

ISU Extension in Iowa County

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ISU Extension and Outreach Celebrates National Ag Day - March 24

Article Author: Jay Harmon, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

National Ag Day was March 24. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is committed to the many ways this important industry touches all of us.

Whether it's dealing with adverse weather, volatility in the markets, or a world health crisis, every day is ag day for a farmer and for the consumers who depend on the goods and services farmers produce.



This year's National Ag Day theme was "Food Brings Everyone to The Table." Events were planned across the country to recognize the many contributions of U.S. agriculture, although some events were canceled or rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Agriculture touches each of us in a multitude of ways," said Jay Harmon, associate dean for extension and outreach programs and director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. "Obviously, food, fiber and energy are the main products, but agriculture also provides public value through efforts in sustainability and conservation of our natural resources."

This past year, ISU Extension and Outreach Agriculture and Natural Resources continued to provide the information and answers that producers and consumers need. Here is a brief look at the numbers:

- 1,961 meetings, workshops and field days were held, providing information on production, business analysis and conservation management.
- Webpage views exceeded 9.43 million views from 5.29 million unique visitors.
- 479 research articles and technical papers were authored by Agriculture and Natural Resources staff, with nearly 2 million print publications downloaded or distributed from the ISU Extension and Outreach Store.
- 90 publications were fully remediated as part of ISU Extension and Outreach's eAccessibility initiative.
- 350 swine producers attended biosecurity training and learned how to minimize common biosecurity mistakes.
- Crop producers received important updates on controlling thistle caterpillars that led to an economic value of \$11-15 per acre for soybean growers.
- More than 115,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were donated to food pantries and food banks across Iowa by 22 Iowa Master Gardener organizations.
- 145 people completed the Master Conservationist Program educational training offered by ISU Extension and Outreach.

"Ag and Natural Resources Extension is dedicated to supporting farmers in an endeavor to provide safe, nutritious, and environmentally sound food in an economical way," Harmon continued.

To learn more about specific resources available, contact an ISU Extension and Outreach specialist or visit the ISU Extension Store.

Coronavirus Creates Trade Deal Uncertainty

Article Author: Wendong Zhang , Assistant Professor and Extension Economist

With planting season just weeks away, news of the coronavirus has farmers wondering what to expect in the marketplace and how it might impact the recently announced phase one trade deal with China.

According to the deal, China has agreed to buy \$12.5 billion in U.S. agricultural products in 2020, and \$19.5 billion more in 2021. Recent world events have caused uncertainty as to when those shipments will begin and whether the targets will be met.

“The farmers are hopeful, but they want to understand how the phase one deal will impact their income and export potential, and the coronavirus adds significant uncertainty” said Wendong Zhang, an assistant professor and extension economist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

In an article he co-authored for The Conversation – an independent and nonprofit source of news analysis from academic experts, Zhang says China can still make the purchases noted in the deal, at least for the year 2020, but current events will make doing so more challenging.

“A resilient and recovering Chinese economy means the country can comply with the trade deal and potentially minimize damage to the U.S. economy from an ongoing trade war,” according to the article, which also adds, “Make no mistake. These disruptions have been profound.”

New restrictions in China and the U.S. have led to significant reductions in Chinese imports, according to Zhang, with the possibility that the start date for the phase one deal could be pushed back from February, to late April or May. The rapid spread of coronavirus in Europe and the U.S. makes Chinese buyers even more cautious regarding overseas personnel and cargo flows.

In the article, which Zhang co-authored with Tao Xiong, professor of agricultural economics at Huazhong Agricultural University in China and a visiting scholar at the Iowa State Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, the authors say another factor affecting trade is market prices.

The phase one deal allows Chinese agricultural purchases to be based on market prices and commercial considerations, rather than quarterly purchase targets or commodity-specific purchase contracts. This provision gives China more flexibility with what it purchases, according to the article. For example, China recently bid on U.S. sorghum.

Zhang said there is reason for U.S. producers to be optimistic, including China’s own post-coronavirus recovery and increased demand for pork and other proteins, due mostly to the devastating effects of African swine fever.

“Once life returns to normal, as the coronavirus outbreak slows globally, I think the orders and shipments will slowly ramp up. But the coronavirus will definitely be a hard hit,” Zhang said.



Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Waives Deadline for Pesticide Applicators to Renew Certification

Article Author: Keely Coppess, IDALS Communications Director



In-person testing required to renew a pesticide applicator certification must be completed by Dec. 31, 2020

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced on March 23 that the deadline for commercial pesticide applicators to renew their certifications has been waived by a [proclamation](#) signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds on March 22.

Iowans who were certified through Dec. 31, 2019, can retain their status and now have until Dec. 31, 2020, to submit the testing or training required to renew a pesticide applicator certification.

This waiver comes after the Department canceled its in-person testing sessions through March 31, based on social distancing recommendations from the CDC. Applicators still need to meet pesticide certification standards by Dec. 31, 2020. They are encouraged to apply for recertification upon completion of the testing or training requirements.

More details are available at iowaagriculture.gov/covid-19.

Private Pesticide Certification: The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has extended the deadline to attend the 2019-2020 Private applicator Continuing Instruction Course to September 30, 2020.

Spring Corn Nitrogen Fertilization Considerations

Article Author: John Sawyer, professor of agronomy and extension specialist in soil fertility and nutrient management at ISU

Perhaps you did not get planned nitrogen (N) applications accomplished last fall. Or you are pondering what the spring 2020 weather conditions might be – another wet spring? Are you are considering use of different products; if so how should they be handled?

Below are some key points that ISU Extension soil fertility specialist John Sawyer shared in the ICM article “Spring Corn Nitrogen Fertilization Consideration.” View the full article here: <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2020/03/spring-corn-nitrogen-fertilization-considerations>.

Preplant applications: Urea, urea-ammonium nitrate solution (UAN), and other products

- Incorporating or injecting urea or UAN solution rather than leaving the fertilizer on the soil surface can prevent volatile N loss or reduce runoff if a rapid rainfall event occurs.
- Predicting the amount of volatile N loss is difficult, but loss increases with high surface crop residue (especially no-till), moist soils that are drying, warm soil temperatures, many days without rainfall, high soil pH, low soil cation exchange capacity, and higher N application rates.
- A ¼-½ inch rainfall within approximately two days after application of urea or UAN will eliminate volatile loss concern.
- A urease inhibitor can be added to slow urea conversion, providing more time for rainfall to move urea into the soil.
- A polymer coated urea is designed to delay urea release until soils warm up; however, to avoid product runoff, incorporate into the soil.
- Surface broadcast options, especially adapted to no-till, include ammonium nitrate and ammonium sulfate. Note that these granulated products are not used extensively in Iowa, so availability may be limited.
- Nitrification inhibitors have not shown adequate yield response in Iowa research when spring applied to justify use with ammonia, urea, or ammonium containing fertilizers.

Anhydrous ammonia before planting

- When applying anhydrous ammonia in the spring prior to planting, there is the potential risk for damaging corn seedling and roots.
- While there is no exact “safe” waiting period before planting as injury can happen even if planting is delayed for a considerable amount of time, the following management practices can help reduce injury: wait to apply when soil conditions are good, have a deep injection depth (6-7 inches or more), and wait several days until planting.

Split/sidedress applications

- Sidedress injection can begin immediately after planting if corn rows are visible or GPS guidance is used. Be careful so that soil moved during injection does not cover planted rows or small corn plants.
- With sidedressing, a urease inhibitor with surface applied and non-incorporated urea and UAN could help reduce volatile loss. The rate of N applied, and the amount of potential N loss must be large enough to offset the inhibitor cost. Rainfall will eliminate volatile loss and is needed to move surface applied N into the root zone.
- Broadcasting granulated urea, ammonium sulfate, or ammonium nitrate across growing corn can cause leaf spotting or edge browning when fertilizer granules fall into the corn whorl. The chance of damage increases with larger corn and higher application rates; however, as long as the fertilizer distribution is good, not concentrated over plants, and the rate reasonable, the leaf damage should only be cosmetic.
- Broadcasting UAN can also cause leaf burn and reduced early growth.
- If N is to be sidedress applied, then rates can be adjusted from results of the late spring soil nitrate test (LSNT). Soil samples, 0-12 inch depth, are collected when corn is 6-12 inches tall with rate adjustment based on the measured nitrate-N concentration. See ISU Extension and Outreach publication CROP 3140, [Use of the Late-Spring Soil Nitrate Test in Iowa Corn Production](#).

Terminating Cover Crops this Spring

Article Author: Meaghan Anderson, Field Agronomist, Rebecca Vittetoe, Field Agronomist, Bob Hartzler, Professor of Agronomy

As temperatures warm this spring, cover crop termination is on the to-do list for some Iowa fields. Killing cover crops with herbicides is the most common termination method. The effectiveness of herbicides at terminating a cover crop depends primarily on three things:

1. Cover crop species and growth stage
2. Herbicide and rate used
3. Environment

continued on page 3...

Terminating Cover Crops this Spring (*continued*)

Article Author: Meaghan Anderson, Field Agronomist, Rebecca Vittetoe, Field Agronomist, Bob Hartzler, Professor of Agronomy

The cool and fluctuating temperatures encountered in spring often make terminating cover crops challenging. Farmers are limited to a few products like paraquat (Gramoxone; group 22), glufosinate (Liberty; group 10), or glyphosate (Roundup; group 9) for cover crop termination. Glyphosate is the most consistent option for termination, especially as cover crops increase in size. The group 1 herbicides (e.g. clethodim, fluazifop, etc.) do not provide effective control of cereal rye. If cereal rye or other grass species are seeded with a legume, inclusion of 2,4-D or dicamba with glyphosate will improve consistency of control. This addition can also be helpful if broadleaf winter annuals are present.

In a study encompassing eight site-years across five states, treatments containing glyphosate provided the most consistent cereal rye control (Figure 1). Cereal rye ranged from 5-54 inches tall at termination in the experiments. While control of cereal rye did not differ statistically between most paraquat and glyphosate treatments, paraquat-based treatments were much less consistent than glyphosate-based treatments. Glufosinate treatments were less effective and less consistent than glyphosate treatments. While paraquat can provide acceptable control in some situations, neither glyphosate alternative (paraquat, glufosinate) provides as consistent control as glyphosate under the cool and variable spring conditions. Dicamba combinations with the three burndown herbicides provided similar results to 2,4-D combinations (data not presented).

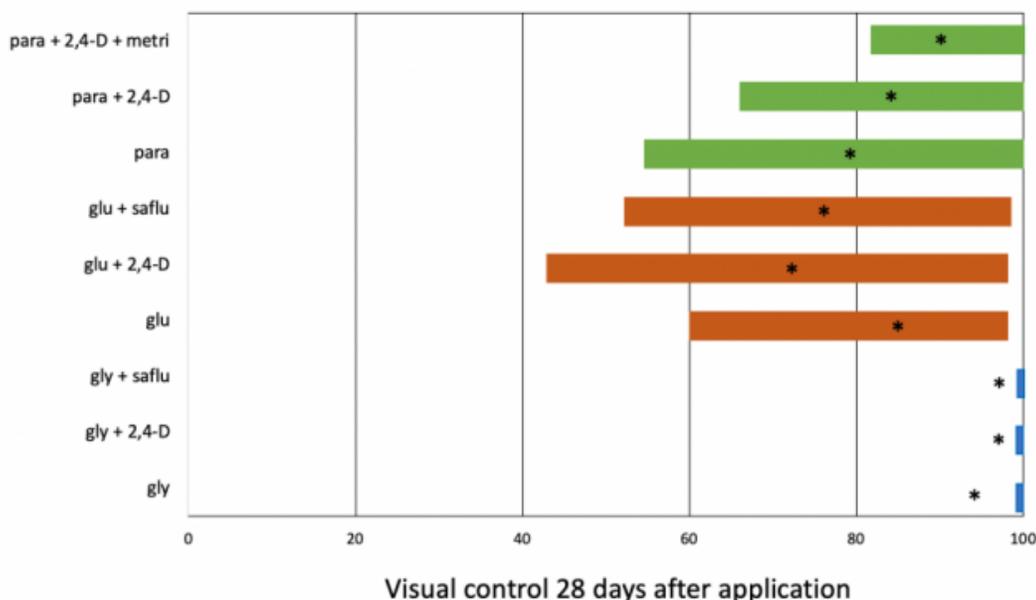


Figure 1. Control of cereal rye cover crops with select herbicide treatments.

* represents treatment mean; box represents the mid 50% of the data set, providing information on consistency of treatments. Herbicide rates: glyphosate: 1.0 lb/A; paraquat: 0.75 lb/A; glufosinate: 0.5 lb/A; 2,4-D: 0.5 lb/A; saflufenacil: 0.36 oz/A; metribuzin: 0.12 lb/A. Herbicides applied in 15 gal/A. Adapted from Whalen et al. 2020.



Figure 2. Cereal rye cover crop at the ISU McNay Farm planted early September 2017. Photo taken March 30, 2018.

Vegetative growth in rye requires temperatures of at least 38 F. While air temperatures may be favorable some days, cool soil temperatures can slow growth. Herbicides are most effective on actively growing plants; thus, very early spring termination treatments may provide less than complete control. Leaving a small check strip is a simple and easy way to see if the cover crop is dying following termination.

Iowa State University researchers generally recommend terminating the cover crop with herbicide 10 -14 days prior to planting corn to protect yield; however, that time frame is less critical for soybeans. Waiting to terminate until after your crop is planted, especially in non-GMO corn, can be risky. Termination options are more limited, and the cover crop can quickly become an uncontrollable weed in non-GMO crops. Additionally, it is important to check with your crop insurance agent for any specific cover crop requirements that they may have prior to planting corn or soybeans.

Always look at the herbicide labels for directions and any restrictions for the subsequent crop. A quick and easy place to look up herbicide labels is www.cdms.net or www.greenbook.net.

Reference: Whalen DM, Bish MD, Young BG, Conley SP, Reynolds DB, Norsworthy JK, Bradley KW (2020) Herbicide programs for the termination of grass and broadleaf cover crop species. *Weed Technol.* 34: 1-10.

Managing Residual Herbicide with Cover Crops

Article Author: Bob Hartzler, Extension Weed Scientist, Meaghan Anderson, Extension Field Agronomist

A common question when incorporating cover crops into a production system is, will the cover crop interfere with the performance of residual herbicides included with the burndown treatment? This article discusses the fate of residual herbicides applied to crop residue and living cover crops, and how this may influence herbicide effectiveness.

Crop residue and residual herbicides

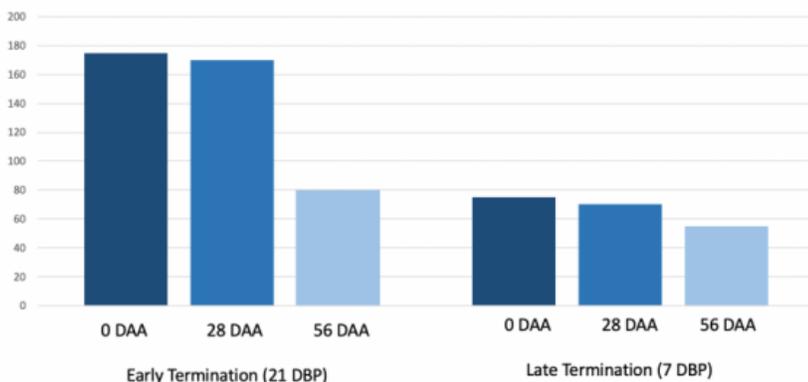
Considerable research has evaluated the fate of herbicide intercepted by crop residue present on the soil surface in conservation tillage systems. Agricultural Engineers at Iowa State (Baker and Shiers, 1989) determined 70-90% of preemergence herbicides was washed off corn residue with 2.7 inches of rain, with the majority coming off in the first 0.6 inch of rain. There were small differences in washoff of different herbicides. This research indicates that herbicide interception by dead plant material isn't a major concern.

Cover crops and residual herbicides

While herbicide interception by dead plant material isn't a major concern, interception by living plants could be a concern. Weed scientists at the University of Missouri (Whalen et al. 2020) studied how cover crop termination timing affected the quantity of sulfentrazone reaching the soil. Several cover crop species were established in the fall, and a combination of 2,4-D and glyphosate was applied either 21 or 7 days before soybean planting to terminate the cover crops. Authority Maxx (sulfentrazone plus chlorimuron) was included in the burndown mixture to provide residual weed control. The concentration of sulfentrazone in the upper five inches of the soil profile was measured immediately after application and throughout the growing season to determine the impact of interception by cover crops on the availability of residual herbicides.

Averaged over cover crop species, there was approximately a 50% increase in biomass between the early and late termination dates. This increase in biomass between termination dates reduced the amount of sulfentrazone directly reaching the soil by more than 50% (Figure 1). Sulfentrazone soil concentrations declined by about 5% in both termination dates during the first 28 days following application, suggesting sulfentrazone intercepted by the large cover crops (late termination date) was not released into the soil as the cover crop degraded. The reduced availability of sulfentrazone was reflected in waterhemp control, with a 20% reduction in control between the early and late termination dates.

Figure 1. Effect of cover crop termination timing on sulfentrazone soil concentration.



Managing residual herbicides with cover crops

So how do we best integrate residual herbicides with cover crops? If cover crops are terminated early (less than 12-18 inches in height), residual herbicides should be included with the burndown application since there isn't enough cover crop biomass to significantly suppress weeds. While a portion of the residual herbicide will be intercepted by cover crops with early termination dates, small cover crop plants break down quickly and it is likely some of the intercepted herbicide will reach the soil.

As termination is delayed and more cover crop biomass accumulates, the answer isn't quite as simple. In fields with dense, uniform cover crop biomass, omitting the residual herbicide from the termination application and including it with the postemergence application may be advantageous. In this scenario the cover crop biomass can provide effective early-season weed control, replacing the residual herbicide applied at planting. Unfortunately, many fields have uneven stands of cover crop where there are areas with insufficient cover crop biomass to control weeds. Due to the risks of escaped weeds and increased selection pressure for herbicide resistance associated with total postemergence programs, including a residual product in fields lacking uniform stands of cover crops will be necessary.

Baker, J.L. and L.E. Shiers. 1989. Effects of herbicide formulation and application method on washoff from corn residue. *Trans. ASAE*. 32:830-833.

Whalen, D. M., L.S. Shergill, L.P. Kinne, M.D. Bish and K.W. Bradley. 2020. Integration of residual herbicides with cover crop termination in soybean. *Weed Technol.* 34:11-18.

Now is the time to finish drying or remove wet grain in your bin.

Article Author: Kristina TeBockhorst & Shawn Shouse, Ag Engineering Field Specialists

Many farmers put grain in the bin wetter than normal last fall and were somewhat rescued by the cold weather that allowed them to put cold grain into storage. In the coming weeks as spring starts to bring warmer temperatures, grain held through the winter at a high moisture content should be dried or marketed as soon as possible to prevent quality loss and mold growth.

Monitor grain condition and act fast if hot spots, a musty/moldy smell, or elevated CO₂ levels (above 600 ppm and rising) are observed. Grain held this winter at a very high moisture content (above 20%) may have already used its safe allowable storage life. For this grain, it may not be advised to attempt to store it any longer after drying it this spring. Observe the allowable storage time for grain in the recent blog post, *Cooling Grain Impacts on Grain Quality and Shelf-Life* (crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/), and be sure to account for a shorter allowable storage time with low test weight and low quality grain.



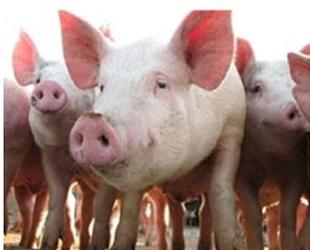
Wet grain should be dried as soon as spring temperatures start to warm. Conditions become suitable for natural air/low temperature bin drying when average daily temperatures are above 40 degrees. The air dewpoint temperature gives a good indication of whether air has much capacity to dry; a 20-degree difference between the air temperature and the air dewpoint temperature indicates good conditions for drying. See more details about natural air/low temperature bin drying at extension.umn.edu/corn-harvest/natural-air-corn-drying.

Do not warm grain that is already dry if you intend to keep storing it; instead, run aeration cycles in cool weather to maintain grain temperature below 40 degrees. The dewpoint temperature tells you about how cool grain will get during aeration. A large drying fan can cool a bin in about 15 hours, while an aeration fan will take close to a week to cool a bin. Estimate the time to cool a bin with your size fan in the recent *Cool Stored Grain Now* blog (crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/). If grain temperature is well below freezing, such as 20 degrees, gradually warming it to just above freezing may prevent excessive condensation and frozen chunks this spring or summer.

With the potential for poor quality grain in the bin, it is especially important to use good grain safety practices. Poor quality grain can cause problems such as surface crusting, hollow spots in the grain mass, grain that won't flow when unloading, and sidewall buildup in the bin. Do not enter a bin if any of these occur, and instead attempt to work on the grain from above by poking and prodding it. If you have good quality grain and you must enter a bin, have an observer with you, use a life harness, and lockout/tagout grain equipment to keep it off.

Swine Producers Prepare to Sell Ractopamine-free Pigs

Article Author: Colin Johnson, ISU Extension and Outreach Swine Specialist



Most United States meat processors have recently announced their intention to process only pigs that are free of ractopamine. This has led to many questions about what it means to sell “ractopamine-free pigs.” Ractopamine (commonly marketed as Paylean™) is an FDA approved feed ingredient fed to finishing pigs in the last 2-4 weeks of growth. A “repartitioning agent,” ractopamine redirects nutrients from fat deposition to lean deposition, thereby enhancing carcass content in addition to improving growth rate and feed efficiency. However, due to trade barriers some international markets no longer accept pork from pigs fed ractopamine. With the USA exporting 27% of its pork production, seeking international markets is vital.

Locke Karriker, professor with the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at Iowa State and Chris Rademacher, clinical professor and extension swine veterinarian at Iowa State, have developed a frequently asked questions document to help answer questions in regard to removing ractopamine from feeding programs. The article “Ractopamine Free Pork and Implications for Use in Growing Pigs: Frequently Asked Questions” offers a summary of the relevant scientific data about ractopamine, and includes producer experiences and anecdotal information to guide producers adjusting to the new requirements. This document is intended for pork producers, swine exhibition participants, feed manufacturers and veterinarians.

Also, a document from Jodi Sterle, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State, incorporates available information into the decision-making process for management of market hog exhibitions, fairs and shows, by providing options for consideration. The article “Ractopamine (Paylean™) Use in Show Pigs: Show Management Considerations for 2020” offers information, options and explanations for organizers, exhibitors and others associated with swine shows. It cautions readers that every situation is unique, and each show, fair and exhibition must make the decision that works for their specific circumstance.

For more information, visit the Iowa Pork Industry Center online: <https://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>.

Get Your Lawn Ready for the Spring Season

Article Author: Adam Thoms, Assistant Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist & Zach Clemens, Communications Specialist, Integrated Pest Management

Contrary to the snow and cold temperatures some Iowa residents received this past weekend, it is officially spring, according to the calendar at least. This is a good time to be thinking about your spring and summer lawn care. Working in the yard or garden can also be a good distraction while dutifully following social distancing guidelines.

Now is a great time to work on your lawn mower, said Adam Thoms, assistant professor and turfgrass extension specialist at Iowa State University.

“Make sure the oil is clean and full,” Thoms said. “Knock the dust out of the air filter. Sharpen your mower blades, because if you have a mower with a dull blade, it will cause the turfgrass to use more water to heal from a cut.”

Also, Thoms said to make sure your cut height is set for the length you want, ideally 3-3.5 inches.

Fertilizing turfgrass is very common in the spring, and nitrogen will get it growing. An actively growing and dense yard is the best way to limit or prevent weed growth. Thoms said that it is typically recommended to apply about ½ to ¾ of a pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

“If you are concerned about crabgrass you will want to apply a crabgrass preemergence herbicide typically by May 1 to prevent the summer annual from being a problem,” Thoms said.

After fertilizing in the spring, don’t apply more nitrogen until around Labor Day in September. At that time, apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Thoms said you can also do an October feeding as well, with 1 pound per 1,000 sq. ft.

“The fall feedings will feed the roots and make stronger plants for the next growing season. A strong root will be able to survive droughts better, as well as hold soil better than unfertilized turf.”

If you want to sow grass seed this year, it is always important to not plant until later in the year, between mid-August through the end of September, depending on your location. Planting in the spring will cause your seed to compete with annual weeds, like crabgrass, which can overrun an establishment of grass seed. The summer heat and possible droughts are also often hard on young seedlings.

A healthy, growing lawn can be a welcome and peaceful sight for many, and with these tips you can get off to a great start.

For more information about lawn care and mowing, visit the Iowa State University Extension Store online.



Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Update on COVID-19

Article Author: ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic

Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, the Iowa State University Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic has made the decision to implement as much distance diagnostics as possible in order to greatly reduce the numbers of physical samples.

They have made this decision due to federal, state and university guidelines to protect the health of their staff and students, and because clinic staff will not be able to normally access campus or their workplace.

Therefore, before sending in a sample, please contact them through email at pidc@iastate.edu. They will do as much distance diagnostics as possible at no charge. They will continue to evaluate the situation over the next weeks and months as the growing season will increase testing needs. Please keep watch on their social media pages (listed below) where they will give any updates and still provide you with your horticulture and gardening news.

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Custom Farming Survey for Iowa Shows Slight Decline in Rates

Article Authors: Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist/Assistant Professor in Economics / Ann Johanns, Department of Economics

Custom farming can provide an additional source of income for those with machinery and experience, or alleviate a farmer of a particular task that they do not wish to do on their own.

Whether the farmer is performing or receiving the custom work, the question always comes up over what to charge. And while rates vary from one operator to another, a new report by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides a look at projected averages for 2020.

The 2020 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey is available in the March edition of Ag Decision Maker and provides custom prices for common farm tasks in Iowa, compiled from 106 respondents.

According to the report, there was a 3% decline across all categories, with complete harvesting and hauling declining by 4%, and bin and machinery rental increasing by 2.3%.

The average price for custom combining corn in Iowa in 2020 is \$36.70 per acre, compared to \$35.95 per acre in 2019. Spraying, per acre, is \$6.70 in 2020, a slight decline from \$7.25 per acre in 2019.

In addition to field activities, the report also includes prices for commodity storage, snow removal and farm maintenance, equipment rental and labor prices.

"Subdued commodity prices, lower fuel prices and another year of thin profit margins in crop production in the horizon are setting the tone for overall lower expected custom rates in 2020," said Alejandro Plastina, assistant professor and extension economist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "However, some tasks related to manure management might see some price increases, according to the survey respondents."

Plastina said it's important to remember the report is simply an opinion poll, and should only be used as a starting point in the process of determining custom rates.

"This report is not to be interpreted as Iowa State University's opinion of what the custom rates are or should be, but rather what survey respondents report thinking the rates will be in 2020," he said.

Still, he believes the data in the report are of value to farmers and ranchers who may be considering custom work this year to provide guidance in their projections.

Additional publications on machinery, including how to estimate specific machinery costs and historic days available for fieldwork can also be found through the Ag Decision Maker website.

Ag Decision Maker

Ag Decision Maker is an agricultural economics and business resource covering a wide range of topics to manage risk:

- farm management
- agricultural marketing
- new business development
- Cooperatives

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/cdmachinery.html>.

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