat Stress in Cows – High ambient temperatures and humidity can affect reproductive performance in cows. In an Oklahoma State University trial, cows were exposed to bulls one week under thermoneutral conditions and then one week later to one of three environmental treatments listed below. Heat stress from day 8 through day 16 considerably reduced the number of pregnancies that were maintained.

	Control	Moderate Heat Stress	Severe Heat Stress
Day time temp (F)	71	97	98
Night time temp (F)	71	91	91
Relative humidity (%)	43	27	40
Rectal temp (F)	102.0	102.7	103.6
Pregnancy (%)	83	64	50
Conceptus wt (g)	.158	.111	.073

When inseminating or transferring embryos to beef cows during the summer, try to do the following:

- Work animals early in the morning or late in the evening
- Handle cows quickly but quietly
- Keep cows in a close area less than 30 minutes max
- Provide shade and adequate air movement at and immediately following their working
- Provide animals with adequate cool water

Manure Management Field Day – A Manure Management Field Day is scheduled July 13, from 1-4 p.m., at the Mike Bettin Feedlot near Odebolt, IA. The field day will provide information and technical assistance to small and medium-sized dairies and open feedlots in regard to manure management issues.

Because feedlot producers can no longer discharge feedlot effluent into a road ditch, this year's field day will include a demonstration of an economical way to pump feedlot effluent from the solids settling system. The field day will also include a demonstration on how to calibrate a manure spreader.

Other field day topics include:

- What is a medium CAFO
- Counting animal numbers
- How to prevent being defined a medium CAFO
- Manure storage and handling
- Manure sample analysis & what it means for your cropping system
- Technical assistance and cost-share opportunities

There is no charge for the field day. For more information, you may call the Sac County Extension Office at 712-662-7131.

Check Soybean Fields

By Paul Kassel – ISU Extension Field Agronomist

Soybean Aphids

There are no good predictions for soybean aphid problems in 2011. Aphids have been found in Iowa in early June of this year. However, this early detection of soybean aphids has not been an accurate predictor of aphid problems in past years.

Check soybean fields for aphid problems starting in mid-July. Current thresholds are 250 aphids per plant on a majority of the plants and the aphid populations are increasing. Use this threshold until the soybeans are in the late vegetative stage and the reproductive stages until the full bean stage (R6). This threshold is designed to prevent the aphids from reaching the economic injury level – which is 650 aphids per plant. Aphid numbers can double in as little as three days – so this threshold gives you about five days to react to the aphid levels to prevent damage to your soybean crop.

Recent high commodity prices and inexpensive insecticide costs have some producers willing to apply insecticides as a preventative measure for soybean aphids – sometimes as a tank mix with mid-July applications of glyphosate and/or foliar fungicides. This approach will provide about two weeks of residual control of soybean aphids.

However, fields need to be checked after a mid to late July application of insecticide for re-infestations of soybean aphids. Mid-July applications of insecticides will reduce beneficial insect populations which may allow aphid populations to build up quickly after the residual effect of the insecticide has declined. Continue to check for soybean aphids until the R6 stage of soybean development.

Sudden Death Syndrome

There are no accurate predictions for Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) for 2011. SDS is caused by a soil borne fungus, and anything that restricts root growth makes the fungus more damaging. A person could speculate that the late fall/winter conditions were more conducive for the reduction of soil compaction this year. However, we do not know how much infection occurred after planting or what the soil moisture conditions will be this summer. The amount of SDS that has overwintered in the soil from previous years will be a factor also.

Managing SDS will be a moving target with no one item that will provide complete control. Consider the following to manage this problem.

- Make plans to improve soil drainage.
- Select resistant/tolerant varieties. There may not be a large selection of resistant/tolerant varieties in early group two and late group one maturity groups – so this may be a challenge.

- Spend some time observing local plots and observe SDS infection in adapted varieties. Make some notes on variety selection for next year.
- Make plans to soil test for (Soybean Cyst Nematode) SCN this fall.
- Make plans to select (Soybean Cyst Nematode) SCN resistant soybean varieties for next year.

Farmland Leasing & Land Values Informational Workshops Offered throughout Northwest Iowa

By Melissa O'Rourke – ISU Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist

Did you know that more than half of Iowa farmland is rented? In some Iowa locations, as much as 70 percent of the land is farmed by farmers who don't own the land.

Iowa farmland values increased by at least 15 percent during 2010. And northwest Iowa 2011 farmland cash rental rates increased by nearly 20 percent over 2010 – and 50 percent over the past five years.

These are just a few reasons why Iowa State University Extension offers workshops designed to answer questions that land owners and tenants have about farmland leasing and land values.

Workshops will be offered in different locations throughout northwest Iowa during July and August.

Melissa O'Rourke and Tom Olsen, ISU Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialists will present information about a wide range of topics related to farmland values and leasing.

“ISU Extension research indicates that the average age of farmland owners continues to rise,” stated O'Rourke. “Fifty-five percent of Iowa's farmland is owned by people over the age of 65, while 28 percent of the land is owned by individuals over age 75. We also find that children and surviving spouses of farmers are less likely to continue operating the farm themselves. That's a major reason why farmland leasing continues to increase.”

Workshop attendees will receive a comprehensive workbook packed with information about land values, leasing and different types of farm lease arrangements.

A registration fee of \$20 per person or \$30 per couple is charged and includes a 90-page workbook. Please pre-register by phone on or before July 15th to avoid a \$5 late fee for the July meetings.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required for the August meetings.

Statewide meeting information is also available on the ISU Extension website: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings

Meeting dates, times, locations and phone contact information follow:

July - Presenter for July: Melissa O'Rourke – ISU Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist

Monday, July 18

- ▶ **Rock Rapids**—Lyon County 9am
Forster Community Center : 712-472-2576
- ▶ **Sibley**—Osceola County 1:15pm
Hospital Education Room 712-754-3648
- ▶ **Orange City**—Sioux County 7pm
Extension Office—Downstairs: 712-737-4230

Tuesday, July 19

- ▶ **Sheldon**—O'Brien County 9am
Iowa State Bank 712-957-5045
- ▶ **Spirit Lake**—Dickinson County 1:15pm
Extension Office: 712-336-3488
- ▶ **Le Mars**—Plymouth County 7pm
Le Mars Convention Center: 712-546-7835

Wednesday, July 20

- ▶ **Estherville**—Emmet County 9am
Estherville Public Library: 712-362-3434
- ▶ **Algona**—Kossuth County 1:15pm
Water's Edge Nature Center: 712-295-2469
- ▶ **Emmetsburg**—Palo Alto County 7pm
Extension Office (Old Carnegie Library): 712-852-2865

Thursday, July 21

- ▶ **Onawa**—Monona County 9am
Extension Office Conference Room: 712-423-2175
- ▶ **Sergeant Bluff**—Woodbury County 1:15pm
Sergeant Bluff Community Center: 712-276-2157
- ▶ **Spencer**—Clay County 7pm
4H Auditorium—Fairgrounds: 712-262-2264

August - Presenter for August: Tom Olsen – ISU Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist

Wednesday, August 3

- ▶ **Guthrie Center**—Guthrie County 1:00pm-3:30pm
Guthrie Co. Extension Office, 212 State Street: 641-747-2276

Monday, August 8

- ▶ **Sac City**—Sac County 7:00pm-9:30pm
Sac Co. Extension Office, 620 Park Avenue: 641-747-2276

Tuesday, August 9

- ▶ **Laurens**—Pocahontas County 1:00pm-3:30pm:
Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, 202 West Main Street
712-335-3103 (Pocahontas County Extension)

Tuesday, August 23

- ▶ **Cherokee**—Cherokee County 1:00pm-3:30pm
Western Iowa Tech, 200 Victory Drive
712-225-6196 (Cherokee County Extension)

Wednesday, August 24

- ▶ **Carroll**—Carroll County 1:00pm-3:30pm
Carroll County Extension Office, 1205 W. US Hwy 30 Suite. G
712-792-2364

Thursday, August 25

- ▶ **Storm Lake**—Buena Vista County 1:00pm-3:30pm
Buena Vista County Extension Office, 824 Flindt Drive
712-732-5056