

Extension Crop Update

This newsletter, and previous issues from recent years, can be found on-line at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/plymouth/info/cropupdate.htm>

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Happy New Year! I hope each of you has a very good 2011. Winter is a time to prepare for the next growing season. Take some time to learn and plan. There are lots of opportunities to learn – several will be listed in this newsletter.

Thank You – to those who filled out the survey found in the last newsletter. Almost 30% completed the survey – and I appreciate your kind words about how this newsletter helps, and your suggestions for changes. Hopefully I can incorporate those suggestions to improve this newsletter! A couple noted that they were unable to open the links placed in the newsletter due to speed of internet service. If that is a problem for you and there is an article you would like, send me an e-mail and I will try to find a way send a smaller sized version to you.

NW Iowa Crop Advantage Conferences – There is Still a

Chance to Attend! The 2011 Crop Advantage Series had its first session in Sheldon on Tuesday of this week. About 170 were in attendance. Thanks to those who attended. I heard many positive comments about the day from several of you. For those who did not attend that meeting, you can still attend one of these sites:

January 13, Spirit Lake

January 18, Storm Lake

January 24, LeMars

January 25, Carroll

These events give you a chance to choose which topics you want to hear during the day – during 5 different sessions. You can even complete your **Private Pesticide Continuing Education** as part of the day. (You must attend all day, however.) Consider attending one – it's even more educational than those shorter private pesticide meetings! **Note that we added an additional site in LeMars on January 24 – because we have always had good turn-outs at other NW Iowa locations.** Up to 5 CCA credits are available, too. For schedule or registration details, go to the Crop Advantage web page: www.cropadvantage.org. On-line registration is now open.

Pesticide and Manure Training/Testing Dates for Winter:

[Check here](#) for NW Iowa private pesticide training sites in NW Iowa for this year. Need to take the test? Here is the list where IDALS will be offering [Pesticide Applicator testing](#).

Confinement Site Manure Applicator training sessions are held each winter in January and February. Find the list of all Iowa sites [here](#). For more manure questions, don't forget about the [Iowa Manure Management Information Group \(IMMAG\)](#) web site!

Extension Crop Update, continued

Soil Fertility – Understand the Basics Workshop! On March 1, John Sawyer and I are again offering a workshop at the convention center in LeMars to discuss several soil fertility issues. We will start at 9:30 a.m., and complete the workshop at 3:00 pm. Lunch and materials are included with the registration. We will look closely at the basics of P and K in crop production, and then turn to N management. Reviewing soil lime needs will follow, and as we near the end of the day we will spend a little time on micronutrient responses in Iowa. We do some soil fertility and fertilizer calculation problem examples, and encourage you to bring a soil test or two with you – we plan to review that during the day, also.

The cost per person is \$75, and preregistration is needed. Let me know soon if you think you might participate – I need a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 40 people for this workshop. Find a brochure for this event [here](#).

Remember, if you grew 200 bushel corn and 50 bushel beans on 250 acres of each last year, you removed over 14 tons of phosphate with your grain, and almost 17 tons of potash. Managing that right can be very valuable to you!

Other Items of Interest:

The National Corn Growers has developed a good **corn refuge calculator** that you can download to your computer. Take a look – find it [here](#).

Recently we have had lots of **farm management questions** – like where can you find the results of the land value survey, are there forms for land rent agreements available, what are expected costs of production? If you have never visited the [ISU Ag Decision Maker web site](#), this is a good time to visit that reference site and learn a little about the large amount of farm management information available to you.

ISU just released a publication titled [“Sudden Death Syndrome-Resistant Soybean Varieties for Iowa”](#) which lists most (but probably not all) the soybean varieties that companies report as having resistance to this disease. If you have had a problem, perhaps this is a reference to use in your soybean variety selection process.

2011 Farm Succession Workshops Offered: Does your family need to start the conversation about business transition through the generations? Is it time to start setting goals and putting transition plans on paper? Start the process at a 1½-day [ISU Extension Business & Farm Succession Workshop](#). Choose one of three dates and locations in northwest Iowa:

- January 28-29 in Storm Lake – Buena Vista County Extension Office
Friday, Jan 28—1 to 8pm; Saturday Jan 29—9am to 2pm
- February 4-5 in LeMars – LeMars Convention Center
Friday Feb 4—1 to 8pm; Saturday Feb 5—9am to 2pm
- March 2-3 in Sheldon – Northwest Iowa Community College
Wednesday March 2—1 to 8pm; Thursday March 3—1 to 5pm

COST: \$150 for first four family members, \$25 for each additional person.

Employee Management Workshop Series – will be held on 3 consecutive Tuesdays beginning Feb. 15, from 10:15 to 3:00, at NCC near Sheldon. It is designed for farm operations with a small number of employees, and will highlight tools you can use in your operation to help with employee management issues. The cost is \$30, which covers meals and materials for all 3 sessions. Check out the [flier for details](#).

"Thanks for Subscribing!"