



Webster County Acreage Living

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Leasing Workshop Offered in Webster County

Information provided by Kelvin Leibold, ISUE Farm & Ag Business Mgmt. Field Specialist.

It is that time of year when farmland leases come up for review.

Kelvin Leibold, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialist will discuss current farmland leasing information at the Webster County Extension Office, Fort Dodge on Tuesday, August 12th @ 1:30 p.m.

This workshop will guide landown-

ers and renters through the process of finding the right kind of lease for their situation.

Topics include:

- Setting a fair cash rent.
- Current land value and cash rental rate surveys.
- Types of lease arrangements.
- ISUE Extension resources.

The workshop is 3 hours long and each participant will receive a 100-page workbook.

Registration is \$20 per individual or \$30 per couple. You will need to register at least 2 days prior to the workshop or add \$5 for late registration. You may register by calling the Webster County Extension Office at 515-576-2119.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Not Found in Iowa Yet

Information provided by Mark Shour, Entomology, (515) 294-5963, mshour@iastate.edu

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has not currently been found in Iowa. The closest known confirmed infestation is Peru, Illinois, approximately 85 miles from the Quad Cities. The likelihood of EAB entering Iowa is high, but the timing can be slowed by measures state and federal agencies are already taking to limit the spread of the insect. At this time, states with known EAB infestation include: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Here are some tips that you can do to help prepare in the event of an infestation:

- Keep your trees healthy by protecting them from injuries from lawn mowers, string trimmers, construction projects, and vehicle parking on root zone.
- Water your trees during dry periods.
- Be on the lookout for sign and symptoms. (Thinning & die-back of ash tree branches, D-shaped exit holes in the bark, and S-shaped tunnels under the bark where the larvae feed. Also, look for small, dark, metallic green adult beetles seen on tree trunks or flying near ash trees.)
- When buying firewood for

camping, heating or hunting purposes be sure to buy from local vendors.

At this time, there is no need for insecticide treatments as any application is a waste of time, money and resources.

For questions or to report any suspect ash trees or beetles contact ISU Extension Entomology (515) 294-1101 or the State Entomologist's Office (515) 725-1470.



Emerald Ash Borer

Master Gardener Program Offered this Fall

Information provided by Yvonne Nilles, Iowa State University Extension Horticulturalist

Master Gardeners are individuals who have an interest in horticulture, have taken the Master Gardener training offered by the extension service, and share their time and expertise with other gardeners. It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill in gardening and giving back to the community that distinguishes a Master Gardener from other gardeners.

The purpose of the Iowa Master Gardener Program is to provide sound horticultural information to the citizens of Iowa through the volunteer efforts of Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners are residents of a community who take an active interest in horticulture. They receive training in horticulture through Iowa State University Extension. In return for their training, Master Gardeners volunteer in extension horticulture programs and projects that enhance the community.

The requirements to become a Master Gardener include a \$125 fee to cover the cost of educational materials and a commitment to do 40 hours of volunteer service. Individuals receive instruction in a wide range of horticulture and related areas: houseplants, flowers, turfgrass, vegetables, woody landscape plants, plant propagation, fruits, soils, wildlife management, pesticide safety/ integrated pest management, plant pathology and entomology. Orientation will be held on September 9th, with the program to be held the following Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through October 28th, along with 4 Thursday evening classes. There is one Saturday session on the ISU campus in Ames.

Controlling Japanese Beetles

Information provided by Richard Jauron, ISUE Horticulturalist

Japanese beetles eat the foliage, fruits and flowers of more than 300 plants. When feeding on foliage, the beetles consume the tissue between the veins, leaving a lace-like skeleton. Flowers and fruits are sometimes devoured completely. Roses, raspberries, grapevines, crabapples, birches and lindens are some of their favorite food hosts.

Adult beetles are present for about six weeks every summer. The adult beetles begin to emerge from the ground during the last week of

After completion of the training program, individuals become Master Gardener Interns. They are promoted to the title of Master Gardener upon completion of their 40-hour service commitment. Master Gardeners can remain active members in following years by attending six or more hours of in-service education and contributing six hours or more of volunteer community service.

Master Gardeners provide many services to ISU Extension and their communities. They use their knowledge, talents and skills on various projects and activities, such as: answering horticultural questions and phone calls at their local ISU Extension county office, sponsoring lawn and garden shows, developing educational displays and giving horticultural presentations. Master Gardeners also assist with youth gardening programs, help manage farmers' markets and community gardens, plant demonstration and city beautification gardens, assist at public gardens, conduct horticulture therapy programs at nursing homes, write newspaper columns, participate in radio call-in programs and assist with the coordination and management of the local Master Gardener program.

If you are interested in becoming an Iowa Master Gardener, contact Yvonne Nilles, Iowa State University Extension Horticulturalist at 515-832-9597 or the Webster County Extension Office at 515-576-2119 to sign up for the 2008 Fall Master Gardener Class. Registration is required with an August 28th deadline.

June and new adults continue to appear throughout July. Each beetle lives from only 30 to 45 days.

Control of Japanese beetles is difficult. Persistence, diligence and repeated efforts are necessary because new beetles emerge every day over a period of several weeks. Handpicking or screening of high-value plants may be of benefit in isolated situations with limited numbers of beetles. Remove beetles early and often to preserve the beauty of the plant and to reduce the attraction of

more beetles. Remove beetles early in the morning while temperatures are cool and the beetles are sluggish. Collect or shake beetles into a bucket of soapy water and discard.

Spot spraying infested foliage of high value plants with a labeled garden insecticide may reduce damage for several days, but multiple applications are required to maintain control. Check the insecticide label to make certain the plant you want to spray is listed. Read and follow label directions.

Floodwater Damage to Farm Ponds

Information provided by Richard Clayton, Natural Resources Ecology & Management, (515) 294-8616, rclayton@iastate.edu

If you have a farm pond, now is the time to check for the damaging effects on water quality, fish populations and dam integrity caused by the heavy rains.

Water quality can be affected by both sediments and dissolved nutrients in the floodwaters, according to Clayton. The sediment load coming into a pond during a flood event will increase the siltation loading into the farm pond, resulting in decreased pond depths.

Nutrients in floodwater also can have a detrimental effect on the fish population and associated ecosystem within a pond by causing increased plankton and plant

growth. Stocked fish can be flushed out of the pond and into adjacent streams, and non-desirable species can be carried into the pond, creating competition with the desirable species for food and space.

Increased water flow into a farm pond can damage the levee, dam or emergency spillway. Inspect the levee or dam for erosion as well as inspecting water control structures and spillways for debris that may impede water flow. Logs and limbs can block spillway or standpipes that help control the water level during normal conditions.

Summer Flooding of Hay Fields & Pastures

Information provided by Stephen Barnhart, Agronomy, (515) 294-7835, sbarnhar@iastate.edu

Most forage crops perform best when soils have adequate, but not excessive, soil moisture. Standing water, flowing water and water-logged soils following heavy summer rainstorms or extended periods of higher-than-normal rainfall patterns all can cause management concerns for forage crops.

Iowa State University Extension forage agronomist Stephen Barnhart offers these management suggestions.

- As soon as possible, check hay fields and pastures for flood debris that might damage harvest equipment or harm livestock.
- Try to avoid moving into hay fields or pastures too soon because they are still quite susceptible to wheel traffic and compaction damage, which also will limit the future productivity of the field.
- Flooded forage may be silt-covered, which will add to plant disease potential, detract from the palatability of the harvested hay and possibly affect normal silage fermentation.

Plants growing in saturated soils can be damaged, physiologically. Delay harvest for a week to 10 days to allow the plants to regain any vigor and recover as best they can. This management approach will produce a more mature forage crop of lower nutritive value. In addition, take extra care to schedule a five to six week “fall rest” period for these stands.

Alfalfa, clovers and most forage grasses cannot live for very long under water. Most forage plants can tolerate a short-term of flowing water (a few days to a week). Standing or ponded water that “heats” in the sun and “cooks” the submerged forage plants is more of a concern and can kill or severely damage most plants within hours.

After the surface water recedes, an extended period of saturated soils continues to be reason for concern. Forage plants can live for a week or two in saturated soils, but the lack of oxygen in the root zone will adversely affect their growth. These plants do not take up soil nutrients normally, an increasing part of the root system deteriorates and leg-

umes cease ‘fixing’ nitrogen. They appear stunted and yellowish-green in color. If the soils drain quickly, plants begin to recover.

If flooded areas are recovering slowly and you are concerned about the viability of the stand in those areas, dig random plants in several areas and evaluate the condition of the root systems. Legume plants with a firm taproot, creamy-white in color, with no evidence of root rot and with green and visually healthy crowns and crown buds have the greatest likelihood for survival. These plants need a week or more of sunshine and drying soils. Legume or grass plants with watery, mushy textured roots, yellowish or tannish in color and those with no evidence of active crown buds will be the least likely to survive, even with good growing conditions during the next few weeks.

Pasture plants are affected much the same as alfalfa when under standing or flowing water and growing in water-logged soils. Grasses are, however, slightly more tolerant of these conditions than are legumes.

Frequent Questions asked during the months of August & September

- Q. I have worms in my trees that are making tent-like structures. What are they and how can I get rid of them?**
- A.** They sound like fall webworms. Fall webworms are hairy, tan to yellow caterpillars. As they feed, they construct tents or webs at the ends of branches. Fall webworms feed on more than 200 species of deciduous trees. In Iowa, the first sightings usually occur in early to mid-August. Fall webworms do not cause damage to healthy, well-established trees. As a result, controls are not necessary. Damage to trees can be minimized by taking control measures as soon as the tents are discovered. Tents on branches that can be safely reached from the ground or with a ladder can be pruned out and the caterpillars destroyed. Insecticides also can be used for control, but must be applied with sufficient pressure to penetrate the tent and reach the caterpillars inside.
- Q. What are the black spots or blotches on my apples?**
- A.** The problem may be sooty blotch and flyspeck. Sooty blotch and flyspeck are 2 different fungal diseases that often occur together on apples. Sooty blotch appears as dark brown to black, 0.5 inch or larger smudges on the surface of the apple. Flyspeck produces clusters of shiny, round, black dots. Individual dots are about the size of a pinhead. Environmental conditions that favor disease development are moderate temperatures and extended wet periods in late summer/early fall. Sooty blotch and flyspeck live on the surface of the fruit. Damage is mainly cosmetic. The apples are still safe to eat. They're just not very attractive. Proper pruning of apple trees and thinning of fruit promote drying and help reduce disease severity. Fungicides also may be necessary. If control measures fail, sooty blotch and flyspeck can be removed with vigorous rubbing.

The cicada killer wasps are still creating quite a buzz. It is logical to be concerned about large wasps, but the cicada killer, like other solitary wasps, won't sting unless handled or threatened. A nest in an out of the way location can be left alone. Wasps nesting in high traffic areas can be controlled by placing an insecticide dust (e.g., Sevin or permethrin) in and around the nest entrance during the night.

We're on the Web! <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/webster/info/acreage.htm>

Iowa State University Extension

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