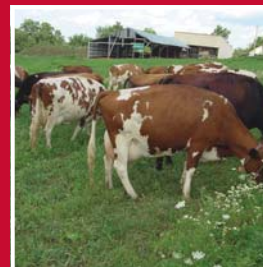


FIELD & FEEDLOT



ISU EXTENSION—NORTHWEST REGIONS

JUNE 2010 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/>

References That Can Help!

By Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

A few months ago our office in LeMars moved to a new location. It's a nice location, and we really like it. But it does have one drawback compared to our previous location – it has quite a bit less room for storage. Honestly – maybe that is a good thing. I had to decide what to keep and what had to go! This opportunity forced me to think if I really needed to keep all of the resource material I had stored up over time that I used to answer questions or prepare presentations for ag audiences. I realized that a lot of those publications and books had not been used for a long time. Why? Much is on the internet at different locations, and the internet versions are more frequently updated, I believe. Instead of going first to my reference files, I first go to my computer! So, needless to say, I threw out a lot of printed materials before we moved, and don't think I have missed almost anything yet.

It's now decision time during the crop season. One of my jobs is to try and take emotion out of the decision process, and try to use research and science to help make logical decisions. What information do I often supply to crop producers to do this? There are several great web sites that can do this. If you have internet access, you can often find these materials from your own home. Of course search engines like Google help, but sometimes it is really nice to have "bookmarks" that can get you in the right direction. Here are some I use the most.

For corn production, ISU Extension specialists Roger Elmore and Lori Abendroth have put together the Extension Corn page, found here: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/corn/>. On the left side of the page are categories of information from "Growth and Develop-

ment" to "Harvest and Yield." Under each of these segments there are articles to help answer many of your corn production questions. For example, the day I am writing this I have been walking several cornfields that have had emergence problems. Replant decision help from the "Replant Checklist" article really helps, and it is found under the "Planting" tab. Try this for your corn questions – it is GREAT!

Likewise, for soybeans, Palle Pedersen developed a really good soybean information page for us to use: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soybean/>. From this page, try the "Soybean Production" tab at the top. A wide array of information is found at that site. A bookmark for certain!

The ISU ICM Newsletter adds articles of timely information each week. You can sign up to have notification of new articles sent to you, or you can go to the site and review the articles. It is found here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/>. In addition, you can search several years of articles for specific topics. If you want to know the value of corn-stalks burned off a field, type in "burned corn stalks," and you will get 10 historic articles that can help answer your question.

Want to see what Extension Field Specialists like myself are writing in their own newsletters? Look at this page to see what is going on in other parts of Iowa: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/fsnews.html>. Would you like to see what other states are writing in newsletters like ISU's ICM News? Try the "Chat and Chew Café" web site hosted by Purdue University: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/cafe/>.

Of course, you cannot live in rural Iowa without talking about the weather. The ISU Ag Climate Network, which has weather stations at the research farms across Iowa, can supply a lot of data about growing conditions, history, degree days, etc. Spend a little time navigating around this site: <http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/agclimate/index.phtml>.

Finally, I believe the most requested publication at our Extension office during the year is probably the results of the "Iowa Custom Rate Survey." For this publication, and others about many farm management topics, go to the ISU Ag Decision Maker page: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>. I believe this is one of the best farm management resources out there – take a look!

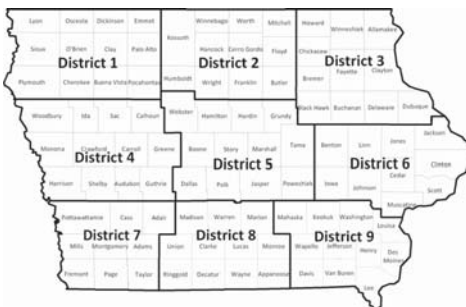
Modest Gains for Cash Rental Rates

By Ron Hook, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist

Average cash rental rates in Iowa have increased slightly over last year, according to results from an annual survey by Iowa State University. Over forty percent of Iowa's cropland is rented under cash rent lease agreements. Profits and losses are highly variable from year to year, and expectations of future returns ultimately are bid back into land rents as well as land selling prices.

Survey Results

The ISU survey of cash rental rates for 2010 showed increases in typical cash rents for four of the nine districts of the state. The largest increases were in District 3 (north east) and District 7 (southwest). The estimated average rental rate for the entire state was \$188 per acre, compared to \$187 last year. In District 1 (northwest) the average rent reported was \$200 or more in three counties – O'Brien, Osceola and Sioux. In District 4 (west central) the average rent reported was \$200 or more in two counties – Woodbury and Ida.



ranged from about \$1.02 per bushel in south central Iowa to over \$1.16 per bushel in east central Iowa.

The full summary of the survey is contained in ISU Extension publication FM-1851, "Cash Rental Rates for Iowa," which is available at county Extension offices in Iowa, or from the Ag Decision Maker website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-10.html>

Beef News

By Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist

Where to Find NPDES Permits Info – The Iowa Manure Management Action Group (IMMAG) at Iowa State University has a web page with links to information regarding NPDES permits for open lot and confinement operations. There are links to both Iowa Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency resources. The IMMAG web page is located at <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/hottopics/npdespermitsinfo.html>

Sulfur Survey – It only takes a few minutes to complete an Iowa Beef Center survey that has the potential to help countless feedlot producers. High sulfur content of ethanol co-products is a major factor limiting the amount of co-products that can be fed. Excess sulfur in cattle diets can result in polioencephalomalacia (PEM), commonly referred to as polio.

ISU research is underway to understand how sulfur-induced PEM develops and to develop diagnostic tools and strategies for preventing the disease.

The survey asks about current ethanol co-product feeding practices, feedlot incidences of PEM and other dietary factors that may lead to PEM. The survey is located at www.iowabeefcenter.org. Your help in completing the survey can help develop strategies to increase the amount of ethanol co-products in the diet without affecting animal health.

Pasture Walk Features Streambank Protection, Grazing Alfalfa – Get out your hiking shoes and plan to attend a Pasture Walk on June 23, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. July 1 will be a rain date. The Pasture Walk is hosted by Park Ludvigson, registered Red Angus producer. Directions from Correctionville: 2 miles east on Hwy 20 to County Road L-37; 1 mile south on L-37 to a 4-way stop; 1 mile east on County Road D-22 to Story Ave. Turn south and go 3 miles to 190th St. Go east on 190th to the Pasture Walk signs. OR Directions from Cushing: 3 miles west on D22 to Story Ave.; 3 miles south to 190th St. Go east on 190th to the Pasture Walk signs.

This year's Pasture Walk will showcase the stewardship and conservation practices of a purebred cow-calf operation. The rotational grazing system consists primarily of alfalfa, with a small amount of grass. Cattle can be rotationally grazed through ten paddocks fenced on the contours. Excess forage is harvested throughout the season for winter feed. The stream

Results from 2010 Cash Rental Rate Survey

District	Average rent per acre	Average rent per bu. of corn
1	\$188	\$1.07
2	\$191	\$1.07
3	\$192	\$1.10
4	\$195	\$1.14
5	\$195	\$1.10
6	\$196	\$1.16
7	\$176	\$1.09
8	\$151	\$1.02
9	\$169	\$1.05

A total of 1,249 farmers, landowners, professional managers, lenders, and other professions responded to this year's survey by giving their best estimates of typical cash rental rates in their county. Cropland in each county was divided into high, medium, and low quality thirds based on expected corn yields. Data was also collected for oats, hay and pasture land rents.

Rents Vary by Productivity

Average rents per bushel of expected corn yield were calculated using county average yields for the past five years. These rates

running through the pasture is fenced off, and cattle crossings were built to prevent streambank erosion.

Dr. Jim Russell, ISU animal science professor and researcher, will share tips on how to rotationally graze and how to maintain water quality in pasture-based production systems. He will also visit about methods he has successfully used to alter cattle movement and reduce the risk of stream pollution.

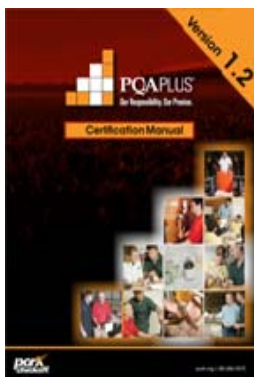
Please call Sioux County Extension (712-737-4230) by June 18 so that meal arrangements can be made. Payment (\$5/person) will be taken on site.

CSP Sign-Up – Iowa NRCS has announced a second sign-up period for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The program evaluates the environmental value and impact of already-established conservation practices AND helps producers, landowners, and forested land operators incorporate and add new solutions as well. Eligible participants receive incentive payments relative to benefits their conservation operations provide. The turn-around time for landowners and producers to sign up for CSP is short – June 11, 2010. It is critical for potential applicants to contact their local NRCS office and sign up for the program before the deadline. To learn more, visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html

2010 Animal Industry Report – The Department of Animal Science's 2010 Animal Industry Report is posted on the web at <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/report/air/> and includes research related to Iowa's major species - beef, dairy, equine, poultry, sheep and swine. The research is conducted to support the viability of these animal industries in Iowa.

Animal and Premises Identification: Why It's Important to the Pork Industry

By Jerry Weiss, ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist



important part of the PQA Plus® program and our industry-wide commitment to the *We Care* initiative.

Swine ID program standards were developed collectively by the industry and are based on how pigs are currently identified and moved today. More than 85 percent of pork producers have registered their premises and received a nationally standardized Premises Identification Number (PIN) as part of the Swine ID program. The PIN required for the Swine ID program standards has been

integrated into the PQA Plus program and into national disease surveillance programs.

The standardized animal identification and pre-harvest traceability system outlined in the Swine ID program standards is crucial for maintaining and expanding export markets. Any state that cannot demonstrate effective traceability may find pork from their state excluded from certain export markets.

In summary, packers are requiring producers who sell pigs to them to be current on their PQA Plus certification. This certification also requires a site assessment of your swine facilities. In order to have this assessment completed, the producer must have a **Premises Identification Number** on their facilities. This number is obtained through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The application form can be obtained from your ISU Extension Swine Program Specialist or through your county Extension Office.

For more information call Jerry Weiss at 712-335-3103 or Dave Stender at 712-225-6196.

Ash Anthracnose

Taken from: *Horticulture & Home Pest News*

Why do my ash tree leaves look so awful this spring? Some of the new leaves and shoots are falling off, some are misshapen, and the older leaves have large black or tan regions. The Plant Disease Clinic has been getting these questions lately because the cool wet conditions in Iowa this spring have been very good for a fungus that causes anthracnose on ash. Anthracnose is just a big word for a number of



diseases on trees and shrubs that result in blotchy black or brown lesions on leaves, deformation of leaves around the lesions, and complete defoliation in severe cases. These diseases are specific for the kind of tree they infect, so anthracnose of oak will not be a problem for ash, and anthracnose of ash will not spread to sycamore. However, the fungal culprits are related to one another, the symptoms and predisposing conditions are similar, and the management is the same for most anthracnose diseases of trees.

The best way to manage ash anthracnose is to prune dead or dying branches and dispose of all the leaves and other ash debris in the fall so that there is no immediate source of spores to begin infections in the spring. The best management practices, however, cannot prevent windblown spores from infected ash debris elsewhere. Fortunately, there are resistant varieties available for planting. Fungicidal sprays or injections are rarely warranted because the disease is seldom a serious problem, and adequate coverage is very difficult to achieve on a mature tree. The Iowa State University Extension bulletin Anthracnose of Shade Trees (PM 1280) gives further information on ash anthracnose, including details about fungicide applications.

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