



AG NEWS TODAY

ISU Extension and Outreach information and resources for north central Iowa

February 16, 2018

Floyd County

ISU Extension and Outreach

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Extension Links

Ag Decision Maker

- www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm

Beef Center

- www.iowabeefcenter.org

ISU Ag Newsletters

- www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/newsletters

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu

Iowa State Research Farms

- www.ag.iastate.edu/farms

Iowa Water Quality Initiative

- www.cleanwateriowa.org

Manure Management

- www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag

Pesticide Management

- www.extension.iastate.edu/pme

Pork Center

- www.ipic.iastate.edu

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

High Tunnel Workshops to Explore and Address Common Challenges

Challenges and new opportunities in high tunnels to be explored during three meetings

Article | 02/13/2018 | By Ajay Nair, Extension Commercial Horticulture Specialist, 515-294-7080, nairajay@iastate.edu and Joe Hannan, Extension Commercial Horticulture Specialist, 515-993-4281, jmhannan@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Three workshops will be held to help growers, industry representatives, local food coordinators, extension staff and county horticulturists learn to manage common challenges in high tunnels while also discussing new advances in high tunnel production.

Topics to be covered include soil management, tomato grafting, vegetable disease and insect management and environmental control. A visit to a local farm operating a high tunnel is also part of the workshop.

These workshops are supported by USDA North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.



“Participants will learn how to protect the health of soil in a high tunnel so that it stays productive long term,” said Joe Hannan, commercial horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The all-day classes will be held:

April 6—ISU Extension and Outreach Henry County, Mt. Pleasant

April 10—4-H Learning Center, North Iowa Events Center, Mason City

April 13—ISU Extension and Outreach Cass County, Atlantic

Ajay Nair, Extension Vegetable Production Specialist, will lead the workshops along with Hannan; Donald Lewis, ISU Extension Entomologist; Laura Iles, Director of the Iowa State University Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic; and Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, Plant Pathology Diagnostician with the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic.

Online registration, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab/high-tunnel-workshops-address-common-challenges>, is required as space is limited. Registration must be completed by March 30.

There is no cost for the workshop. Workshop sign-in begins at 8 a.m. on the day of the workshop, with the event running until 3:30 p.m.

Additionally, copies of the ISU Extension and Outreach publication “Iowa High Tunnel Fruit and Vegetable Production Manual” (HORT 3060), <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/13342>, will be given to all who have not previously attended a high tunnel workshop.

Handle Vaccines with Care to Improve Herd Health

ISU Extension and Outreach publication discusses the importance of safe vaccine handling



Article | 02/13/2018 | By Grant Dewell, Extension Beef Veterinarian and Associate Professor, 515-294-2822, gdewell@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – A strong vaccination program can have sizable impact on a cattle herd. Not only can vaccines improve the herd’s health, vaccines also can provide monetary savings for a rancher.

Because of the importance of a vaccination program, it is critical to handle vaccines properly. There are three time periods when proper vaccine handling is crucial: during transportation, on-farm storage and during use.

A new Iowa State University Extension and Outreach publication titled “Vaccines: Handle with Care” (IBC 126), <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15324>,

walks readers through procedures that can help keep vaccines safe while waiting to be used.

“Vaccines are a vital part of a herd health program,” said Grant Dewell, associate professor in beef production and extension beef veterinarian at Iowa State University. “However, improper handling of the vaccine can leave animals vulnerable to infectious diseases. Proper care and handling of vaccines is necessary to maximize an animal health program.”

The publication provides in-depth discussions on how to transport a vaccine once it is purchased, how to store it on-farm and how it should be used. It also talks about using vaccines in cold weather and the importance of sanitizing syringes. A final section of the publication provides step-by-step instructions for building a syringe cooler to keep vaccines cool while in use. This design allows for the storage of vaccine bottles while keeping them at the proper temperature and protected from UV light.

Drop in Land and Some Input Costs Expected in 2018

Tight margins make it critical for farmers to know input costs, breakeven price to create sound marketing strategy

Article | 02/09/2018 | By Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist, 515-294-6160, plastina@iastate.edu and Ann Johanns, Department of Economics, 641-732-5574, aholste@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Land and input costs for corn and soybean production are expected to decline in 2018, according to research conducted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The research, released in ISU Extension and Outreach publication “Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa – 2018” (FM 1712), shows soybean costs falling by \$10 per acre from 2017 levels and corn production dropping by \$5 per acre. All cost estimates in the report look at average cost for farms in Iowa.



The total cost per bushel of soybeans is projected at \$9.46 for the herbicide tolerant variety and \$9.41 for non-herbicide tolerant beans, at an expected yield of 50 bushels per acre.

The total cost per bushel of corn following soybeans is \$3.48 (180 bushels per acre) and \$4.07 for corn following corn (165 bushels per acre). The drop in prices is attributed to a moderate decline in herbicide, fertilizer, lime and seed prices, as well as lower expected cash rent costs. These drops, however, are barely expected to offset increases in machinery, labor, insecticide and crop insurance costs. This is especially true for corn as diesel and gas prices are expected to increase fuel costs by \$13-14 per acre.

Cost of production has declined significantly since 2012, with total corn costs dropping 19 percent and soybean production falling 14 percent. These reductions in cost, however, are dwarfed by falling prices. The price per bushel of corn is down 53 percent since 2012 and soybean prices have dropped 35 percent.

“Stagnant prices and continued tight margins make it even more critical for farmers to know their breakeven price and to have a sound marketing strategy,” Plastina said. “In order for this information to be useful these budgets need to be adapted to the real costs experienced by an operation. An accurate breakeven price is based on both costs and expected yields. This is a critical piece of information to have in order to create a marketing strategy.”

Ag Decision Maker file A1-20 has Decision Tools that can help farmers better calculate their operation’s cost of production, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html>. Since actual costs vary considerably from farm to farm, the editable spreadsheets can aid them in understanding their crop production budgets for 2018.

“If farmers don’t know their breakeven price, then it is really hard for them to determine when to sell their crops,” Plastina said. Read more online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/drop-land-and-some-input-costs-expected-2018>.

Harvest photo by Ann Johanns.

Swine Building Ventilation Workshops Set for March

Article | 02/08/2018 | By Colin Johnson, Iowa Pork Industry Center, 515-291-2987, colinj@iastate.edu and Sherry Hoyer, Iowa Beef Center | Iowa Pork Industry Center, 515-294-4496, shoyer@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Pork producers can learn more about building ventilation from the inside out through a series of workshops in March. Iowa Pork Industry Center joins Iowa Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in offering “Managing Your Unseen Employee: The Ventilation System” at six Iowa locations.

IPIC swine specialist Colin Johnson said this daylong workshop provides a two-pronged approach to understanding issues and consequences of decisions by combining classroom instruction with hands-on trials and application of knowledge gained in a real-world setting.

“Producers often question the efficiencies of their systems and are challenged seasonally in adjusting air exchange rates and the ventilation components within their barns,” Johnson said. “Iowa’s climate can provide a challenge but we aim to equip producers with the knowledge to make the best use of both their heating and cooling mechanisms within a given barn.”

The classroom sessions include the basics of ventilation systems, effective temperature requirements, troubleshooting tools and techniques. Producers will learn how to optimally ventilate their barns while keeping pigs of varying growth stages healthy and productive. Following the classroom learning segments, Johnson said attendees will be able to see and feel the impacts that design, maintenance and management can have on various ventilation practices through the use of Iowa State’s 24-foot mobile Swine Ventilation Trailer.



“A valuable and much-appreciated benefit of these mobile workshops with Iowa State’s ventilation trailer is the ability to try one’s hand at investigating ventilation and controller settings without risk of on-farm biosecurity breaches,” he said. “This experience is invaluable for those who are responsible for building upkeep and ventilation on their farms.”

All workshops run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Thanks to IPPA and other local sponsors, registration and the noon meal at all workshops are free. However, preregistration is required due to space limitations. Pre-register by contacting the ISU Extension and Outreach swine specialist listed for the location you wish to attend.

Workshop dates, locations and preregistration contacts:

- Thursday, March 1 - Sutherland, Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, 6320 500th St. Contact: David Stender, dstender@iastate.edu, 712-225-6196
- Tuesday, March 6 - Mason City, NIACC, 500 College Drive. Contact: Russ Euken, reuken@iastate.edu, 641-923-2856
- Wednesday, March 7 - Montezuma, Meyer Seed and Chemical, 5204 Highway 63. Contact: Colin Johnson, colinj@iastate.edu, 515-291-9287
- Thursday, March 8 - Washington, National Guard Armory, 501 Highway 1 S. Contact: Tom Miller, tmiller@iastate.edu, 319-653-4811
- Tuesday, March 20 – Postville, Postville Veterinary Clinic, 110 Hyman Dr. Contact: Mark Storlie, mstorlie@iastate.edu, 563-425-3331
- Wednesday, March 21 – Cresco, Featherlite Center, 220 7th St. West. Contact: Mark Storlie, mstorlie@iastate.edu, 563-425-3331

Herbicide Resistant Weed Concerns Shown in Iowa Farm Life Poll

Survey shows farmers concerned about the spread, management of weeds

Article | 02/08/2018 | By J. Gordon Arbuckle Jr., Sociology, 515-294-1497, arbuckle@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa – Concerns about herbicide resistance are growing in Iowa as weeds such as water hemp are showing resistance to multiple herbicide groups. The 2017 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll (SOC 3085) surveyed Iowa farmers to ask them if they have herbicide resistant weeds in their fields, to learn about perspectives on the manageability of major weeds, and to measure their level of concern about herbicide resistance.

Several survey questions measured farmer concern about herbicide resistant weeds. Nearly 80 percent agreed that they were concerned about the spread of herbicide resistant weeds from other regions of the United States and, locally, other counties. Additionally, 77 percent agreed they were concerned about spread of weeds from neighboring farms.

“Most Iowa farmers are concerned about the potential spread of herbicide resistant weeds, and many are changing their strategies due to that concern,” said Arbuckle. “The survey results show that more outreach is needed, particularly on identification and management of Palmer amaranth.

“Recent research shows that non-herbicide weed management approaches, such as extended rotations and cover crops can also be effective weed suppression techniques.” Read more at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/node/44778/>.

Crop Scout School for Growers and Beginning Crop Scouts at the ISU NE Iowa Research Farm

Contact: Terry Basol, ISU Extension Agronomist, 641-426-6801, tlbasol@iastate.edu

NASHUA, IA – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will be offering a crop scout school on Wednesday, March 21, at the ISU Northeast Research Farm near Nashua at the Borlaug Learning Center. This is an all-day class specially designed for growers and crop scouts with limited scouting experience (0-2 years). Live plants for weed ID and staging of corn and soybeans will be used for a hands-on learning experience in conjunction with a traditional lecture approach.



Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. and adjourning by 3:30 p.m. The main topics for the day include: corn & soybean growth and development, weed ID & herbicide injury, corn and soybean diseases, and insect pest identification and management. Instructors for the class will be your local ISU Extension Agronomists, Terry Basol, Brian Lang, Meaghan Anderson, and Rebecca Vittetoe. Basol points out that, “The program enables those that attend to directly apply the information provided that day back home in the fields for the upcoming crop season.” Some comments from those that have attended in the past include; “Great content, good location. Well done,” “Had a great time, thanks for offering this program!” and “Great handout material.”

Registration fee of \$75.00 covers lunch, materials, and refreshments for the day. Class size is limited to the first 30 paid registrants, so please register early to secure a seat. The registration form needs to be filled out and sent to the Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, Iowa and postmarked no later than March 17. For more information, and to obtain a copy, please contact your local Extension office, ISU Field Agronomist, or Terry Basol at 641-426-6801, tlbasol@iastate.edu.

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Extension and Outreach

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Floyd County Extension and Outreach

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

2:10 PM - 2:40 PM [Pick A Better Snack - RRRM](#) Rockford

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM [Clover Kids - RRRM](#) Rockford

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM [Floyd Co Budget Hearing & Extension Council Meeting](#) Charles City

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM [Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training](#) Nashua

Thursday, February 22, 2018

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM [Fresh Conversations](#) Charles City

Monday, February 26, 2018

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM [4-H Leaders Training](#) Charles City

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Seed Treatment PSEP](#) Charles City

To view this newsletter online or find more information about these events, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd or call 641- 228-1453.