



AG NEWS TODAY

ISU Extension and Outreach information and resources for north central Iowa

September 19, 2018

Floyd County

ISU Extension and Outreach

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Find us at www.extension.iastate.edu  

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

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach

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

A Note from the Director

This periodical from our Cerro Gordo County Extension office has been a source of pride for all of us here in North Iowa. Our own JoAnn Bartusek has done an exceptional job these past 5 years in providing a great read for many of us in North Iowa – so much so that she has received calls from offices around the state inquiring how she does what she does. In a word, it’s passion.

After fifteen and a half years of providing great work, service and passion to ISU Extension and Outreach, Ms. Bartusek will be retiring from her duties as office manager, bookkeeper, and editor of *Ag News Today* to focus her passions on her family. We wish her well and are excited to send her off on her next big adventure! And we will do our best to continue *Ag News Today* in ways that will make JoAnn and all of North Iowa proud to be a part of the great work of Agriculture.

John Sjolinder

ISU Extension and Outreach Cerro Gordo County

Conservation Practices and Land Leases

AgDM Newsletter-August 2018, By Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension Field Agronomist, north central Iowa, 515-231-2830, amrieck@iastate.edu

Often times I hear from both landowners and tenants questioning how to incorporate specific conservation practices into leases. The first step to take is for both parties to meet and have an open discussion about the goals of including specific practices. Specific practices such as wanting a tenant to include a cover crop on crop acres takes planning in advance, maybe up to a year in advance. A conversation about who is paying for the seed and the seeding of the cover crop, termination costs, possible decrease in commodity crop yields and other factors should be included in the discussion. Other practices such as moving from conventional tillage to strip-tillage or no-tillage may require a significant investment on the part of the tenant in terms of machinery. In either case, these annual practices may require a huge learning and adoption curve so expectations from both parties need to be understood and discussed. Starting on a small number of acres is highly advisable.



More permanent practices such as waterways and terraces are likely to benefit the landowner long-term more than the tenant and may be a cost the landowner incurs. Management and maintenance by the tenant may be required so including language in the lease can be specific to the situation. There are many conservation practices available that address soil erosion, water quality and wildlife benefits, but for the purpose of this article let’s focus on cover crops.

Cover crops are loosely defined as closely planted crops that bridge the gap between harvest and planting of our primary commodity crops such as corn and soybean. During this time much of Iowa’s landscape is bare of vegetation and is most vulnerable to water and wind erosion as well as nutrient loss. Cover crops are planted for many reasons including but not limited to, 1) reduce erosion, 2) cycle nutrients such as nitrogen that could otherwise be lost to

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1.) leaching, 3) improve soil health and 4) feed source for animals. If a landowner or tenant is considering cover crops to meet any of the above reasons here is a list of things to consider and ways to start the conversation.

- Identify the goal(s) of growing the cover crop.
- Talk to experienced cover crop users to learn how they got started and understand benefits and challenges experienced.
- Have an open discussion on the potential for yield loss in the commodity crop.
- Explore and discuss local cost-share opportunities and funding cycles.
- Discuss a termination plan. How will the cover crop be terminated?
- Possibly incentivize tenant by offering to share seed and seeding costs or even lowering cash rent.
- Have a back-up plan and communicate consistently so expectations can be tempered. What if it does not rain and the seed does not germinate? What if herbicide carryover impacts cover crop growth? What if a wet spring delays termination and subsequently planting of corn or beans is delayed which could impact yield? Discuss options and expectations that will define success or failure.

More of this article and links to other resources regarding leases and conservation practices can be found online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/others/RieAug18.html>.

Fall Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Recertification Courses

Continuing Instruction Course	Date	Start
Aquatic, Forest, and Right-of-Way Pest Management Categories: 2 (Forest Pest), 5 (Aquatic Pest), 6 (Right-of-Way), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	10/17/18	9 AM
Mosquito/Public Health Pest Control Categories: 7D (Community Insect Management), 8 (Public Health Pest), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	10/25/18	9 AM
Greenhouse Short Course Categories: 3G (Greenhouse Pest Control), and 10 (Research and Demonstration) <i>For registration information call (515) 294-6429 or email anr@iastate.edu</i>	11/02/18	All Day
Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators Categories: 3O (Ornamental Pest), 3T (Turf Pest), 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	11/07/18	9 AM
Fumigation (Commercial and Private Fumigators) Categories: 7C (Fumigation), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	11/13/18	9 AM
Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, and Plant Disease Management Categories: 1A (Agricultural Weed), 1B (Agricultural Insect), 1C (Agricultural Crop Disease), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	11/14/18	9 AM
Pest Control Operators Categories: 7A (General & Household Pest), 7B (Termite Control), 8 (Public Health Control), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	12/05/18	9 AM
Greenhouse and Ornamental Applicators Categories: 3G (Greenhouse), 3O (Ornamental Pest Control), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	Employers will be contacted when program available	
Aerial Applicators Categories: 11 (Aerial Application), and 10 (Research and Demonstration)	Program Available. Contact County Extension Office	

Ag Decision Maker Article Discusses USDA Payment Programs

ARC/PLC payment limited in 2018, but funds available through Trade Assistance Package

September 13, 2018 | By Chad Hart, Extension Economist, 515-294-9911, chart@iastate.edu & Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist/Assistant Professor in Economics, 515-294-6160, plastina@iastate.edu

AMES, Iowa — Few Iowa farms will receive payments this fall from current farm bill programs ARC or PLC, but payments will be available throughout the state to producers through the Market Facilitation Program, one component of the three programs included in the recently announced short-term tariff relief program.

A breakdown of payments that may be available is the focus of a new Iowa State University Extension and Outreach article titled “What can Iowa farmers expect from ARC/PLC and the Trade Assistance Package in 2018?” The article is written by Chad Hart, associate professor and extension economist, and Alejandro Plastina, assistant professor and extension economist at Iowa State. The article can be found in the September issue of Ag Decision Maker.

A very limited number of farmers will be eligible to receive ARC or PLC payments in 2018. Only six counties (Davis, Jefferson, Mahaska, Union, Van Buren and Wapello) had ARC payments triggered for corn and only five counties (Davis, Jefferson, Lucas, Van Buren and Wapello) for soybean.

PLC payments for corn were triggered for the third consecutive year, while no PLC payments for soybean were triggered.

“Since only about 1 percent of all Iowa base crop acres are enrolled in the PLC program, the impact of PLC payments on Iowa farms is very limited,” Plastina said.

Trade Assistance Package—A trio of programs have been announced by the United States Department of Agriculture to help farmers deal with the short-term consequences of U.S. trade disputes. A total of \$12 billion has been authorized, with an estimated \$6.31 billion available this fall. The remaining funds could be utilized for a second round of support later this winter, likely in December.



Sign-up, <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/09/04/usda-launches-trade-mitigation-programs>, for the various relief programs began on Sept. 4. Applicants must have an ownership interest in a farm, be actively engaged in farming, have an average adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for the 2014-16 tax years and have complied with regulations on highly erodible land and wetland conservation.

The USDA’s estimates show Iowa farmers stand to gain over \$550 million from the Market Facilitation Program, with most of those payments going to pork and soybean producers. MFP payments have a \$125,000 cap per person or legal entity for crops and a similar cap of \$125,000 for livestock, but the cap works differently between crops and livestock.

“The cap for crop producers is a combined one, summing payments for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans and wheat,” Hart said. “The cap for livestock products is separate from the crops, so diversified producers with both crop and livestock production can receive more than \$125,000 from the program.”

Payment rates were determined by the USDA and are listed in detail by commodity and payment rate in the Ag Decision Maker article.

The USDA also announced the Food Purchase and Distribution Program, which will purchase a variety of products that face trade disruptions. An additional \$200 million to the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program will be used for cost-share assistance on agricultural market development.

September Seminars—Keeping Up With Change

September 20 Agricultural Law Seminar: Ag Nuisance, Farm Probate, Water Quality, Health Plan Options, Checkoff Programs, Farm Bill, Conservation Provisions and Trusts and Leases, Iowa’s New Partition Law, Ethics for the Rural Attorney, and More!

September 21 Farm Tax Workshop: 199A and Farm Entities, Depreciation of Farm Assets, Form 4797 Transactions, Farm Loss Issues, Non-Cash Transactions, Involuntary Conversions, Tax Implications of Payments from Energy Companies, Farm Case Study, and More!

For more information or to register, go online to <https://www.calt.iastate.edu/seminar/2018-09-20/september-seminars-agricultural-law-seminar-farm-tax-workshop>! Questions? Contact micki@iastate.edu.

Annual Iowa Forage and Grasslands Conference in Des Moines

August 31, 2018 | By Patrick Wall, Extension Beef Specialist, 515-450-7665, patwall@iastate.edu

DES MOINES, Iowa – For the first time since 2014, the annual conference of the Iowa Forage and Grasslands Council will be held in Des Moines during November. The 2018 Iowa Forage and Grasslands Conference is set for Nov. 26-27 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. While plans are still being finalized, two featured speakers are sure to draw attention of IFGC members and others interested in forage, grazing and grasslands topics.

New this year, the event will begin with a bus tour of cover crop grazing farms in central Iowa. This tour is sponsored by the Fall Grazing Cover Crops project funded by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Award Number 2015-49200-24226, and the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University. Following the tour, a producer panel will discuss cover crops, along with the presentations by Gerrish and Shelton.



The Tuesday agenda will include more in-depth sessions by Gerrish and Shelton as well as breakout sessions on grazing, wildlife and conservation and other production topics. Additional conference and registration information will be available soon on both the IFGC website <http://iowaforage.org/> and the IBC website <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/>.

For more details, contact either IFGC President Patrick Wall at patwall@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-450-7665, or IFGC annual meeting chairman Jeff Matthias at Jeff.Matthias@ia.usda.gov or phone at 515-323-2257. Wall is an extension beef specialist with IBC and ISU Extension and Outreach.

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Floyd County Extension and Outreach

Calendar of Area Events

Monday, September 24, 2018

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM [4H Leader's Meeting](#) Charles City

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM [Farm Safety Day](#) Charles City

Thursday, October 4, 2018

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM [Pick A Better Snack - IC](#) Charles City

3:15 PM - 5:00 PM [Clover Kids- Charles City](#) Charles City

Sunday, October 7, 2018

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM [4-H Awards Night](#) Charles City

Sunday, October 7— Saturday, October 13, 2018

8:00 AM - 8:00 PM [National 4-H Week](#) Charles City

Sunday, October 14, 2018

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM [4-H Harvest Party](#) Nashua

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM [Roadside, Forest, Aquatic Pest Management](#) Charles City

Thursday, October 25, 2018

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM [Mosquito/Public Health Pesticide Applicator Training](#) 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.