

Managing Through Stress: A Livestock Information Event

Handout/Resource Page February 4, 2013

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) have co-sponsored the program to be held at 14 sites throughout the state.

General session speakers:

Chad Hart, ISUEO crop economist; Lee Schultz, ISUEO livestock economist; Elwynn Taylor, ISUEO climatologist; Michael Rosmann, Ag Behavioral Health and Sterling Liddell, Rabo AgriFinance.

Recordings of the general session speakers and their slides will be posted on the following websites within a couple of days:

- Iowa Farm Bureau Federation www.iowafarmbureau.com (look for Managing Through Stress picture)
- ISUEO, Dealing with Disasters: www.extension.iastate.edu/topic/recovering-disasters/
- Plus other ISUEO websites

Each meeting site is being hosted by an ISUEO livestock specialist who will lead the afternoon discussion that may focus on beef, dairy or swine industry. For your awareness, this handout highlights the management considerations that are important to each species. The lingering impacts of the 2012 drought combined with the uncertainty of future weather and pricing may challenge our farms, businesses and families.

Please contact your area ISUEO livestock specialist if you have any questions.

Water Availability – potential issue for all species

There are two key areas of concern related to water; quantity and quality.

Quantity: First, estimate your water demand.

* If your well can supply enough water for the day, but not on a minute by minute basis, a surge tank may provide the solution, but requires on-site storage and alternate pumping system.

* If your well cannot supply enough water for the day, you can look for alternate sources of water.

1. Another well on the same site may be an option for a very limited number of operations, if water and drillers are available.
2. Rural water may be an option if a supply line is nearby, but connection fees and purchase price may be significant.
3. Hauled water may be an option, but requires hauling equipment and on-site storage and alternate pumping equipment, and sanitation is an issue. Be sure to NEVER haul human or livestock drinking water in tanks that have hauled fertilizer or pesticides. Tanks cannot be washed well enough to remove all residues.
4. Surface water – you might be able to improve efficiency of water use from surface water used for watering grazing livestock by pumping water from the surface water to a tank for drinking. Pumping water into an existing well from surface water is not efficient and could contaminate your well.
5. Water conservation practices can help reduce the risk that you run out of water.
6. Check into program through FSA to help develop water resources.

Quality issues tend to focus on blue green algae. Blue-green algae blooms can be stimulated following storms when surface runoff containing phosphorus and nitrogen enters receiving waters. Techniques to reduce blue-green algae include

installing an aeration device, reducing nutrient runoff into the water, reducing nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer applications and establishing vegetated buffer strips, and algaecides such as copper sulfate.

Beef -

Iowa Beef Center www.iowabeefcenter.org

1. Pasture status and management: Many producers have concerns about productivity of pastures that were over grazed due to last year's drought. It may still be too early to make any firm decisions, but you should definitely have several alternative plans in mind depending on the weather we receive from now to spring. Pastures that were severely overgrazed will likely need some renovation. This may vary from fertilizer and interseeding to destroying the current vegetation and starting with a new establishment. Pastures that were overgrazed for the summer but allowed to regrow ungrazed during the fall rains may only need some fertilizer and a chance to start growing. Without adequate spring moisture, additional pasture improvements may not be profitable and alternative summer feeding options may need to be considered until adequate rainfall is available. A current plan of action might include:

- Make a plan for severely limited forage/grazing or moderately limited due to drought and consider the effects if it occurs early or late or lasts through the grazing period.
- Determine what kind of forage production you would normally have with normal precipitation and determine how much less forage would be available with limited precipitation
- Develop alternative feeding plans should the pasture not be available.
- Evaluate pasture regrowth and weed pressure as temperatures warm in the spring.
- Develop plan for frost seeding/interseeding methods and species now, in case it is needed.
- Develop a rotational grazing plan to provide needed pasture rest and improve utilization of the forage grown.
- Resources available on pasture renovation can be found at:
http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/forages_grazing.html

Without additional rain, some cattlemen will be forced to feed additional supplementation on pasture to maintain the cow's body condition, or even remove the cattle from the pasture and drylot for a while. Anyone needing help with rations during confinement should contact their beef specialists.

2. Alternative forages and feeds: Can we get forage production from annual forages with limited precipitation? Obviously it depends on adequate rainfall and moisture for them to germinate and grow. However a decision to devote some acres to these annual forages would likely need to be made before you know how much rain we are going to get. Some options might include:

- Spring cereals (oats, triticale, barley) with or without legumes (field peas) or brassicas (radish, turnips) - Seeded April and ready to graze mid-to-late-June
- Annual ryegrass – Seeded early spring and grazed mid-summer
- Sorghums, sudangrass & millets – Seeded June to July and ready to graze July to August
- Fall seeded cereals with or without brassicas (radish or turnips) - Seeded August to September and grazed October and the following early spring

All of these options could be chopped for winter feed as well as grazed for summer feed.

ISUEO Beef Field Specialist Contacts:

NW IA: Beth Doran

Orange City, IA

Phone: 712.737.4230

Cell Phone: 712.395.0280

doran@iastate.edu

NC IA: Russ Euken

Garner, IA

Phone: 641.923.2856

Cell Phone: 641.231.1711

reuken@iastate.edu

NE IA: Denise Schwab

Vinton, IA

Phone: 715.737.4230

Cell Phone: 712.540.2304

dschwab@iastate.edu

SW IA: Christopher Clark

Lewis, IA

Phone: 712.769.2600

Cell Phone: 636.432.9437

caclark@iastate.edu

SC IA: Joe Sellers

Chariton, IA

Phone: 641.774.2016

Cell Phone: 641.203.1270

sellers@iastate.edu

SE IA: Byron Leu

Fairfield, IA

Phone: 641.472.4166

Cell Phone: 641.799.2298

bleu@iastate.edu

Dairy -

ISU Dairy Team www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam

Although milk prices have been good recently, the forecast is for milk prices to decline. In addition, the higher feed costs are causing the income over feed cost margin to be extremely tight for most dairy producers. Consequently, long-term survival may depend on how successfully producers are able to utilize the various tools and options available to them.

Three options to consider during 2013 if forage shortages have or become an issue:

- 1. Use of by-products:** A traditional ration can be modified to include less forage or concentrate by incorporating various by-products, depending on the particular situation. By-products can provide additional protein (distillers and gluten feed) or stretch available forage supplies (soy hulls, beet pulp, and whole cottonseed). By-products may be a more economical source of nutrients (lower cost per unit of protein for example) than corn or soybean meal.
- 2. Reduce Animal Numbers:** If there is not enough feed to last until the next harvest season, and you want to minimize the amount of feed purchased, reducing livestock numbers is a consideration. The market for culled dairy cows has been strong and predictions are that this trend will continue for much of 2013. With milk prices starting to decline, this might be a good time to ship low producing or problem cows. Selling surplus replacement heifers may be considered if there are more available than needed to maintain herd size.
- 3. Limit Feed Heifers:** This involves feeding a higher energy diet than has been common with free-choice forages, but limiting the total amount of feed offered, thus controlling average daily gain. The heifers will be very vocal for the first week or two after implementing this feeding program, but once they adjust, performance both before and after calving is not reduced. Other potential advantages of a limit feeding program are a reduction in total feed costs for rearing heifers, increased feed efficiency (lb. of feed to get a lb. of gain) and less total manure.

ISUEO Dairy Field Specialist Contacts:

NW IA: Kevin Lager
Orange City, IA
Phone: 715.737.4230
Cell Phone: 712.540.2304
klager@iastate.edu

NE IA: Jennifer Bentley
Decorah, IA
Phone: 563.382.2949
Cell Phone: 563.419.4469
jbentley@iastate.edu

NE/SE IA: Larry Tranel
Dubuque, IA
Phone: 563.583.6496
Cell Phone: 563.590.7025
tranel@iastate.edu

ISUEO State Dairy Specialist Contacts (on campus):

Leo Timms
Phone: 515.294.4522
Cell Phone: 515.290.7190
ltimms@iastate.edu

Lee Kilmer
Phone: 515.294.4641
Cell Phone: 515.290.5321
lhkilmer@iastate.edu

ISUEO Agricultural Engineering Field Specialist Contacts:

NW IA: Kris Kohl
Storm Lake, IA
Phone: 712.732.5056
kkohl1@iastate.edu

C IA: Kapil Arora
Nevada, IA
Phone: 515.382.6551
pbtiger@iastate.edu

NE IA: Dan Huyser
Nashua, IA
Phone: 515.298.1731
dehuyser@iastate.edu

SW IA: Shawn Shouse
Lewis, IA
Phone: 712.769.2600
sshouse@iastate.edu

SE IA: Greg Brenneman
Iowa City, IA
Phone: 319.337.2145
gregb@iastate.edu

ISUEO Farm Management Field Specialist Contacts:

NW: Melissa O'Rourke
Orange City, IA
Phone: 712.737.4230
morourke@iastate.edu

CW: Shane Ellis
Carroll, IA
Phone: 712.792.2364
shanee@iastate.edu

NC: Kelvin Leibold
Iowa Falls, IA
Phone: 641.648.4850
kleibold@iastate.edu

NE: Kristen Schulte
Cresco, IA
Phone: 563.547.3001
kschulte@iastate.edu

SW: Tim Eggers
Clarinda, IA
Phone: 712.542.5171
teggers@iastate.edu

CC: Steve Johnson
Altoona, IA
Phone: 515.957.5790
sdjohns@iastate.edu

CE: Ryan Drollette
Iowa City, IA
Phone: 319.337.2145
drollett@iastate.edu

SE: Bob Wells
Oskaloosa, IA
Phone: 641.673.5841
wellsjb@iastate.edu

Swine –

Iowa Pork Industry Center www.ipic.iastate.edu

Understanding your pig flow and potential changes in pig flow will help estimate corn needs and evaluate profit or minimize negative returns until reaching the next crop. Weather and price uncertainty may challenge management and feed sourcing beyond the fall of 2013. Improving production efficiencies can make an immediate benefit while pig flow changes can make short to long term changes. A current plan of action might include reviewing:

General

- Pig flows and grain requirements until November 2013 (or beyond?) – quantify your needs, physical supply of grain/feed in addition to price risk management may be important
- Use your own information/records and make sure you make decisions based on comparable/reliable data
- Water Conservation: Cups/bowls may save 31% more than nipple drinkers; visually check for leaks (water drops add up); reduce wash time and wash water used with dry clean-up/initial scrap practices.

Marketing and risk management

- With price volatility, continually monitoring and managing margin (potential return over feed cost)
- Understand how seasonal market price relates to pig flow, market weight and profit potential
 - Bred: Feb (now) → Farrow: End of May → Mkt: Nov = “lower” profit potential
 - Bred: mid Sept → Farrow: Dec → Mkt: June = “higher” profit potential
- Can you reduce sort loss or improve on getting the right pigs on the truck? How accurately can you determine weight of pigs in the barn? How do you determine/monitor when to start marketing pigs from a group?
- Understand the packer grid you are selling to and what discounts and premiums might apply

Improving production efficiency/reducing costs

- Adjust feeder to reduce waste
- Appropriate pig environment – temp 4°F below thermal-neutral reduce F/G by 2.8%, increase health challenge
- Selling weight – Understand net return of selling at a lighter weight (packer grid, marginal return over feed cost)
- Review Culling practices (farrow thru finish) – non-marketable pigs eat but do not generate revenue (or little of it)
- Feed manufacturing/storage – particle size (1.2% improved F/G per 100 micron reduction), quality control
- Alternative ingredients – opportunity?, generally priced relative to corn, available supply, consistent quality, logistics, typically need to purchase in larger quantities

-Specifically for farrowing

- Review Weaning weight/age = Sow feed versus starter feed cost and quantity, performance of older pigs
- Body condition of sows – instead of a condition score of 3 (average) 2+ (slightly below)
- Pig flow/reducing numbers – if margins are negative producing more pigs does not help. With volatility in prices timing of this strategy is critical so that you do not miss profit opportunities
- Skip breeding? – shoot for missing low market selling months
- Decrease or depop. sow herd –herd health challenges/ poor performance, time to clean up?

Additional Swine Resources:

- Iowa Pork Industry Center [http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu)
 - Webinar recording from Aug. 28, 2012
 - Webinar recording from Dec. 10, 2012
- National Pork Board <http://www.pork.org/Resources/Default.aspx>

ISUEO Swine Field Specialist Contacts:

NW IA: Dave Stender
Cherokee, IA
Phone: 712.225.6196
dstender@iastate.edu

NC IA: Russ Euken
Garner, IA
Phone: 641.923.2856
reuken@iastate.edu

NE IA: Mark Storlie
Fayette, IA
Phone: 563.425.3331
mstorlie@iastate.edu

SW IA: Matt Swantek
Arcadia, IA
Phone: 712.371.2856
mswantek@iastate.edu

SC IA: Terry Steinhart
Sigourney, IA
Phone: 641.622.2680
tsteinha@iastate.edu

SE IA: Tom Miller
Washington, IA
Phone: 319.653.4811
tmiller@iastate.edu

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.