



FIELD&FEEDLOT a monthly agriculture publication for Northwest Iowa

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In this Issue:

Online References	1
Numbers to Know	1
Thank You and Farewell	1
Are You Ready for a Foreign Animal Disease?	2
Four-State Dairy Conference Offers Nutritionist Insights on New Research	3

Online References

Ag Decision Maker

www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/

Iowa Beef Center

www.iowabeefcenter.org

Manure Management Action Group

www.agronext.iastate.edu

Iowa Pork Industry Center

www.ipic.iastate.edu/

ISU Extension Dairy Team

www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam

Locate a County Office

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/countyservices/>

Numbers to Know

AnswerLine 800-262-3804

Beginning Farmer Center 877-BFC-1999

Iowa 2-1-1 211

Iowa Concern 800-447-1985

Iowa Healthy Families 800-369-2229

Teen Line 800-443-8336



Thank You and Farewell

Joel DeJong, Field Agronomist

712-546-7835 or jldelong@iastate.edu

On the last day of August, after almost 41 years working for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, I will no longer be a representative of Iowa State University. The old saying goes – “time flies when you are having fun.” I must have really enjoyed my time with Extension because I cannot believe that I

started this career on Nov. 1, 1981. It was the correct choice for me!

I started my career as a county Extension Director in Adair County in Southwest Iowa. After three years I had the chance to move back to Northwest Iowa – and worked in the Woodbury County office with general agricultural education responsibilities, started the Master Gardener program in Woodbury County, and ended up as the County Extension Director there also. In 1992, ISU Extension had a major system reorganization, where we all had to re-apply for positions moving forward. I got to watch several of these “down-size” moves over the years. This change in career direction was great for me personally – I became the Extension Agronomist for several Northwest Iowa counties at that point in time. The real fun was beginning for me!

How many pesticide applicator meetings I have conducted over the years is not a number I want to figure out. Manure certification began during my tenure, and since I only helped every other year, that total is much smaller. Field days, tillage meetings, research plots, partnerships developed with organizations and agencies, and field visits were the highlights of the time I got to spend with you, my clients. As a part of the ISU Extension Crops Team, I was fortunate to interact and learn from some of the leading experts in several agronomic fields over the years, a real job bonus! I consider many of you my friends now, too. I have been very fortunate to work in this region of Iowa. Hopefully, my work has left it a little better place.

To celebrate my tenure, and to say thank you for tolerating me over the years, the Plymouth County Extension Council, the office staff, and my family will be hosting an open house event on my last day of work, Wednesday, August 31. I was told I must work my last day, so we might as well have some fun at the same time. Join me at the LeMars Convention Center, Upper Level, 251 12th St. SE, LeMars, from about 5 p.m. to 7 pm. - or whenever. Supper is on us. I would love to see you there. I also hope to be able to introduce you to the person who will be taking over this job. That person is not hired yet as of this writing, but I think someone will be by that point in time.

I will remain in the region and haven't really figured out what my next role in life will be – except to try and spend a little more time with my grandkids. Serving others has been the core of my life, and I am certain some of that will continue in one way or another. But it is time to open another chapter and see where it goes. Thanks again for being a part of this 40+ year chapter of my book. I hope to see you in LeMars on August 31!

Are You Ready for a Foreign Animal Disease?

Dave Stender, Swine Specialist
712-261-0225 or dstender@iastate.edu

Thankfully the bird flu season is fading away, at least temporarily. I was involved in some of the work in disposing of birds and had the opportunity to learn a great deal. One observation is that the response to this year's outbreak was improved in many areas. One important difference was the experience of having been through it before. Producers generally knew what to expect and how to respond. That saved time, some stress and probably limited the spread of the virus. I would say that having knowledge of what is coming and a plan in place of how to respond and where to look for resources is important.

This type of disaster is possible with African Swine Fever (ASF) and other foreign animal diseases, especially ASF, because of the virus's track record of being spread around the globe. It is wise for producers to understand the disease, the response, the requirements, and the options for dealing with it if it comes. To help gain a broader understanding of these issues, a comprehensive workshop is scheduled for August 31, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the ISU Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office's basement classroom.

Several big areas should be understood. First, early identification would be good. If we can identify and isolate the disease quickly, it could save billions of dollars of downtime and poor markets. Next, if we have the disease, a knowledge of the process to locate and contain it is critical. All farms will be asked to provide movement records in a timely fashion, preferably with an electronic uplink. There are tools for this, including one called "AgView," which was developed by the Pork Board. Infected farms will have a lot to do and knowing the requirements to get a movement permit will be necessary. Some operations already have a secure pork supply plan to help with this.

Emergency planning is also a huge hurdle where more preplanning will be helpful. If depopulation becomes necessary, the method used, and the disposal option used is more complicated than most realize. Finally, keeping the virus out and the herd healthy will be the goal.

In other countries, as the virus spread, the operations that were diligent and detailed at successfully keeping the virus out, sold some high-priced pork. In the case of ASF, the virus is large, will not move far by aerosol and must be tracked in. That is why now is the time to enhance biosecurity.

I am willing to set up an individual session to help swine producers understand "AgView" and/or "SHIP." Sometimes a direct demonstration of the tools can be helpful. I will be stopping in various counties in the last half of August. Give me a call at 712-261-0225 or email dstender@iastate.edu to set up an appointment.

**IOWA
CONCERN**
hotline

800-447-1985

- call or text -

**stress counseling
legal education
financial concerns**



**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Extension and Outreach

**STRESS ON THE
FARM IS REAL.**

You are not alone.
Help is available.



Four-State Dairy Conference Offers Nutritionist Insights on New Research

Fred Hall, Dairy Specialist

712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu

The Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference is the longest running continuous nutrition and management conference in the United States. It is hosted by the four dairy Extension teams in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Over the years, it has included summer field days and topical meetings in the four states but in recent decades has settled on an annual conference in either LaCrosse, Wisconsin or Dubuque, Iowa. The 2022 event was held at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

Nearly half of the attendees came from Wisconsin, with Iowa having a quarter of attendees. During the past years, the COVID pandemic forced the event to go virtual and expanded attendance world-wide with over ten percent attending from outside of the USA. This year, 14 percent attended from outside the four-state region of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

The program is designed to serve dairy nutritionists and consultants. However, the program evaluation found that over half of the nutritionists also developed rations for producers feeding beef and dairy beef.

By over a 2-1 margin, most nutritionists work with around 10,000 milking/dry cows; the range was 1,000 to 20,000 head. Then came nutritionists serving 20,000 to 50,000 head (average 35,000 head). Only 12 percent of the respondents served less than 1,000 head, about the same percentage of nutritionist serving 50,000 to 250,000 head. When these numbers are aggregated for attendees making rations for milking and dry cows that number is 1,711,500.

While 9 percent did not work with heifers, most commonly they worked with around 2,500 head (range 1,000 to 5,000 head). On the top end, 9 percent worked with over 20,000 head of heifers. When these numbers are aggregated for attendees making rations for breeding heifers that number is 347,000.

For those working with beef, 31 percent worked with 1,000 head or less, while 27 percent worked with around 2,500 head (range 1,001 to 5,000). Three percent worked with over 20,000 head. When these numbers are aggregated for attendees making rations for animals bound for slaughter that number is 180,000.

The total cattle that survey responders prepare rations for is over 2.2 million head. When we extrapolated that to all nutritionists, consultants and veterinarians who attended the conference, it is reasonable to expect that the number would be over 4.6 million.

We asked attendees, "As a direct result of what you learned at this program, estimate the economic benefit on an annual per head basis". We gave them choices from \$1 to over \$20, with the most common reply of \$2.50 (\$1 to \$5).

To access the total impact, we aggregated each category and found that the respondents estimated their total annual benefit of \$12.7 million.

The multiplier effect of participants sharing the information from an educational program is an important aspect of Extension. To determine that number we asked, "How many people attendees will share the information from this program with." From the responses we anticipate an additional 5,045 people will receive the information from this program.

What was the most important "take home messages" for the nutritionists? The top three practices or strategies that they reported to take home for their clients included:

- The discussion on heifer maturity; Heifer breeding strategies; And using Dairy Comp 305 to determine heifer breeding age along with using weights and heights which I already gather to make decisions.
- Reducing the amount of anionic salts in closeup cow rations so that urine pH is between 6.0 and 6.5. This is great information and contradicts the information put out by the vendors of anionic salts that want urine pH to be 5.75 to 5.8. The information from this conference confirms my thoughts on this subject. Very useful information.
- Understanding inflammation, immune system activation and its energy requirement will allow me to treat ketosis and milk fever differently.

Each year the program planners scour new research and find the top presenter who is leading the nation discussion to address the conference.

The Four State Dairy Nutrition and Management Committee is excited to offer a new virtual "Best of" 2022 Four State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference. The virtual offering includes recorded presentations of all the Four State Conference plenary sessions in addition to the RP Nutrients pre-conference symposium, Zinpro's post-conference symposium and the breakfast speaker sponsored by Feedworks USA. All questions, answers and discussions are also included in the recording. We hope you consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

To see program speakers and agenda, visit the conference website at <http://fourstatedairy.org/>. The 2023 conference is set for June 7-8 in Dubuque.