

# FIELD & FEEDLOT



NORTHWEST AREA EXTENSION

AUGUST 2007 ISSUE

## Upcoming Beef Programs

By Beth Ellen Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist

**Cattle Feedlot Tour** – “Cattle Farming Matters – A Forum and Feedlot Tour for Iowa Cattle Feeders” will be August 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Lyon and Sioux counties. The purpose is to view different kinds of cattle facilities and provide feedlot producers with information to help them grow their operations. Three feedlots will be viewed.

The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Doeden Farms, Inc., near Little Rock. Participants will view a new beef hoop building. Topics that will be addressed include feedlot systems/expansion and funding for cattle buildings.

The second site will be the Joel Schuitemann Feedlot near Sioux Center and features two mono-slope buildings. Special topics at this stop include rules and regulations for beef feedlots and how to write a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

The third and final feedlot will be Schut Feedlot Inc. of Sioux Center. This feedlot features a permitted open feedlot and total containment of manure. Additional topics will include funding for open feedlots and “Is there One Right System?”

Participants are to provide their own transportation. During the noon lunch, there will be two presentations – “How to be a Beef Advocate” and “Beef Quality Assurance and Bio-Security.”

The Cattle Feedlot Tour is a cooperative effort of the Iowa Beef Center, Iowa Beef Industry Council, Iowa Cattlemen’s Association and the Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers. For more information, tour directions or to register, call 515-225-5481. Registration is \$15 per person and is due August 14. The number of registrations may be limited, so register early.

If you cannot attend this tour, similar tours will be held in the Charles City area on August 23 and near Atlantic on August 31.

## Checking Fields in August

By Paul Kassel, ISU Extension Crop Agronomist

**Check for corn leaf diseases.** August is a good time to check corn fields for leaf diseases. Corn on corn fields may have more leaf disease than corn on soybean fields. Also check fields where you have treated and untreated comparisons with fungicide treatments (i.e. Headline). Northern corn leaf blight, gray leaf spot and anthracnose are some of the diseases that may be present. See <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/2-12/diseases.html> for more info on diseases with corn on corn.

**Bean leaf beetle.** There are two generations of bean leaf beetles (blb) per year. The beetles present in the soybean fields now are the first generation beetles. They feed on the leaves – which usually are not an economic concern. The first generation beetles will give rise to the second generation beetles. There is some overlap of the two generations. The second generation will do the most economic damage – by feeding on the pods in late August.

Fields being treated for soybean aphids now will also reduce blb populations – by reducing the beetles that lay eggs that produce the second generation. This strategy is a practical approach, but may not eliminate all blb that cause pod damage.

Another strategy is to scout the beetles now and treat the second generation beetles in late August. Treatment would be recommended in late August if there are more than 7 beetles/foot of row, or 30 beetles/20 sweeps (considering \$10.00/a treatment cost and \$5.00/bu soybeans). See <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2000/7-10-2000/newconcept.html> for more info.

Yet another strategy is to scout in late August and treat in late August. This approach uses the actual number of second generation beetles in the field. See <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1998/8-10-1998/beandam98.html> for more info.

**Soybean diseases.** Check for late season soybean diseases.

- Sudden death syndrome (SDS) was evident in a few fields last year. Be sure to distinguish between SDS and Brown Stem rot (BSR). Both diseases can have similar foliar symptoms. Slice open stems to look for the brown pith of BSR.

- Bacterial blight – has brown lesions with yellow halos. Bacterial blight often shows up after rainy/windy weather.
- Cercospora – upper leaves are bronzy in color – also has a leathery appearance.
- See <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2006/7-10/soyscout.html> for more information.

## Swine Update

By Dave Stender, ISU Extension Swine Field Specialist

I recently attended the 2007 American Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting in San Antonio and had the opportunity to listen to reports regarding groundbreaking research from around the world.

Over 2,500 scientific papers and symposium were presented. I learned a lot from the symposia on bio-ethics and welfare. Dr. Stan Curtis, distinguished professor of animal welfare discussed a recent study that looked at bar biting, floor clawing and other mannerisms intuitively cited as important signs of the lack of sow welfare in a stall. The study he discussed found that outdoor pigs do the same mannerisms and that the mannerisms studied could be beneficial to the animal's welfare.

Dr. Curtis is one of three leading animal science welfare experts that have come out with a unified statement regarding sow stalls: **"Use of sow gestation stalls"** has become a contentious issue. Some states have banned gestation stalls, some producers have decided, for a variety of reasons, to implement the policy goal of using more group pens in their operations and some food retailers have instituted purchasing policies that include the goal of phasing out gestating sow stalls.

The scientific evidence shows that sow physiology and behavior are essentially equivalent in well-managed stalls and group pens. **We understand the general public may not like gestation stalls. However, we are concerned that, as pregnant sows are moved from stalls to pens, some sows may have a reduced state of being due to social stress. With the only requirement that sows move from stalls to pens, sow state of being may actually decrease.** "We urge caution and a systematic, thorough, ongoing evaluation of effective group housing systems of pregnant sows bred and adapted for group housing." Other important research reported at the conference discussed the use of Omega 3 fatty acids in the feed to increase embryo survival. They have determined that the long chain fatty acid abbreviated DHA is involved. The problem is that DHA is unstable and breaks down quickly.

There was a seminar I attended that talked about photobiotics, this is a plant feed additive to improve productivity. The speaker said they use 12,000 of them in China. They claim to change the characteristic of feed as an antioxidant or appetizer change the oxidative stability of meat and/or enhance performance and digestion.

Seasonal infertility was an interesting symposia. The speaker pointed out that native (wild) pigs are 100% anestrous from June to October. Wild sows fatten up during the summer in preparation for the one lactation period they have each spring. Because all domestic pigs came from wild pigs, they did some research which included full feed gestation in summer to reduce the seasonal fertility. Their study showed some improvement in season fertility, but sows got bigger and ate more feed. The next speaker talked on gut barrier dysfunction and discussed the pathway that leads to seasonal infertility. An over simplification of what he said was that normally the gut barrier is closed, but a stress event (such as heat) shifts blood flow from the gut (to skin if heat stress) which causes the barrier to open. Then endotoxins get through the stomach barrier stimulating an immune response which triggers body system reactions that lead to seasonal infertility.

The last paper I looked at talked about bird flu. Thankfully at this time bird flu remains an animal disease and has not mutated to become a human disease. I have included a couple quotes from the paper: "and argue that the scale of the warnings appears to outstrip the magnitude on the real threat." Recent findings show "that avian H5N1 remains as an animal virus and the probability and possibility for H5N1 successfully adapting to humans as a new host remains low at this particular moment!"

## Iowa State Dairy Farm Set to Open in October

Press Release from Maynard Hogberg, ISU Animal Science Dept Chairman

By Chris Mondak, ISU Extension Dairy Field Specialist

The Dairy/Animal Science Education and Discovery Facility is on schedule for completion with staff and cows set to occupy it in October.

The facility is a complex of buildings that make up a modern dairy operation. The free stall, dry cow and heifer buildings, designed for cows preparing to calve and young cows are complete except for equipment installation.

Construction on the maternity/calf building for newborn calf care began in July. The milking center, which will house offices, classroom, public viewing area, milking parlor, and a special needs building or health care area, are about 30 percent complete.

Construction on a compost facility will begin this fall. Feed storage bunkers, a manure storage tank and site utility work have been completed. Final site work will take place through September.

Maynard Hogberg, chair of the animal science department, sees two impacts on dairying in Iowa. "It will help grow the number of students interested in the dairy industry either as practitioners or those who want to do research in the area; and, the research

and outreach at the facility will address industry issues that should be an asset to increasing the industry in the state."

The new dairy facility will be easier for Iowa State faculty and students to reach as it is on an 887-acre site three miles south of the central campus. A nearly 100-year-old dairy farm on Mortensen Road near the Towers Residence Complex was closed in 2003 due to obsolete and outdated facilities, budget cuts and the fact it was landlocked by development.

The challenge was to design a dairy that could be managed and operated to be profitable while efficiently integrating research, teaching and extension activities. The new facility will allow for individual feeding, which is an essential research tool. Improvements in cow-handling will increase farm efficiency when gathering livestock for classes or tasks like treating them for disorders.

## Issues in Agriculture

By Ann M. Holste, Extension Program Specialist,  
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Kris Kohl, ISU Extension Ag Engineer Field Specialist  
Tom Olsen, ISU Extension Farm Management Field Specialist

The recent changes in agriculture indicate we are in another "Golden Age." There is no clear answer to how long high prices will last, or how much corn will ultimately be needed to meet ethanol demands. To help with decisions related to these issues, there are meetings to be held across Iowa this summer that will answer questions related to farmland leasing and what to do with all that extra grain.

### Farmland Leasing Workshops

A hot issue that began last fall with the rise in grain prices and will continue to be an issue for a few years is rental rates. Currently, over 70 meetings are planned in Iowa with the majority of them occurring in July and August. The deadline for terminating a lease is September 1, so leasing decisions are being made right now for 2008.

Meetings are approximately 3 hours in length and are facilitated by ISU Extension farm management specialists. These workshops are designed to assist landowners, tenants and other agribusiness professionals with issues related to farmland ownership, management, and leasing agreements. Each workshop attendee will receive a set of useful materials about farm leasing arrangements.

Topics covered include: cash rental rate survey and land value survey, comparison of different types of leases, lease termination, impacts of yields and prices, calculating a fair cash rent, use of spreadsheets to compare leases and available internet resources.

The following is a list of the NW Area meetings. Contact your county office to register for the meeting being held closest to you.

- August 9 Rock Rapids, 9:30AM
- August 9 Arthur, 1:30PM
- August 13 Sibley, 1:30PM
- August 15 Pocahontas, 9:30AM
- August 21 Estherville, 1:30PM
- August 21 Spirit Lake, 7:00PM
- August 22 Cherokee, 9:00AM
- August 22 Sergeant Bluff, 1:30PM
- August 22 Carroll, 7:30PM
- August 23 Ute, 1:30PM
- August 23 Spencer, 1:30PM
- August 25 Storm Lake, 9:00AM
- August 27 Emmetsburg, 9:00AM

### Grain Management and Storage Strategies

Increased corn acreage poses unique storage opportunities and challenges for rural Iowa. Ethanol plants have an impact on both the demand for corn and the quality of the corn demanded. Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative are sponsoring meetings across Iowa during the month of August to address issues related to grain management and storage. The day long programs will address four main areas: quality management and storage practices, harvesting and storage logistics, the economics of storage, system analysis and future planning. The agenda concludes by looking at the whole picture using a storage planning web module.

The discussion will include looking at the "harvest surge" of Fall 2007 and operational decisions that will need to be made this fall. There are economical and physical decisions that producers will be looking at including, how to manage what you have, accurate forecasting of bushels right now, consignment of specific grain to specific storage, and market and contract decisions that are linked with storage options. Spreadsheets available through the [Ag Decision Maker web site](#) will aid in analyzing economic decisions.

The end of the program will allow for discussion and questions for the presenters. Presenters include field engineers and economists as well as campus faculty and staff. A meeting in NW Iowa is planned for August 8 in Sheldon at the NW Iowa Community College. Advanced registration is \$25 per person or \$40 at the door. For more information contact Kris Kohl 712-732-5056 or the O'Brien County Extension Office 712-957-5045.

The Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, [www.iowagrains.org](http://www.iowagrains.org), and Ag Decision Maker, [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm), will provide information on issues in grain storage as they arise.