



Ag News Information & Resources

October 2020

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/>

Use Your Personal Safety Skills This Fall

Contact: Charles Schwab, Professor of Ag & Biosystems Engineering, 515-294-4131, svschwab@iastate.edu

As harvest season approaches, you need to rely on your individual safety awareness

Fall is a busy time of year with an increase in farm activities that can lead to injuries. Those facts are clear because agriculture remains the most dangerous industry in the United States, based on deaths per 100,000 workers.

This year's [National Farm Safety and Health Week](#) theme, Sept. 20-26, is "every farmer counts." It is important for every farmer to use his or her personal safety skills to make this year the safest one on record.

Regardless of the external pressures of time, weather, and stress, it is best to always choose safety first, according to Charles Schwab, Iowa State University professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering with extension and outreach responsibilities.

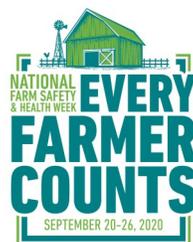
This year perhaps more than any other year, farmers and farm workers need to use extra caution during harvest season. Our medical community and first responders are already strained dealing with the pandemic. Every farmer counts while trying to make this year's harvest safer.

Miscommunication or misunderstandings can place coworkers and yourself at risk of serious injuries. Common tasks like hitching grain wagons to tractor and more complex operations like unloading combines on the move, demand effective communications. Include safety in your explanations of tasks that will be performed and listen carefully to those working with you.

Monitor the signals from your body. During long work activities, it is important to keep your body working at optimal conditions. Keeping hydrated, nourished and alert are essential for your personal safety efforts. When your body signals are ignored, your mind's effectiveness to avoid injuries is diminished. Loss of observational power, reduced attention span, and weakened critical thinking skills puts you in potentially hazardous conditions that could have been avoided.

Making a safe decision is paramount during harvest. So often, a person who has been injured shares that the safe course of action was used multiple times before but then the one time it wasn't, the injury occurred.

For more information visit <http://safe.ae.iastate.edu>



In-Person Pesticide Applicator Testing Sites Available

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

IDALS Pesticide Bureau has arranged for limited in-person testing dates and times. Details are at the following web-site: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/pesticide-bureau/guidance-person-pesticide-exam-sites>

Currently, testing dates for Northeast Iowa are:

- ⇒ Oct. 9 — Black Hawk County Extension Office, Waterloo
- ⇒ Oct. 15 — Cerro Gordo County Extension Office, Mason City
- ⇒ Oct. 19 — Dubuque County Extension Office, Dubuque



All exams need to be scheduled in advance of the exam date using the following web link: https://data.iowaagriculture.gov/pest_signup/

When registering, schedule a testing time for either 9 AM, 11 AM or 1 PM. Walk-ins will not be allowed.

Virtual Fall Field Day Series

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

A few weeks ago ISU Extension presented a virtual fall field day series, and posted these videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpBCq1iQV6r9R-XQutOH4ig>

So if you missed the live sessions, you can still watch these 30-minute presentations at the ISU YouTube channel.

Day 1: ISU Research Farm Update by CALS Dean, Dan Robison & Director of ISU Research Farms, Mark Honeyman

Day 2: Water Quality Monitoring and Research Update by Dr. Matt Helmers

Day 3: Foliar Fungicide Trial Update by Dr. Alison Robertson

Day 4: Overview of Long-Term Tillage and Crop Rotation Studies, by Angie Rieck-Hinz and Mahdi Al-Kaisi

Day 5: Long-term Research on Placement Methods of P and K, by Antonio Mallarino

Missed a Live Webinar?

Contact: Ag Decision Maker News, 641-732-5574, agdm@iastate.edu

[Grain Storage & Corn Quality Issues](#) - Recorded September 17, 2020

[Issues Impacting Iowa Farmland Owners and Tenants for 2021](#) - Recorded August 25, 2020

[Crop Marketing Strategies](#) - Recorded August 13, 2020

[Farmland Leasing and Management Workshop](#) - Recorded August 10, 2020

[Crop Marketing Strategies](#) - Recorded July 16, 2020

Visit the [Voiced Media page \(https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/voicedmedia.html\)](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/voicedmedia.html) for additional webinars and videos.

Virtual PQA Training Sessions Offered

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



Virtual certification sessions for PQA Plus Advisor certification will be offered on October 16 and then again on December 4 beginning at 9 am. Iowa State Extension swine veterinarian Chris Rademacher will teach the sessions, open to those seeking recertification and those wanting to become certified for the first time. **Applications are due two weeks prior to the date of your preferred session.** (<https://www.ipic.iastate.edu/certification.html>)

No individual spot is guaranteed until the application is approved and specific payment is accepted by IPIC. The cost is \$85 per person, includes all materials and is payable after the application is approved. Application is due by October 2 for the first session and by November 20 for the second session.

If you would like to attend a PQA Advisor certification session in 2020 but are not sure which date will work for you, consider submitting a non-date-specific application form and including desired date(s) on it. Use either [the word version](#) or the [fillable pdf version](#).

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Dates Set

Details and registration forms available at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/> To register, call the Extension Office at 563-425-3331 at least one week prior to program to avoid \$10 late fee.

Oct. 21, Roadside, Forest, and Aquatic Pest Management (categories 2, 5, 6, 10), starts at 9:00 AM & 1 PM, \$35

Oct. 27, Mosquito and Public Health Pest Management (categories 7D, 8, 10), starts at 9:00 AM, \$35

Nov. 4, Ornamental and Turf Applicators (categories 3O, 3T, 3OT, 10), starts at 9:00 AM & 1 PM, \$35

Nov. 17, Fumigation (categories 7C, 10), starts at 9 AM, \$35

Nov. 18, Commercial Ag Weed, Insect & Plant Disease Mgmt. (categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 10), starts at 9:00 AM, \$35

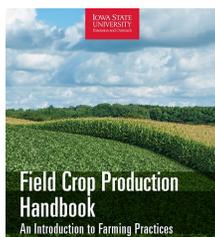
Dec. 2, Pest Control Operators (categories 7A, 7B, 8, 10), starts at 9:00 AM \$60

Greenhouse (categories 3G, 3O, 10), available in fall, arrange showing with Extension office.

Aerial Applicators (categories 11, 10), arrange showing with county Extension office after November 1

Field Crop Production Handbook Offer Valuable Insight for Iowa Growers

Contact: Mark Licht, Asst. Professor in Agronomy & Cropping Systems Specialist, 515-294-0877, lichtma@iastate.edu and Erin Hodgson, Professor and Entomology Specialist, 515-294-2847, ewh@iastate.edu



Growing successful field crops is a science, one that is learned and improved upon with years of experience. But sometimes it just makes sense to start with the basics.

That's the approach of a new publication from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach called the **Field Crop Production Handbook** (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15968>)

This 144-page handbook provides a general overview of the essential aspects of producing field crops in Iowa. It focuses on the basics of crop establishment, but also on care and harvest, as well as the impacts on soil, water and wildlife.

"The handbook is useful for people who are new to agriculture or may be joining the family farm and want to get reacquainted with some of the basics of crop production," said Erin Hodgson, professor and extension specialist in entomology at Iowa State University.

Sixteen chapters cover the most common field crops grown in Iowa, including corn and soybean, but also small grains and forages. Each chapter includes a glossary of terms and additional resources, if producers want to learn more.

The printed copy includes glossy pages with pictures and graphics, at a cost of \$12 per copy or \$6 per copy if purchased in boxed quantities of 37. The publication is also available digitally on the Iowa State University Extension Store and can be downloaded for \$6.

"There is a lot of practical information in the handbook to help get people up to speed and refresh their knowledge," said Mark Licht, assistant professor in agronomy and cropping systems specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

The handbook is also useful for high school and college ag programs, where students and teachers may be looking for a basic primer that covers crop production.

Licht said it was an enjoyable project that included input from a diverse group of faculty and staff at Iowa State. The publication is written and organized in a way that is intended to be accessible to those with or without a farming background, and to audiences not traditionally associated with agriculture.

New Food Preservation Online Classes Coming in October

Contact: Jill Weber, Human Sciences Specialist, 319-234-6811, jweber@iastate.edu



More Iowans than ever are exploring how to home preserve their garden bounty to enjoy that fresh taste of summer all year long. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering two new online workshops to help Iowans safely "[Preserve the Taste of Summer](#)." *Due to the pandemic, our regular hands-on, in-person workshops are on hold. In October we are offering online workshops at no cost so Iowans still have the opportunity to learn safe food preservation techniques.*

Preserve the Taste of Summer: Totally Tomatoes. During this one-hour session, you will learn how to safely can tomatoes via hot water bath canning and pressure canning, as well as how to make salsa and other tomato products, and freeze and dry tomatoes. Four sessions are scheduled in October: Thursday, Oct. 8 (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) and Monday, Oct. 12 (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

Preserve the Taste of Summer: All about Apples. During this one-hour session, you will learn the proper ways to safely can, freeze and dry apples. Four sessions are scheduled in October: Thursday, Oct. 22 (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) and Wednesday, Oct. 28 (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

While participation in these sessions is complementary, registration is required. Reserve your spot today at <https://bit.ly/3k1DmVc>.

Fall Lawn Care

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

Proper lawn care in fall helps ensure an attractive, healthy lawn next season.

When is the best time to apply a broadleaf herbicide to the lawn?

Fall (late September to early November) is the best time to control perennial broadleaf weeds in the lawn with broadleaf herbicides. In fall, perennial broadleaf weeds are transporting food (carbohydrates) from their foliage to their roots in preparation for winter. Broadleaf herbicides applied in fall will be absorbed by the broadleaf weed's foliage and transported to the roots along with the carbohydrates, resulting in the destruction of the broadleaf weeds.

Effective broadleaf herbicides include 2,4-D, MCPP, dicamba, triclopyr and others. The most effective broadleaf herbicide products usually contain a mixture of two or three herbicides, as no single compound controls all broadleaf

weeds. Broadleaf herbicides can be applied as sprays or granules. (Sprays are generally more effective than granular products in controlling broadleaf weeds.) Before applying any herbicide, carefully read and follow label directions.

How long should I continue to mow the lawn?

Continue to mow the lawn until the grass stops growing in fall. The foliage of Kentucky bluegrass and other cool-season grasses usually stops growing in late October or early November in Iowa. Mow Kentucky bluegrass lawns at a height of 2½ to 3 inches in fall. When mowing the lawn, never remove more than one-third of the total leaf area at any one time. Accordingly, a lawn being mowed at a height of 3 inches should be cut when it reaches a height of 4½ inches.

When should I fertilize the lawn?

Mid-September and late October/early November (after the grass has stopped growing) are excellent times to fertilize Kentucky bluegrass lawns

in Iowa. Mid-September fertilization helps the grass recover from stressful summer weather. An application of fertilizer in late October/early November promotes root growth and early green-up next spring. Apply no more than 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in a single application. Lawns also can be fertilized in spring (April to mid-May).

Upcoming Events

Oct 20 — Extension Council meeting, 7:30 pm, Extension Office

Oct 21 — Roadside, Forestry & Aquatic Pest Management CIC, 9 am & 1 pm, Extension Office, Pre-registration required

Oct 27 — Mosquito & Public Health CIC, 9 am, Extension Office, Pre-registration required

Winter Squash Harvest and Storage

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

Winter squash can be enjoyed for months when the fruit are properly harvested, cured and stored. Horticulture experts with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provide answers to frequent questions on all aspects of horticulture, including questions on winter crops.



When should I harvest winter squash?

Harvest winter squash when the fruit are fully mature. Mature winter squash have very hard skins that are difficult to puncture with the thumbnail. There is a perceptible color change when some winter squash are mature. For example, butternut squash should be harvested when the fruit are uniformly tan in color. Harvest green acorn squash cultivars when the spot facing the ground changes from yellow to orange. Harvest spaghetti squash when the fruit color changes from ivory white to golden yellow.

When harvesting winter squash, handle the fruit carefully to avoid cuts and bruises. These injuries provide entrances for various rot-producing organisms. Cut off the fruit with pruning shears. Leave a one-inch stem on each fruit.

How do I cure winter squash?

After harvesting, cure winter squash (except for the acorn types) at a temperature of 80 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of 80 to 85 percent. Curing helps to harden the squash skins and heal any cuts and scratches. Do not cure acorn squash. The high temperature and relative humidity during the curing process actually reduce the quality and storage life of acorn squash.

What is the proper way to store winter squash?

After curing, store winter squash in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location. Storage temperatures should be 50 to 55 F. Do not store winter squash near apples, pears or other ripening fruit. Ripening fruit produce ethylene gas, which shortens the storage life of winter squash. When properly cured and stored, the storage lives of acorn, butternut and hubbard squash are approximately five to eight weeks, two to three months and five to six months, respectively.