



FIELD&FEEDLOT a monthly agriculture publication for Northwest Iowa

MAY 2022

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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

Swine Industry Update

Dave Stender, Swine Specialist

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There are several things that swine producers are currently watching.

- **California's Proposition 12.** One of the top things is the California Proposition 12. As Prop 12 becomes implemented the rules will change for pork sold into California. Mostly, it is a requirement for pen gestation and space allowance. Most producers in Northwest Iowa would like a choice in how they raise their animals. There is no perfect system, but tradeoffs regarding welfare. With pen gestation, for example, you will typically see more sow aggression toward each other, especially during mixing and feeding periods. Alternatively, putting a sow in a crate is not a perfect system either. Prop 12 was supposed to be implemented already; however, a court case in California delayed the implementation because the rules are not complete. Currently, the Supreme Court will decide if Prop 12 can be implemented, changing the way we raise pigs in Iowa. If implemented, the cost of changing production systems to legally sell pork into California is high and increasing. Cost of construction has gone up more than other areas of the economy as the cost of steel and lumber increases.
- **Feed Costs.** In addition to increases in construction costs, feed costs have also gone up substantially. What may seem like a high market price for pigs, in reality only has a small margin because the cost of production increases in feed, energy, facility, and labor.
- **Labor Shortage.** Feed costs are not the only issue. Many operations are short-handed and looking for more help. The issues with lack of labor include stress from long hours and drop in output as well as packing plant output struggles related to not having a full staff.
- **African Swine Fever (ASF).** Producers are also looking at the spread of African Swine Fever around the world, most recently in the Dominican Republic within 100 miles of our country. Making plans for the possibility of a foreign animal disease is important for limiting the economic impact of the disease. Producers should track in and out movements of pigs, supplies and people, and understand the movement stops and permits needed during a potential outbreak. Some emergency planning for humane euthanasia and mortality disposal can help producers make difficult decisions. Workshops are being scheduled for late-Summer to help producers prepare for a potential outbreak.

As you can see, managing a swine farm right now is complex and can be stressful; however, I am thankful for swine producers and the work they do consistently to provide safe, nutritious, and tasty pork for consumers.

Digital Dermatitis - Creeping into Beef Feedlots

Beth Doran, Beef Specialist

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Digital dermatitis (DD) is on the way to becoming the number one cause of lameness in U.S. feedlot cattle and it is a BIG problem for feedlot producers. The common name for DD is hairy heel wart. Digital refers to the claw and dermatitis means inflammation of the skin. Simply put, there may be overlong hairs surrounding circular or oval lesions above the coronary hoof band on the back side of the foot.

The lesions are most common on the back side of the feet and are very tender to touch. Consequently, animals will walk on their toes, and the heel becomes abnormally long. If the lesion is on the front of the foot, animals respond by altering their weight bearing, which results in a long toe and greater wear on the heel. There are 5 stages of DD lesions ranging in severity from Stage 0 (a healthy heel) to Stage 4 (chronically recurring).

Common symptoms of DD include lameness in heavy cattle close to marketing and an unpleasant hoof odor. However, not all animals with DD will exhibit lameness, and they rarely develop swelling of the foot. Production losses involve the cost of prevention or treatment, decreased average daily gain, increased days on feed and reduced profitability.

Despite much research, the exact organisms responsible for DD are unknown, which complicates development of a vaccine and leaves little course other than treatment. Treatment for an individual animal with advanced lesions involves topical treatment with tetracycline, but reoccurrence within 2-3 months is common. A preventative measure for animals with early lesions may involve running animals through a 12-foot long, 6-inch-deep foot bath containing a solution of formalin, zinc sulfate or copper sulfate. The footbaths would be used at entry into the feedlot and several times during the feeding period. The goal is that periodic footbath use will result in fewer animals developing mature and chronic lesions that cause lameness.

There are several measures a producer can take to help prevent DD. Implement good biosecurity by quarantining new groups of cattle and avoid mixing cattle from different sources. Once DD is introduced into a group of cattle, it can spread rapidly to levels of 70 percent prevalence. Maintain non-abrasive pen flooring and clean, dry pens. Skin trauma and wet manure-covered feet predispose the animal to DD. Evaluate mineral nutrition as some macro- and micro-minerals, are beneficial to overall foot health. Keep good records of lameness, treatment, and overall success. Be on the lookout and stay on top of it.

To learn more about DD in feedlot cattle, ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Beef Industry Council and Iowa Cattlemen's Association are co-sponsoring a Hairy Heel Wart and Lameness Symposium on June 28 at the Terrace View Event Center in Sioux Center. For more information, contact Beth Doran, beef specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at 712-737-4230 or doranb@iastate.edu.

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) Workshops for 2022

Major packers require that custom transporters or beef producers using their own trailer to haul cattle to a packing plant have a current BQAT certificate. To become certified or to renew your certification, ISU Extension and Outreach has scheduled four dates for free workshops from 1-3 p.m. Pre-registration is required 2 days before the workshop that you plan to attend.

- June 14 – Sac County Extension Office, 620 Park Ave., Sac City. *RSVP to 712-662-7131.*
- July 12 – Clay County Extension Office, 110 W. 4th St., Ste 100, Spencer. *RSVP to 712-262-2264.*
- Aug. 9 – Sioux County Extension Office, 400 N. Central Ave., Ste 700, Orange City. *RSVP to 712-737-4230.*
- Nov. 29 – Cherokee County Extension Office, 209 Centennial Dr., Ste A, Cherokee. *RSVP to 712-225-6196.*

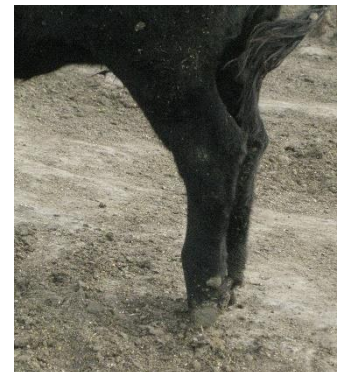
Topics include humane handling; principles of stockmanship; biosecurity; fitness for transport; pre-trip planning and loading; on the road, arrival and unloading; and risk and emergency management.

Unable to attend? BQAT certification may be completed on-line at <https://www.iabeef.org/cattlemens-corner/iowa-bqa>.



A DD lesion on the back side of the hoof.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Terry Engelken, Iowa State University Veterinarian.



A cocked ankle when standing is typical with DD.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Jan Shearer, Iowa State University Veterinarian.

Stand Evaluation Decisions for Corn and Soybeans

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As I write this article in late April, planting progress has not started due to weather events such as wind, cold temperatures (including cool soil temperatures for much of April), and rain showers. When the weather pattern becomes more favorable for planting in the next few days and planting begins, it will be important to evaluate stands of planted fields for stand evaluations in corn and soybeans.

Evaluation of seedling emergence is important as it alerts growers to factors that are affecting stand. These factors can include planter malfunction, diseases, insects, and environmental factors that affect growth. Tools to evaluate stands include a flat spade or a trowel for digging up plants, a tape measure, charts, tables that are referenced in this article, as well as field flags for marking areas of the field to reference later.

Stand counts become a good way to evaluate population and gives opportunity to investigate reasons for stand loss. The first step to stand evaluation is to measure 1/1000th of an acre, which can vary based on the row spacing. For growers using 30-inch row spacing, the length of 1/1000th of an acre is 17 feet, 5 inches. For growers that plant in 15-inch row spacing, 1/1000th of an acre is 34 feet, 10 inches. Tables can be found online for other row lengths or can be found in [IPM1 Corn and Soybean Field Guide](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/14743) (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/14743>) through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach for reference.

When the row length has been measured that represents 1/1000th of an acre, count the live plants present in the single row and multiply the number of plants counted by 1000 to obtain the plant population per acre. Using field flags to mark the distance of 1/1000th of an acre is helpful in the field. Repeat your counts across several areas of the field and average the counts that you have taken to gather the average plant population per acre. Take counts in random areas to eliminate bias in the sampling process.

After the plant populations have been gathered, evaluate why an area has uneven stands. Poor stand areas may include variable spacing, seedlings that are showing vigor that is poor, seedling blights, herbicide injury, planter issues, and insect issues. It is recommended to dig up the seedlings in areas of poor stands to evaluate the cause for the stand reduction. Once the cause of stand loss has been determined make an evaluation to understand if there is a need to replant or not.

Soybean guides have been developed to assist growers. One handy guide is called [Soybean Replant Decisions, PM 1851](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5422), (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5422>) from ISU Extension and Outreach which is available as a free download. The guide can assist by providing tables regarding replant and stand evaluations.

Helpful publications for corn stand evaluation include Table 2 included in the [Guide to Iowa Corn Planting](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5475) from publication CROPR 3161 (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5475>) available from ISU Extension and Outreach. Table 2 can assist in understanding the yield potential of corn compared to the planting date and final stand. In the case of uneven emergence of corn, the publication titled [Dealing with Uneven Emergence in Corn](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/3081) (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/3081>) is helpful to review.

When evaluating and considering if replanting is needed in corn, also evaluate the cost of replanting. If replanting corn, remember that the current stand of corn must be destroyed as replanting into an existing stand complicates management. It is important to consider the timing of fall frost when making a replant decision if replanting commences later in the growing season. When making replant decisions, always plant well-adapted hybrids to the area and evaluate the date of planting in reference to the hybrid maturity.

STRESS ON THE FARM IS REAL.

You are not alone.
Help is available.



IOWA CONCERN hotline

800-447-1985
- call or text -

stress counseling
legal education
financial concerns



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

If Stressed...

Iowa Concern Hotline
1-800-447-1985

If in Crisis...

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255 or chat at
suicidpreventionlifeline.org/chat

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 and press 1

Your Life Iowa

1-855-581-8111
or text 1-855-895-8398

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