



## Ag News Information & Resources

May 2023

### Fayette County ISU Extension & Outreach

218 South Main Street  
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/mmag/>

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

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

### Agronomy in the Field Program

**Contact:** Josh Michel, Extension Field Agronomist, 319-523-2371, [jjmichel@iastate.edu](mailto:jjmichel@iastate.edu)

#### Program for women offered in Postville for the 2023 growing season

Agronomy in the Field is a multi-session and hands-on workshop being offered to women landowners, farmers, conservationists, and other women who are interested in learning more about agronomy. The goals of the Agronomy in the Field series are to strengthen agronomic skills for women that allow for better decision-making, provide a better understanding of inputs for crop production, see and understand different conservation practices, and increase confidence in communication with their spouse, farming partner, ag retailer or tenant.

In order to provide this opportunity to many women throughout Northeast Iowa, this workshop will be delivered around the Postville area in order to adequately serve attendees from Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette and Winneshiek Counties.

Sessions are designed to be hands-on and conducted in the field to see real-time conditions. These five Agronomy in the Field sessions will be offered once a month May through September. Below is the agenda for the 5 sessions throughout the 2023 growing season. Each session will begin at 5:30 PM, and will conclude around 7:00 PM.

**Dates/Agenda for the Postville Location:** (1246 107<sup>th</sup> Ave. Castalia, IA):

- May 24 — Topics: growing degree days, planting considerations, stand counts, early season corn/soybean growth and development.
- June 21 — Topics: weed identification, weed control, corn and soybean growth and development, corn and soybean diseases.
- July 26 — Topics: water quality and conservation management practices that relate to agriculture in Northeast Iowa.
- August 29 — Topics: pasture and forage management with Denise Schwab, Extension Beef Specialist for Northeast Iowa. Please note that this session will take place at 13690 130<sup>th</sup> St. Postville, IA.
- September 20 — Topics: soil sampling, soil fertility, corn and soybeans reproductive stages, late season scouting, as well as fall harvest considerations.

The registration fee is \$75 for all 5 sessions, or \$15 per individual session. College and high school students may register at a discounted rate of \$20 for all 5 sessions or \$5 per individual session.

Pre-registration is required. Attendees may register for this event by calling the Fayette County Extension and Outreach Office at: 563-425-3331. Light snacks and refreshments to be served at each session.

## Annual Volga River Recreation Area Forestry Field Day

**Contact:** Fayette County Extension Office, 563-425-3331, [xfayette@iastate.edu](mailto:xfayette@iastate.edu)

The Annual Spring Forestry Field Day co-sponsored by ISU Forestry Extension and Iowa DNR will be May 16 from 9:30 am to 3:15 pm at Volga River Recreation Area near Fayette. Topics include:

- Rare/Endangered Species—Bats & Bees,
- Diagnosing Forest Health Issues,
- Cost Share Program Updates,
- Forest Bird Habitat Management,
- Beyond Oaks Value of Native Species,
- Volga State Park Highlights.



Please contact the Extension Office at 563-425-3331 or email [xfayette@iastate.edu](mailto:xfayette@iastate.edu) by May 12 to register. Directions: Meet at the lake boat ramp parking lot at 18450 I Avenue, Fayette IA 52142.

## Roadway Safety Advice for Farmers and Non-Farm Motorists

**Contact:** Steven Freeman, Iowa State University Professor, 515-294-9541, [sfreeman@iastate.edu](mailto:sfreeman@iastate.edu)

### Tips for the rural driver

- Be prepared for farm vehicles. Farm vehicles travel significantly slower than automobiles. You may only have a few seconds to react and slow down before overtaking a farm vehicle. Be prepared to slow down and follow; you may not have room to pass.
- Slow down and keep your distance. Don't assume that the farmer can pull over and let you pass. Shoulder conditions may make it unsafe for the farmer to pull heavy equipment to the side of the road.
- Be sure of the farmer's intentions before passing. Don't assume that a farm vehicle is turning right or pulling over to let you pass if it pulls to the right side of the road. A farmer may have to swing right in order to make a left turn. Wait until you know what the farmer is planning to do.
- Be patient and enjoy the scenery if you find yourself following a farm vehicle. Even if you have to follow a farm vehicle for a couple of miles, it will only take a few minutes of your time. Be especially alert in the evenings; farmers are returning from the fields and dusk makes farm vehicles more difficult to see.

### Tips for the farmer

- Only allow licensed, or appropriately trained, operators to take farm machinery onto the road. Youth who are able to operate machinery in the field may not be able to deal safely with traffic and other road hazards.
- Make sure farm machinery is equipped with the lighting and marking safety devices recommended by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and required by state and local laws. Be sure to remind all operators to use the appropriate hazard lights and turn signals when traveling on roads.
- Minimize total vehicle width and secure equipment in the transport position before entering roadways.
- Watch for approaching traffic and vehicles trying to pass. If possible, pull over and let traffic pass safely, but be alert for roadside hazards.
- Obey all traffic laws and signs.
- Signal intentions to motorists and avoid sudden or unexpected maneuvers.
- Exercise additional care when entering roadways, approaching unsigned or "blind" intersections, crossing narrow bridges, going around sharp corners or going over hills.



## Cybersecurity on the Farm

**Contact:** Madeline Schultz, Women in Ag, 515-294-0588, [isuwomeninag@iastate.edu](mailto:isuwomeninag@iastate.edu)



Cyberattacks in agriculture, food supply and farming industries are a growing concern, as attackers become more creative and target sectors critical to human infrastructure. With 50 billion devices connected to the internet, everyone is vulnerable. An important part of cybersecurity is cyber defense, and the best way to prepare for a cyberattack is with preventative mitigation.

With these concerns in mind, a series of webinars dedicated to strengthening the digital protections in place for farm businesses and families are being offered. The three-part series is offered through a partnership between ISU Extension and Outreach and ISU Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach. Recordings of each session are available at (<https://go.iastate.edu/ILHTQW>)

## Washing Work Clothes After Working with Pesticides

**Contacts:** Betsy Danielson, Extension Specialist Pesticide Safety Program, Integrated Pest Management Newsletter

Pesticide residues can be carried on your clothing even if you wear personal protective equipment (PPE) over your own work clothes. Therefore, it is important to properly clean your clothes after working with and around pesticides. Many pesticide labels provide limited instructions for cleaning work clothes. In situations where no instructions are provided, follow these guidelines for washing contaminated clothing.



- Wear gloves and long sleeves when handling pesticide-contaminated clothing to avoid skin exposure.
- Discard any clothing that has had concentrated pesticide spilled on it. Research confirms that traces of pesticide remain on heavily contaminated clothing even after washing.
- Wash work clothing at the end of each workday. Waiting more than 24 hours reduces the effectiveness of the wash cycle to remove residues.
- Do not wash pesticide-contaminated clothing with any other clothing. Pesticide residues can transfer from work clothing to household clothing during laundering.
- Load only a few items into the washing machine. The washer provides the best agitation and dilution when it is loaded to no more than 50 to 75 percent of its clothing capacity.
- Use the maximum amount of detergent recommended by the machine's manufacturer.
- Use the highest water setting available, regardless of load size, to maximize dilution.
- Select the hottest water settings available.
- Use a pre-rinse/soak before initiating the wash cycle. Research shows this helps in removing pesticide residues.
- Use an aggressive wash cycle that lasts at least 20 minutes. You may need to reset the wash cycle manually to achieve this with older or basic machines.
- Use a high-speed spin. If this feature is not available, reset the machine manually to increase the spin time to further remove moisture and contaminants from the clothing.
- Dry clothes using a machine on high heat or clothesline.
- Run one additional empty cycle without clothing, using detergent and hot water, before using the washer for household laundry.

A downloadable publication, **Laundering Pesticide-contaminated Work Clothes** (<https://go.iastate.edu/KJHFKR>), provides more detailed information.

## Integrated Crop Management News Offers Timely Solutions for Growers

**Contact:** Erin Hodgson, Extension Entomologist, 515-294-2847, [ewh@iastate.edu](mailto:ewh@iastate.edu)

Crop producers and the crop industry can get timely updates on growing-season challenges by subscribing to Integrated Crop Management News, a web service offered by the crops team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

A team of agronomists, plant pathologists, entomologists, weather experts and others collaborate to write timely articles and blogs that address real-time concerns and are posted to the ICM News website and emailed directly to subscribers. The information addresses everything from pre-plant to planting concerns, growing season issues, harvest and reflections on the past growing season.

"Our authors try to incorporate timely, research-based information that helps inform crop producers and the industry of their options related to crop protection, yield and profit," said Erin Hodgson, crops team lead and extension entomologist at Iowa State. "With farming, there are a lot of things outside of the producers' control, but we try to offer viable solutions so that producers can make good judgment calls about how they respond."

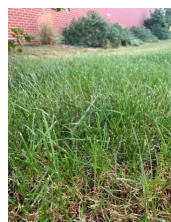
To date, nearly 4,600 people subscribe to the ICM News service, and more than 1,600 subscribe to the ICM Blog. Anyone who wants to subscribe can enter their email, on the right side of the **ICM News website** (<https://go.iastate.edu/FF48K3>)

During peak growing season, Hodgson said it's common for multiple articles and blogs to be posted throughout the week, and subscribers receive an email each time new content is posted. All subscriptions are free. The same website that hosts ICM News and blogs also hosts news releases and industry-specific information related to crops, soils, upcoming events and more. One part of the website, called the "Encyclopedia," provides an encyclopedic explanation of common crop issues, A through Z.

While the primary goal is to inform producers and the industry, Hodgson said the content also sparks ideas for media and education.

## Mowing Tips for Spring

**Contact:** Aaron Steil, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, 515-294-8953, [aisteil@iastate.edu](mailto:aisteil@iastate.edu)



One of the hallmarks of spring in Iowa is the greening up of the lawn. There are several things we think about for the lawn this time of year and top of the list is

mowing. Below are some resources and advice on mowing this spring.

### When Do I Start Mowing?

There is no set date to start mowing. When to start mowing will depend on the growing conditions and the type of grass growing in the area. Set mowers to cut at 3 to 3-1/2 inches in height. This means start mowing once the grass reaches 4-1/2 or 5-1/4 inches tall so you never remove more than one-third of the leaf blade in a single mowing. A lower mowing height of 2 or 2-1/2 inches means you have to mow when the grass is 3 to 3-3/4 inches tall.

More information about mowing can be found in this publication: **Mowing Your Lawn** (<https://go.iastate.edu/LH261Y>)

### How Often Do I Need to Mow?

Mowing will need to be done frequently as the cool-season lawns in Iowa love the cool spring temperatures and abundant spring rains. The shorter the grass, the more frequently it will need to be mowed so as to never remove more than 1/3 of the total leaf blade. Most gardeners will mow every 5 to 7 days in spring, but the frequency depends on the growing conditions.

### Do I Need to Bag the Clippings?

When the lawn is mowed properly, grass clippings do not need to be removed or bagged. Small clippings filter down into the turf and quickly decompose, returning essential plant nutrients to the soil. Lawn clippings do not significantly contribute to thatch development. If the grass is too tall and more than 1/3 of the leaf blade is cut off, clippings can pile on the lawn. These piles must be removed with bagging or raking or they will smother, weaken, and potentially kill the turfgrass underneath.

### What About No Mow May?

No Mow May is a conservation initiative that encourages you to leave your lawn unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and food sources for early-season pollinators. Supporting pollinators is important but there are a few things to keep in mind before you lock the mower away for the entire month of May.

No Mow May has some pros and cons and that can make it difficult to decide what you can do to both promote and support bees and other pollinators while still being a responsible manager of your landscape. There are some things you can do with your lawn that can achieve both.

Learn the important things to consider before participating in No Mow May and what you can do to support pollinators while maintaining a healthy lawn in this article: **Tips for Participating in Now Mow May** (<https://go.iastate.edu/VISWST>)

## Upcoming Events

**May 9** — Master Gardeners, 4 pm, Fairgrounds

**May 15** — Food Safety for Events, 6:30 pm, Extension Office

**May 16** — Annual Volga River Recreation Area Forestry Field Day, 9:30 am—3:15 pm, Volga State Park

**May 20** — Master Gardener Plant Sale, 8-11 am, Fayette County Fairgrounds

**May 24** — Agronomy in the Field, 5:30-7 pm, Castalia

**May 24** — IDALS Testing, 9 am—3 pm, Extension Office

**May 29** — Holiday, Extension Office

## Adult Mental Health First Aid Offered May 18 Online

**Contact:** Madeline Schultz, Women in Ag Newsletter, 515-294-0588, [isuwomeninag@iastate.edu](mailto:isuwomeninag@iastate.edu)



An opportunity to participate in a Mental Health First Aid program is being offered. Madeline Schultz, along with Cindy

Thompson, an extension human sciences specialist, will facilitate the program. The course will be held online, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The online course includes two hours of self-study prior to the online training.

Research from the National Institute of Mental Health shows that nearly one in five adults lives with a mental illness. Additionally, 123 people die by suicide each day according to recent data from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Learning more about mental health can help reduce the stigma associated with behavioral health problems. When we can recognize signs of trouble, we can help people get the assistance they need.

**Learn more** (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/adult>)