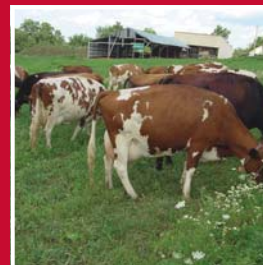


FIELD & FEEDLOT



ISU EXTENSION—NORTHWEST REGIONS

MARCH 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/>

Reference Information Helps You Make Better Crop Decisions

By Joel Dejong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

The older I get, the more I rely on references and less on my faulty memory. Maybe I am unique in this, but I doubt it. I treasure good reference material more each year. In this article I am going to let you know about a few new crop management references that I have found useful, and that perhaps might be of interest to you!

This winter, at Private Pesticide Applicator meetings, we have been able to hand out a terrific new reference titled “Soybean Diseases.” I own several other soybean disease references, but I honestly think this has the best picture examples of soybean diseases I have ever seen. The purpose of this new publication from Iowa State University and the Iowa Soybean Association is to help farmers more effectively manage soybean diseases when they appear. Each year I think more diseases are present, and identification is the first step in good management.

“Soybean Diseases” (CSI 0004), is a comprehensive compilation of soybean disease and management information. The 36-page guide includes information on 24 soybean diseases and features an overview of the major causes of plant disease; several photos of each disease; a glossary; and quick visual cues indicating which diseases are seed-transmitted. You can order copies online free of charge through the ISU Extension Online Store at www.extension.iastate.edu/store. Shipping will be covered by ISU Extension. Or, if you still need to attend a Private Pesticide Meeting this year, you will likely receive a copy. The publication was written by Daren Mueller and ISU Extension colleagues Alison Robertson, plant pathologist; Greg Tylka, nematologist; and Adam Sisson with the ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative. Funding was supplied by the Iowa soybean check off, ISA and ISU Extension.

Additionally, I have found that there continues to be confusion about the requirements needed for refuge acres when using Bt Hybrids, like those with Corn Borer or Corn Rootworm Bt. The confusion seems even worse now, with additional hybrid options out there reducing the amount of refuge acres needed for some trait groups being marketed. The University of Wisconsin put together a “Handy Bt Trait Table” that helps me understand what traits are in different trait groups, what the refuge requirement is, and what other pests these traits might help manage. You can find it on the web here: http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/cullenlab/extension/ext_pubs.html, or contact me at the Plymouth County Extension office and I will get a copy to you. Additionally, the National Corn Growers has put an Insect Resistance Management calculator on their web that you can download to your computer. It takes you step by step through the process of determining how much refuge you need, where it should be located, and even calculates how many bags of each you need – depending on your planting rate. It can be found here: <http://www.irmcalculator.com/irmcalculator/irmcalculator/index.html>.

There is a new reference coming out soon that I am really looking forward to having in my “bag of tricks!” It is titled “Corn Growth and Development,” and will have an order number on it of PMR 1009. It will capture the entire life of the corn plant, from planting to harvest. I often think that the best way to figure out what is going on in a field is to “think like a corn plant.” This publication will help you do that.

It has been 30 years since the old reference favorite “How a Corn Plant Develops” was published, and the new version will include images of the plant below and above ground, time-lines showcasing growth and development over time, and new ISU research on season-long nutrient and biomass accumulation curves. Unless you know how a normal plant grows and develops, it is tough to figure out why a plant that isn’t right looks the way it does. It’s not out yet, but should be in the near future. This agronomy junky can’t wait!

Have you ever wondered what other published materials ISU Extension has available? Check out the Extension Store: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/>. Or if you don’t have internet access, stop at a local county extension office to see what is on that web page. Some are free, some will have a cost, but there is a lot there to prepare you to make better decisions.

Choosing Crop Insurance Units in 2011

By William Edwards, ISU Extension Economist

Submitted by Tom Olsen, ISU Extension Farm Management Program Specialist

Crop producers have several choices for combining different tracts of land when purchasing crop insurance. Each combination of tracts that is insured independently of other combinations is called a unit. One particular farming operation may have one unit or multiple units. Units can be designated as optional, basic, enterprise or whole farm. The choice will affect the premiums paid each year, as well as the size and likelihood of any indemnity payments received.

Optional units

Farms that are owned or cash rented by the operator, and are located in different township sections, can be insured individually in optional units. The guarantees, premiums, production and potential indemnity payments are calculated separately for each optional unit. Likewise, a separate production history is needed to establish the actual production history (APH) yield. Optional units give the most protection against isolated weather losses such as hail or wind, but also have the highest premiums. Optional units can also be created when the same crop is being grown under distinctly different farming practices, such as irrigated and dryland corn.

Basic units

Producers can combine all the land they own or cash in rent in different sections in the same crop into one basic insurance unit. All the acres of each crop are considered together when establishing guarantees and payments. Farms rented under a crop share lease, however, must each be in a separate basic unit. The crop share landowner can also insure his or her interest in the crop as a separate basic unit. Basic units receive a premium discount compared to optional units.

Enterprise units

An enterprise unit combines all acres of a single crop within a county in which a policyholder has an interest into a single unit, regardless of whether they are owned or rented, or how many landlords are involved. The insured crop must be grown in two or more township sections within the county. Under the new common crop insurance policy rules, at least two of the sections must contain 20 acres or more of the crop. Or, if the unit contains less than 100 total acres, then at least two sections must contain 20 percent or more of the total acres. For example, a farmer who insured 40 acres in one section would have to combine them with at least 10 acres in another section in the same county to qualify for an enterprise unit.

Whole farm units

Growers who are willing to combine all their insured crops into a single insurance unit can gain additional premium discounts. This is called a whole farm unit. The amount of the discount will depend on the proportion of the total acres planted to each crop. Whole farm units are available for Revenue Protection insurance, but not for Yield Protection policies.

In general, the more tracts of land that are combined into a single insurance unit, the less likely it is that a yield loss on just one tract

will trigger an indemnity payment. This is particularly true if the tracts are dispersed throughout the county. One tract may get hailed out, but that production loss can be offset by average or better yields on another tract. For that reason, producers who purchase enterprise or whole farm units should consider also purchasing add-on insurance for isolated losses from hail, wind and/or fire.

Premiums lower

Perhaps most important, aggregating acres into larger units will result in lower overall insurance premiums. Table 1 shows an example of typical farmer premiums for corn, for land in Story County, Iowa, under different unit structures. The discount for enterprise units arises because the overall production risk is reduced by including more acres in a policy, and because the percent premium subsidy from the Risk Management Agency is higher. Many producers who have moved from basic to enterprise units have opted to increase their coverage levels, which provides a higher overall revenue guarantee for the same or less cost.

Table 1. Typical premiums, Story County per ac.*

Coverage Level	Corn, Basic Units	Corn, Enterprise Units
60%	\$5.84	\$2.52
65%	\$10.30	\$3.20
70%	\$15.36	\$4.72
75%	\$23.77	\$7.28
80%	\$37.20	\$12.90
85%	\$57.49	\$24.91

*Example only. Actual premiums will differ.

Enterprise units will probably result in less frequent, but larger, indemnity payments compared to basic units. Once the crop is harvested, however, the bushels are generally commingled before they are marketed, and the dollars received from the sale of the crop will go into the same bank account. Thus, guaranteeing a minimum revenue for all the combined farm acres is consistent with the overall financial management of the business.

More information on crop insurance is available on the AgDM website under Crops - Cost & Return.

Drainage Workshops Planned

By Kris Kohl, ISU Extension Ag Engineer

The prices of our crops have made the installation of tile more critical. Much of the old concrete and clay tile is breaking and falling into disrepair. Drainage systems function at the slowest pinch point. Blowouts indicate problems that need to be redesigned to operate at peak performance.

ISU is planning 3 regional drainage design workshops to help plan systems that will optimize the drainage systems. This program will provide the essential information for planning a new system or upgrading an existing system. In addition, the economic and long-term benefits will be discussed. New advances in controlled drainage offer the promise of high performance during the summer and higher water quality during the summer and higher water quality during the winter and very early spring.

The program is planned 10 am to 3 pm at each location with a noon lunch provided. The cost is \$35 for those who preregister by calling in and \$45 at the door. Call at least 2 days ahead of the workshop to ensure a meal.

Workshops are as follows:

- March 10, 2011: O'Brien County Extension Office
Primghar, IA 712-957-5045
- March 16, 2011: Hancock County Extension Office
Garner, IA 641-923-2856
- March 17, 2011: Calhoun and Pocahontas Counties
Pomeroy Community Building, 712-297-8611

PQA Plus Training

By Dave Stender, ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist

A PQA PLUS® training session is scheduled for March 25 at the Cherokee County Extension Office, starting at 3 p.m. Those interested in a **TQA® TRAINING SESSION** can attend March 25 in the Cherokee County Extension Office, starting at 1 p.m.

ISU Extension swine program specialist Dave Stender will teach the sessions at the ISU Extension Cherokee County office, 209 Centennial Dr., in Cherokee. Please call to register (712) 225-6196.

Pork Checkoff's PQA Plus® Program hits 50,000 Milestone

Contact: Cindy Cunningham
National Pork Board
(515) 223-2600
CCunningham@Pork.org

Pork Quality Assurance Plus® (PQA Plus), the pork industry's program to assure the world that U.S. producers are delivering a safe and wholesome product and that they are caring for their animals in a socially responsible manner, reached a significant milestone this week when the number of producers achieving PQA Plus certification reached 50,000.

"All pork producers should be especially proud about reaching this milestone," said Gene Nemechek, a swine veterinarian from Springdale, Ark., and the president of the National Pork Board. "Producing safe food and providing high-quality care for our animals are two of the ethical principles that form the foundation of the pork industry's We Care initiative. But it's one thing to talk

about ethical principles and another when we walk the talk," Nemechek said. "This demonstrates that producers are walking the talk."

Since its introduction in 1989, PQA has been the pork industry's flagship educational and continuous improvement program. Created through the Pork Checkoff to promote food safety and residue avoidance on the farm, the program was expanded in 2007 to include animal handling practices and renamed PQA Plus. To attain certification a producer must meet with a trained Advisor once every three years to review the 10 Good Production Practices that promote pork safety and animal well-being practices.

Additionally, to achieve site status, a pork operation must have an on-farm assessment of its animal handling practices by a certified PQA Plus advisor.

"Getting to the 50,000 certification mark has been a significant undertaking by both pork producers and the ag and Extension educators and veterinarians who conduct the certifications," said Stacy Revels, manager of certification programs for the Pork Checkoff. "The National Pork Board in 2009 set a goal of having all pork producers certified by 2010. And while we're not quite there yet, this milestone demonstrates the commitment of pork producers to doing the right thing."

"When you consider that prior to 2007 the industry had 30,000 producers certified, you begin to appreciate the success of PQA Plus," Nemechek said. "Now, every time we certify a new producer we set a new record."

"What is really important, though," Nemechek said, "is that our customers can have confidence in the safety of pork and in the animal handling practices that producers employ as they care for their animals."

Revels noted that the board also has set a goal of having all operations site-assessed by the end of 2010. "Right now, we have assessed operations that represent more than 60 percent of all the pigs in the country. We continue to assess new operations each week and are making great progress on our goal," she said.

Pork producers who have yet to become certified or site-assessed can obtain information about the PQA Plus program by calling the Pork Checkoff Service Center, 800-456-7675.

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold. The Pork Checkoff funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and foodservice marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, technology, swine health, pork safety and environmental management.

For information on Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675 or check the Internet at pork.org.

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Iowa State University Cooperative
251 12th St SE
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

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MARCH ISSUE 2011

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

2011 NW IOWA NO-TILL / STRIP-TILL CONFERENCE

Friday, March 18th 10:00 am—2:30 pm Le Mars Convention Center Lower Level

In this conference you will hear first hand how other farmers overcome the challenges and how they made no-till work on their farm. Joel DeJong will also cover how to manage your Nitrogen on no-till farms. The cost is free to attend this conference courtesy of sponsors. **PLEASE CALL THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY EXTENSION AT 712-546-7835 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.**

LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RE-CERTIFICATIONS

MARCH 31, 2011, 7:00 P.M. SIOUX COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, ORANGE CITY

APRIL 5, 2011, 7:00 P.M. SHELDON, BUILDING A, 116-119 NW IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2011 IDALS PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION TESTING DATES

MONDAY, MARCH 14— 10 AM-2 PM—MEADOWS, INC MOVILLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 15— 10 AM -2 PM—CHEROKEE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER

MONDAY, MARCH 28—10 AM—2 PM—PLYMOUTH COUNTY FARM BUREAU LE MARS

THURSDAY, APRIL 14—10 AM—2 PM—SIOUX CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carol Schneider, Plymouth County Extension Coordinator

Joel DeJong

An ISU Extension Agronomist since 1992, DeJong has been observing no-tillers since he started work for ISU Extension in SW Iowa in 1981. He continues to be amazed by how committed no-tillers identify problems and solve them, instead of resorting back to tillage.



DeJong will review the different forms of nitrogen, when risk of loss is highest, and management (including different N products) that might help keep the supply of nitrogen available during the season when the crop needs it.



The 2011 NW Iowa No-Till /Strip-Till Conference is a cooperative effort of:

Iowa Learning Farms,

Iowa State University Extension,

Natural Resources Conservation Service

and the

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

in Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola,

Questions, or to reserve a free noon meal as a part of the conference, Contact Plymouth County Extension

712-546-7835

2011 NW IOWA NO-TILL / STRIP-TILL CONFERENCE



Friday, March 18, 2011

**Le Mars Convention Center
251 12th St SE
Le Mars, Iowa**

10:00 am to 2:30 pm

***No Registration Fee!
But, you need to call 546-7836
to reserve a noon meal by
March 16!***

Agenda

- 10:00** Tom Oswald, Cleghorn, IA, Farmer
“No-Till and Strip Till—Making it Work
in Northwest Iowa...I Did!”
- 11:10** Northwest Iowa No-Till Farmer Panel 1,
including:
Bob Puetz, Roger Hawkins, Mike Schnepf, all
of LeMars
Craig Thoreson, Hinton
- 11:55** NRCS Program Opportunities for
Conservation Efforts
- 12:00** Lunch courtesy of Iowa Learning Farms
- 12:50** No-Till Farmer Panel 2 —Three longer
term no-tillers will share how they have made
this work over the long haul, including:
Gary Reinders, Orange City
Mark Phillips, Akron
Steve Smith, Dunlap
- 1:40** Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Agronomist
“Nitrogen Management in No-Till: Getting
Supply to Match Demand in Growing Corn”
- 2:30** Adjourn

Tom Oswald, Cleghorn Iowa No-till & Strip Till Farmer

Tom Oswald has implemented no-till and strip till on his farm since 1994. He has been innovative in overcoming issues that a change in system presents, but has overcome those challenges and made this a successful system on his farm. Additionally, Tom has observed the improvement in soil tilth as an outcome of his system.



Tom has shared his information across the country. Recently he was the lead-off speaker at the National No-Till Conference in Cincinnati. Additionally, he is a member of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District committee, and is a board member of the Iowa Soybean Association.

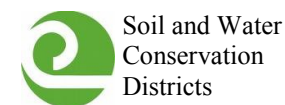
Cost: FREE courtesy of our sponsors!
Noon lunch courtesy of Iowa Learning Farms

Do you plan to attend? Call ISU Extension in Plymouth County at 712-546-7835 to reserve a spot, by March 16!

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Farmer Panelists

- Farmer Panel #1 is a collection of farmers enrolled in the Plymouth County NRCS Soil Quality Program—a pilot project for NRCS. The project is designed to encourage improvements of soil organic matter and structure. These producers chose to start no-tilling their acres and some use reduced impact manure application to reach these goals. They are in the first couple of years of no-till and will be sharing successes and challenges so far.
- Gary Reinders** started Buffalo Ridging in the 1980's, and has been no-tilling since 1991. Gary is from Orange City in Sioux County.
- Mark Phillips**, from Akron in Plymouth County has been no-tilling for 10+ years. He uses cattle manure in his operation, and is starting to work with some cover crops.
- Steve Smith** has been no-tilling for 20+ years. He has been no-tilling corn after corn and after alfalfa. He hasn't planted beans for 5 years. Steve is from Dunlap in Monona County.





Having this knowledge could help you stay in business!

ISU Extension presents

MANURE MANAGEMENT UPDATES for Dairy Farm Owners

March 15-18

Choose your date and location from other side of this card

Information and discussion session with Angie Rieck-Hinz,
ISU Extension and coordinator of IMMAG (Iowa Manure Management Action Group)

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Recent compliance enforcement actions by the EPA have beef and dairy producers evaluating their livestock and manure systems. Anyone who has surface water running through their livestock operation or who has manure, effluent, or "brown water" leaving their farm should consider attending the dairy focus groups.

Small and medium farms are not exempt from scrutiny and certain regulations.

WHAT WILL THE DISCUSSION COVER?

- Clarification on small and medium CAFOs- learn where you fit and what regulations apply to your farm
- Refresher on placing dollar value on your farm's manure fertilizer nutrients (NPK)
- Updates on agronomic practices that promote profitability & land stewardship on your farm
- Information about current regulatory climate – facts to know and trends to expect

NOON – Lunch and general announcements • 12:30 – 2:45 – Program, discussion, Q & A
\$15 with lunch, \$7 if no lunch — pay at the meeting site

Your Pre-registration Message is Appreciated. Call Chris Mondak at 712-737-4230 or email to cmondak@iastate.edu. Or call to your local ISU Extension County office

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

MANURE MANAGEMENT UPDATES

for Dairy Owners

Choose your location and date

All meetings run noon – 2:45pm

- **Tues, March 15**—Hull Pizza Ranch (Sioux Co. 737-4230, Lyon Co. 472-2576, O'Brien Co. 956-5045, Osceola Co. 756-3648)
- **Wed, March 16** – Cherokee Co. Extension office (712-225-6196)
- **Thurs, March 17**—Sac Co. Extension office (712-662-7131)
- **Fri, March 18**—Pocahontas Co. Extension office (712-335-3103)

Pre-registration message is appreciated

Call 712-737-4230,
email to cmondak@iastate.edu,
or call local county Extension office

**Having this knowledge
could help you stay in business**

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

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