



## Ag News Information & Resources

June 2023

### Fayette County ISU Extension & Outreach

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Fayette, IA 52142  
Phone: (563) 425-3331  
Fax: (563) 425-3339  
<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/immag/>

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

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

### ISU Northeast Research Farm Spring Field Day

**Contact:** Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 563-581-7828, [jjmichel@iastate.edu](mailto:jjmichel@iastate.edu)

#### Wednesday, June 21 Field Day to highlight Current and Future Ag Markets, Weed Management Strategies, Pollinator Habitat, and Crop Disease Updates

The Annual Spring Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research & Demonstration Farm will run from 1:00 to 4:30 pm on Wednesday, June 21.

#### Speakers:

- Chad Hart, Iowa State University Extension Economist, will kick-off the program, by providing his insights on current and future agricultural markets.
- Bob Hartzler, Iowa State University professor (emeritus) and extension weed specialist, will discuss weed management strategies in regard to waterhemp.
- Randall Cass, extension entomologist, will provide updates on pollinator habitat establishment and management.
- Ed Zaworski, extension plant pathologist, will review crop diseases for the 2023 growing season in Northeast Iowa, and give an update on the Iowa State University Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic.

The field day is free and open to the public. It starts at the Borlaug Learning Center Headquarters on the ISU Northeast Research Farm & 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.

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](mailto:xfayette@iastate.edu)



It's not too late to participate in any of the four 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 personal farm or family cropping operations, including water quality and conservation practices.

Remaining workshops and topics include: June 21 — Weed identification, weed control, corn and soybean growth and development, corn and soybean diseases; July 26 — Water quality and conservation management practices that relate to agriculture in Northeast Iowa; August 29 — Pasture and forage management; September 20 — Soil sampling, soil fertility, corn and soybeans reproductive stages, late season scouting, as well as fall harvest considerations. Contact the Extension Office at 563-425-3331 for information about registering.

## Iowa Swine Day Will be Held June 29 in Ames

**Contact:** Mark Storlie, Extension Swine Specialist, 563-425-3331, [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu)



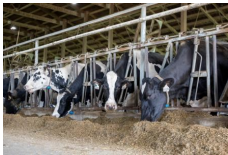
**The 2023 Iowa Swine Day program will focus on what it does best**

Get ready for widely regarded speakers who'll share information on topics vital to today's pork producer. From the morning plenary session to the four category-specific concurrent sessions in the afternoon, a wealth of knowledge and experience will be available.

The 12th annual event will be held Thursday, June 29, at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the official program starts at 8:30. Registration cost is \$65, and students may attend at no charge with the registration deadline of midnight, June 22. No walk-in registrations are accepted. Registration information <https://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/>

## Strategic Considerations for Choosing a Corn Silage Hybrid

**Contact:** Jen Bentley, Extension Dairy Specialist, 563-382-2949, [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu)



Reviewing guidelines for selecting an ideal corn silage hybrid is the focus of a June 21 webinar with the dairy team from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The program will be presented from noon to 1 p.m. by Adam Krull, a dairy veterinarian and nutritionist currently working for Pioneer.

"Adam will emphasize the significance of basic agronomic traits in ensuring yield stability, as well as a focus on dry matter and starch yield," said Jen Bentley, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. Additionally, the presentation will underscore the crucial role of growing conditions in influencing fiber digestibility, discouraging the selection of corn silage hybrids solely based on their genetic potential for high digestibility. It will highlight that prioritizing kernel processing to enhance silage quality is more important than solely focusing on a hybrid's genetics related to starch digestibility.

There is no fee to participate in the webinar; however, preregistration is required at least one hour before the webinar. Preregister online at <https://go.iastate.edu/GXKBSQ>.

## Breakfast on the Farm June 24 at the NICC Dairy Center

**Contact:** Jen Bentley, Extension Dairy Specialist, 563-382-2949, [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu)

On June 24, the public can enjoy Breakfast on the Farm (<https://go.iastate.edu/ELV6NH>), held from 8:30 a.m. until noon at Iowa's Dairy Center in northeast Iowa, south of Calmar.

Organizers will serve a wholesome breakfast complete with Dad's Belgian Waffles, sausage and delicious dairy products including milk, cheese, yogurt and ice cream – all locally produced and processed. Visitors can take a guided tour of the farm and there will be activities for all ages, including hand-milking a cow, a petting zoo, story time with a local dairy princess, cow inflatables and educational exhibits. "The open houses help give everyone a better understanding of the principles and practices we use on modern dairies, including animal wellbeing, environmental care and product quality and safety," said Jen Bentley, Extension Dairy Specialist.

Dairy is the fifth largest agricultural business in Iowa, generating \$5.6 billion a year in economic activity from farming to dairy processing, supplying 22,000 jobs with a labor income of \$891 million. The annual economic impact of a single dairy cow is more than \$25,400 per cow.

## Survey Shows Record High Cash Rental Rates in Iowa

**Contacts:** Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist, 515-294-6160, [plastina@iastate.edu](mailto:plastina@iastate.edu)

The most recent annual survey of cash rental rates for Iowa farmland shows that rates increased by 9% in 2023 to the highest average value on record: \$279 per acre. This new peak rent is 3.3% higher than the previous one of \$270 per acre observed in 2013. In comparison, average nominal (not inflation-adjusted) corn and soybean prices received by farmers in Iowa in the first quarter of 2023 were 2.8% higher and 4.4% lower, respectively, than in the first quarter of 2013.

Iowans supplied 1,306 usable responses about typical cash rental rates in their counties for land producing corn and soybeans, hay, oats and pasture. Of these, 42% came from farmers, 37% from landowners, 9% from professional farm managers and realtors, 7% from agricultural lenders, and 5% from other professions and respondents who chose not to report their status. Respondents indicated being familiar with a total of 1.4 million cash rented acres across the state.

AgDM File C2-10, Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2023 Survey (<https://go.iastate.edu/GTPD54>) provides detailed results by county and crop. There was considerable variability across counties in year-to-year changes, as is typical of survey data, but 91 out of the 99 Iowa counties experienced increases in average rents for corn and soybeans. Only Des Moines, Jefferson, Lucas, Muscatine, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, and Woodbury Counties experienced declines in their overall average cash rents.

Besides typical rents for ground on corn and soybeans, the report also shows typical rents for alfalfa, grass hay, oats, pasture, corn stalk grazing, and hunting rights in each district.

## Livestock Producers Will Need Veterinary Approval for Antibiotics Starting June 11

**Contact:** Acreage Living Newsletter, Grant Dewell, Extension Veterinarian, [gdewell@iastate.edu](mailto:gdewell@iastate.edu)



Those who treat animals with antibiotics will need to pay close attention to the calendar. Beginning June 11, all medically important antibiotics previously available over-the-counter (OTC) can only be purchased directly from a veterinarian or with a prescription.

The change is part of the Food and Drug Administration's "**Guidance for Industry #263**" (<https://go.iastate.edu/YPVZ18>) rule, which is part of the FDA's five-year plan to enhance the stewardship of antibiotics, released in 2018. The same plan required the transfer of medically important feed and water antibiotics to veterinary feed directive (VFD) and prescription status in 2017. Grant Dewell, extension beef veterinarian with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, [explains the change in an article](#) in the May-June edition of the Acreage Living Newsletter. If producers do not already have a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), he recommends they form a relationship with a veterinarian sooner rather than later.

"I would reach out to a veterinarian before you have a need for antibiotics," said Dewell. "You don't want to wait and find out you need something over the weekend, or when your veterinarian is busy helping other clients." He advises against stockpiling OTC antibiotics, because they become less effective after their expiration dates. Besides losing efficacy from age, they can also be damaged by heat and sunlight so they should be stored carefully.

Although the change will require animal owners to work with veterinarians, Dewell said this can also be an opportune time to review past prevention and treatment options. "If you have to get a prescription any way, there may be better antibiotics that you could use. You might also learn something new that could help prevent illness and potentially reduce the need to administer antibiotics," said Dewell.

## Watch for Asian Copperleaf This Spring

**Contact:** Integrated Crop Management News, Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 563-581-7828, [jjmichel@iastate.edu](mailto:jjmichel@iastate.edu)



Last fall, we identified yet another field with an infestation of Asian copperleaf (*Acalypha australis*). While most reports of this species have been at harvest when it is noticeable under the crop canopy, we've also received reports of Asian copperleaf in June, around the time when postemergence herbicide applications are happening. While it's not known exactly when this species germinates in Iowa, it's important to monitor fields for this new species as other summer annual weeds emerge.

Identification — Asian copperleaf is in the spurge family but lacks milky sap common in many spurges. Seedlings have round cotyledons. The first set of true leaves will have opposite leaf arrangement, while subsequent leaves will be alternate. Leaves may be about 2-4 inches long, lanceolate to egg-shaped, with fine, blunt teeth and deep veins; young leaves may have a copper color. Plants can reach heights of 2-3 ft., though may be smaller if under a crop canopy.

As scouting begins this growing season, please keep an eye out for this species in crop fields. If you find a plant you suspect might be Asian copperleaf, please contact Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, for assistance with identification. While the magnitude of the threat posed by this weed in Iowa is unknown, it is a significant agronomic weed in other areas of the world, has evolved resistance to several herbicide groups, and has been found at high densities in several Iowa fields in recent years.



## Vigilance is Key to Preventing Tick Bites

**Contact:** Laura Jesse Iles, Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic, 515-294-0581, [ljesse@iastate.edu](mailto:ljesse@iastate.edu)

Ticks, and the pathogens they carry, can pose a serious risk to human health. As the weather warms and Iowans spend more time outside, the risk of tick diseases can be lowered by avoiding ticks, checking for tick hitchhikers upon returning indoors, and removing any attached ticks promptly and effectively.

More than a dozen species of ticks can be found in Iowa, however, the three most common species are the blacklegged or deer tick, the American dog or wood tick and the lone star tick. All three species can transmit bacteria that cause disease, but only the blacklegged tick transmits Lyme disease, making it a species of particular concern.

While blacklegged ticks are most common in eastern and northeastern Iowa, they have been found across all 99 counties. They can be distinguished from other tick species by their black or dark brown legs, mouthparts and backs.

According to Iles, the tick life cycle contains four main stages. Between each life stage, ticks must attach to a host and feed. Immature ticks, often called “seed ticks,” are particularly

small and can be difficult to spot. Immature blacklegged ticks are typically most active in June, while adult ticks are most active in May and October.

Avoiding ticks—Avoiding tick-infested areas, especially when ticks are most active, is key in preventing the transmission of tick disease.

“Ticks like moisture and tall grass,” said Iles. “Wood edges, or wooded areas with lots of undergrowth, are some of the common places that people come into contact with ticks. Ticks will crawl up vegetation, then sit at the top of the vegetation and wave their legs, which is called ‘questing.’”

When working in tick infested areas, wearing a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and long pants tucked into a pair of socks can prevent ticks from coming into contact with skin and attaching. Insect repellents can also be sprayed on the clothing to further prevent contact with ticks.

Another important strategy in preventing the transmission of tick vectored, illness-causing pathogens, is performing routine tick checks. If a tick is discovered while still crawling, there is no risk for disease, as ticks need to be attached to the skin to transmit pathogens.

“Pathogens such as Lyme disease cannot be transmitted unless the tick is feeding, so ticks have to be attached for 24 to 36 hours in order to transmit the disease,” said Iles. “After you’ve been in an area that may have ticks, remove clothing and place it directly into the wash to kill any ticks, then check yourself, as well as children and pets.”

Removing ticks—If a tick is discovered feeding on the skin, it should be removed as quickly as possible.

“Firmly grab the tick with a pair of tweezers as low on the body as possible, then pull directly out,” instructed Iles. “There is no way to get the tick to back out, and placing substances like Vaseline or alcohol on the tick can actually make things worse, since they might cause the tick to regurgitate the contents of its stomach back into the host.”

While ticks and the illnesses that they transmit are certainly a cause for concern, being aware of prevention strategies can prevent the spread of disease. For tick images, disease symptoms and more details, check out the recently updated **Tick and Tick-Borne Diseases Pest Alert** (<https://go.iastate.edu/UEY5OW>), which is free on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Store.

## Upcoming Events

**June 8** — ISU Conservation Station, 5-8 pm, Oelwein Party in the Park

**June 11-13** — WMT Tractorcade 4-H Foodstand, 11 am—4 pm, Fairgrounds West Union

**June 20** — Extension Council, 7:30 pm, Extension Office

**June 21** — Agronomy in the Field, 5:30-7 pm, Castalia

## Want Yard or Garden Information?

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Find 100+ publications with facts about flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruits, lawns, trees, and shrubs on the ISU Extension Store: [store.extension.iastate.edu](https://store.extension.iastate.edu)

**Butterflies and Pollinators**

- EN176 Enhancing Monarch Butterfly Conservation in Iowa
- EN174 Free ways to help the Monarchs
- EN175 Gardening for Butterflies and Pollinators
- EN176 Iowa Butterfly and Caterpillar Food Preferences
- EN177 Planting a Garden for Butterflies
- EN178 Native Plants for Butterflies
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**Compost, Soil, and Mulch**

- PM100 Composting Yard Waste
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- PM105 Composting Yard Waste
- PM106 Composting Yard Waste
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**Houseplants/Indoor Plants**

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**Landscape Design and Care**

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**Fruit Trees**

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This publication is a one-stop shopping list with publications related to all the different gardening topics you may have questions about.

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5692>

For more publications, visit the Horticulture and Home Pest News homepage below

<https://go.iastate.edu/58H5AF>