

CROPCHAT

ISU Extension and Outreach information and resources for northeast Iowa

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To view this and previous issues of the Crop Chat newsletter, please go to <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk/news/crop-chat-terry-basol>.

This is a Good Time to Cool Grain for Winter Storage.

Given the current cooler temperatures, and the forecast for the next few days, this is a perfect time to cool down stored grain that is planned to be kept through the winter. Following is an ICM blog article that was written by Greg Brenneman, ISU Ag Engineering Specialist, and Charles Hurburgh, Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, that explains this in more detail. It can also be accessed at the ICM blog page here: [Now is the Time for Farmers to Turn on Fans](#)

Up to this point in the harvest season we have been short on grain dry down and cooling weather. Corn moisture percentages have been hanging in the 20's, sometimes in the upper 20's. This past week eliminated much of the moisture, but favorable field dry down weather rarely continues into November. Farmers should now focus their attention on cooling, both of wet corn in holding or air dry situations, and of dried corn being removed from dryers. Inadequate or delayed cooling is very costly to future storage properties. Remember, a significant portion of the 2017 crop will be held over for more than one year, as carryovers expand. Starting Friday morning, great conditions arise to get grain cooled down from this Fall's harvest. With the average daily temperatures predicted to be in the mid- 30s to low- 40s for Friday well into next week, this will be a perfect time to get recently harvested corn and soybeans cooled to a temperature required for winter storage. Allowable storage time for grain roughly doubles for every 10 degree drop in temperature. So, getting grain cooled down soon after harvest will significantly improve chances of keeping it in good condition while in storage.

In order to determine the length of time it will take to cool a bin of grain, first determine how much fan horsepower you have per 1,000 bushels. For example, if you have a 5 hp fan on a 20,000-bushel bin, you have 0.25 hp/1,000 bu. Divide this number into 15 and you get an estimate of the hours it will take to cool the full bin. In this example, $15 / 0.25 = 60$ hours.

Air dew point is a rough measure of how low grain temperature can be reduced. For example, right now the temperature is 63°F and the dew point is 44°F. A 20- degree difference is good; the larger the difference, the greater chance that air will dry corn, and 44°F is approaching the below 40°F temperatures required for storage.

There will be a lot of long term storage this year, so cool rapidly now to prevent mold and insect damage next Spring and Summer.

Upcoming Events

Cover Crop and Soil Conservation Field Day— Near Aplington, IA November 8, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Iowa Learning Farms, along with the Middle Cedar Watershed Project, will host a cover crop and soil conservation field day on Wednesday, November 8th. The 12:00-2:00 p.m. field day will be held at Jim Lindaman's farm, rural Aplington. The event is free and open to the public and includes a complementary meal.

Also speaking at the field day is Rick Juchems, Butler County farmer and SWCD Commissioner. He will share his experiences with drilling soybeans into standing cereal rye and the challenges he has overcome to successfully add cover crops to his operation. Greg Brenneman, field agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will discuss the importance of soil conservation as well as highlight practices that can help keep the soil in place and encourage soil health. Adam Rodenberg, Middle Cedar Watershed Project coordinator, will provide an overview of the project and share ways to get involved. For more information, click here: [ILF Cover Crop Field Day Nov. 8](#)

Cover crop, strip-tillage and water quality field day— Near Floyd, IA November 16, from 10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.

Iowa Learning Farms, along with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, will host a cover crop field day on Thursday, November 16th. The 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. field day will be hosted by Ben and Andy Johnson, rural Floyd. The event is free and open to the public and includes a complementary meal.

The field day will offer an opportunity to learn how labor availability and profitability have played into the Johnson's decision to adopt the reduced tillage practices. Ben will also share their experiences with cover crops and discuss how they have overcome challenges. The agenda will continue with Matt Helmers, ISU professor and Ag and Bio-systems engineer, highlighting the research behind the Conservation Learning Lab project and leading a discussion of conservation practices that can help improve soil health and water quality. Liz Juchems, Iowa Learning Farms events coordinator, share results from cover crop projects examining species selection, seeding techniques, water quality and soil health indicators like earthworms. Weather permitting, a field tour of nearby cover crop fields will conclude the program. For more information, click here: [ILF Cover Crop, Strip Tillage, and Water Quality Field Day Nov.16](#)

Ag Chemical Dealer Updates 2017—

Iowa City, IA— November 21, Registration: 8:30 am, Program: 9:00 am, Conclude: 3:45 pm— Clarion Highlander Hotel and Conference Center

Ames, IA— December 13, Registration: 9:00 am, Program: 9:30 am, Conclude: 4:00 pm— Quality Inn and Suites/Starlight Village

Ag Chemical Dealer Updates deliver the latest crop production recommendations, news and information directly from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Meetings review the positives and negatives of the previous growing season and prepare seed, chemical and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists for the challenges of the crop production year ahead.

Each meeting will qualify for Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) continuing education credit.

Attendance at an Ag Chemical Dealer Update qualifies as continuing education for **Commercial Pesticide Applicator** recertification for **calendar year 2017** in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Recertification is included in the registration fee. **Applicators must attend the entire program to receive recertification.** For further details and registration information, click here: [Ag Chemical Dealer Updates](#)

Integrated Crop Management Conference

November 29-30, Iowa State Center (Scheman Building & Fisher Theater), Ames, Iowa

The Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management Conference is Iowa's premier crop production education event. The ICM Conference offers workshops focusing on the latest in crop production technology. Experts from Iowa and surrounding states will provide research updates and results in soil fertility, soil and water management, crop production and pest management. Attendees can choose from up to 6 topics each hour. This format allows you to customize your conference experience to meet your interests and CCA credit needs. For further details and registration information, click here: [2017 Integrated Crop Management Conference](#)