



FIELD&FEEDLOT a monthly agriculture publication for Northwest Iowa

February 2023

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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

December Hay Stocks Down 21 Percent from Last Year

Fred Hall, Dairy Specialist

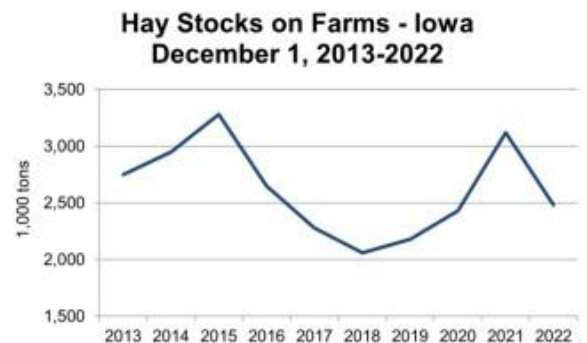
712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu

All hay stored on Iowa farms as of December 1, 2022, was estimated at 2.48 million tons, down 21 percent from December 1, 2021, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Crop Production report. Disappearance from May 1, 2022, through December 1, 2022, totaled 1.88 million tons, compared with 1.44 million tons for the same period in 2021.

Hay stocks on farms:

All hay stored on United States farms as of December 1, 2022, totaled 71.9 million tons, down 9 percent from December 1, 2021, which is the lowest December 1 stocks since 1954.

Each of the top ten states for hay stocks was down compared to the ten-year average and collectively were down 20.8 percent from the 2012-2021 average December 1 stocks level. Disappearance from May 1, 2022 – December 1, 2022, totaled 57.7 million tons, down 3 percent from the same period in 2021. Record low December 1 hay stock levels were estimated in California, Colorado, and Nebraska.



Total hay production in the top ten states combined represents 43 percent of U.S. total hay production and was down 18.7 percent compared to the ten-year average for those states. The top ten hay production states include eight of the top ten beef cow states along with the number one dairy state, California and the number three dairy state, Idaho.

Mid-January hay prices were called weaker locally with limited buyer interest that could have related to upcoming storms. However, that is not a trend. Hay and Forage Grower reports from January 2022 to October 2022, the average alfalfa hay price moved from \$211 per ton to \$281. The previously record-high average price of \$227 per ton set in May 2014 was obliterated. Some Supreme and Premium quality hay was selling for over \$400 per ton for most of the year.

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December Hay Stocks Down 21 Percent from Last Year, *continued*

Shrinking acres and production, relatively high beef and milk prices, a growing dairy herd, a healthy hay export market, high input costs, plus a lack of water availability in the West signals stronger hay prices in 2023.

As dairymen look at higher forage diets, corn silage is the choice considering both economics and availability. Hay, corn stocks, bean hay plus other ingredients in the ration can make economic sense and still maintain high production.

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar on Wednesday, March 1, from 12 noon to 1 p.m., will focus on what a 70 percent forage ration that results in 100 pounds of milk per day looks like. Iowa State University's Dr. Gail Carpenter will discuss how dairy producers can improve margins by feeding higher forage diets and still maintain production. Register for the free webinar online at <https://go.iastate.edu/OY3KHL>.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

Drainage for Drought

Kris Kohl, Ag Engineering Specialist
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Installing drainage is always much easier when it is dry and there is no mud where the connections need to be made. Subirrigation is a way to design the drainage system to get all of the benefits from the drainage system when it is wet and pump water back through the tile when it is dry. These systems have been installed throughout the Midwest for more than 10 years but have yet to gain wide adoption.

ISU Extension and Outreach is holding a drainage and subirrigation workshop on March 14 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the ISU Extension and Outreach O'Brien County office located at 340 2nd Street SE, in Primghar. The cost is only \$25 and you can preregister by calling 712-957-5045.

The workshop will focus on the following topics:

1. Installing the tile to maximize its hydraulic properties

Drainage tubing can be installed with low slope down to 6 inches of slope per 1000 feet of length which allows us to pump water back into the tile lines when it is dry to build up a water table. One foot of water in a 4-foot deep tile line will go back up to the field 2,000 feet and will wick up the water to the growing crop about 18 inches above the tile. It does have some limitations in that you need access to the drainage ditch or creek and a water withdrawal permit is required if more than an inch of water per acre is going to be pumped per day from the surface source.

2. Installing the drainage tubing parallel to the slope instead of up and down with the slope

While the drainage pipe flow is faster with greater slope, often the problem is getting the water from the soil into the pipe. If the laterals are running parallel to the slope, they intercept the water with the shortest flow paths, making them more effective. The main can then run down the slope where flow velocity is much more important than the laterals. This will also make it possible to add head control structures on the main, to use it for irrigation.

3. Water permits that are required to pump water from ditches and waterways

During the workshop, Ag Engineering Specialist Dr. Kris Kohl will provide and help fill out the required paperwork to apply for an irrigation permit. The systems should not try to sub irrigate every part of the fields, but rather those that are easy and do not require very much lift. Permits are also subject to previous water users and cities and towns that are downstream.

Our best soils have very high infiltration rates. It will rain again and with these drainage ideas, 2023 can be a great year.

Let's explore the possibilities of using your own drainage system for efficient water removal and irrigation. Call the ISU Extension and Outreach O'Brien County Office at 712-957-5045 and reserve your spot for the March 14th workshop.

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AGRONOMY IN THE FIELD

Winter/Spring ZOOM Sessions

Agronomy in the Field

Leah Ten Napel, Field Agronomist
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This winter, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has many different opportunities to continue learning. One opportunity was created specifically with women in agriculture in mind! "Agronomy in the Field" is a multi-session hands-on workshop for women designed to provide opportunities to learn more about forage and crop production practices, conservation practices and water quality impacts to help strengthen decision-making on the farm and to increase the comfort level when talking to landowners, tenants, ag retailers, and farming partners.

Join us for our Winter/Spring ZOOM Sessions in 2023. All sessions are from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and are recorded and available for on-demand viewing later. The 2023 Session Topics and Presenters include:

- January 9 | **Lean and Mean Crop Production** - Angie Rieck-Hinz, Field Agronomist
The Lean and Mean presentation will set the tone for 2023 crop production by looking at inputs versus return on investment. This session will help you: 1) identify aspects of total cost of production for potential cost savings; 2) develop strategies to effectively balance input costs and yield potential risk; and 3) examine reactive versus proactive management through scouting to control input costs.
- February 20 | **Interpreting Soil Test Results and Fertilizer Recommendations** - Leah Ten Napel, Field Agronomist
Understanding soil fertility can help growers make the most informed decisions on their farms. This session will help you: 1) interpret results you receive from soil sampling and 2) learn how to apply that knowledge when making decisions on fertilizer inputs.
- March 6 | **Developing Successful Herbicide Plans** - Meaghan Anderson, Field Agronomist
Developing an effective herbicide plan to manage weeds in our row crops is critical to achieving maximum crop yield and minimizing weed-related headaches like resistance and increased production costs. This session will help you: 1) understand the basics of herbicide sites of action, 2) develop a sound strategy to manage problem weeds, and 3) identify non-herbicide tactics to aid in long-term weed management.
- March 20 | **Managing your Forages to Maximize Productivity** - Clarabell Probasco and Rebecca Vittetoe, Field Agronomists
Proper forage management is a critical in maximizing forage productivity. The dry conditions in previous growing seasons have really taken its toll on forages across the state. This session will help you: 1) understand how to evaluate your forage stand 2) examine options for making improvements to increase forage productivity; and 3) discuss alternative forage options.
- April 3 | **Iowa Soil and Understanding CSR2** - Lee Burras, Morrill Professor, Agronomy, ISU
It all starts with the soil. Better understand our Iowa soils with this session, which will examine three components of Iowa's soils: (a) formation and natural distribution, (b) roles and properties important to plant growth, and (c) common approaches to "valuing" soils including CSR2. This session will help you: 1) recognize the 6 most important soil regions in Iowa, 2) understand the difference between mollisols and alfisols and 3) gain familiarity with how CSR2 is calculated.

Register for the Series

There is NO cost to participate. Register for one or all the sessions by going to <https://go.iastate.edu/PGFFCZ>. Once you register, you will receive an email with a link to join the sessions via ZOOM.

Want more information or have a question?

Email: agronomyinthefield@iastate.edu

Check us out on Facebook: <https://go.iastate.edu/WOHLEH>