Dandelions (Taraxacum officinale) are a perennial, broadleaf weed commonly found in lawns. Of course a weed to some is something else to others. Whenever I ask kids what their favorite flower is, without fail, many respond the dandelion. For homeowners, dandelions are anything but a favorite.

The dandelion grows best in full sun; however, once established it can survive shade and dry conditions. To effectively treat dandelions in the yard, you may need to use more than one method of control. Manual removal by digging up the plants can be effective especially for a new seedling that is not yet well-rooted. For an established plant with an extensive root system hand-pulling or hoeing is usually futile. It will take more effort to remove the established dandelion since the entire plant, taproot and all, needs to be dug out. You may have noticed specialized digging tools designed for dandelion removal available at garden centers. It is important to remain diligent when removing dandelions by digging since they will most likely need to be dug up regularly for several years to be successfully eliminated. Also, avoid letting the dandelion go to seed. Dandelion seeds can re-infect your yard plus be carried several miles by the wind.

For lawns heavily invaded by dandelions herbicides may offer more successful control. Dandelions are usually treated with a postemergent broadleaf herbicide such as 2, 4-D. You can also spot spray plants with a nonselective herbicide such as glyphosate. Remember a nonselective herbicide will kill all plants exposed to it including those you don’t want to remove like the surrounding turf so it is best used with care on isolated weeds.

Control of established weeds with a postemergent treatment can still be difficult. So to help prevent new weeds from invading your turf, always apply good cultural practices that promote a healthy, vigorous lawn. Such practices include proper mowing, watering and fertilizing. Proper mowing is essential to the health and longevity of your lawn. Remember to raise the cutting height to about 3 inches. Taller grass competes better with weeds plus it encourages deeper root development. Also, an actively growing lawn needs about 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week. The recommendation is to water deeply and less frequently again to help encourage strong root development. Lastly, it is generally not recommended to fertilize cool-season grasses, which includes Kentucky bluegrass, during the summer. In Iowa, the best time to fertilize your lawn is in May, mid-September and, again, in late October. When fertilizing, apply 1 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in one application.

PQA Plus Version 2.0 and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus

Matt Swantek, ISU Extension and Outreach Swine Program Specialist

Iowa State University Extension Swine Specialist introduced Version 2.0 Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) during the World Pork Expo in Des Moines. Introduced in 1989, PQA Plus has been the setting the standards for pork production practices and animal well-being. Version 2 continues with updated 10 Good Production Practices including additions with Environmental Stewardship and Worker Safety, as part of the “We Care” program for relevant food safety standards and improved animal well-being.

PQA Plus version 2.0 revisions include:

- Participants must pass a 25 question test related to the 10 Good Production Practices.
- Recertification will be available via an online process after an initial face-to-face certification.

Iowa Pork Producers Association will be sponsoring (free registration) TQA and PQA Plus sessions Wednesday July 17, Northwest Iowa Community College, Building A, Room 116/119 in Sheldon and Tuesday August 20, Humboldt County Extension office, 727 Sumner Ave, Humboldt. Times are TQA from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and PQA Plus from 3:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Interested individuals should pre-register by contacting IPPA at (515) 225-7675 or lelemenson@iowapork.org.

News released from the Iowa Pork Industry Center is Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) has been diagnosed in Iowa. PEDV is a coronavirus related to transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV) that was first diagnosed more than 40 years ago in Great Britain. Since then, there have been sporadic outbreaks in Europe and it has become an endemic pig disease in Asia since 1982. PEDV affects only pigs and there are no other known hosts. It also poses no known public health threat. Iowa Pork Industry Center director Rodney "Butch " Baker said the primary clinical sign is severe diarrhea, which can cause high mortality rates in very young pigs. "The incubation period is very short -- 12 to 24 hours -- and the virus is shed for seven to 10 days," he said. "Treatment is similar to that for other viral enteric diseases with clean, dry, draft free environment and high quality drinking water."

Veterinarians should contact the veterinary diagnostic laboratory for information on what samples are preferred, and Baker said Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is well prepared to diagnose PEDV and other pathogens that may mimic PEDV.

Biosecurity is the key to prevent the introduction of the virus. County fair exhibitors and participates should be cautious about visitors to the farm and traveling to and from their fairs/shows. More information on biosecurity and other facts about this virus and its potential impact is on this IPIC fact sheet. Links to additional sources of information on the IPIC website under Disease -- Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus.

**Is This the Year to Spray Fungicides?**
Joel DeJong, ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist; with thanks to Clarke McGrath from Southwest Iowa

"Should we apply a fungicide?" We get that question every year, and it isn’t an easy one to answer. Fungicide application decisions are tough to make, and even with the best information for each acre, results will vary widely.

Iowa State University (and many other universities across the Midwest), agribusinesses and growers have all been conducting hundreds of replicated plots, strip trials and side-by-side comparisons in attempts to determine the profitability of fungicide applications to corn and soybeans. What do field trials show? Interestingly, the results mirror what growers see--a wide range of yield responses. I’d love to share an “average” response, but the longer we do these trials, the harder it is to say anything about an “average” response. So rather than share a bunch of yield data from past trials, it might be more helpful to share some “guidelines” that all this work has helped to fine-tune for when we can expect the best return from fungicides. I don’t claim to have it all figured out, but field experience blended with many conversations with agronomists, researchers and growers have given me some perspective.

Most everyone agrees the number-one factor affecting the odds of fungicide application profitability is management of common diseases. If crop diseases are present, yield responses to applications are typically higher on hybrids/variety that have low disease resistance scores. If disease levels are high enough, genetics with solid disease resistance may respond well, too.

Warm, humid conditions around the time of grain fill favor the development of diseases. Crop history and crop residue levels can contribute, too; several pathogens that survive in corn and/or soybean residue, corn-on-corn and other high-residue systems can increase disease levels. Geography can also influence disease. For example, southeast Iowa tends to be warmer and more humid than much of the state and historically has had higher levels of many diseases. While sometimes we see fungicide applications increase yields in fields with low disease pressure, increasing disease pressure is a better indicator to the potential profitability of treating.

Application timing can influence the odds of a positive return. Combining label recommendations and field observations is critical. If applied too early, the residual effects of the product may be gone as diseases set in. If applied too late, it may not effectively control the diseases already established.

Most agronomists agree that the full tassel stage (VT) through blister stage (R2) for corn, and around R2 to R4 in soybeans are the optimum windows if a fungicide is needed.

**Key factors to consider**
Fungicide applications can do a great job of disease control. The tough part is factoring in weather conditions, genetics, your cropping system and potential disease pressure. Here are recommendations based on what we’ve seen the last several seasons:

* In corn, consider treating if disease is present on the third leaf below the ear leaf (or higher) on 50% of plants prior to tasseling. In soybeans, we typically pull the trigger on diseases when they move above the bottom third of the canopy.
* Scout genetics with moderate to low disease resistance more intensively. Also, scout more often if the weather’s warm and humid and if rainy weather is present or predicted for July and August.
* Watch corn-on-corn, beans-on-beans and any high-residue fields close. Keep a close eye on any fields with a history of disease issues. Late-planted crops are often more susceptible to foliar diseases. Narrow rows can limit air movement, retain moisture and potentially harbor more disease pressure.
* Confirm that the fungicide is labeled to control the diseases present--remember that bacterial diseases (like Goss’s Wilt in corn) are not controlled by fungicides, and some fungal pathogens (such as Sudden Death Syndrome in soybeans) are beyond the reach of our foliar applied fungicides.
* Use proper application timing and additives. We occasional-ly see crop injury stemming from mistakes in these areas. Apply labeled rates--we already have confirmed disease resistance to strobilurins in the Midwest; cutting rates can only make the problem worse.
* Results tend to be better in wetter years (like 2013 is shaping up to be) than in dry years like 2012. If we remain on the wet side of things, watch your fields closely.
“Should we apply a fungicide?” You are right--I still didn’t give a direct answer to that question. But with your field information, the criteria above and some discussions with your local agronomists--you can make great decisions for your operation.

Precision Feeding of Dairy Heifers

Kevin Lager, ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Field Specialist

Feed accounts for approximately fifty percent of overall costs on a dairy, and the current situation of high feed cost is making the situation more challenging. Whether finding the on-farm feed supply at levels that may not maintain the herd until the next forage crop or if searching for an opportunity to feed heifers less feed while reducing the amount of manure that must be managed, there may be an opportunity for precision feeding management.

Precision feeding of heifers, or limit feeding heifers, consists of providing all essential nutrients to the heifer using smaller quantities of feed while meeting the desired growth rate. This system is based upon the principle of using feed efficiency (feed to gain). Ration digestibility is a key component of feed efficiency, thus requiring high quality feeds to be included in the formulated rations. This system requires attention to detail with key management components of this system that include:

Body weight measurements (monthly is best) – allows for proper monitoring of performance and, if necessary, ration adjustment

Group heifers by size – prevent dominant heifer from reducing timid heifer’s access to feed

Adequate bunk space (between 14 and 24 inches per animal, depending upon age) – feeding done once daily so it is important that all heifers can access the bunk simultaneously

Below are rations that were utilized in published research. Heifers that consume bedding will limit the effectiveness of precision feeding as they will not be consuming the formulated ration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient, % of DM</th>
<th>High Corn Silage</th>
<th>Low Corn Silage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn silage</td>
<td>76.92</td>
<td>32.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground corn</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>27.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean hulls</td>
<td>7.21</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium bicarbonate</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola meal</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>9.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expeller soybean meal</td>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Mix</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifers between 380 and 750 pounds growing at 1.8 lb/d. Adapted from Moody et al., 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rations used in published research

Research has shown that heifers fed in a precision feeding system perform similarly to heifers in traditional feeding systems. Precision feeding of heifers may not work for all management systems, thus it is important to work with a system that best fits your management style. Further information on this topic may be found in the publications section of the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy team website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/home/dairyteam

Rural Safety: We All Share the Road

Kayse Strohbehn, ISU Extension and Outreach Agriculture Producer and Consumer Education Specialist

Overview of Rural Road Accidents

Each year many of us hear or learn of at least one devastating farm related rural road accident. According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, crashes on rural roads occur at more than twice the rate of accidents on state roads. In fact, the Iowa Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE) indicates the majority of all Iowa agriculture fatalities occur between the months of June, July and August. Further, of the fatalities that occur during these months the majority involve moving tractors, trucks or automobiles.

Characteristics of Rural and Gravel Roads

Unlike paved roads, rural and gravel roads often times increase our driving risks. Be mindful of the fact that rural roads often have the following characteristics:

- Little or no shoulders
- Narrow Lanes
- Soft shoulders
- Steep hills
- Less traffic signs
- Narrow Bridges
- Sharp curves
- Less maintenance
- Rough road surfaces

Tips for Improving Rural Road Safety

- Livestock, Deer and Pets-Decrease your speed and pay attention to livestock, deer and pets when traveling in rural areas.
- Field Driveways- As our crops continue to grow, field driveway visibility becomes reduced. Remember to reduce your speed near fields and unmarked road intersections.
- Slow Moving Vehicle Emblems- Look for slow moving vehicles traveling at a speed of 35 mph or less by looking for the orange colored reflective triangles on the back of the vehicle.
- Gravel roads- Lower your speed and be cautious of loose gravel on road sides, washboards, mud, and standing water.
- Adjust your following distance- Remember to adjust your following distance for slow moving vehicles. The recommended following distance is 3 seconds or more on rural paved roads and 6 seconds or more on gravel roads.
- Yield to on-coming traffic at narrow bridges
- Passing Slow Moving Vehicles- Be cautious when passing slow moving vehicles and ensure they can see you before attempting to pass. Remember always pass on the left side.

In summary, rural road safety is the responsibility of all of us. Be cautious, be aware and have a safe and enjoyable summer!

For more information on rural road safety and factsheets, be sure to visit us on the web at www.extension.iastate.edu or contact one of your Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Specialists in Northwest Iowa.
‘As American As Apple Pie’

By: Christina Lloyd, ISU Extension and Outreach Agriculture and Natural Resource Intern

The phrase ‘as American as apple pie,’ can be traced all the way back to late 14th Century England. As pilgrims began to make their way to America they carried with them their knowledge of pie making as well as apple seeds. As apple pie began to increase in popularity and spread across the nation, the phrase became a symbol of American prosperity. The early American pie didn’t have a crust but was baked in an inedible shell designed only to contain the filling but over the years this form of pie evolved into our most traditional American dessert, the apple pie we know and love today.

There are nearly 7,500 different varieties of apples that are grown in the world and 2,500 of these are grown specifically here in the United States. The apple is the second most valuable fruit that is produced in the United States being only surpassed by oranges. In 2012, a little over 9 billion pounds of apples were produced in the United States with an average yield of about 27,600 pounds per acre. Washington State is one of our nation’s top producers of apples producing nearly 58% of all of the apples in the nation. However, apples are grown in all 50 states and are very common in Iowa.

There are many varieties of apples grown in northwest Iowa. A few examples are the Honeycrisp, Red Delicious and McIntosh. Different apples have different uses. Some apples are better for cooking, some better for eating fresh and some are good for both. The Honeycrisp, for instance, comes into season mid-September and is good for either fresh eating or cooking whereas the Red Delicious, which comes into season late September and is the most widely grown in the United State, is good for eating fresh and making applesauce but doesn’t cook well.

If you choose to plant your own apple tree, it takes about 4-5 years for the tree to produce fruit but is usually abundant after this. Other ways to get apples include buying them at the store and at farmers markets, getting them from neighbors who have more apples then they know what to do with or picking them fresh from an orchard. When hand picking apples from the tree it is important to make sure that they are mature but not too mature as this will directly affect how well they store. A ripe apple should be easy to pick. When removing the apple the stem should separate at the tree and not the fruit. Another indication of the maturity of the fruit is when normal, unblemished fruit begins to drop from the tree; this indicates that it is about time to harvest.

Once you have the apples of your choosing they can be clean and eaten fresh or stored. Apples still respirate after being picked and because they no longer can get nutrients from the tree they use the food that they have stored over the growing season. As this food is used up the starch, sugar and acid content of the apple changes and eventually the apple breaks down and has an off taste. As such proper storage is necessary to keep up the quality of the apple. A couple of ways apples can be stored are by freezing, drying or canning.

Once your apples have been properly stored you can begin to think of creative ways to use them. Here is a fun recipe to try this summer, take a large, clean wooden dowel and soak one end in water for 24 hours. Then dry it off and wrap crescent roll dough around the soaked end of the dowel, this forms a cup. Bake this over a camp fire, much like you would a marshmallow, until its golden brown. Let it cool, then pull it off and fill it with either homemade or bought apple pie filling. You won’t regret it!

For any questions, please feel free to contact me at my email clloyd@iastate.edu, by phone at (712) 737-4230 or through your local County Extension office. Information was provided by the Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach article Fruit Cultivars for Iowa (2006), the ISU Extension and Outreach article Harvesting and Storing Apples (2008), the University of Illinois Extension webpage Apples and more (accessed July 1, 2013), the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service webpage (accessed July 1, 2013), the North Carolina Cooperative Extension article Pie Day (2011) and the ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development article Cooking Over Campfire Coals (2007).
Events at ISU Extension-Lyon County

UPCOMING PROGRAMS  - Call 712-472-2576 to confirm dates and times. Thanks!

Commercial Pesticide Applicators Training - 2013
Oct 16 - 9:00 am - Roadside, Forest & Aquatic Pest Mgmt
Oct 24 - 9:00 am - Mosquito & Public Health Pest Mgmt
Nov 6 - 1:30 pm - Ornamental & Turfgrass
Nov 13 - 9:00 am - Commercial Pesticide Applicator
Dec 4 - 9:00 am - Pest Control Operators
TBA - Aerial Applicators

Private Pesticide Applicator Training - 2012-2013

Pesticide Applicator Testing - 2013
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  Pesticide Bureau - (515) 281-8591
http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Pesticide/pesticidetesting.asp
Aug 5 - O’Brien County Extension, Primghar - 712-957-5045
Aug 12 - Woodbury County Extension, Sioux City - 712-276-2157
Sept 3 - O’Brien County Extension, Primghar
Sept 9 - Woodbury County Extension, Sioux City

Commercial Manure Applicator Training - 2013 - RESHOW
Aug 8 - 9:00 am - Extension Office, Rock Rapids
Sept 12 - 9:00 am - Extension Office, Rock Rapids

Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training - 2013
Aug 8 - 1:30 pm - Extension Office, Rock Rapids
Sept 12 - 1:30 pm - Extension Office, Rock Rapids

Manure Applicator Testing
DNR Field Office #3, Spencer - (712) 262-4711
http://www.iowadnr.gov/

PUBLICATIONS

Cash Rental Rate Survey - 2013
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-10.pdf

Custom Rate Survey - 2013
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a3-10.pdf

Farmer’s Tax Guides - 2012

4-H/Youth Important Dates:
July 16, 2013 - Communications / Clothing Judging
July 18, 2013 - Static Judging
July 22-25, 2013 - Lyon County Fair
July 24, 2013 - STEM Camp (4-8 grades), Orange City
July 25, 2013 - STEM Camp (4-8 grades), Sioux Center
July 26, 2013 - STEM Camp (4-8 grades), Rock Valley
Aug 8-18, 2013 - Iowa State Fair
Sept 7-15, 2013 - Clay County Fair

Nature Explore for Child Care Providers
Sept 12 - 6:30 pm - AB Room: Forster Community Center, Rock Rapids
Apr 10 - 6:30 pm - AB Room: Forster Community Center, Rock Rapids
Hotlines Available For All
Iowa Concern (800-447-1985)
Farm On (877-BFC-1999)
Teen Line (800-443-8336)
BETS OFF (800-BETS-OFF) (800-238-7633)

Hotlines Available to Iowa Residents Only
Families Answer Line (800-262-3804)
Hortline (515) 294-3108
Iowa Healthy Families (800-369-2229)
PORKLine (800-808-7675)