



Ag News Information & Resources

July-Aug 2023

Fayette County ISU Extension & Outreach

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<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/fayette/>

Extension Links

Ag Decision Maker

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>

Beef Center

<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/>

Dairy Team

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/>

ISU Nutrient Reduction Strategies

<http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/>

Iowa State Research Farms

<http://farms.ag.iastate.edu/farms>

Iowa Water Quality Initiative

<http://www.cleanwateriowa.org/>

Manure Management

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/mmag/>

Pesticide Management

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/>

Pork Center

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>

Iowa Nitrogen Initiative to Host Summer Field Day

Contact: Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 563-581-7828, jjmichel@iastate.edu

The Iowa Nitrogen Initiative, a partnership between Iowa State University, agricultural service providers, and Iowa farmers, will host four field days in August and September. The local field day will be held on Tuesday, August 15 hosted by farmer Tim Burrack – 8124 80th St., Arlington.

The INI leverages the latest advances in precision agriculture and cropping systems modeling to improve nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for Iowa farmers. The project is farmer-focused and provides farmers with information that they can use to improve the productivity, profitability, and environmental performance on Iowa farms. The field days will feature presentations from INI researchers, participant farmers, related topics in nutrient management, and precision technology.

All field days begin at 10 a.m. and are hosted at the field of our farmer-partners throughout the state. Field days are free and open to the public. If you know you plan to attend, an RSVP is greatly appreciated. Lunch will be provided. RSVP at bit.ly/INIRsvp.

Prairie & Forestry Field Day to be Held Near Wadena

[Iowa Learning Farms](#) will host a prairie and forestry field day Tuesday, Aug. 22, from 5-7 p.m. at Eric and Cindy Boehm's Farm near Wadena. The free event is open to farmers and landowners and includes a complimentary meal.

The field day will feature Iowa Learning Farms farmer partner Eric Boehm sharing his experience with establishing prairie and forestry management. Tim Youngquist, Iowa State University STRIPS program farmer liaison, will discuss best management practices for establishing prairie and conservation practices related to pollinators. Dave Asche, Clayton County district forester, will focus on managing forestry under the Conservation Stewardship Program, as well as managing trees in pollinator habitat (CP42). The field day will also feature a tour with Adam Janke, associate professor in natural resources ecology and management and extension wildlife specialist at Iowa State, discussing habitat benefits. Walking accommodations will be available.

The field day will be held at the Boehm Farm, 12663 D Ave., Wadena. From Wadena, travel 2 miles south on D Ave. From Arlington, travel 4.5 miles north on D Ave. The farm is on the west side of the road.

The event is free and open to farmers and landowners, though reservations are required to ensure adequate space and food. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP please contact Alena Whitaker at 515-294-2473 or ilf@iastate.edu. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey. Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit www.iowalearningfarms.org.

Northeast Iowa Research Farm Summer Field Day

Contact: Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 563-581-7828, jjmichel@iastate.edu



The Annual Fall Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will begin at 12:00 p.m. with a complimentary meal, sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Association, and run until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 31 and is open to the public.

This free field day will feature 4 guest speakers with topics including: the effects of drought and smoke on corn and soybean, how the soil profile affects rooting depth and yield by the utilization of a soil pit, updates and management considerations on short stature corn and a corn rootworm research and management update.

The field day starts at the Borlaug Learning Center Headquarters on the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm. Directions: From Nashua at the Jct. of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. CCA credits will be available. In order for us to get an accurate head count for the meal, please **RSVP** us at neira@iastate.edu by Monday, August 28th. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801; or Josh Michel at 563-581-7828.

Agronomy in the Field Program Offered in Postville

Contact: Fayette County Extension Office, 563-425-3331, xfayette@iastate.edu



It's not too late to participate in any of the Agronomy in the Field cohorts offered in 2023 across Iowa. Agronomy in the Field is a workshop series for women that provides learning opportunities for forage and crop production. The focus is on developing agronomic decision-making skills that can be utilized on one's own farm or family cropping operations, including water quality and conservation practices.

Remaining workshops and topics include: August 29 — Pasture and forage management and September 20 — Soil sampling, soil fertility, corn and soybeans reproductive stages, late season scouting, as well as harvest considerations. Contact the Extension Office at 563-425-3331 for information about registering.

North American Manure Expo to be Held August 9-10 in Arlington, WI

Contact: Dan Andersen, IMMAG Newsletter, 515-294-4210

The North American Manure Expo will be held August 9th and 10th in Arlington, Wisconsin. The two-day event features farm tours, a trade show, and educational sessions from industry experts. Find a complete schedule and registration information at <https://go.iastate.edu/BEDN3B>

Farmland Leasing Virtual Meetings August 25 & 29

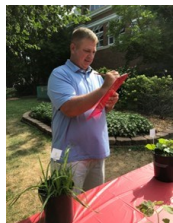
Contact: Ann Johanss, Extension Program Spec., 515-337-2766, aholste@iastate.edu

Core components of the 2023 Iowa State University farmland leasing program will be land values and cash rent trends, land ownership and tenure, methods for determining a fair rental rate, the latest legal updates that impact farm leases and land ownership, and communication between tenants and landowners.

Two virtual options are also offered this year, a northeast Iowa focused webinar, along with a statewide webinar. The webinar options in past years have been a welcome addition for out-of-state landowners, or those who are not able to attend a program in-person. Topics from the in-person leasing program will be presented by farm management specialists, with the opportunity to ask questions.

Paid registrations have access to the live event, webinar recording and electronic version of the 100-page workbook. Please pre-register for the northeast Iowa webinar at (<https://go.iastate.edu/L9LPJ8>) It will be held Aug. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. The statewide webinar <https://go.iastate.edu/HNLCAI> is Aug. 29, also from 9 a.m. to noon.

Test Your Weed Identification Skills at the Iowa State Fair



The annual Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Iowa State Fair Weed Identification Contest will be held on Friday, Aug. 11, from 9-11:30 a.m. in front of the John Deere Agriculture Building. Participants of all ages can test their knowledge of common weeds found in Iowa, by attempting to identify real weed samples, potted and on tabletop display. Contestants need to know commonly accepted names of weeds but do not need to know scientific names.

For more information on the contest, reach out to Meaghan Anderson at mjanders@iastate.edu or visit <https://go.iastate.edu/IAH3WB>

AgLink Beginning Farmer Program



The Beginning Farmer Center (<https://beginningfarmer.iastate.edu/>) is excited to announce that **AgLink** (<https://aglinkservices.com/>) is now accepting applications! AgLink provides new farmers a chance to connect with transitioning farmers and farmland owners, start conversations, and locate farming opportunities.

Cameras: An Option For Producers For Their Technology Tool Kit

Contact: Iowa Pork Industry Center, 515-294-4103, ipic@iastate.edu

Cameras are all around us. Phones, iPads, computers, Ring doorbells, all have become a part of our everyday lives and it's difficult to imagine life without them. One Iowa State University faculty member is looking at how cameras in hog barns can help producers recognize sickness and behavior changes.

Joshua Peschel, associate professor in agricultural and biosystems engineering, is conducting research on cyber-agricultural systems that could assist farmers. He said consistent, reliable, accurate, and cost-effective health and behavior understanding of pigs is one of the biggest challenges faced by the swine industry today.

"My research emerges from the critical need for new and innovative tools that expand precision livestock farming for production-scale swine operations," he said. "My students and I create new technologies, data sets, and computational models for sensing and sensemaking. In other words, we come up with new data sets, using only video, to better manage pigs."

Placing cameras in the barns could be helpful to producers because they can check on their livestock from anywhere at any time by logging in on their laptop or smartphone. This would be especially beneficial during farrowing when employees may be working elsewhere in the building. Automating part of a producer's workload will ensure economic viability of swine operations and maintain and improve animal health and welfare, Peschel said.

"For example, it's 10 p.m. and a producer wants to check on a sick pig. He could pull out his phone and watch the behavior of the pig for a few seconds or minutes," he said. "The camera recordings and live feeds could aid in the decision of 'do I need to go to the barn for a hands-on evaluation or can the pig wait until morning?'" Internet connectivity can be tricky in rural areas. If there is no cellular signal or landline internet connection, satellite service may be an option. However, Peschel cautioned that satellite services can be slow and expensive.

Overall, cameras show promise as a vital part of expanding technology, and agricultural row crop producers are ahead in that game.

New Swine Vaccination & Ventilation Publications Available

Contact: Mark Storlie, Extension Swine Specialist, 563-425-3331, mstorlie@iastate.edu

Developing a plan for swine vaccination administration is more than a good idea. It can help producers keep various health considerations top of mind for their animals. Iowa Pork Industry Center has released a new publication in chart format that provides a list of diseases, time of administration, and based on risk, available product types. It also has a section for pet pigs. The two-page **Swine Vaccination Considerations IPIC 206** (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/16841>) is available at no charge on the ISU Extension Store.

Properly functioning ventilation systems are vital to today's pork production facilities, and following a regular process for maintaining their operation can pay big economic dividends. Two new ventilation checklists from the Iowa Pork Industry Center offer a seasonal approach to checking the various components in an easy-to-use checklist format. These two-page pdf publications are available at no charge on the Extension store. Look for **Summer Ventilation Checklist AE3553A** (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/16839>) and **Winter Ventilation Checklist AE3553B** (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/16840>)

Field Crop Insect Guide Helps With Identification, Behavior and Management

Contact: Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 563-581-7828, jjmichel@iastate.edu

Crop farmers, agronomists and others who scout crops for insect injury can gain new insight through the latest version of Field Crop Insects. First published in 2012, the latest edition became available in print from the Iowa State University Extension Store in July 2023.

Field Crop Insects provides detailed descriptions and photos of more than 50 pest and beneficial insects found in Iowa and information on insect life cycle, crop injury, scouting and management options.

The publication can be purchased in single copy printed editions for \$8, digital pdfs for \$5 or bundles of 25 printed copies for \$6 per copy from the Extension Store (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/13725>)

Communication Strategies and Resources

Author: *Melissa O'Rourke, former Extension Farm Management Spec.*

Trends in farmland leasing impact the need for improved communication. Iowa has about 30 million acres of farmland. Fifty-five percent of Iowa farmland is owned by someone who does not currently farm, including 20% which is owned by someone who is not an Iowa resident. Fifty-three percent of the non-farming owners do not have farming experience. A substantial number of Iowa farmland acres are farmed by producers who do not own the land – as much as 70% in some counties. This muddles interactions between owners and farm producers who rent the land.

Effective communication between farmland owners and producer-tenants is vital to reduce frustrations and build healthy relationships. Fortunately, strategies and resources can enhance interaction between the parties.

Written lease agreements heighten communication between the parties. While about one-third of leased acres have no written lease agreement, even those who utilize some sort of written agreement could use more discussion.

Farm Newsletters: Farm tenants in past years typically had just one or two landowners. As farmland is increasingly passed through generations and farm size increases, producers have multiple landowners and could benefit from developing a farm newsletter. A quarterly newsletter informs landowners of farm developments. The newsletter could provide a synopsis or suggestions of a tenant's future plans. The newsletter need not be overly-technical, and can be a tool to keep the communication doors open.

Annual Report: Many farmland leases require that the tenant provide an annual report to the landowner. A framework can be found on ISU's Ag Decision Maker website. Parties can adjust the framework based on their needs and use the tool for better communication.

Regular Conversation: Some landowners and tenants meet just once a year to discuss plans for the following crop year leasing agreement. Trying to fit all discussion into one meeting can be frustrating. Instead, have conversations on a regular basis, at least semi-annually, if not quarterly. These meetings can take place in-person, by phone, or

via video calling or other on-line platform.

Webinar on Communication: An August webinar provides further insight on communication strategies and resources. Register for this or future sessions in the **Women Managing Farmland series**, or view past installments: (<https://go.iastate.edu/I9HAAQ>)

- August 9: Landowner-Tenant Communications
- October 11: End-of-Life Taxes and Expenses
- December 13: Slowing Water Down

Additional details can be found on the [ISU Women in Ag website](#).

Resources:

[Importance of Using A Written Lease -Trends and Resource Survey of Iowa Leasing Practices, 2022](#)
[Developing a Farm Newsletter for Landlords](#)
[Farm Lease Annual Report - A Tool for Communications](#)
[Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Survey 1982-2022: A Forty-Year Perspective](#)

Master Gardener & Master Conservationist Programs

Iowans wishing to complete **Master Gardener** training participate in online learning modules and attend at least four in-person training sessions organized by the county office. After completing the 10-week training, trainees put their knowledge to work with a 40-hour internship in their training county.

Applicants have from July 17 to Aug. 18 to apply for the fall session. Training for the fall session begins Sept. 5. Learn more about the program online (<https://go.iastate.edu/8FKJEC>) or by contacting the Fayette County Extension Office at 563-425-3331 or emailing dkahler@iastate.edu

The **Master Conservationist** Program is a collaborative program offered by ISU Extension and Outreach, County Conservation Boards, and local conservation leaders and professionals. The intensive blended online and in-person curriculum is developed to equip Iowans interested in Iowa's natural resource conservation and in becoming better stewards of those resources.

The curriculum is structured into four modules that combine technical information presented and curated by Iowa State University researchers and educators with in-person sessions led by local conservation leaders and experts. Learn more about the program being offered in Fayette and Clayton counties this August and September by calling the Fayette County Extension Office at 563-425-3331 or emailing dkahler@iastate.edu

Upcoming Events

Aug 15 — Iowa Nitrogen Summer Field Day, 10 am, Arlington

Aug 15 — Extension Council, 7:30 pm, Extension Office

Aug 18 — Master Conservationist, 5:30-8:30 pm

Aug 22 — Master Gardener Tour

Aug 22—Prairie & Forestry Field Day, 5-7 pm, Wadena

Aug 25 — Master Conservationist, 5:30-8:30 pm

Aug 29 — Agronomy in the Field, 5:30-7 pm, Postville