



**FIELD&FEEDLOT** a monthly agriculture publication for Northwest Iowa

**June 2022**

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**Online References**

**Ag Decision Maker**

[www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/)

**Iowa Beef Center**

[www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org)

**Manure Management Action Group**

[www.agronext.iastate.edu](http://www.agronext.iastate.edu)

**Iowa Pork Industry Center**

[www.ipic.iastate.edu/](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/)

**ISU Extension Dairy Team**

[www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam](http://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

**Time for a Change**

*Joel DeJong, Field Agronomist*

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As Lewis Carroll said in “The Walrus and the Carpenter” poem from *Through the Looking Glass*: “The time has come,’ the Walrus said, ‘to talk of many things: Of shoes - and ships - and sealing-wax - of cabbages - and kings’ ...”

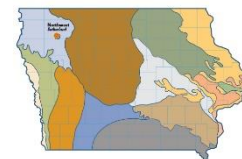
I have really enjoyed my 40+ years of working with ISU Extension. I have had the opportunity to learn from some of the best agronomic scientists in the world. I’ve enjoyed working side-by-side with many teammates in Extension, and I have had the pleasure of serving agricultural producers in Northwest Iowa – and have felt your appreciation for the work I have done. Many of you have become friends. I’ve had a great career with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. But I can tell that “The time has come.”

On August 31, I will be retiring from my Northwest Iowa Extension Field Agronomist position serving Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O’Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Ida, Woodbury, and Monona counties. I do not know exactly what the next challenge will be for me, but I believe it is time to sit back and see.

However, that opens up a possibility! ISU Extension and Outreach will be hiring someone to fill this position after I retire. If we get fortunate in the hiring process, perhaps there will be a month or so of overlap between my departure and the beginning of the next agronomist for Northwest Iowa. We need your help! If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this position, please encourage them to apply. It’s been a great career for me – I recommend it! As of the time I am writing this, the job position has not been posted on the ISU Job Site, but it should be soon. Here is the website to monitor where details for this job opening will be listed: <https://www.jobs.iastate.edu/positions/ps>.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Annual Northwest Iowa Research Farm Field Day will be held Wednesday, July 13 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the farm. Additionally, there will also be a Corn Rootworm Field Day at 1 p.m.

Northwest Iowa Research Farm  
6320 500th St.  
Sutherland, IA 510581



Located 1/4 mile east of Highway 59 on B-62, about 2 miles south of Calumet, O’Brien County

The morning program will begin with ISU Extension and Outreach Marketing Specialist Chad Hart discussing “Outlooks: Ag, Carbon and Renewable Energy.” In-field learning will address “Tar Spot,” led by Alison Robertson, ISU plant pathologist; “Nitrogen Management,” with Antonio Mallarino, ISU soil fertility specialist; and “Timely Agronomic Topics,” led by Gentry Sorenson and Joel DeJong, Extension field agronomists. At the completion of the morning field day, a complimentary noon lunch will be served. (Continued on next page)

## Time for a Change *(continued)*

Following lunch, the Corn Rootworm Field Day will begin at 1:00 p.m. ISU Entomologists Erin Hodgson and Ashley Dean will provide in-field education using a corn-on-corn demonstration plot. The demonstration plot has non-Bt rootworm corn, SmartStax corn and SmartStax Pro corn with the new RNA-i trait, all with and without insecticides. Roots will be dug and rated for injury, and management options will be discussed.

Attendance at the morning and/or afternoon field day is free and open to the public. Registration is not needed.

## Animals Euthanized with Pentobarbital Should Not Be Rendered

*Fred Hall, Dairy Specialist*  
712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu

Rendering companies provide an important biosecurity function through the collection and processing of animals that die other than by slaughter, including on-farm mortalities. Rendering is the preferred method for handling animal byproducts and mortalities with the rendered products, such as meat and bone meal and tallow, frequently used as ingredients in nutritionally balanced foods manufactured for livestock, poultry, and companion animals to consume.

The cooking process used is validated to kill conventional pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses, but will not inactivate chemical hazards such as pentobarbital. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the FWS Fact Sheet Secondary Pentobarbital Poisoning of Wildlife which discussed reports from 16 states where bald and golden eagles, other wildlife and domestic dogs died after scavenging pentobarbital-euthanized animals. FWS concluded that pentobarbital-euthanized carcasses should not be rendered, nor should they be disposed of where wild and other animals can access the carcass.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also has determined that pentobarbital is a hazard in ingredients fed to pets and other animals and that animals euthanized with pentobarbital cannot be rendered to make foods for pets, poultry and livestock. FDA has a zero tolerance for pentobarbital in animal food. Renderers cannot distinguish euthanized animals from animals that die from other causes and the rendering process does not inactivate pentobarbital. For euthanized livestock or other large animals to be rendered, non-chemical forms of euthanasia must be used.

Kerry Courchaine, Director of Technical Services at Darling Ingredients Inc., shared that Darling has found an alarmingly high rate of pentobarbital residue in rendered products here in Iowa. In fact, the number of pentobarbital residues observed in Iowa is one of (if not the highest) anywhere in the country. It's not clear whether the contaminated carcasses are from cattle, small ruminants, or other species of animals; but dairy, beef, and small ruminant owners need to be aware that if they have animals euthanized with pentobarbital by a veterinarian, these animals should not be rendered.

Officials from Darling Ingredients Inc. note that they have implemented procedures to keep pentobarbital out of the rendering stream. They no longer accept horse mortalities for rendering; have attempted to educate various stakeholders on the importance of the issue; and require raw material suppliers to sign a barbiturate hazard control warranty before scheduling collection. The detection limit of the method FDA uses to test for pentobarbital is so low (less than 10 ppb) that rendering one euthanized cow or horse of average size could contaminate an entire day's production of finished fat and proteins with detectable levels of the drug. In a letter to veterinarians, Darling Vice-President C Ross Hamilton noted, "If we are unable to demonstrate that our preventive efforts are effective at controlling pentobarbital, we may be forced to curtail animal mortality collection practices in certain regions or in all areas to comply with the FDA regulations."

Ross also explained disposal of animals treated or euthanized with pentobarbital is problematic. Such animals can no longer be rendered and other methods such as abandonment, shallow burial and composting can result in secondary poisoning of wildlife and domestic dogs. Livestock owners and veterinarians responsible for such unintentional poisonings may be held liable and subject to fines and/or criminal prosecution under federal laws.

Since it may be necessary to use pentobarbital, veterinarians should guide the animal owner with written guidance indicating the limitations for disposing of the carcass. Additionally, having an established method for permanently marking animals euthanized with pentobarbital would provide a means for renderers to identify animal remains that cannot be rendered from those that can and should be.

For more information producers should contact their renderer or their veterinarian.

**IOWA  
CONCERN**  
*hotline*

**800-447-1985**  
- call or text -

stress counseling  
legal education  
financial concerns



**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

## Agriculture Surveys and 2022 Crop Decisions

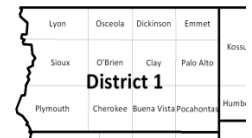
Gary Wright, Farm Management Specialist  
712-223-1574 or [gdwright@iastate.edu](mailto:gdwright@iastate.edu)

### 2022 Cash Rental Rate Survey and Other Current Ag Surveys

Earlier last week the annual ISU Extension and Outreach Cash Rental Rates for Iowa 2022 Survey was published. On May 18, this was discussed at the 94th Annual Soil Management and Land Valuation Conference in Ames.

The [complete survey results](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-10.pdf) can be found at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-10.pdf>. I will highlight some key components for Northwest Iowa below. As always, it is important to remember the survey's methodology and term definitions. This information is an opinion survey from farmers (43 percent), landowners (34 percent), and ag professionals (23 percent) who report their best judgements in county(ies) of typical cash rental rates. Respondents indicate a familiarity with 1.5 million acres of cropland across Iowa. Information about rents for individual farms is not collected.

The average State of Iowa lease rate is \$256/acre. This is \$24/acre (10.3 percent) higher than one year ago. By comparison, District 1 (defined as 12 counties - top three [north to south] county rows, four counties [west to east] broad), average lease rates were \$270/acre (\$28, 11.6 percent increases).



Individual counties are shown on page three of the report. A farm's average five-year (2015-19) corn or soybean yields, or the Corn Suitability Rating (2020/CSR2) can be used to further analyze survey results. Several links are provided in the report to gain more details. Equally important to the objective survey results are appropriately using the key subjective factors when determining a cash rent for a farm. Higher or lower lease rates may be justified from the 9 points listed.

As has been customary for several years, ISU Extension and Outreach has annually offered other objective, research-based agricultural benchmarks. This calendar year-to-date has included:

- [Custom Farming Rates](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/plastina/PlaApr22.html) - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/plastina/PlaApr22.html>
- [Land Valuation Trends](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-70.pdf) - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c2-70.pdf>
- [Cost of Production](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html) - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html>

### Operating Margins

The May 12 WASDE report had a little something for the bulls and the bears! Commodity markets for old and new crop continue to show differentials. The 2021 season-average per bushel corn price is \$5.90, while 2022 is \$6.75 from USDA; for soybeans: 2021 \$13.25; 2022 \$14.40. We know that producers can plant a lot of acres quickly, as I'm writing this, moisture levels continue to slow progress with current year's planting rates significantly below 5-year averages. U.S. production is forecasted lower (4.3 percent) due to a lower per acre yields from late or prevented planting. Though most of Iowa shows acceptable moisture levels, much of Northwest Iowa remains in D0-D1-D2 drought monitor ratings. USDA is now estimating Ukraine corn production lower by 54 percent; South America is projecting an increase in corn (7.1 percent) production from Brazil's second crop (Safrinha corn).

Corn and soybean export sales are down 13.7 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively (mostly, China). U.S. meat production is projected lower, mostly due to a 6.8 percent reduction in beef (pork and poultry both up slightly), while prices for beef are up 9.4 percent (pork and poultry prices both down slightly). Beef export shifts (up 3.1 percent) are a bright spot, while pork exports have declined 23.8 percent. Dairy milk price projections of \$25.80 per gallon for 2022 is the highest since 2014.

The war in Ukraine as well as a limit in Chinese exports, including related supply chain disruptions, have caused a spike in the cost of fertilizer. Other input costs are rising as well. By using [Ag Decision Maker](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/) (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>), producers can update margins for the 2022 crop with updated input cost projections. Production input costs are a moving target due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict. After an initial 12 percent increase from 2020 to 2021, another 6 percent increase is estimated for 2022. (<https://www.fb.org/market-intel/analyzing-farm-inputs-the-cost-to-farm-keeps-rising>)

To summarize the early 2022 operating breakeven prices for both corn (\$5.00/bushel; \$6.00) and soybeans (\$10.00/bushel; \$13) have markedly increased (second number – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 94th Annual Soil Management and Land Valuation Conference, May 18, 2022 - Dr. Michael Langemeier, Professor of Ag Economics, Center for Commercial Agriculture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN). To-date the robust market prices have supported at least near breakeven operating margins. CBOT July corn exceeded \$8/bushel on April 29 (the all-time record was \$8.49); July soybeans hit \$17.54/bushel on April 21. (<https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2022/04/april-update-to-2022-crop-budgets-projected-profits-even-with-record-costs.html>)

If the reader has questions about or needs help with any of the above topics, please feel free to contact me (Gary D. Wright, Farm Management Specialist, 712-223-1574, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/people/gary-wright>).