



Ag News Information & Resources

October 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/pepm/>

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

Safety Tips for Grain Handling Equipment

Contact: Kristina TeBockhorst, Ag Engineering Specialist, 319-337-2145, ktebock@iastate.edu

Harvest season can be hectic, but it is well worth taking the time to consider safety when operating grain handling equipment. Hazards abound when handling grain, such as equipment entanglement, grain entrapment and engulfment and dust explosions, among others.

Agricultural confined-space related cases of injuries and fatalities saw a dramatic rise in 2022, including grain entrapment cases that rose nearly 45%, based on Purdue University's annual report (<https://go.iastate.edu/QS02AZ>). Iowa had more cases of grain entrapment than any other state at nine total in 2022.

Nearly all of these cases involved grain flow issues due to grain spoilage, which means that improved grain management could prevent cases in the future. This series aims to provide useful information to help farmers keep their grain in good condition and keep them and their families safe around grain.

This fall, lower your risk of injury by using a safety checklist.

- Check that all exposed moving machinery parts have guards, shields or cages installed and are in good condition to prevent entanglement, including auger flighting, conveyers, belts and power-take-off (PTO) components.
- Don't wear loose or baggy clothing, tie back hair and remove dangling drawstrings and jewelry that could get pulled into moving parts.
- Lock-out the power to augers, conveyers, belts and PTO components before performing maintenance or replacing parts so they can't be accidentally turned on.
- Stay clear of flowing grain, which can trap a person knee-deep in a few seconds and can completely submerge them in less than 20 seconds.
- Work from outside of the bin whenever possible and use the buddy system and safe bin entry procedures when a bin must be entered.
- Check that everyone knows how to de-energize grain loading and unloading equipment and lock-out the power sources so that grain moving equipment can't be turned on while someone is inside of a bin.
- Use hazard signage and teach kids and unexperienced people to stay out of stored grain, including bins, piles and grain transport vehicles.
- Keep the grain vacuum nozzle away from the area below your feet and keep an eye on the angle of the grain surface as you are removing grain. To prevent grain flow, the grain angle should be less than the grain's angle of repose, which is around 21 degrees for corn and 23 degrees for soybeans.
- Check that fire extinguishers are easily accessible at the grain storage site. Grain handling facilities naturally collect dust, which can lead to explosions given the right conditions. (see next page)

Safety Tips for Grain Handling Equipment cont.

- Clean off dust accumulated in grain legs, elevators, service bearings, belts and motors regularly. Just a paper-thick layer of dust is combustible in a confined space. Overheated equipment parts or static electricity can be an ignition source.
- Recheck combine settings as grain condition changes to reduce kernel damage and collection of fines and trash. Dry conditions across Iowa may cause overly dry and brittle grain or uneven conditions across farms, making regular combine adjustments important.
- If excess fines and broken kernels are collected, either clean the grain before it goes into the bin or core the bin multiple times during filling to remove fines accumulated in the center of the bin. Removing the center core of fines and broken grain will improve aeration in the bin and reduce the risk of grain spoilage and unloading issues down the road.

More resources <https://go.iastate.edu/SJTQKX>

October Commercial Pesticide Training Information

Contact: Josh Michel, Extension Agronomist, 319-523-2371, jjmichel@iastate.edu

In-Person Commercial Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Courses:

Forest, Aquatic, and Right-of-Way Pest Control (2, 5, 6)

October 19, 9 am

Aerial (11)

October 23, 9 am

Ornamental and Turf Pest Control (3O, 3T, 3OT)

November 9, 9 am

Commercial Ag Weed, Insect & Plant Disease Pest Control (1A, 1B, 1C)

November 15, 9 am

Pest Control Operators (7A, 7B, 7D-new, 8)

December 6, 9 am

Programs will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office in Fayette. For more information or to register for a training contact the Extension Office at 563-425-3331.

Ag Lender Seminar Planned for Northeast Iowa

Contact: Jennifer Bentley, Extension Dairy Specialist, 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu

The **Tri-State Ag Lender Seminar** is geared toward northeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois, and will be held Wednesday, November 1, at the Best Western Plus Hotel in Dubuque, 3100 Dodge Street. The event begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. and concludes around 3:15 p.m.

The seminar will offer current information to assist lenders, consultants and farm financial advisers in their portfolio management, which is especially important in this era of continued market variability. Lenders who serve agricultural clients – especially those who work with dairy producers, are encouraged to attend. Topics will include insights on farm succession tools; the risk in agricultural land values; market outlooks for livestock, grains, dairy production; and tips on understanding personalities in agriculture.

The cost of the program is \$100. Register with ISU Extension and Outreach Dubuque County, at 563-583-6496 or email kfeltes@iastate.edu or tranel@iastate.edu. To register by mail, send a check, name and email address to the Dubuque County Extension Office, 14858 West Ridge Lane, Suite 2, Dubuque, IA 52003. For those needing to pay by credit card, call Kimberly at 563-583-6496 during regular business hours.

IPIC Sow Summit November 1

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



IPIC Sow Summit Conference will be November 1, from 8 am to 4 pm. Cost is \$65. The second of this biennial event will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, is intended for sow farm owners, operators and managers, and allied industry partners, all of whom who play important roles in keeping U.S. sow farms healthy and profitable. Presenters will share info on research poised to influence sow farm productivity and lead discussion on emerging topics that specifically affect sow farms. This central venue will bring cutting edge information on sow reproduction and management that producers can quickly implement on their farms.

For more information and to register click <https://ipicsowsummit.org/>

Corn Quality: Concerns When Grain Does Not Reach Maturity

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



The continued 2023 drought in Northeast Iowa has accelerated crop development which may impact corn quality and feed value. Grain that does not reach maturity or is stressed during the growing season (weather, nutrients, disease, weed competition) may be more prone to quality issues, and thus require different considerations for harvest, handling and storage. *"Corn Quality: Concerns When Grain Does Not Reach Maturity" (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/16466>) This publication is intended for swine producers who grow corn and manufacture feed on-farm, feed mills, and nutritionists.

USDA Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loans and Grants in Iowa

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

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers/rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers can also apply for new energy-efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

Turfgrass Management Tips for Fall

Contact: Adam Thom, Asst. Professor & Extension Turfgrass Specialist, 515-294-1957, athoms@iastate.edu



Fall is a key time for lawns across Iowa, especially following a particularly dry, hot summer. With much of the state still suffering from moderate to severe drought, providing additional irrigation can keep lawns green and prevent grass from entering dormancy. But as Thoms explains, it is key that homeowners decide whether to irrigate and then stick with that decision to prevent additional stress on the lawn.

"The worst thing you can do is pull your lawn in and out of dormancy," explained Thoms. "If you water your lawn for a few weeks, get a higher-than-expected water bill, and then decide to stop watering, that'll use up all of the grass's food reserves." Additionally, any seed planted over the next few weeks will require routine watering given continuing hot, dry conditions. "Keep the seed wet, and water multiple times a day," added Thoms.

Seeding lawns

Despite the drought concerns, fall is the perfect time to establish or overseed the lawn. Late summer seeding allows cool season grasses to germinate quickly, and warm fall days and cool nights promote rapid turf growth. Plus, few weed species germinate in the fall, which removes competitive pressure on the lawn.

September is also ideal for aerating the lawn, a practice that helps relieve soil compaction, improve water and nutrient movement in the soil and prevent thatch accumulation. More information on aeration and establishing and over-seeding lawns is available from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Horticulture and Home Pest News Research Page_ (<https://go.iastate.edu/7UGQQ8>)

Applying fertilizer

While fertilizing in the fall is important for helping lawns recover from summer stress, promoting root growth and encouraging early spring green up, Thoms recommends holding off on applying fertilizer for a few more weeks.

"Unless you're irrigating regularly, that fertilizer will just sit lay on the surface until it rains," he said. "However, providing food once it starts to rain again is very important to strengthening the lawn, and the best defense against weeds is a healthy lawn."

Fall is also an ideal time to control perennial broadleaf weeds, as weeds preparing to enter winter dormancy will transport herbicide from their foliage to their roots, resulting in weed destruction. Thoms recommends waiting until after the first frost to apply herbicides, as this can significantly reduce drift while still ensuring effective weed control.

For newly seeded or overseeded lawns, however, herbicides should not be applied until new seedlings are thoroughly established. "Once you apply seed, you shouldn't spray again until after you've mowed twice," added Thoms.

Thoms recommends continuing to mow the lawn until grass stops growing in the fall, which is usually around late October or early November in Iowa. Mulching fall leaves into the lawn can also add a boost of nutrients and organic matter into the soil ahead of the winter months.

Finally, hosing down the mower, changing the oil and cleaning out the air filter ahead of winter will ensure optimal spring performance. Thoms recommends waiting until after the first mow of the spring season to sharpen mower blades because sticks and other debris in the lawn can dull freshly sharpened blades.

For more resources regarding fall lawn care, visit (<https://go.iastate.edu/DIPWOH>).

Extension Fruit Specialist Discusses Iowa Apple Harvest

Contact: Suzanne Slack, Extension Fruit Crops Specialist, 515-294-2751, slacksuz@iastate.edu



As the days shorten and the chill of autumn enters the air, many look to local apple orchards for a classic crisp and sweet Iowa treat.

Suzanne Slack, assistant professor and extension fruit crop specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, discusses the Iowa apple harvest, highlights unique cultivars to try and provides recommendations for storing apples and supporting local farmers.

While apple growers experienced an overall mild season with some early frost damage, Slack explained that some cultivars of apple are ready ahead of schedule this season due to ongoing drought conditions across the state.

"For producers without irrigation on their crops, it was a bit of a stressful year," said Slack. "Even with irrigation, the drought has caused some apple cultivars to be ready for harvest up to three weeks early."

While an early harvest is good for consumers eager to sample the local harvest, Slack said that it can be challenging for producers depending on their harvest infrastructure, as they

have less time to hire seasonal workers to assist in the harvest and must work out solutions for selling, shipping and storing their crop ahead of the usual schedule.

According to Slack, another challenge for producers that comes along with heat and drought is insect damage. Hot weather causes the metabolic and reproduction rates of many pest species to increase exponentially, meaning that there are even more hungry insects damaging crops than in typical years. Drought conditions also weaken crops' defenses against these insects, further compounding the issue.

Despite these harvest concerns, Iowa-grown apples are appearing at farmer's markets across the state. While purchasing apples from farmer's markets is a great way to support local farmers, Slack also recommends visiting orchards to pick your own apples or purchase directly from the growers.

"We have a lot of pick-your-own apple orchards in Iowa, so most people are probably less than an hour away from an operation," added Slack. "It's a great way to do even more to support local growers."

In addition to having a variety of local producers to support, Iowa also has a variety of unique apple cultivars to try.

The widely grown Red Delicious variety was first discovered in Iowa, and while modern versions of this variety from the supermarket sometimes prioritize looks and durability over taste, Slack recommends sampling the original red and gold striped Red Delicious apples if local orchards offer them.

Another cultivar Slack recommends is 'Chieftain', which was originally developed at Iowa State University and is available at many local orchards.

For those looking to preserve the taste of fall by storing apples, Slack recommends selecting 'Gold Rush', 'Pink Lady' or 'Golden Delicious'.

"Most apples store well in the refrigerator, but it's best to keep them in a crisper container and away from other fruits and vegetables. As apples ripen, they release a gas called ethylene, which can trigger other fruits and vegetables like bananas, avocados, broccoli and peppers to ripen faster," added Slack.

When it comes to selecting apples for storage, it is also important not to pick overripe apples at the orchard. "If the apples are really sweet and starting to get soft, they are likely overripe and won't store very well," explained Slack.

For more information, a free publication on storing and harvesting apples is available from the Extension Store at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4409>

Upcoming Events

Oct 16 — ServeSafe Training, 9 am, Extension Office

Oct 17 — Ext. Council, 7:30 pm, Extension Office

Oct 19 — Forest, Aquatic & Right of Way CIC, 9 am, Extension Office

Oct 23—Aerial CIC, 9 am, Extension Office

Oct 25 — IDALS Pesticide Testing, 9 am-3 pm, Extension Office

Women Managing Farmland Webinar—October 11

Contact: Women in Ag Newsletter, 515-294-0588, isuwomeninag@iastate.edu

A bi-monthly webinar series addresses several topics women farmland owners are interested in. Managing Farmland Series: Women Farmland Owners, is a webinar series presented over the noon hour and is free and open to everyone. Register here <https://go.iastate.edu/EGUAIIV> for one or more of the CARE Women Landownership Series webinars. The series debuted February 8 and continues through December 13, 2023.

The series of webinars continues October 11 with End-of-Life Taxes and Expenses, featuring Kitt Tovar Jensen, staff attorney with the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, and manager for the Beginning Farmer Center.

View the recorded webinars:

[Written Farmland Leases: Reasons & Resources \(https://vimeo.com/797781943\)](https://vimeo.com/797781943) Featuring Melissa O'Rourke, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm and Agribusiness Specialist

[Building Your Professional Team \(https://vimeo.com/817040276\)](https://vimeo.com/817040276)

Featuring Kitt Tovar Jensen, attorney for the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation