

Johnson County Extension and Outreach

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Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars now with these upcoming events.

June 20...Southeast Research Farm Spring Field Day, Certified Crop Advisor Professional Development and Field Tour

www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/news/spring-field-day-tour-isu-se-iowa-research-farm-june-20

July 21 – July 24...Johnson County 4-H & FFA Fair

www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/content/2019-johnson-county-4-h-ffa-fairbook

August 7...Farmland Lease Meeting, Iowa City

www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/news/farm-lease-meetings-2019

Iowa Farmers Face Planting Decisions and Deadlines

AMES, Iowa – Crop producers who are wondering what they should do about late and prevented planting were given a variety of resources and calculators during a [special webinar May 24](#), presented by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach field agronomists and farm management specialists.

With 70% of the state's corn planted, and 27% of soybeans, Iowa is actually well ahead of some other Midwest states. Indiana, for example, has only 14% of corn planted and Ohio has just 9% of corn planted.

However, Iowans are definitely behind, according to the latest "[Crop Progress and Condition Report](#)" issued May 20 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, which shows the state's five-year average for corn at 89% and soybeans at 55%. Producers are also concerned about what they've already planted and whether replanting will be necessary in some fields.

The long-term forecast for the summer months looks like the state could see a cooler, wetter season than normal according to data from the National Weather Service.

"We're looking at the potential for below average temperatures and most of the U.S. is at an enhanced potential for above average precipitation," said Virgil Schmitt, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Producers in general should be able [to plant full-season well-adapted corn hybrids](#) until June 1, said Rebecca Vittetoe, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. After that date, and especially in northern counties, producers will want to start thinking about changing to a shorter-season hybrid.



The general rule is to reduce your variety by one maturity day for every two days that corn is planted after June 1. However, Vittetoe said corn hybrids have a tendency to adapt to a shorter growing season when planted later.

Corn planted after May 1 requires about 6.8 fewer growing degree days per day to reach maturity. Purdue University has [an online calculator](#) that can help producers determine the growing degree day requirements for late planted corn and producers can then determine how many fewer maturity days will be required.

However, Schmitt and Vittetoe both caution producers that the formula can change based on the weather and the seasonal temperature and how soon we get a killing frost in the fall.

"There are no guarantees," Schmitt said. "There will be some risk no-matter which direction we go."

With soybeans, producers should stick with their original varieties until about June 1 if they farm north of U.S. Route 30. If they farm in central or southern Iowa, they can use the original varieties until about June 15. After mid-June, producers face the risk of a significant yield drop.

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Iowa Farmers Face Planting Decisions and Deadlines (continued)

Prevented plantings

The speakers also discussed [prevented plantings](#) and alternative crop options. Producers may be able to plant soybeans instead of corn. They need to be mindful of any corn herbicides already applied to the field, which could severely damage the soybean crop.



The late-planting period for corn is June 1-25 and the late-planting period for soybeans is June 16-July 10. During this time, producers will see their crop insurance coverage decrease by 1% per day, down to a low of 55% of coverage for corn and 60% for soybeans.

“As deadlines near, producers need to be talking with their crop insurance agents to know exactly how their operation will be impacted”, said Ryan Drollette, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Alternative crops

Drollette said producers also need to follow the rules when considering alternative crop options, including the requirement that cover crops on prevented acres not be grazed or hayed before November 1.

Vittetoe said there are many choices for forage crops or cover crops. Producers need [to weigh the pros and cons](#) and consider how they will use what they grow.

If producers are prevented from planting corn or soybeans, they should still consider either planting a forage crop as a second crop or a cover crop. This will help with weed management, help keep the soil healthy and alive, and potentially realize a return from another crop.

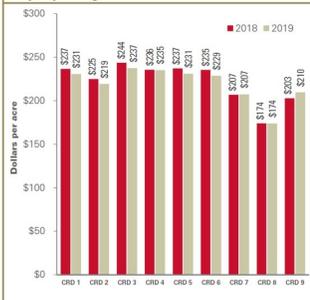
The webinar was recorded and the [full presentation with slides is available online](#).

To learn more about the webinar and what was discussed, contact Rebecca Vittetoe at 319-653-4811 or rka8@iastate.edu. Virgil Schmitt can be reached at 563-263-5701 or vschmitt@iastate.edu. Ryan Drollette can be reached at 319-337-2145 or drollett@iastate.edu. Questions can also be addressed to your local ISU Extension and Outreach [field agronomist](#) or [farm management specialist](#).

Iowa Farm Rental Rates Decline, But Not as Much as Commodities

AMES, Iowa — Cash rental rates for Iowa farmland are down 1.4% compared to last year, but are still higher than in 2011, despite significant decreases in crop prices.

Figure 1. Comparison of average cash rent by crop reporting district, 2018-2019



According to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach’s [Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2019 Survey](#) the average cash rent per acre is \$219, down from \$222 per acre last year.

Meanwhile, corn and soybean prices have dropped 50% and 45%, respectively, since mid-2013, according to Alejandro Plastina, Assistant Professor and Extension Economist at Iowa State.

“Cash rents declined slightly in 2019, but won’t offset lower prices for farmers who are renting land,” said Plastina. “It will be tough to break even with these cash rents if you are renting land.”

Cash rents have only dropped about 19% since the historic high of \$270 per acre in 2013, but the decline is in line with the cumulative 16.7% decline in land values since 2013.

The survey is based on 1,262 responses across the state for cash rent prices received to grow corn, soybeans, hay, oats and pasture. The rate of change varied by county and by region, with 65 counties experiencing a decline in the average rent for corn and soybeans.

The 2019 survey showed a range from a 3.4% increase in southeast Iowa (District 9) to a 2.7% drop in north central Iowa (District 2). The lowest rents are in the south central counties where most averages are below \$200 an acre.

Article Authors: Alejandro Plastina, Extension Economist/Assistant Professor in Economics

Spring Field Day Tour at ISU SE Iowa Research Farm

When: Thursday, June 20, 2019

Time: Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the tour starts at 1 p.m.

Where: Iowa State University Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm
(3115 Louisa-Washington Road, Crawfordsville, Iowa)



Farmers and farm businesses in southeastern Iowa can learn about the latest crop production research and trends during the Iowa State University Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm spring field day.

Field day sessions include “Prairie STRIPS, what they are and how they work,” hosted by Tim Youngquist, STRIPS farmer liaison; “Crop yield and soil nitrogen prediction with crop modeling,” by Sotirios Archontoulis, assistant professor of agronomy at Iowa State University; and “Herbicide technology update and integrated herbicide resistance management programs for corn-soybeans,” by Bob Hartzler, professor in agronomy and extension weed specialist at Iowa State.

Certified Crop Adviser credits are available during the afternoon tour. An additional three Soil and Water Management credits can be earned at a 9 a.m. session featuring edge-of-field nitrate reduction practices and adapting prairie strips across Iowa. The fee for the morning CCA session is \$50, which includes lunch.

Register by June 13 for the morning CCA session and the noon lunch at <https://isuext.typeform.com/to/yivcsb> or by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County office at 319-653-4811.

The afternoon tours are free and open to the public. Questions? Contact Rebecca Vittetoe at 319-653-4811 or rka8@iastate.edu

Article Author: Rebecca Vittetoe, Field Agronomist

Iowa Swine Day

When: Thursday, June 27, 2019

Where: Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, 1805 Center Drive, Ames

AMES, Iowa – This year’s Iowa Swine Day will serve pork producers by offering expert speakers who will address current issues affecting the industry. Some of the topics will include the status of and response to African Swine Fever, what makes a biosecurity program successful, improving company culture, precision pork production, and feeding the high-producing sow.

“Iowa Swine Day is a great opportunity to learn, network, and build relationships within the swine industry,” said Jason Ross, Iowa Swine Day committee chair. “The topics being discussed at this year’s event are a result of direct input from pork producers who let us know what topics are important to them.”

The morning session will feature Dr. Frank Mitloehner from the University of California-Davis. He will explore how improvements in livestock production efficiencies, genetics, nutrition, and veterinary care can help meet the increasing demand for animal protein as the world’s population grows without depleting natural resources.

Dr. Wes Jamison from Palm Beach Atlantic University will share how “Gen Z” consumers influence the pork industry. Troy Van Hauen of Accelerated Performance Technicians will present a mini-workshop on how to improve your company’s culture by developing and exemplifying a standard of leadership principles.

The afternoon will be structured into four concurrent breakout sessions with 16 presentations to choose from. Some of the afternoon topics include nutrition for high-producing sows, precision pork production technologies, and causes and consequences of leaky gut. One afternoon session will be focused on foreign animal disease preparation, including an update on African Swine Fever worldwide from Dr. David Casey of PIC in China.

Registration is \$65 and includes lunch and refreshments. Early registration ends midnight, June 14th. Late or on-site registration is \$90. Registration is free for students before the early registration deadline and is \$45 after the deadline has passed. The full program, directions and online registration are available on the [Iowa Swine Day conference website](#).

2019 Fruit & Vegetable Field Day

When: Monday, August 5, 2019

Time: 2:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station
(55519 170th Street, Ames, IA)



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting the 2019 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day. The annual event will feature various research and demonstration projects on fruit and vegetable production for commercial growers, extension personnel, non-profit organizations, and Master Gardeners.

The field day will provide an opportunity to observe results and evaluate research projects focusing on high tunnels, organic vegetable production, peppers, sweet potato, pest management in cucurbit crops, hops, peaches, and beneficial insects (bees, wasps, pollinators, etc.).

Funding for the event is provided by USDA SARE and IDALS Specialty Crop Block grants. The field day is organized in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Registration is free, but required to get a count for supper. Register online at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab/2019-fruit-and-vegetable-field-day>

Article Author: Dr. Diana Cochran, Fruit Specialist and Dr. Ajay Nair, Vegetable Specialist

ISU Extension and Outreach Offers 2019 Iowa Drainage School

When: August 20 - 22, 2019

Where: Borlaug Learning Center on the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua, Iowa.



Three-day program offers resources to understand and design subsurface drainage systems.

Agricultural drainage is an important management tool for crop production in many areas of Iowa. The design, installation and maintenance of drainage systems is the focus of the Iowa Drainage School.

“Iowa Drainage School provides educational opportunities for all interested in drainage whether they are contractors, farmers, consulting engineers, county officials or others,” said Matt Helmers, professor and agricultural engineering specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

“The school focuses on the fundamentals of drainage design including getting an accurate survey, drainage pipe size and spacing, controlled drainage and water table management, legal considerations and different installation techniques and equipment.”

The three-day school features classroom lectures and discussions combined with team problem solving and field exercises. Student teams will survey and design a drainage system for a sample area of the host farm using concepts learned during classroom discussions. By attending this school, participants will be able to plan and lay out subsurface drainage systems and work out project costs. In-field equipment and drainage tile installation demonstrations will also take place in the school.

Registration for this three-day school is \$350 per person if registered by midnight, August 9th. Late registration is \$400 and must be received by midnight, August 16th. **Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.** Registration includes meals, refreshments, course notebook and drainage reference materials. Additional program information and online registration are available at www.aep.iastate.edu/ids.

For assistance with registration or questions contact ANR Program Services at 515-294-6429 or anr@iastate.edu.

Photo: Kapil Arora, extension agricultural engineer (center) works with students during the drainage design exercise at the Iowa Drainage School.

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African Swine Fever (ASF)

African swine fever is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs of all ages. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. **It is not a food safety issue.**

ASF is found in countries around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, it has spread through China, Mongolia and Vietnam, as well as within parts of the European Union. It has never been found in the United States – and we want to keep it that way.

Why is African Swine Fever a Concern?

ASF is a devastating, deadly disease that would have a significant impact on U.S. livestock producers, their communities and the economy if it were found here. There is no treatment or vaccine available for this disease. The only way to stop this disease is to depopulate all affected or exposed swine herds.

USDA is working closely with other federal and state agencies, the swine industry, and producers to take the necessary actions to protect our nation's pigs and keep this disease out. This group is also actively preparing to respond if ASF were ever detected in the U.S. Corn and soybean prices would decline dramatically if the United States were infected with ASF since swine are large users of corn and soybeans.

What Travelers Need to Know

International travelers could unknowingly bring back this disease from an ASF-affected country, especially if they visit farms. Visit the APHIS traveler page to know which items you can bring back into the United States. Some food items may carry disease and threaten domestic agriculture and livestock. If you go to an ASF-affected country, do not bring back pork or pork products.

Declare any international farm visits to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when you return. Make sure you thoroughly clean and disinfect, or dispose of, any clothing or shoes that you wore around pigs before returning to the U.S. Do not visit a farm, premises with pigs, livestock market, sale barn, zoo, circus, pet store with pot-bellied pigs, or any other animal facility with pigs for at least 5 days after you return.

Are Those Around You Showing Signs of Stress?

Uncertainty in the farm economy makes this 24/7 resource extremely valuable.

The [Iowa Concern Hotline](#) is a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week free, confidential resource for anyone with concerns or questions about farm finances, crisis and disaster response and personal health issues. Access to an attorney is also available to help provide legal education.

Article Author: Tammy Jacobs, Human Sciences Extension and Outreach Hotlines Coordinator

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johnson-county-ag-newsletters](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/page/johnson-county-ag-newsletters)