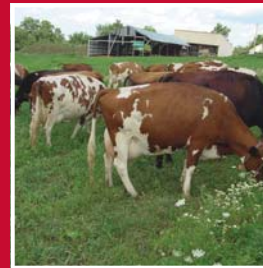


FIELD & FEEDLOT



NORTHWEST AREA EXTENSION

JULY 2008 ISSUE

Premises I.D.

By Jerry Weiss, ISU Extension Swine Field Specialist

What is the Premises Identification System? The National Animal Identification System is a national animal health program that is being developed by the USDA and state animal health agencies, in cooperation with industry. This system consists of three parts – premises identification, animal identification, and tracking of animal movement.

Premises identification is the first step in the NAIS and involves assigning a unique number to premises involved in animal agriculture. The premises identification system will record information such as addresses, names of contacts, the type of premises being registered, and a contact phone number. This information will be maintained by IDALS and key pieces will be shared with the USDA to be available for tracing purposes.

The overall goal is to develop a system that provides animal health authorities with the ability to rapidly identify all premises and at-risk animals that might have been exposed to a disease of concern within 48 hours. Using this identification system enables faster disease containment, control, and eradication.

Once you have registered your premises, a Premises Identification Number (PIN) will be assigned to your premises. This PIN number is a unique seven-character identifier for a physical location that handles livestock. This number applies to all livestock on the site and producers will not need a separate one for each species type on the site. The PIN not only identifies a production site, it also becomes part of the official identification of groups and lots of pigs when producers move them between premises within a production system.

Key Points:

- ◆ PINs are required for participation in the newly updated Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program.
- ◆ PINs should be included on:
 - Bills of loading, when pigs are shipped to market
 - Certificates of veterinary inspection
 - Interstate movement reports
 - Diagnostic lab submission
 - A number of packers are also requiring a PIN on 4-H and FFA hogs being sold at county fairs

At the present time, the Premises Registration System is completely voluntary. Registration is done at no cost to the producer. Registering your premises now will not require you to participate in the other parts of the program. You may stop at your County Extension Office and pick up a premises identification application.

Factors to Consider When Making Fungicide Decisions for Corn

By Mark Licht, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

With corn over \$7.00 per bushel on the Chicago Board every management factor is being scrutinized in an effort to capture every bushel of yield potential. That scrutiny is even harder now that it takes considerably less bushels to pay for extra inputs compared to three or four years ago. Watch out as you look to make decisions on the use of fungicides. The yield response is still needed in order to make the input pay off.

Last year it was widely accepted that a six bushel yield response was needed to make a fungicide application pay. This year a mere three bushel yield response is needed based on \$7.00 per bushel corn and \$21.00 fungicide application costs.

Here are three factors to consider when looking at using a fungicide for corn:

- ◆ Hybrid genetics... disease susceptible or disease tolerant
- ◆ Disease pressure... previous crop, disease presence or absence on leaves below the ear
- ◆ Weather... hot and humid, warm and moist or hot and dry

Hybrids that are susceptible to disease are good candidates for a fungicide application and are likely to see a positive yield response. Hybrids that have moderate to high disease tolerance are less likely to show a positive yield response to fungicide but under the right conditions fungicides could pay off.

Disease pressure does make a difference. Corn following corn and previous disease pressure of a field are two things to consider due to ability to increase disease potential. The best indicator of disease pressure is the actual presence of disease on the leaves below the ear. Disease on these lower leaves indicate conditions conducive for disease.

Weather is the hardest factor to predict into the future but can have an extreme impact on disease pressure. Most foliar diseases thrive under warm conditions that are humid or moist. Dry conditions tend to keep diseases at bay.

Bottom line is to scout fields in an effort to guarantee positive yield responses. Scout those fields that have susceptible hybrids first. Give greater consideration to fields that were corn last year, and scout until disease is present on the leaves below the ear. This is key because the leaves below the ear are not producing critical amounts of photosynthesis for grain fill; that's the job of the leaves above the ear.

Two Internet Newsletters that Really Help!

By Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

ISU Extension recently updated a long-time newsletter, the "Integrated Crop Management Newsletter," to make it timelier. Recently, this new on-line and immediate response newsletter has been a big help for those experiencing weather problems this spring. When crop research news happens, Iowa farmers and agribusiness professionals want to know — and now they know a lot faster, thanks to the [Integrated Crop Management \(ICM\)](#) web site. The change will help subscribers stay informed about crop issues during the upcoming growing season. This format replaces the old newsletter that was sent by mail once per week — sometimes missing the time when it was really needed.

With the printed version, there would be about a week's delay from the time an article was written to the time the newsletter was received in a subscriber's U.S. mailbox. With the online resource, a specialist can write an article, and the editor can review it and post it on the Web in only a matter of hours. When an article is posted — whether it's Sunday afternoon, or Friday morning or Monday at noon, subscribers can automatically get an e-mail notice that there's a new article available. Subscribers can choose to be notified about new articles daily or weekly. They can read articles online as well as print single articles or weekly compilations.

ICM News is supported primarily by ISU Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the departments of Agronomy, Entomology and Plant Pathology. However, specialists in other areas also could be called in to contribute research-based information.

For subscription information, visit the ICM News Web site, www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/.

In addition, Iowa State University Extension is bringing back its *Acreage Living* newsletter. One third of Iowa's residents are considered rural non-farm and live in either the country or in communities of less than 2,500. This online newsletter provides timely research-based information for this segment of rural Iowa.

Examples of articles printed in *Acreage Living* during recent months included articles on Iowa's changing rural

population, pasture management and how to use downed tree branches to your benefit, increasing the productivity of pastures with proper fertilization management.

Each month the *Acreage Living* newsletter will provide timely research-based information. Topics will include neighbor relations, pet and horse care, small farm enterprises, rural residence maintenance, water quality and management, wildlife management, recreation and safety, landscape plantings and ponds. Read the most recent newsletter today at www.extension.iastate.edu/acreage/.

Beef News

Beth Ellen Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist

Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

New Dimensions in Livestock Risk

Information & Resources for Beef, Dairy, Pork & Poultry Farmers, Monday, July 7, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ISU Scheman Building, Ames, \$25 registration at the door.

Are you a livestock farmer who is feeling the strain of rising feed costs and other inputs? The unpredictable nature of the livestock market also adds tension to the situation. How will you protect yourself? What if this downturn lasts longer than anticipated?

Don't miss out on this one-day conference packed with experts, such as Market-to-Market's John Roach. You will leave with information, resources and an action plan to help you navigate through this unpredictable market. To register call: 866-598-3693.

Iowa Beef Producers Regional Meeting

Monday, July 28 at The Rose in Emmetsburg

Registration 9:00 a.m. Meeting from 9:30-3:30

Speakers will discuss the Verified Iowa Program (VIP) which will add value to each segment of the beef chain. A Cattle Fax economist will discuss their thoughts on grain and livestock prices. Iowa Cattlemen's Regional Vice President will share the evolving issues of Iowa Cattleman's Association and solicit grass root inputs.

Cattle Risk Management Workshops

For cattle farmers risk is inevitable. It is a factor in almost every decision they make, but it can be managed with the proper tools and insight. Workshop participants will gain such insight as they learn about various marketing strategies and make realistic risk management decisions for their own Iowa case farm using tools available to producers.

Participants will learn how **Livestock Risk Protection (LRP)**, **Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance**, **forward cash contracts** as well as **CME futures and options** can help manage risk and affect their bottom line. The workshops are targeted toward cattle farmers, agricultural lenders and other cattle industry stakeholders.

The "**Cowherd**" workshop focuses on management and marketing decisions pertaining to calves and stockers. Locations are Wednesday, August 6 at Western Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm, Castana and Wednesday, September 3 at Social Center, Ruthven. Both workshops are 9:30-3:30.

The "**Feedlot**" workshop will allow participants to make management and marketing decisions pertaining to stockers and finished steers. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have an improved understanding of how various price risk management tools can be used to manage risk in their operation. It will also allow them to better evaluate different marketing strategies. Locations are Thursday, August 21 at ISU Extension Office, Orange City and on Thursday, August 28 at Vinny's BBQ, Dakota City. Both workshops are 9:30-3:30.

New Regulations for Feedlots

Volume 9 of the Iowa Manure Manager Series titled "Summary of Regulation for Building or Expanding Open Lot and Confined Beef and Dairy Operations with less than 1,000 Animal Units" has been completed. You may access this fact sheet as well as the first 8 fact sheets on the publications page of the IMMAG web page, under the subcategory, Iowa Manure Manager Series or <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/pubsimms.html>.

Although this fact sheet is written to address issues for facilities smaller than 1,000 animal units, recent legislative changes may affect your operation and how to determine the size of your facility and in particular whether or not your operation is defined as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). If one type of animal meets the CAFO definition on your farm, but the other animal types do not, all the manure, effluent and process wastewater from all animal types on the farm will be regulated under the CAFO NPDES permit. If you have any questions regarding this particular fact sheet, please contact your DNR office.

Farmland Leasing Meetings

By Ron Hook, ISU Extension Farm Management Field Specialist

Iowa State University Extension is hosting multiple Farmland Leasing Workshops in the counties of Northwest Iowa during July and August. Landowners, tenants and agricultural and agribusiness professionals are encouraged to attend a workshop of their choice. Workshops will take place per the following schedule:

Thursday, July 17, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Le Mars, Primebank
Monday, July 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Spirit Lake, Expo Building
Thursday, July 24, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Spencer 4-H Auditorium
Tuesday, July 29, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Cherokee, WITCC
Tuesday, July 29, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Sergeant Bluff, Bluffs Area Family Center

Thursday, July 31, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Storm Lake, AEA Meeting Room
Thursday, July 31, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Armstrong, Community Room
Tuesday, August 5, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Rock Rapids, Extension Office
Tuesday, August 5, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Sibley, Sibley Senior Center
Wednesday, August 6, 9:00—11:00 am
Pocahontas, St. Peter Lutheran Church
Wednesday, August 6, 1:30—3:30 pm
Rockwell City, Calhoun Extension Office
Thursday, August 7, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Primghar, Extension Office
Thursday, August 7, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Orange City, Extension Office
Tuesday, August 19, 7:00—9:30 pm
Carroll, Extension Office
Thursday, August 21, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Arthur Community Building, (Sac & Ida)
Thursday, August 21, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Charter Oak Comm. Bldg, (Crawford & Monona)
Monday, August 25, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Emmetsburg, Extension Off., (Palo Alto & Kossuth)

Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialists will be discussing current leasing information including the latest cash rent survey. The cash rental rates presented are the result of a survey of farmers, landowners, lenders, real estate brokers, and professional farm managers. They supplied information based on their best judgments about **typical cash rental rates** for high, medium, and low quality cropland in their counties, as well as for land devoted to hay production, oats, and pasture. Information about individual parcels of land was not collected.

Responses received in 2008 were more variable than in most years. This variability is likely due to the volatility of corn and soybean prices in the past two years and led to a wide range of opinions about typical rents in some counties. Responses are probably more representative of rental rates that have been recently negotiated than for longer term agreements.

As an alternative to a cash rent lease, flexible leases will be presented as a means to allow rent to change depending upon the price and yield experienced. Crop production costs, grain prices and maintaining soil fertility will be stressed at the workshops. With cash grain prices at current levels and input costs at all time highs, profitability for both the tenant and landowner needs to be understood and maintained.

Attendees of the workshops will receive a "Farmland Leasing 2008" workbook. Pre-registrations are required at least 3 days prior to the workshop date. Please contact the county extension office where you wish to attend the workshop to get the registration details.