ISU Research Farm Hosts Annual Meeting on March 5

Contact: Brian Lang, Extension Agronomist, 563-382-2949, bjlang@iastate.edu

Improving water quality and the impact of the U.S.–China trade war will highlight information provided by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists at the annual meeting of the Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association. The meeting will be held March 5 at the Borlaug Learning Center located at the Iowa State University Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua.

The meeting is free and open to the public, and begins at 9:30 a.m. with a call to order for the board meeting. Presentations will follow at 10 a.m. Topics to be discussed include:

- Wendong Zhang, assistant professor and extension economist at Iowa State, will share a presentation titled “U.S.—China Ag Trade and the Trade War.”
- Brian Dougherty, ag engineering specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will discuss the “Impact of Manure Management and Cover Crops on Drainage Water Quality and Yields.”
- Natasha Hoover, research associate with the Iowa State water quality research lab, will present on “Antimicrobial Resistance: Occurrence, Fate and Transport in Title-Drained Agricultural Fields.”
- Ken Pecinovsky, superintendent of the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, will review 2018 research trial results conducted at the farm.

All who attend the meeting will receive a copy of the 2018 Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm Annual Progress Report. A lunch served by the Riverton Lucky Clovers 4-H Club will be available for purchase.

Following lunch and the presentations, the NEIAEA Board of Directors will meet. Three complimentary CCA credits (2 CM, 1 SW) will be available for those who attend the day’s sessions. For more information contact Terry Basol, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at 641-426-6801.

Directions to Annual Meeting Location:

From Nashua at the junction of Highway 218 (Exit 220) and County Road 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.
2019 Midwest Organic Pork Conference

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

The Iowa Organic Association (IOA) will host the Midwest Organic Pork Conference (MOPC) in Waterloo, Iowa on March 8-9, 2019. This will be the first conference ever organized in the United States dedicated to presenting the best resources and information available to help expand opportunities for organic, specialty, and niche pork production and distribution.

"The MOPC provides a venue to bring together a diverse group of expert organic and niche hog farmers, organic researchers, industry experts and others who will share available research, best production practices and technical assistance for organic hog production with apprentice, transitioning and organic farmers from across the Midwest," says Rosalyn Lehman, Iowa Organic Association executive director. "This conference will further motivate interest in developing new research networks to support an expanding organic hog industry."

The conference will be held at the Waterloo Center for the Arts in Waterloo March 8-9 (Friday, Saturday). More information is available at MidwestOrganicPorkConference.org, Conference Agenda or Conference Registration

2019 Iowa Water Conference

Contact: Brian Lang, Extension Agronomist, 563-382-2949, bjlang@iastate.edu

The theme for the 2019 Iowa Water Conference is "Back to Basics: Land, Water, People." The state of Iowa has the most altered landscape in the nation. Increasingly, we look for solutions to our water management issues that bring us closer to nature and back to Iowa’s natural environmental processes. From restoring prairies and wetlands on agricultural landscapes to green infrastructure that couple natural and engineered systems, we are building a future through a respectful look to our state’s history. By getting "back to basics," we are focusing on the entire ecosystem, with water as the connector.

The Iowa Water Conference is the largest outreach and collaboration effort of the Iowa Water Center and is designed to bring together multi-disciplinary organizations and institutions to discuss relevant water issues across Iowa. The inaugural event in 2006 combined several existing conferences with the purpose of coordinating research and management efforts. Today’s conference draws over 400 attendees and strives to encompass the whole of Iowa’s water landscape including expanding into realms of education and outreach, conservation, policy and regulations. For details, go to: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iwc/index.html

Estate and Transitioning Planning Workshop to be Held in Fayette

Contact: Melissa O’Rourke, Extension Farm Management Specialist, 563-382-2949, morourke@iastate.edu

The one-day workshop on Estate and Transitioning Planning will be held on March 19 in Fayette, and again on March 20 in Waverly.

"Families and individuals should plan adequately to protect assets that they have built over a lifetime of hard work" according to O’Rourke, who presents and facilitates the program. O’Rourke is an attorney experienced in agricultural law and estate planning.

The workshop will discuss the language of estate planning, gift, estate & inheritance taxes, family communication, working with legal and tax professionals and other areas vital to creating a good succession plan.

“We’re really excited about this workshop because it doesn’t just stop at providing valuable information for anyone concerned about estate and transition plans,” says O’Rourke. “Everyone participates in a hands-on analysis and discussion of case studies that will help folks apply the information to their own situations. Anyone who is unsure of how to build a transition plan or what options are best for their family or a farm operation should attend this workshop.

The workshop will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office on Tuesday, March 19; and repeated at the Waverly Civic Center on Wednesday, March 20. Registration starts at 9:00 am with the program beginning at 9:30 am, and will conclude by 4:00 pm. Advance registration is required and space is limited to the first thirty registrants at each location. The Evaluating Your Estate Plan workshop costs $50 per person and includes lunch and materials.

To pre-register call the Fayette County Extension Office at 563-425-3331 to register for the March 19 program in Fayette; or call the Bremer County Extension Office at 319-882-4275 to register for the March 20 program in Waverly.

More information including a brochure can be found here.
Disposing of Unwanted Pesticides and Chemicals

**Contact:** Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension Field Agronomist, 515-231-2830, amrieck@iastate.edu

Winter months often find us making lists of things we want to get done prior to spring field work and planting. Now is a good time to consider how to safely dispose of old pesticides and chemicals.

The easiest way to manage pesticides is to plan on not having any leftovers. If you hire an ag retailer to spray your pesticides, the retailer will properly dispose of leftover materials. If you do your own spraying, planning in advance to manage the quantity of pesticide products or spray volume will help reduce leftover products. The Safe Farm Project, part of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, has a fact sheet *Work Toward Zero Pesticide Storage* at [https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4986](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4986) that offers tips on minimizing the volume of pesticides stored on farms. The fact sheet is available as a free download.

If, despite careful planning, you have leftover pesticides, Iowa DNR provides a resource that may be able to help. Regional Collection Centers, referred to as RCC’s, are permanent collection facilities designed to assist the public with proper management and disposal of household materials and hazardous wastes. RCC’s accept specific types of materials through either a regional or local outlet or through contracted services. Almost all RCC facilities will accept pesticides from farms.

Just remember these tips:

- Call your local RCC to make an appointment
- Some smaller facilities are closed during winter
- Provide a description of the type/amount of materials being disposed
- Farms are considered a business by EPA and there are federal limits on the quantity that you can bring to a RCC
- There will be a fee for the chemicals/pesticides

When you call, the RCC should be able to provide an estimated cost. Additional resources include:

- **SafeSmartSolutions.org** — You can find a list of fact sheets on how to best dispose of products from lead paint and used motor oil to other household chemical waste on this website.


If you live in a county without local RCC services, you are encouraged to speak with your local ag retailer, or DNR by calling 515-725-8359 for additional options for safe pesticide disposal.

Morel Mushroom Certification Workshops to be Held in Ames

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer a pair of training classes for anyone interested in being certified to sell morel mushrooms legally within the state of Iowa. To legally sell morel mushrooms in Iowa, the seller must complete a certification workshop that covers identifying morels and false morels. False morels can be poisonous to humans.

Certification to sell morel mushrooms is good for three years, so any Iowan who has not completed the certification training in the last three years must re-certify this year. Registration is open to out-of-state individuals, but keep in mind local certification may be available in their home state.

The training courses will be held on the Iowa State campus on March 30 and April 6, with each session running from 2-5 p.m. Attendees need to choose just one of the course dates, with both classes held in room 1302 of the new Advanced Teaching and Research Building (2213 Pammel Drive). Please arrive by 1:45 p.m. as class starts promptly at 2 p.m.

To reserve a seat, register online at [http://bit.ly/MorelWorkshop19](http://bit.ly/MorelWorkshop19). Registration is $50 per person. The registration deadline is March 26, and pre-registration is important to ensure adequate materials are available. If you are experiencing difficulty with the online registration process, please contact Registration Services at registrations@iastate.edu.

Farm Stress Resources Available From ISU Extension & Outreach Dairy Team

If you or someone you know is experiencing extreme farm stress, the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Team’s Farm Stress Resource packet is filled with great content related to marriage communication in farming, chronic farm stress, farm youth stress and so much more. Follow the link at [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/farm-stress-management](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/farm-stress-management) to read the Farm Stress Resource article and find many other resources.
Effect of Extreme Cold on Trees and Shrubs

Contact: Richard Jauron, Extension Horticulturist, 515-294-3108, rjauron@iastate.edu

Gardeners may be wondering just how, and if, trees, and shrubs survive below-zero temperatures. They know that the below-ground parts of a tree are kept insulated by a layer of snow, and that is important to winter survival, but the exposed parts of a tree are not so protected. Horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach explain the cold hardiness of trees and shrubs.

What effect does the timing of extremely cold temperatures have on trees and shrubs?

Timing is very important. The cold hardiness of woody plants gradually increases in fall with the maximum cold hardiness occurring in mid-winter (mid to late January). The cold hardiness of woody plants slowly decreases from mid-winter to spring. A temperature reading of -20 degrees Fahrenheit in late November or early March could be quite destructive while the same temperature in mid-winter would cause little or no harm to trees and shrubs that are reliably cold hardy in Iowa.

What effect will the cold temperatures have on trees and shrubs?

Trees and shrubs that are native to Iowa (or similar regions of the world) are well adapted to our climate and should have suffered little or no damage. However, marginally hardy plants, such as Japanese maple (Acer palmatum), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) and Japanese flowering cherry (Prunus serrulata) may have sustained damage. The maximum cold hardiness of most Japanese maple, flowering dogwood and Japanese flowering cherry cultivars is -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Damage may vary from the dieback of twigs and branches to the complete death of the tree.

The cold temperatures also may have destroyed the flower buds on flowering quince (Chaenomeles spp.) and some forsythia cultivars, such as ‘Lynwood Gold’ and ‘Spring Glory.’ As a result, these shrubs will likely produce few, if any, flowers in spring. Fortunately, the cold temperatures should not have any long term effects on these shrubs. The leaf buds on flowering quince and forsythia are harder than their flower buds. The shrubs should leaf out normally in spring.

The cold temperatures should have little impact on the flowering of most trees and shrubs. Crabapples, lilacs, viburnums, dogwoods and spireas possess excellent cold hardiness and should bloom normally this spring. Forsythia cultivars ‘Meadowlark’ and ‘Northern Sun’ should also bloom well as their flower buds can tolerate temperatures to -30 degrees Fahrenheit.

What effect will the cold temperatures have on fruit trees?

The cold temperatures likely damaged peach and sweet cherry trees. Peach trees are not reliably cold hardy in much of Iowa. Temperatures below -18 degrees Fahrenheit will destroy the flower buds on peach trees. Temperatures of -25 degrees or below may damage the peach trees themselves. Damage may vary from the dieback of twigs and branches to complete death. The flower buds on some sweet cherry cultivars are slightly more cold hardy than those on peaches and can survive temperatures down to -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures below -25 degrees may result in branch dieback or the death of some sweet cherry trees. Iowa gardeners should expect poor crops on peaches and sweet cherries this summer. Additionally, some trees may suffer extensive branch dieback or death. On a positive note, the cold temperatures should not have damaged most apple, pear and sour (tart) cherry trees.

Upcoming Events

Mar 1 — Seed Treatment CIC, 9 am, Extension Office
Mar 1 — Commercial Ag CIC Re-show, 12:30 pm, Extension Office
Mar 6 — Ornamental & Turf CIC, 9 am, Extension Office
Mar 12 — Extension Council, 7:30 pm, Extension Office
Mar 13 — Certified Handlers CIC, 9 am, Extension Office
Mar 17 — 4-H Omelet Brunch Fundraiser, 9 am—1 pm, Fair-grounds
Mar 19 — Estate Planning Meeting, 9:30 am, Extension Office