

Field and Feedlot



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Japan Adopts New Residue Limits

by Jerry Weiss, ISU Extension Swine Field Specialist

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has set new maximum residue levels for veterinary drugs used in food production, including pork products. These changes were put into place May 29.

Japan is a valuable export market for U.S. Pork Producers, representing 45% of all U.S. pork exports at a value of \$1.070 billion. It is important that U.S. Pork Producers take this issue seriously.

U.S. Pork Producers are required to adhere to animal health product withdrawal standards determined by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Following product label guidelines should also satisfy most of the new Japanese policies. However, producers are advised to take the following steps to ensure their animal health product use fits the new regulations.

- Contact your packer and find out if your hogs are destined for export to Japan, and therefore are affected by these new regulations.
- Visit the Pork Checkoff's Web site, www.pork.org, to determine if medications used in your operation have withdrawal periods impacted by the new standards.
- Contact your herd veterinarian to discuss changes in your herd health program if your use of animal health products is impacted.

Producers are also advised to work with their veterinarian regarding product choices in the finisher phase and to develop appropriate treatment choices, according to the Pork Board.

Producers may also want to review two Pork Checkoff programs:

- Pork Quality Assurance
- Take Care-Use Antibiotics Responsibly

These materials can be accessed on the Internet at www.pork.org or through the Pork Checkoff Producer Service Center at 1-800-456-7675.

July Pest Scouting Topics

by Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Crop Field Specialist

Soybean aphids have become a common part of soybean pest management. July is when we need to start scouting for this pest. I have heard of a couple of reports of very small numbers of aphids in NW Iowa already – but that doesn't mean it will become a problem.

ISU research shows that the proper threshold for deciding to treat for this pest is about 250 aphids per plant and the population is growing. If aphids remain below that level just keep watching. Weather conditions and beneficial insects might keep these levels low. If above 250/plant and the population is growing - treat with an insecticide as soon as you can to prevent it from getting to the 1000 aphid per plant level when really significant yield loss can occur. I have seen instances when treatment occurred at a lower level, but I don't recommend it. Why? I have seen lots of cases where populations reached 100/plant, and the population never grew above that level. Check strips in those areas have shown no significant yield response. Walk through areas of your field every few days (more frequently as numbers get close to the

threshold level), and look under leaves at the top of the plants for aphids. Aphid colonies tend to gather near the growing point at the top of the plant. I first try to identify if they are present in a field (ants and ladybugs sometimes give clues that they are present), then once I find them in a field I try to estimate how many we have per plant. Count all the aphids on a few plants at first to get an idea what 250 aphids per plant looks like - "calibrate" your eyes to this population level. Check in several field locations to get an average. If close to 250, recheck in a couple of days to see if the population is growing. If over 250 and increasing, consider treating. For more details, pick up the publication titled "Soybean Aphids in Iowa - 2005" from your local extension office. It is also found on the ISU soybean aphid web page: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/soybeanaphid/>. This web site also has a link for the Minnesota "Speed Scouting" method of evaluating for aphids. Print out the form and try it. Our research indicates it might be almost as good a predictor as the other scouting method!

Soybean rust is still a concern for many. The good news - the population has not developed rapidly in Southern US, so risk in NW Iowa for this year looks relatively low at this time. To follow the latest reports of this pest, check out the USDA's web page with the map of rust locations at this site: <http://www.sbrusa.net/> .

Corn roots should be dug, washed out and examined for two issues at this time. First, do the roots show evidence that compaction caused problems this year? What is the root mass shape - round? Is there evidence it is growing down without any impediments, or is there zones that show roots changing directions a lot - evidence that a zone of compaction might be present? Also, wash the root mass and see if there has been rootworm feeding to the roots. How bad? How many roots are chewed off? Information is available from ISU on rating roots for injury. I would evaluate all my cornfields for this each year. ISU does have a corn rootworm home page on the internet. It has lots of management information, and an interactive node-injury scale. The rootworm page can be found at this web address: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/pest/rootworm/default.html>.

Farm Management Thoughts

by Ron Hook, ISU Extension Farm Management Field Specialist

The state average cash rental rate increased \$2 per acre from 2005 to 2006 according to the Cash Rental Rate Survey conducted by ISU Extension. The survey indicated rates in northwest Iowa followed the statewide trend with an increase of approximately \$2 per acre as well. The cash rent survey is available on line at the Extension website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/FM1851.pdf> or at your local county Extension office. Farmland leasing workshops will be offered during August around northwest Iowa when thoughts of changes in leasing arrangements are contemplated. These workshops review the latest cash rent and land value surveys as well as examine the current issues involved in farmland ownership and leasing. Check with your county Extension office for a workshop session nearest you.

Recent rainfall around the Corn Belt has led to a decline in futures prices. In fact some processors have already purchased the grain needed until harvest and are out of the market for old crop grain.

While current prices are not offering much in the way of incentive to sell cash grain or forward contract new crop grain, it is important to keep an eye on rallies that may occur as a result of weather conditions, etc. Establishing a price objective with the local elevator or processor would be a good idea in order to catch rallies that are short lived.

For 2005 crop grain it would be advisable to establish a target date to complete marketing in order to avoid selling just before harvest when prices are typically low. Given current crop and weather conditions August 1 would seem like an appropriate target date.

We often talk about how often Dec corn is over \$3 on the CBOT. While we are well below \$3 for Dec '06, both Dec '07 and Dec '08 have traded above \$3 with Dec '08 currently above \$3.

These are opportunities that deserve a look for potential marketing of a percentage of the 2007 and 2008 crops. Obviously, there is a chance

that prices may be above these levels when we get to harvesting these crops, but if \$3 Dec futures is the lowest price received, that's not going to look too bad!

How Do We Pick Our Next Stud Ram and Ewes?

by Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

The Center of the Nation Sheep seminar "How Do We Pick Our Next Stud Ram & Ewes?" will be held on Saturday July 8, 2006 at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer. Registration begins at 9:45 a.m.

The topics and speakers:

- National Sheep Improvement Program update and latest information with Dr. Larry Kuehn, Research Geneticist, and Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC)
- Utilizing EPDs and understanding genotyping for scrapie resistance in purchasing your next ram and ewes by Dr. Dan Morrical, Iowa State University Extension
- Let RAMSIMM select your next breeding stock by Dennis DeWitt, ISUE Livestock Field Specialist
- A breeder panel will discuss "How their breed is utilizing NSIP" and "How are Breeders using NSIP to market their breeding stock?"
- Wool Testing & Evaluation by Bob Padula, ASI Wool Consultant.

There will be time to view commercial sheep displays prior to the 1:30 PM sale of NSIP registered Rams and Ewes. All sheep will have the latest NSIP information available. The 40 head of Polypay and 20 head of Suffolk rams and ewes will be coming from Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Iowa. For the sale catalog go to:

<http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com/nsip06cat.pdf>

The program is sponsored by the NW Iowa Sheep Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension Service with partial funding from the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board.

The NW Iowa Sheep Producers Association will have a lamb luncheon available for purchase prior to the sale. Contact person: Dennis DeWitt at dewitt@iastate.edu or call 712-336-3488.

Alternative Technologies Field Day

by Beth Ellen Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist

Mark August 1 on your calendar and make plans to attend the Alternative Technologies Field Day in Northwest Iowa. The field day will feature two sites that have implemented alternative technologies – Rolling Hills Feedlot near Hawarden and the John Fluit, Jr. Feedlot near Inwood.

Rolling Hills Feedlot has a solids settling system where the effluent is released to a series of vegetated treatment areas that are contoured to a hillside. The John Fluit, Jr. Feedlot also has a solids settling system, but the effluent is first released to a vegetated infiltration basin and then to a vegetated treatment area.

Alternative technology systems are appealing to open feedlot producers because they provide a pollution control system that doesn't require a holding or containment basin to store runoff effluent. Alternative technology runoff control systems also eliminate the need for high capacity and relatively expensive irrigation systems required to de-water conventional technology storage basins. Other advantages include a more visually attractive system, one that is less energy dependent, and making better use of productive land to provide forages for animal feed.

Not all feedlot sites are adaptable to alternative technology systems. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has a set of requirements to be met before a site can be considered a candidate for an alternative technology system. There are several topographic, soils, water table and other limitations for alternative technology systems. Alternative technology systems have more stringent monitoring requirements than conventional systems.

Hold August 1 to tour these two feedlots.