

# FIELD & FEEDLOT



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH—NORTHWEST REGIONS JANUARY 2014 ISSUE

## Extension Web Sites

### Ag Decision Maker

[www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/)

### Beef Center

[www.iowabeefcenter.org/](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/)

### Manure Management

[www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/](http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/)

### Pork Center

[www.ipic.iastate.edu/](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/)

### ISU Extension Dairy Team

[www.extension.iastate.edu/DairyTeam/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DairyTeam/)

## Crop Advantage meetings focus on herbicide resistance and crop management topics

*Joel DeJong, Crops Field Specialist*

The Annual ISU Extension and Outreach Crop Advantage Series (“CAS”) is designed to provide the latest information to producers and helping them make profitable decisions for the upcoming growing season. Each location has a variety of topics, including crops, pests, soil fertility, and farm management. Locations and dates of northwest Iowa sessions include Jan. 6 in Sheldon, Jan. 8 at Okoboji, Jan. 15 in Storm Lake, Jan. 28 at Le Mars, and Jan. 30 in Carroll.

Herbicide resistance is the keynote topic for 2014. Extension weed specialists Mike Owen and Bob Hartzler will discuss herbicide resistance management options. In addition, each location features a full agenda of workshops that attendees can choose from, developing a personalized meeting agenda. Program topics that focus on local needs and production issues are selected by the ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomists for each meeting.

Each year I hear from attendees that they wish there were more breakout sessions during the day. They are interested in many of the topics and can't be at every workshop. The topics are in demand. It's a great problem to have.

The Crop Advantage Series provides a statewide message on important issues yet retains local input on topics for that specific area. Crop and pest management issues are different for each area

of the state and these meetings are tailored to fit the needs of producers in that area.

Launched in 2002, the meeting series has impressive attendance numbers. We've seen tremendous growth in attendance for CAS. Response from producers has been very positive. In addition to receiving the latest research information from the university, the meetings have been a valuable way for producers to provide feedback on their specific needs to ISU researchers and specialists. I also find it to be a great opportunity to talk with crop producers and agronomists from around northwest Iowa at each of these sessions about how the season affected them, and what issues of concern they have for the next year.

Each of the meetings is approved for Certified Crop Adviser continuing education credits. Every location also offers the opportunity for private pesticide applicators to receive continuing education credits, a kind of “value added” pesticide training day.

Early registration for each location is \$35 and includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. Registration less than one week prior or at the meeting increases to \$45. An additional fee is charged for CCA credits and private pesticide applicator recertification. Registration forms, online registration and additional program are available at [www.cropadvantage.org](http://www.cropadvantage.org) or from local ISU Extension and Outreach offices.



## New video series released January “Take me to the Farm!”

Kaye Strohbehn, Agriculture Producer and Consumer Education Specialist



Research shows people have many questions about agriculture and our food systems. More specifically, they want to know how their food is raised and where their food comes from. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach has produced a video series that will help them better understand how their food gets from the farm to their dinner tables.

### Why is it important to share your story of agriculture with consumers?

Research shows the world population will reach a record breaking nine billion people by the year 2050. Although the world population continues to increase, the number of consumers directly related to agriculture and the raising of food for consumption will continue to decrease. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important now and into the future to find ways to help them understand where their food comes from and how it is raised.

### What is “Take me to the Farm”?

“Take me to the Farm” is a new video series to be released mid-January 2014. The video series features stories of Iowa farmers who give consumers a behind the scenes look at how and why they raise many of your favorite food products like beef, pork and dairy. The video series also shows consumers how Iowa farmers protect our land and some of Iowa’s most valuable resources making it suitable for raising food.

### How can I view the videos and share this resource with others?

The public is invited to view the videos on the “Take me to the Farm” blog, found at: [blogs.extension.iastate.edu/takemetothefarm](http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/takemetothefarm). For information on obtaining a copy of the video series on DVD, please contact me at the office at 712-737-4230 or via email at [kestroh@iastate.edu](mailto:kestroh@iastate.edu).

### Are there opportunities to be involved in the “Take me to the Farm” video series?

Yes, we are always looking for topic ideas, as well as farmers and agribusiness professionals who are interested in being a part of the program and sharing their stories.

For more information on the “Take me to the Farm” program, resources, or guidance on educating and communicating your agriculture story to consumers, contact me at 712-737-4230 or [kestroh@iastate.edu](mailto:kestroh@iastate.edu).

## Colostrum Management: How Does it Measure Up

Kevin Lager, Dairy Field Specialist

Replacement heifers are the future of a dairy operation, making it vitally important to get them started off well. Focusing on colostrum feeding and quality are key components of a good beginning.

The first feeding should occur within the first two hours of birth and be equal to ten percent of calf body weight. Newborn calves are born with an immune system that has a limited ability to fight off disease. The digestive tract of the calf is designed to absorb immunoglobulins (IgG) from colostrum, providing passive immunity until the immune system develops enough to begin to produce its own antibodies to fight off disease. However, the absorption of these necessary antibodies from colostrum essentially ends at 24 hours of life, but also becomes less efficient over that time period as well. This means that the earlier the calf receives colostrum, the increased chance the calf has to absorb the essential IgGs.

While timing of colostrum feeding is important, the quality of the colostrum is also critical. The Dairy Calf and Heifer Association provides these guidelines on colostrum quality:

- Colostrum should be free of blood, debris and mastitis
- Colostrum should be disease-free
- Test for quality with a colostrum tester or IgG test
- Target bacteria count (also known as standard plate count) is <100,000 CFU/mL

Higher quality colostrum will have IgG values of 50 mg/mL or greater. Testing IgG levels may be done one of two ways. The first method is with a colostrometer – a specially designed glass tube that is placed into a cylinder containing colostrum cooled to room temperature. The glass tube has markings that help determine the level of IgGs. A second method to measure colostrum quality is with a Brix refractometer. This method requires a few drops of colostrum, followed by passing light through the colostrum. A percentage is read that correlates to the level of IgGs in the colostrum. Research indicates that a reading of 21% on the Brix refractometer is the cut point for higher quality colostrum.

Recent research has shown that pasteurizing colostrum can be done to reduce bacteria levels without significantly harming the vital nutrients contained in colostrum. Fresh colostrum is considered the gold standard when considering the benefits to the calf, however colostrum replacers have been introduced that

can perform up to the specified standards for IgG transfer. Depending upon the situation, there may be a fit for either option on an operation as a way to control disease and maintain target bacteria counts.

Attention to detail in colostrum management and overall replacement heifer management will yield results. The early stages of heifer development are an investment in the future success of a dairy operation. For more information on calf management visit the Dairy Team webpage [www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/).

## Good Farm Policy: Avoid The Top Ten Estate Planning Mistakes

*Melissa O'Rourke, Farm and Agribusiness Management Specialist*

Having worked with farm and ranch families over the past twenty years on issues of estate and succession planning, certain trends become apparent. This month I'll share the first five of the top ten mistakes – and the second five in a future issue of Field and Feedlot. The entire article can be found on Ag Decision Maker: [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/orourke/OrourkeOct13.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/orourke/OrourkeOct13.html)

### 1. Procrastination: We'll get to it one of these days

The most common mistake is failure to get it done. Folks delay because they are unsure of what to do, who gets what – and believe there will be of time to get the plan in place later. For farm families, there is indecision about how to carry on the family farm. Others find themselves unable to make decisions about who should serve in the role of executor or trustee. When a person dies without an estate plan, state law governs who receives assets and may also result in higher expenses or taxes. Do not be paralyzed into doing nothing because you are waiting to find out what the “best” estate plan is for you. Identify what you own and put together a plan for what you would want to have happen to all of those assets if you died tomorrow.

### 2. Failure to plan for if you DON'T die (well, not right away)

It is often necessary for someone to step into your shoes and make decisions during lifetime. A power of attorney (POA) is a legal document that grants authority to another person to manage affairs on your behalf. Although you must be competent at the time a POA is executed, many POAs are “durable” which means that they remain in effect during a time of incompetency. Likewise, a POA may be revoked as long as you are competent to do so. The Iowa State Bar Association has prepared several forms which can be used for substitute decision making purposes. However, do not rely on forms alone for legal advice as the forms may not fit your needs. Discuss your specific needs and wishes with your family and with your own legal professionals.

### 3. Keeping secrets: A failure to communicate

Old movies and books portray the drama of the “reading of the will,” where family members gather in the lawyer’s office to find out how much money they get. This leaves people with the mistaken impression that they should keep estate plans a secret during their lifetime. The exact opposite is true: Communicate, communicate, communicate. Share the essential aspects of your estate plan with the entire family. This can head off conflict and hard feelings among family members. Include a plan for distribution of your personal property. Maintain an estate plan portfolio along with other essential records needed upon your incapacity or death. You do not need to treat everyone equally but make such decisions honestly and openly. While everyone may not agree with your decisions, it is better to explain your decisions and rationale. Communication can allow hurt feelings to heal, jealousy to diminish, and avoid estrangement and court battles among heirs.

### 4. Failure to be fair: Trying to treat everyone equally

Estate planning is frequently more about family relationships and dynamics than it is about asset transfer and tax planning. The issue of how to treat on-farm versus off-farm heirs can be a particularly prickly subject. A common estate planning scheme leaves all assets to children equally. In reality, bequeathing equal farmland shares to on-farm and off-farm heirs can be a disaster, and may fail to acknowledge contributions made by an on-farm child who spent years contributing labor and management to the farm operation. Make decisions about what will be fair or equitable to all, even though it may not be equal. Then communicate your decisions and be honest about it. Don't let your legacy be children who are estranged from one another because you did not share your decisions with them.

### 5. Failure to coordinate estate plans and property ownership strategies

While many people believe that their estate planning documents (wills and trusts) will ultimately control who-gets-what when you die, many assets are transferred based on provisions which both contradict and supersede those contained in a will. Intangible properties such as bank accounts, certificates of deposit, retirement plans, IRAs, annuities, life insurance policies, real estate and similar assets may not be controlled by wills depending on the ownership strategies (such as joint ownership or payable-on-death designations). Beneficiary designations associated with life insurance or other investments should be reviewed and updated regularly as they are impacted by death, divorces or even changes in need. When intangible assets are jointly-owned, the surviving joint owner often becomes the sole owner of the assets – and that surviving joint owner can leave the property to anyone desired regardless of the deceased owner's wishes.

**XXXX COUNTY**

**Hotlines Available For All**

**Iowa Concern (800-447-1985)**  
**Farm On (877-BFC-1999)**  
**Teen Line (800-443-8336)**  
**BETS OFF (800-BETS-OFF) (800-238-7633)**

**Hotlines Available to Iowa Residents Only**

**Families Answer Line (800-262-3804)**  
**Hortline (515) 294-3108**  
**Iowa Healthy Families (800-369-2229)**  
**PORKLine (800-808-7675)**

**Don't Miss:**

- Jan. 6 **Crop Advantage Series starts** • [www.aep.iastate.edu/cas](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas)
- Jan. 7 **Commercial Manure Applicator Training** • All county offices – call for details
- Jan. 13 **Ventilation Workshop** • ISU Research Farm • Calumet
- Jan. 14 **Advanced Ventilation Workshop** • ISU Research Farm • Calumet
- Jan. 14 **Corn Stover Harvest Meeting** • Spencer
- Jan. 21 **Corn Stover Harvest Meeting** • Algona
- Jan. 16 **Master Gardener Training starts** • [www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/training](http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/training)
- Jan. 18 **Youth Beef Bonanza** • Emmetsburg
- Jan. 21 **Feedlot Forum 2014** • Sioux Center
- Jan. 28 **Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment** • Spencer
- Jan. 29 **Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment** • Holstein
- Feb. 4 **Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment** • Humboldt

Coming to a  
computer screen  
near you:

*"Take me to  
the Farm"*

video series  
released  
mid-January!

