

Extension helps Environmental Quality Improvement Program Participants Protect the Environment



Plymouth County NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) has enrolled several farmers in its EQIP (Environmental Quality Improvement Program) over the last several years. The goal is to use research-based information to produce great crop yields, while utilizing nutrient and pest management practices that protect our water. NW Iowa Extension Field Agronomist Joel DeJong works with NRCS to offer bi-monthly workshops and field days with these producers to help them sharpen their skills.

A recent survey of participants showed that almost all producers were using the ISU recommended level of Nitrogen for crop production or less because additional crop testing information has showed they can use a lower level on their farm. The same group was surveyed about some of their pest management practices. Ninety-two Percent used an established scouting process for pests on the majority of their acres, and compared that data with thresholds to determine the need for management. Fifty-four percent monitored yields to determine if IPM (Integrated Pest Management) treated areas yielded better than non-IPM areas. For that 54%, 13% reported yields were the same, 25% indicated yields improved 1 -2 bushels/acre, 38% saw a 3 – 5 bushel per acre increase, and 25% noted a 5 - 10 bushel per acre yield boost with these practices.



“Extension’s work with our EQIP project allows us to help producers effectively manage their crops, and reduce environmental impact. We appreciate their help immensely!”

Jim Lahn
Plymouth County NRCS District Conservationist

For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Plymouth County Office at 712-546-7835. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

March 2008

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