Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2019 Survey
Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist; Ann Johanns, Extension Program Specialist; Gary Wynne, Research Assistant

The cooperation and assistance of the landowners, farmers, and agribusiness people who responded to this survey are greatly appreciated. The distribution of the 1,262 responses was 47 percent from farm operators, 30 percent from landowners, 8 percent from agricultural lenders, 12 percent from professional farm managers and realtors, and 3 percent from other professions. Respondents indicated being familiar with 1.6 million cash rented acres across the state.

Determining Cash Rents This summary can be used as a reference point for determining an appropriate cash rental rate for a particular farm. The following may justify a higher or lower than average rent in specific cases:

- Small size or unusual shape of fields
- Terraces or creeks that affect the time it takes to plant and harvest crops
- Difficult or restricted access to fields
- High or low fertility levels or pH index
- Existence of contracts for growing seed or specialty grains, or manure application
- Above-average local grain prices due to proximity to biofuel plants or feed mills
- Longevity of the lease

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- Other services performed by the tenant Resources for further details on rental agreements can be found on the Ag Decision Maker Leasing page, located under Whole Farm, Leasing (www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wdleasing.html).
- Computing a Cropland Cash Rental Rate (https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/1818.pdf)
- Computing a Pasture Rental Rate (www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-23.pdf)
- Flexible Farm Lease Agreements (https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/1794.pdf)
County land rental rates can also be obtained by contacting your local Extension office.

Too Much Manure?
Daniel Andersen, Assistant professor and Extension Agriculture Engineering Specialist

Iowa is a national leader in pork and egg production, and also has strong dairy, beef, and turkey production industries. This can lead to a question: where does all that manure go? Farmers in Iowa have a need for the nutrients in manure (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and numerous others) to help support crop production. However, to be effectively used as a fertilizer each county must have sufficient crop production to use the available manure nutrients. So what is the situation in Iowa? To get a good estimate of where Iowa stands, manure and crop production were compared on a county by county basis to see if there are locations where surplus manure nutrients exist. Materials and methods Data from the census of agriculture was used to make estimates of livestock populations and the Iowa agricultural survey was used to estimate crop production within each county. The nutrient utilization capacity of crop land was estimated by multiplying the amount of a commodity produced by the nutrient content of that commodity. Results and discussion Results indicated that while both manure production and the nutrients available in manure have generally increased over the last 50 years, the nutrient assimilative capacity from crop production has increased much more rapidly. This has resulted in Iowa being able to obtain progressively less of its nutrient needs from animal manures. At the current time it is estimated manure nutrients can provide only about 25 percent of the state’s nitrogen and phosphorus needs.
Turfgrass Management Calendar: Kentucky Blue grass Lawn
Adam Thoms, Assistant Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist; Nick Christians, University Professor of Horticulture

Turf management is all about timing and persistence. The overall appearance of a lawn is directly related to the proper timing of maintenance activities and sticking with a solid, well-timed plan for several years in a row. The following suggestions are for lawn care throughout the year in Iowa. Because every site is different, these practices may need to be adjusted to suit different situations. Dates for southern Iowa are 1-2 weeks earlier, for northern Iowa about 1-2 weeks later than indicated.

**June through August Mowing** – Raise the mowing height during hot, dry weather; mowing heights over three inches are preferred. Increasing the mowing height helps control weeds, creates a deeper root system, and will make the lawn less susceptible to insects, diseases, and drought. **Watering** – In order to remain actively growing during the summer, lawns require about one inch of water per week from natural rainfall and supplemental irrigation. In very hot weather lawns may need 1.25 inches of water per week. Occasional lawn wilting helps promote a deeper root system. If using irrigation, water infrequently but deeply during the early morning hours. In the absence of irrigation, Kentucky bluegrass will escape drought by going dormant (turning brown) and usually will recover with an increase in water or in the fall. **Fertilization** – Do not fertilize during summer to prevent diseases. **Weed control** – Herbicide use generally is not recommended during summer. If a preemergence herbicide was not applied in the spring, juvenile crabgrass plants may be controlled with a postemergence herbicide. **Insect occurrence** – If a lawn has a history of damage from bluegrass billbug and white grubs, control measures may be justified. Increased activity of birds, moles, and skunks may indicate insects are present. Insecticide use should be handled by a reputable lawn care company. **Disease occurrence** – A host of diseases affect turfgrass throughout the year. Fungicides rarely are warranted for home lawns and specific cultural practices can help control diseases in home lawns. Avoid mowing the turfgrass too short, watering during the evening hours, heavily fertilizing late in the spring, and accumulating large amounts of thatch. If turfgrass diseases are present, contact the Iowa State University Plant and Insect Disease Clinic (clinic.ipm.iastate.edu) for assistance with identification. Contact a reputable lawn care company for help with control. The complete article can be downloaded at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Turfgrass-Management-Calendar-Kentucky-Bluegrass-Lawns

Acreage Ponds - Fishing and Fun
Daniel Burden, ISU Extension and Outreach Value Added Agriculture Program Coordinator

Ponds are incredibly special landscape features; homes to a myriad of water-loving creatures and a magnet for terrestrial wildlife. Additionally, ponds can be managed as agricultural water reservoirs or to treat run-off drainage, for rural agrotourism (“for-fee” fishing, rural-retreat, waterfowl hunting, retrieving-dog training), or simply as the jewel centerpiece of your rural acreage.

According to Iowa DNR fisheries biologist, Darcy Cashatt, the most sustainable and maintenance-free species mix to introduce into a new pond (or manage in an existing pond) are largemouth bass and bluegill. Other species like channel catfish and hybrid sunfish can be nice additions, though will need to be restocked periodically to sustain their numbers. Crappie should only be stocked if the pond is clear and supports lots of largemouth bass. Talk to your local fisheries-extension biologist or stocking expert. Whichever you choose, based on the size, depth and natural food availability of your pond, this will give you an idea of the cost of stocking and reasonable removal rates for harvesting the fish. The size of the fish and stocking rates will be up to you; usually predatory fish are stocked with some consideration to size and age uniformity to eliminate within-species cannibalism. Complete article click here.
Never enter a Bin with Flowing Grain Do not enter bins while grain is loaded or unloaded. Suffocation is one of the most common causes of death involving grain bins. This occurs when someone enters a bin with flowing grain and is pulled under and covered with grain. Many farmers underestimate the massive force behind flowing grain. Standing on moving grain can be deadly; the grain works like quicksand to create suction that can bury a person in seconds. Wait until the dust clears so you can clearly see your footing before entering.

Wear Respiratory Protection Fermentation produces carbon dioxide, a colorless, odorless gas. Grain bins often have an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. Working in a grain bin where carbon dioxide is present can be very harmful to your health. To reduce the hazard, open all manholes and doors to force air through the bin before working inside. Once exposed, the carbon dioxide can get in your bloodstream and slow down your breathing, which can cause drowsiness, headaches and even death by suffocation. Even a small amount of spoiled grain can produce millions of tiny mold spores which easily become airborne when disturbed. Airborne mold spores can be inhaled, causing reactions so severe that sometimes hospitalization is necessary.

Use Equipment Guards and Shields Grain augers become increasingly dangerous with each hour of use. It is important to continuously review the operator’s manual and examine all equipment parts to make sure the auger is in safe operating condition. Equipment guards and shields prevent opportunities for farmers and workers to become entangled in moving equipment parts. Removing equipment guards and not replacing them is a common cause of injury in farmers. When repairing machinery, be sure to replace all guards and shields when finished to reduce injury. It is extremely important to make sure there is a guard on a PTO-driven grain auger. Some PTO shafts can rotate at 540 revolutions per minute, which can cause severe injury and even death. The power shaft that moves power to the top of the auger can cause the same injuries as a rotating PTO shaft. Always replace damaged or missing PTO and power shaft shields before operation. Intake screens on augers help prevent your hands and feet from getting caught between during operation. Today, most new augers are sold with intake screens in place. If you have an older machine that does not have an intake screen, add one, and be sure to replace missing or damaged screens. Many grain augers operate on a belt or chain drive system. These belts and chains have several pinch points. A pinch point is where a belt or chain wraps onto a pulley or sprocket. If a finger or piece of clothing gets caught in a pinch point or the auger, it may result in severe injury, sometimes requiring amputation. Most of these systems do not come with shields, but can be easily fabricated for use. Install Safety Equipment Before working in bins, be sure to have all equipment in place in case of emergency. This includes full-body harnesses and life lines for easier rescue in case of a grain avalanche. This also includes installing rest platforms every 30 feet on vertical ladders on the outside of bins to reduce the risk of falls while climbing the bins. Strategically placing safety decals around the grain bins should alert workers to the possible dangers of flowing grain, crusted-over grain, and carbon dioxide. For complete article click here.
Farmland Leasing & Management Workshops

During July and August, leasing meetings will be held throughout Iowa at various locations. These leasing programs are an annual event to share educational resources related to Iowa farmland ownership and tenancy with Iowa farmland owners, tenants, and others involved in agricultural production in the state.

**Topics Include:**
- Farmland Management issues
- Current cash rental rate and land value survey results
- Methods for determining fair 2020 cash & flexible rent
- Tenant - Landlord communication
- Legal aspects of farmland leases, including strategies for writing and terminating a farm lease
- ISU Extension web-based and other resources
- New USDA Farm Bill highlights

Workshops are 2 1/2 to 3 hours, with a 100-page leasing arrangements book available for purchase. *Please pre-register at least 2 days prior to the meeting you plan to attend.*

**North Central Meetings:**
Farm management specialist, Kelvin Leibold, will conduct the farmland management meetings in the North Central area.
Registration fee is being sponsored by First Security bank for Allison and Hampton locations. Registration fee is being sponsored by Hardin County Bankers Association for Iowa Falls location. 100-page leasing book will be available for purchase.

**August Dates and Locations:**
- **Thursday, August 8th, Iowa Falls-Hardin County– 7:00pm** Call 641-648-4850
  Ellsworth Community College Hamilton Auditorium, 1100 College Ave.
- **Thursday, August 15, Hampton-Franklin County– 7:00 pm** Call 641-456-4811
  Youth for Christ Building, 420 4th St SE
- **Thursday, August 22, Allison-Butler County-1:30 pm** Call 319-267-2707, ISU Extension, 320 N Main St

**Other locations in the area:**
Register by calling the County Extension Office hosting the meeting at the phone numbers listed at right. A registration fee may apply for some locations. Please call the extension offices for more information and to register.

- **Monday, July 29 Independence - Buchanan County - 1:00 pm** Call 319-334-7161
  Heartland Acres Center, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd *Sponsored by BankIowa - $8/10 fee
- **Thursday, August 1 New Hampton - Chickasaw County - 1:00 pm** Call 641-394-2174 ISU Extension, 104 E Main St
- **Thursday, August 8 Charles City - Floyd County - 9:00 am** Call 641-228-1453 ISU Extension, 112 N Main St
- **Tripoli - Bremer County - 1:00 pm** Call 319-882-4275 ISU Extension, 720 7th Ave SW
- **Tuesday, August 13 Waterloo - Black Hawk County - 1:00 pm** Call 319-234-6811 Hawkeye Community College, 1501 E Orange Rd, Tama Hall-Room 102

To find other locations throughout the state go to: [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html)
## Calendar of Events

**July**

1. **DUE: State Fair Livestock Entries**
4. Extension office closed
9. **Summer Day Camp: Ricochet: An Extreme Leadership Adventure**, for grades 6th - 8th, Butler County Fairgrounds, 9 am - 3 pm
11. **Summer Day Camp: Discover Wellness at Wilder Park**, for grades 4th - 5th, Wilder Park Lodge, 9 am - 3 pm
23. **Summer Day Camp: Code Across Butler County**, for grades K - 1st, Butler County Fairgrounds, 9 am - 3 pm
25. **Summer Day Camp: Code Across Butler County**, for grades 2nd - 3rd, Butler County Fairgrounds, 9 am - 3 pm

**August**

8-18. **Iowa State Fair**, Des Moines
22. **Farmland Leasing Meeting**, Butler Co Extension Office, Allison, 1:30 pm (please RSVP)

**September**

5. **4 County Women, Land and Legacy Listening Sessions**, Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, 1 - 3 pm
5. **4 County Women, Land and Legacy Listening Sessions**, Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, 6-8 pm