

**Snouts & Tails: Volume 14, No. 1**

February 6, 2012

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## 1. 2012 Iowa Pork Regional Conferences slated for March 6-9

The Iowa Pork Producers Association has teamed up with the Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach swine specialists to host regional conferences March 6-9.

All regional sessions are hosted from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dates and locations are:

Tuesday, March 6 – Carroll, IA, Carroll Co. Extension Office, 1205 West US Hwy 30

Wednesday, March 7 – Sheldon, IA, NICC, Hwy 18 West, Building A, Room 119

Thursday, March 8 – Nashua, IA, Borlaug Learning Center (ISU NE Research Farm), 3327 290<sup>th</sup> St.  
(The farm is located 1.5 miles west of Nashua on county road B 60, one mile south on Windfall Avenue and a quarter mile east on 290th Street.)

Friday, March 9 – Iowa City, IA, Johnson Co. Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 S.

Conferences are free for those who pre-register or \$5 at the door. Individuals can pre-register by calling IPPA at (800) 372-7675 or sending an e-mail to [schristensen@iowapork.org](mailto:schristensen@iowapork.org)

### **Seminar speakers:**

With the regulatory realm for agriculture constantly changing, it is critical for pork producers to stay well informed of compliance issues. **Eldon McAfee**, attorney for IPPA, will discuss practical aspects of compliance with state and federal regulations, provide an update of recent livestock nuisance cases, and preface current regulatory rumblings at the state and federal level.

It is critical for all in pork production to have a good understanding of contracts and liens to provide protection of their business. McAfee also will review contract terms, focusing on practical implication for both feeders and hog owners. He will discuss recent and pending court decisions and the implications these decisions pose for feed dealers, lenders, veterinarians, and pork producers. Finally, he will explain the federal livestock contract requirements and what is required for compliance to prevent penalties against hog owners for failing to have required disclosures in contracts with contract feeders. If you missed Eldon's highly rated sessions at the 2012 Iowa Pork Congress, then this is your chance to catch up.

Swine dysentery is an expensive and damaging disease that has re-emerged in the Midwest. **Dr. Eric Burrough** and **Dr. Rodger Main** will split duties at this year's regional conferences to talk about the history and impact of the disease. They will provide information to help producers identify signs of dysentery and highlight strategies for prevention and elimination.

Detailed production records are increasingly important in today's pork industry to benchmark performance, improve efficiencies and modify practices. ISU Extension swine specialists will review how to keep adequate wean-to-finish records, show where errors typically occur, and provide actual examples of good records gone bad.

**Pre-Conference PQA Plus opportunity:**

ISU swine specialists also will offer a free PQA Plus training prior to each conference. Training will be hosted from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at each conference location. Contact Tyler Bettin at (800) 372-7675 or [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org) for more information or to pre-register.

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*“The ancestor of every action is a thought.”*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

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## 2. PQA Plus & TQA Certification Meetings

February 16 – Fayette Co. Extension Office, 201 East Clark, Fayette, IA

TQA held 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*and / or*

PQA Plus held 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25/participant for one session or \$35 for both sessions. Pre-registration is requested ... walk-ins welcome. Please e-mail [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 563-425-3331.

March 8 – 2012 Iowa Pork Regional Conference, Nashua, IA

PQA Plus held 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Iowa Pork Producers Association is partnering with ISU Extension swine specialists and Pork Checkoff to provide sessions at no charge. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$0/participant. Please e-mail [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org) or phone 515-225-7675.

Please note: I will gladly schedule PQA Plus or TQA meetings in any of my Northeast Iowa counties when I know there is sufficient interest or need. Feel free to call if you have questions or comments.

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Pork producers are encouraged to check when their current certification will expire and plan ahead.

Some packers are requiring a “PQA Plus® Site Status.” A “PQA Plus® Site Status” is earned by having a PQA Plus® site assessment conducted by a PQA Plus® Advisor. A list of approved advisors is available at the National Pork Board Web site.

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To learn more about PQA Plus™ please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx>

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### **3. Online Survey About Swine Feed Efficiency.... Please Participate**

Iowa State University swine nutritionists are teaming up with their Kansas State University counterparts in asking swine producers, industry consultants, and advisors to the pork industry to participate in an online survey about swine feed efficiency. The survey answers will help guide research direction and educational programs to improve feed efficiency and lower feed costs.

The survey, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/swinesurvey>, aims to identify gaps in current industry knowledge to help researchers better prepare educational materials and plan on-farm commercial research over the next four years, as part of an Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) USDA grant, said Joel DeRouchey, livestock specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. No responses will be individually identified – all responses will be summarized together, DeRouchey said. Survey participants are not required to give contact information, although if they choose to do so, the research team will provide feed efficiency project updates, including research results and publications as they become available.

“Names and contact information of individuals completing the survey will be collected separately from their survey responses and will not be associated in any way with submitted answers,” he said. “Respondents’ names and contact information will remain confidential and will not be used for any other purpose other than to provide them with the latest feed efficiency research updates.”

The deadline to take the survey is Feb. 20, 2012. Questions can be directed to DeRouchey at [jderouch@ksu.edu](mailto:jderouch@ksu.edu) or 785-532-2280.

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*“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”*  
- Plato (427 BC – 347 BC)

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#### **4. ISU Extension and Outreach Ag Engineer Position Open for Application to Serve Northeast Iowa**

Applications are due by February 15, 2012.

Details regarding the position and an application are available at the following link:  
[https://www.iastatejobs.com/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails\\_css.jsp?postingId=387785](https://www.iastatejobs.com/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=387785)

View of Storlie: The position is based in the Borloug Learning Center at the Northeast Iowa Research Farm near Nashua, Iowa. The required qualification: Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or related field and two years of related experience; OR a Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering or related field and related experience.

Please encourage or share the opportunity with ag engineers or even college students that would like to return or move to northeast Iowa.

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*“The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.”*  
- John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

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#### **5. An Eye on Margin**

An eye on your margin is a reoccurring segment that will offer different resources to assist with market knowledge and margin awareness to sharpen marketing skills.

***Disclaimer: This section is to highlight tools and is not a recommendation of marketing action.***

##### **Examples swine marketing risk management 2/3/2012 for pigs to be marketed the first half of June (6/2/2012) or 21 weeks**

- June Futures closed at \$98.47
- LRP example- you set number of hogs – 21 weeks & 99.19% level  
\$97.94 coverage price - (\$ 5.969 premium cost \* 87% USDA Sub) = \$92.75/cwt floor price
- LRP example- you set number of hogs – 21 weeks & 89.06% level  
\$87.94 coverage price - (\$ 1.775 premium cost \* 87% USDA Sub) = \$86.39/cwt floor price

- **June Futures** -40,000 lb carcass/ contract (approx. 220 hogs) ... margin calls will apply \$98.47 futures + (-\$2.04 basis) - \$0.15 commission = \$96.28/cwt price
- **June Put example** (136 days to expire) - 40,000 lb carcass /contract (approx. 220 hogs) - \$98 put + (-2.04 basis) - \$4.30 premium - \$0.15 commission = \$91.51/cwt floor price
- **June Put example** (136 days to expire) - 40,000 lb carcass /contract (approx. 220 hogs) - \$90 put + (-2.04 basis) - \$1.525 premium - \$0.15 commission = \$86.28/cwt floor price
- LGM premiums will vary with number of months and specific months with sales and coverage level

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Additional consideration: The LRP provides some basis protection because it is settled against cash market; whereas a put is prone to greater (wider) basis slippage if slaughter capacity causes market fall. The LRP and LGM can be sized as needed – the put is hedging 205 pigs (195 lb carcass). LRP and LGM are non-refundable – the put may be sold or has some liquidity until expiration.

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### Resource: Swine Crush Margin

Access the “Current Crush Margins” at ISU Ext. Iowa Farm Outlooks and News web site: <http://www.econ.iastate.edu/margins/>

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Based on closing futures prices for						Feb 1, 2012
Placement month	Selling month	Pig price	Lean Hogs	Corn	SBM	Crush Margin
Oct	Mar	30.46	85.08	5.71	268	62.48
Nov	Apr	37.73	84.99	6.19	289	48.65
Dec	May	44.62	93.52	5.68	265	65.78
Jan	Jun	49.91	95.81	6.16	295	57.97
Feb	Jul	48.93	95.10	6.22	300	56.54
Mar	Aug	48.89	95.35	6.09	316	57.16
Apr	Sep	48.54	86.75	6.07	320	40.22
May	Oct	43.43	84.99	6.08	318	41.86
Jun	Nov	43.43	78.68	6.05	335	28.28
Jul	Dec	41.29	79.90	6.10	331	32.66
Aug	Jan	41.29	77.99	5.57	330	34.21
Sep	Feb	41.74	81.94	5.62	329	41.27
Oct	Mar	41.74	81.55	5.26	323	44.55

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Based upon ISU Estimated Returns for a Wean-Finish operation the **Crush Margin needs to be \$40.48 to be at break-even** (cover all other cost beyond pig, corn & sbm).

*What is the Crush Margin for your operation?*

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At this site under “Swine” are links to:

- Wean-to-Finish Crush Margin (updated weekly)

- Additional background information

In the case of wean-to-finish pigs the “crush” margin is the value of the market hog less the cost of the pig and the corn and SBM to raise it. Thus the “crush” margin is the remaining revenue used to pay all other costs and, hopefully, return a profit. The crush margin provides an indicator of return that takes into account the variables with the greatest price risk. It is also tied to the futures market that can be used to manage the price risk for several months before the hogs are sold. The Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State University provides a crush margin analysis tool on its website with the following objectives:

- Calculate and report the crush margin based on Wednesday futures closing prices for WF hogs that will be marketed for more than a year into the future.
- Track how the margin for each contract has changed over time
- Report the margin average and variability by month over the last 10 years.

**Resource: LRP & LGM Insurance**

[http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/livestock\\_reports/](http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/livestock_reports/)

**Resource: Western Cornbelt Lean Hog Basis**

<http://www.econ.iastate.edu/basis/>

**Resource: Iowa Farm Outlook – January 2012 issue, ISU Economic Dept.**

<https://www.econ.iastate.edu/ifo/>

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## 6. Manure Issues

**Iowa Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops for Jan. to Feb. 2012.**

See interactive map and list of dates and locations here

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confdates.html>

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**IA DNR no longer sending out reminders for Annual Manure Plan Submission**

DNR maintained database is now available on line:

<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/animalfeedingoperations/>

- Click on “Search” ... then enter 5-digit facility ID or name to find your sites.

(The path to this info at the new DNR site:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/AnimalFeedingOperations/AFOResources.aspx>

... then select Animal Feeding Operations Database )

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### **Website for foaming pit issues**

The following link has information about what is known about the foaming pit issues present in the Midwest again this summer/fall and what producers should do from a safety standpoint. Several Midwestern Universities are working together to try and understand this issue better and are pooling their findings at: [http://www.manure.umn.edu/applied/health\\_safety.html](http://www.manure.umn.edu/applied/health_safety.html)

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### **Factsheet on *Selling and Buying Manure in Iowa* is available**

The latest Iowa Manure Manager Series fact sheet, *Selling and Buying Manure in Iowa*, has been finalized and posted to the web at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/pubs/imms/vol10.pdf>.

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Resource for information on manure, manure plans, etc.:

- IMMAG Web site at <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/>
- DNR Web site at

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/AnimalFeedingOperations.aspx>

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**Managing Tough Times** is an ISU resource to address economic challenges for Families/Households, Businesses/Communities, and Farms.

Visit the Site address: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes/>

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## **7. NPB 2012 Internship Program**

- applications are due by mid February, 2012

The National Pork Board is seeking candidates to apply for our 2012 internship program. To learn about these exciting opportunities, please following link:

<http://www.pork.org/AboutUs/68/EmploymentOpportunities1.aspx>

Criteria for applying:

- Our internships will begin approximately May 14, 2012 and continue through approximately August 10, 2012.
- All internships are paid, and candidates are expected to work full-time for 12 weeks. All positions are based at our office in Clive, IA.
- Resumes will be accepted and reviewed until mid-February
- Please indicate in the subject line which internship you would like to be considered.
- Interested candidates should forward resume, cover letter, and writing samples if needed, via email to: [Intern@pork.org](mailto:Intern@pork.org) (Microsoft Word or PDF formats only)
- No phone calls please.

Interested candidates should be enrolled in, or have recently completed, an animal science-related degree program. This may include, but is not limited to animal science, veterinary medicine, and environmental sciences. An interest and commitment to the U.S. swine industry is required. Some travel will be required

Opportunities:

- Producer Services/Outreach Intern (2 positions)
  - Communications Intern (1 position)
  - Science and Technology Intern (2 positions)
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## 8. Calendar

### Swine Calendar:

On-going: 2011 PorkBridge. Distance education program started June, 2011.

Monthly session (12:00 am to 1:30 pm) with variety of speakers and topics.  
Cost \$75/125. For more information-  
[www.ipic.iastate.edu/PorkBridge/IPIC2011PB.pdf](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PorkBridge/IPIC2011PB.pdf)  
or contact: Dr. Ken Stalder at 800-808-7675

Feb. 16: Fayette Co. Ext. Office, 201 East Clark, Fayette, IA  
TQA, held 1:00 to 3:00 pm  
*and / or*  
PQA Plus, held 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Cost: \$25/participant for one session or \$35 for both sessions.  
Pre-registration is requested ... walk-ins welcome.  
Please e-mail [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 563-425-3331.

Feb. 28: “Managing Your Unseen Employee: The Ventilation System”, Mason City,  
NIACC farm shop

Feb. 29: “Managing Your Unseen Employee: The Ventilation System”, Webster City,  
Fairgrounds

Both sessions will be held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Pork Industry Center are sponsoring the program with funding provided by Smithfield to cover speakers and program materials.

The workshop includes class room and hands-on demonstrations. The classroom sessions will teach basic ventilation principles for moisture control and heat relief, motor curve characteristics for variable speed fans, and how to identify and solve common ventilation problems and mistakes.

Preregistration is required and will be available until the day before the workshop date, only if space remains. For additional information or to preregister, contact Russ Euken at 641-923-2856 or e-mail: [reuken@iastate.edu](mailto:reuken@iastate.edu).

March 8: PQA Plus, Borlaug Center, Nashua, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., \$0  
Iowa Pork Producers Association is partnering with ISU Extension swine specialists and Pork Checkoff to provide sessions at no charge. Pre-registration is required.

Cost: \$0/participant. Please e-mail [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org) or phone 515-225-7675.

March 8: 2012 Iowa Pork Regional Conference, Borlaug Center, Nashua, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., \$0/5

More info and registration please contact IPPA at (800) 372-7675 or [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org)

April 19: PQA Plus Advisor Training, ISU, Ames, \$75

-- Application and payment due by April 12

This program is directed at veterinarians, educators and industry professionals so they can

Provide PQA Plus certification education and conduct PQA Plus Site Status assessments.

For more information contact the Iowa Pork Industry Center, [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) or phone 800-808-7675

June 28: 2012 Iowa Swine Day, ISU campus, Ames, IA

This is a "Save the date" ... more information to come regarding this one day event.

## Youth Ag Calendar

FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H'ers.

See the IPIC web site below for dates, location and contact information.

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA12.html>

April 21-28. 4-H swine weigh-in for 2012 Iowa State Fair

Apr 21 – Weigh-in site: Grundy Center, Grundy County Fairgrounds, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Apr 23 - Weigh-in site: Decorah, Winneshiek County Fairgrounds, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Apr 28 - Weigh-in site: Waterloo, Hawkeye CC, Bovine Center, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

## Other Ag Calendar:

February 8 – Crop Insurance & Market Risk Tools, Webinar

ISU Extension and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) will address Crop Insurance and Marketing Risk Tools via a webinar on Wed., Feb. 8, from 1-2 p.m. at

[www.iowafarmbureau.com](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com) The free, live webinar is part of the IFBF Margin Management webinar series, and features Kordick (IFBF) and William Edwards (ISU Extension Economist).

The webinar will address the changes for 2012 in crop insurance, including the chance to adjust proven insurance yields to reflect upward trends, and the new lower premium rates. Participants

can pre-register and access the webinar at [www.iowafarmbureau.com](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com) For more information, contact Kordick at [ekordick@ifbf.org](mailto:ekordick@ifbf.org) or 515-225-5433. The seminar will be recorded with the

recording available to Farm Bureau members from the IFBF website beginning Feb. 9.

February 10 – Farmland Drainage Seminar, Manchester

1:00-4:00 pm. Delaware County Community Center, Delaware County Fairgrounds.

The Farmland Drainage Seminar will answer questions pertaining to drainage design concepts, economics, and long term benefits of tiling. We will also discuss legal issues related to tiling

and Iowa Drainage Laws. Registration required, \$10 fee. To register and for more information contact Lori Scovel, 563-927-4201 or [lscovel@iastate.edu](mailto:lscovel@iastate.edu)

February 24 – Beef Feedlot Roundtable, Manchester, 12:45-4:00 p.m.

The feedlot roundtable sessions are conducted annually in Nebraska for feedlot operators and agribusiness interest. Through a cooperative agreement to share livestock educational resources and programs between University of Nebraska Extension and ISU Extension, internet meeting technology will be used to offer the roundtables at three locations. Registration required, \$10 fee. To register and for more information contact Denise Schwab, 319-472-4739 or [dschwab@iastate.edu](mailto:dschwab@iastate.edu)

February 27 & 28 – On-Farm Milk Quality Workshops, Decorah & Maynard, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

ISU Extension in partnership with area milk, veterinary, nutrition, and milk equipment associates are hosting several workshops to help producers prepare for the new quality standards. Dr. Leo Timms, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist and recognized expert on udder health topics, will start the discussion at each farm. Producers will visit five stations during the workshop including the milking center and housing areas. The two workshops to be held in northeast Iowa are February 27 at the Buddenberg Dairy, 1340 State Hwy 9, Decorah; and February 28 at the Jason Volker Farm, 9141 M. Ave, Maynard. The program will run from 1-3:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend, but an RSVP is requested to aid material planning. Please contact the ISU Extension office in Winneshiek County at 563-382-2949 or ISU Dairy Specialist Jennifer Bentley at [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu) or online at: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGtVZjJFRHFvX2xtSWxnQ2FiN3k1VGc6MA#gid=0>

March 12-16 – Herbicide Resistance Meetings, 5 locations in Iowa

March 12: Spencer, Clay Co. Regional Events Center

March 13: Independence, Heartland Acres Agribition Center

March 14: Atlantic, Cass Co. Community Center

March 15: Ames, Quality Inn/Starlight Village

March 16: Iowa City, Clarion Inn/Highlander Conference Center

With rapidly expanding problems associated with herbicide resistant weeds, ISU Extension will conduct a series of meetings to address the issue. The meetings will provide information about the causes of herbicide-resistant weed populations, objectively evaluate weed management programs currently used in Iowa, and support the development of durable weed management programs. All meetings run 9:00-noon followed by a free meal. No cost to attend due to funding provided by several partners; however, advance registration is appreciated for meeting logistics and lunch counts. Additional information regarding the program and online registration is available at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/weeds/>

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## 9a. Resources – IPPA

The IPPA has materials on the following topics. They are very helpful and to the point (8 to 12 page 8.25"x5.5" pamphlets). Request materials by calling IPPA 800-372-7675 or e-mail Tyler Bettin, Producer Education, [tbettin@iowapork.org](mailto:tbettin@iowapork.org)

1. Recommended checklist – suggestions for non-permitted sites, 8 page, \$0
2. Facility Leasing Checklist, 12 page, \$0
3. Legal Requirements for Marketing Pork Products... adding value to live hogs, 8 pages, \$0

## **9b. Resources – ISU**

Ag Decision Maker – Web site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>

CALT – Center Agricultural Law and Taxation – Web site: <http://www.calt.iastate.edu/>

PIG – Web site: <http://isu.porkgateway.org/>

Mortality Composting – Web site: <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/pigsgone/>

Midwest Planning Service – Web site: <http://www.mwpsdq.org>

Rural Concern Hotline: 800-447-1985. A confidential, 24 hour, free resource to access range of expertise to aid people in making quality of life decisions.

## **9c. Resources – State of Iowa**

Iowa Attorney General, Environmental and Ag Law Division

<http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/farm.htm>

- information on production contracts and commodity production contract lien

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