ISU Northern Iowa Research Farm Field Day

ISU Extension and Outreach specialists will present on soil, nutrient, pest, and crop management.

Contacts: Matt Schnabel, ISU Northern Research Farm Superintendent, 515-762-3247, mschn@iastate.edu and Extension Field Agronomists, Angie Rieck-Hinz, anrieck@iastate.edu and Paul Kassel, kassel@iastate.edu

KANAWHA, Iowa – The Iowa State University Northern Research and Demonstration Farm will host its 2016 Summer Field Day on June 23, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Crop management, nitrogen management and soil health will highlight the summer field day in Kanawha, Iowa at 310 S. Main St., immediately south of town. Matt Schnabel, farm superintendent, will begin the field day program with a season review of the farm.

Mahdi Al-Kaisi, ISU extension soil management specialist, will cover the topic of soil health with a demonstration on how to measure soil health factors such as water infiltration, bulk density and soil aggregate stability. Spring nitrogen management will be discussed by John Sawyer, ISU extension soil fertility and nutrient management specialist. He will also touch on water quality topics affected by nitrogen management. Alison Robertson, ISU associate extension specialist in plant pathology and microbiology, will focus on current disease topics in corn and soybean.

Angie Rieck-Hinz and Paul Kassel, ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomists, will wrap up the event by speaking to attendees about weed control issues, herbicide injury symptoms and crop management topics.

Soil and Water Quality to be Featured at ISU Northeast Research Farm Field Day June 28

Contacts: Terry Basol, ISU Extension Agronomist, tibasol@iastate.edu, 641-426-6801 and Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent, kennethp@iastate.edu, 641-435-4864

NASHUA, Iowa – The Annual Spring Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will run from 1:00 to 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. The program will kick off with Kristine Tidgren, Attorney from The Center for Ag Law and Taxation, who will give her insights on the latest legal issues on water quality. Rick Cruse, Professor of Agronomy, will share research information on the aspect of soil quality as it pertains to farming practices. Tom Kaspar, USDA-ARS, will provide the latest up to date information on cover crops for growers. Matt Helmers, Ag Engineer, will address accepted practices that improve soil and water quality and help reduce nutrient losses from farm fields.

The field day is free and open to the public. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801.
A Professional Horseman's Field Day June 20
Iowa State University, Purina, and Dow AgroSciences present a field day to benefit the serious horse breeder looking to gain optimum nutrition for broodmares and growing horses on June 20, 2016, at the new Equine Learning Center on the Iowa State University Campus, 2636 Mortensen Road, Ames, Iowa.

Tentative schedule:
- 2:00 p.m. Registration and Open Barn
- 2:30 p.m. Program Overview and Introductions
- 3:30 p.m. Weed Control to Optimize Pasture Grazing Potential
- 4:30 p.m. Nutrition In the Young Growing Horse
- 5:15 p.m. Broodmare and Foal Nutrition
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner Provided by Purina

Followed by Q & A Round Table and Tours of the Hansen Agricultural Student Learning Center.

Please RSVP to: Joel Edge, Horse Sales Specialist, Purina Animal Nutrition, JNEdge@landolakes.com, (319)540-1731.

Free Agricultural Water Food Safety Testing
Article | 05/26/2016 | By Angela Laury Shaw, Food Science and Human Nutrition, 515-294-0868, angelaml@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach food safety specialists will be providing free agricultural water food safety testing for up to 100 hobby gardeners and very small fruit and vegetable producers in Iowa for an upcoming ISU Extension and Outreach research project titled “Educating Iowans about the importance of water food safety when growing fruits and vegetables.”

The Food and Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule requires fruit and vegetable growers to test all agricultural water that is used for handwashing and during the growing, harvesting and processing of fruits and vegetables. This rule requires that this agricultural water must have less than 126 colony forming units of generic Escherichia coli for safe production. The first 100 agricultural water samples will be sampled for the presence and quantity of generic Escherichia coli at no cost. Only one agricultural water sample per garden/farm will be accepted and growers must be located in Iowa. All sample criteria must accompany the sample.

To participate, three items are needed:
1. Two samples of at least 500 mL of agricultural water from an untreated surface source (e.g., pond, lagoon, rain barrel, etc.) or untreated ground source (e.g., well); collect in a sterile container (such as a specimen cup from a doctor's office or an unused, emptied water bottle)
2. Indication of the use of this agricultural water (e.g., handwashing, drip irrigation, overhead irrigation, produce rinsing)
3. Indication of the market the fruits and vegetables will be sold or given to (e.g., food pantry, grocer, restaurant, etc.)

Those interested in participating should send these items with their contact information including name, address, phone number, and email to Angela Shaw, 2312 Food Science Building, Ames, IA 50011. Samples should be overnighted under refrigeration (i.e., an ice pack with paper or bubble wrap between water sample and ice pack). Iowa State University is open Monday-Friday and samples must arrive between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Contact Shaw with questions at angelaml@iastate.edu. For more information, go to www.safeproduce.cals.iastate.edu under Iowa GAP. This research project is funded by Iowa State University Human Sciences Extension and Outreach.

Guidelines for Using Sticky Traps to Assess Corn Rootworm Activity
By Erin W Hodgson, Extension Entomology Specialist, 515-294-2847, eth@iastate.edu

Western and northern corn rootworm are major corn pests in Iowa and surrounding states. Farmers have seen several management changes, including the release of four Bt-rootworm traits to suppress corn rootworm larvae since 2003. Although both species are persistent pests, western corn rootworm is particularly adaptable.

The Gassmann Lab at Iowa State University (ISU) has demonstrated western corn rootworm resistance to all Bt rootworm traits in Iowa. In order to prolong the effectiveness of Bt, farmers should monitor for corn rootworm and make management decisions based on larval injury to roots or adult activity. We recommend using the 0 to 3 node-injury scale developed at ISU to evaluate larval injury. To monitor for adults, follow the guidelines at http://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2016/06/guidelines-using-sticky-traps-assess-corn-rootworm-activity. Use Pherocon AM yellow sticky traps (unbaited). Set up sticky traps at corn silking and continue through the dent stage (i.e., mid-July through August). For areas in eastern counties with suspected rotation-resistant western corn rootworm, set up sticky traps at soybean flowering and continue through full seed set (i.e., mid-July through August).
Identifying Ticks: First Step in Preventing Lyme Disease

ISU Extension and Outreach pub provides information on Iowa’s ticks

Article | 05/23/2016 | By Laura Jesse, Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Director, 515-294-0581, ljesse@iastate.edu and Donald Lewis and Ken Holscher

AMES, Iowa – With warm temperatures and sunny skies painting an inviting picture, people across Iowa will spend time outside this summer and fall enjoying the natural wonders this state offers. While experiencing Iowa’s great outdoors people will come in contact with something less warm and fuzzy—ticks.

Ticks are active from March through November, the same months that host the most outdoor activities. Understanding the different types of ticks that are found in the state and how to remove ticks if they become attached to a human or domestic animal is the focus of a new ISU Extension and Outreach publication titled ‘Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases in Iowa’ (PM 2036) at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Ticks-and-Tick-borne-Diseases-in-Iowa.

“Ticks are something we all encounter when we are outdoors,” said Laura Jesse, director and extension entomologist with the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic at Iowa State University. “Most of us aren’t pleased to find a tick on us or our pets, and having information on the type of tick and how to remove it is important. There are many urban myths around ticks and being able to provide real science to the topic is helpful.”

The blacklegged or deer tick, the American dog or wood tick, and the lone star tick are the three most common species found in Iowa. While each species of tick has a range where it is most common, all three species can be found across the state.

Ticks have become infamous as carriers of Lyme disease, an illness that can be transmitted from other infected mammals to humans through ticks. Ticks feed on the blood of smaller animals like rodents and birds as they move from their nymph stage into adulthood. When adult ticks latch onto humans they can then transmit the Lyme disease if they are infected.

“It is important to be aware of the symptoms of Lyme disease,” Jesse said. “The best way to prevent infection is to locate and remove ticks immediately. Be sure to check yourself and children after returning indoors from areas likely infested with ticks (wooded or brushy areas and areas with long grass). Additionally, talk to a veterinarian about pets because there are many tick treatments that are effective for summer-long tick control for dogs and cats.”

The main outward sign of Lyme disease is a bull’s-eye-shaped skin rash at the site of the bite. Other symptoms include arthritis, facial paralysis, neurological and cardiac problems, general malaise and fatigue. The disease has also been reported in dogs, cats, horses, cattle and sheep.

Preventing tick bites can be done by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and tucking pants into socks; wearing light-colored clothing to see ticks easier; using tick-specific EPA-approved repellant; and manually checking for ticks after being outside.

If a tick does bite and attach itself, it should be removed by using tweezers to grasp the tick’s mouthparts where they enter the skin. Pull the tick away from the skin and thoroughly clean and disinfect the site of the bite.

“People worry about leaving parts of the mouth still attached when removing ticks and so try various ineffective methods to get ticks to ‘back out’ of the skin,” Jesse said. “Things like using Vaseline or alcohol on a tick can irritate the tick and possibly cause it to regurgitate into you with the Lyme disease causing organism. Pulling it out quickly and cleanly is the best way to prevent regurgitation. If the mouthparts get left in the skin your body will treat it like any foreign body (for example splinters) and work to get rid of it.”

The publication is authored by Jesse; Donald Lewis, professor and extension entomologist at Iowa State University; and Ken Holscher, associate professor of entomology at Iowa State University. H. Joel Hutcheson and James W. Mertins, entomologists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also contributed to the publication.

PHOTO: The American dog tick is the most commonly encountered tick in Iowa. For size reference, tick is placed near to a period (12 point, Times New Roman font) that is approximately 0.8 mm in diameter. 2nd Photo: Publication PM 2036.
Evaluating a Wind Energy Agreement: A Brief Review

From ISU Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation May 2016 Newsletter

This article, while not offering legal advice, is intended to inform landowners as to some of the key legal issues they should consider when evaluating a wind energy agreement proposed by a developer.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, more than 31 percent of Iowa’s in-state electricity generation came from wind in 2015. The Iowa Utilities Board has reported that this is the first time that wind has ever supplied a state with more than 30 percent of its yearly electricity. Sustaining this increase in wind energy output is an increase in wind farm development. When wind farm developers approach landowners about constructing wind turbines on their property, many are left with many questions. Landowners are encouraged to consult with legal counsel and their tax advisors regarding the implications of the agreement they are evaluating. Following are some important considerations. Read more of this article online at http://www.calt.iastate.edu/newsletter/2016-may.

The backbone of any wind farm is the wind energy agreement. Every landowner who sells an easement or leases property to a developer does so pursuant to a detailed contract drafted by the developer. It is important that landowners fully understand the rights and obligations detailed in these contracts before signing. With many of these agreements dictating land usage for the next 50 years or so, it is well worth the expense of hiring an attorney experienced in these matters to review the paperwork before signing. Given the voluntary nature of these projects to date, there may not be a lot of room for negotiation. Even so, landowners should not be afraid to ask for terms that better meet their needs. And landowners should not hesitate to walk away from negotiations if they are not comfortable with the terms offered. Because these contracts often contain a confidentiality clause, landowners usually don’t know the terms of their neighbors’ agreements. As such, it is sometimes difficult to evaluate the fairness of a financial offer.