Biosecurity for Beef Operations
Beth Ellen Doran, Beef Program Specialist

The recent outbreak of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in the upper Midwest is a reminder of the importance of good biosecurity. For an update on the status of Avian Influenza in Iowa, information may be found at: www.iowaagriculture.gov/avianinfluenza.asp

Specifically, a biosecurity plan is designed to prevent the spread and movement of infectious diseases onto the operation. Following is a brief description of the parts of a biosecurity plan.

**Cattle health** starts with acquiring animals from sources with known and trusted herd health programs. Nationally, the most widely recognized health program is the pre-conditioned feeder calf program. In this program, the feeder calf receives prescribed vaccinations, and there is a specific management protocol. A good health program also includes having protocols in place for handling sick animals, downer animals, mortalities and new/returning animals. **A quarantine of 30 days is advised for newly purchased livestock or animals returning from another premise or exhibition.**

**Restrict access** to your cattle and property. Livestock operators should have perimeter fencing and post a sign requesting that visitors check-in at the office. The Iowa Beef Industry Council and Sioux County Extension and Outreach have some of these signs. Access to cattle pens, feed mixing/storage areas, and treatment areas should be limited to employees only. Prevent cattle from having contact with free roaming animals such as rodents, birds, cats, dogs and wildlife.

**Cleanliness** begins with wearing clean clothes, disinfecting shoes and washing your hands before handling your livestock. This also includes your visitors. If they will be near your cattle, request they wear clean clothing and provide plastic boots to slip over their shoes. Regularly clean and disinfect the areas where animals are housed and all equipment that may come in contact with manure. After treating a sick animal, clean and disinfect the equipment before treating the next animal.

**Do not share** equipment and vehicles between farms. If you must share, be sure to clean and disinfect the equipment or vehicle before bringing it to your property.

**Handle feedstuffs carefully.** Store feedstuffs in a separate building from farm chemicals or treated seed and use the feedstuffs at a rate to minimize spoilage. Ideally, equipment should be dedicated to only the handling of feedstuffs and not the handling of manure.

**Keep good records** including deliveries of cattle and feeds, vaccinations and treatments, Beef Quality Assurance protocols and feedyard self-assessments.

**Know your veterinarian’s phone number** and report any sick animals you have or may have seen. You should report dead animals, such as wild birds or other wildlife. Do not pick them up with your bare hands. If you have any cattle mortality, have your veterinarian examine the carcass for cause of death.

And finally, realize that you, the cattle producer, can do a lot to protect the health and biosecurity of your cattle. Be pro-active – have a biosecurity plan and follow it!

Farmland Leasing and Land Value Workshops in July
Melissa O’Rourke, Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist

More than half of Iowa farmland is rented. In some Iowa locations, as much as 70 percent of the land is farmed by farmers who don’t own the land. At the same time, northwest Iowa farmland values continue to stay strong, and so have farmland cash rental rates.

These are just a few reasons why Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers workshops designed to answer questions that land owners and tenants have about farmland leasing and land values.
These workshops will be held across northwest Iowa counties during the week of July 23 through July 31.

I remind land owners and producers that farm leases must be terminated no later than September 1 to assure that lease terms for the following year (2016) can be renegotiated. Each year I receive numerous contacts from persons who have questions about farmland values and rental rates. Over the years, I’ve continued to see increased interest in farm leasing arrangements.

There are several other trends in farmland ownership and leasing. Due to the volatility of land and commodity markets, we have seen increased inquiries regarding flexible cash lease methodologies. For this reason, we have more focus on these kinds of arrangements. We will work through examples of various strategies for flexible cash leases.

Another area is the increasing age of farmland owners. Research indicates that the average age of farmland owners continues to rise. Fifty-five percent of Iowa's farmland is owned by people over the age of 65, while 28% of the land is owned by individuals over age 75. We also find that children and surviving spouses of farmers are less likely to continue operating the farm themselves. That’s a major reason why farmland leasing continues to increase.

I encourage anyone with an interest in farmland rental rates to attend these meetings—both farmland owners and producer-tenants. In fact, the ideal situation is for these folks to attend together and then sit down at the kitchen table to discuss their farm lease arrangements for the coming year.

Workshop attendees will receive a comprehensive workbook packed with information about land values, leasing and different types of farm lease arrangements. Everyone should leave with a heightened understanding of farmland leasing.

A registration fee of $20 per person is charged to cover costs and includes a 90-page workbook. Preregistration is preferred by calling the county extension office hosting the meeting. Walk-ins may attend for a $25 fee at the door.

More information about this and other farmland leasing meetings in Iowa can be found on the Extension and Outreach Ag Decision Maker website: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

Area meeting locations, dates, times and contact phone numbers are listed on the back but these are subject to change so attendees should contact their local Extension and Outreach office or visit them online at www.extension.iastate.edu and click on “Locate a County Office.”

**Checking Crops in June**
*Paul Kassel, Crop Specialist*

**Check cornfields.** Check corn populations for each hybrid or every field. Measure the following distance and count the plants. This will give you plant population in thousand plants per acre.

Table 1 shows some things to observe. A successful harvest of high yielding corn is based on establishing 32,000 to 34,000 plants per acre. The following items may be limiting your yield potential if they are present in your fields.

- Planting date effect on final stand.
- Plant spacing.
- Doubles, skips.
- Variation in plant size/development in the same row.
- Check for cutworms, white grubs and wireworms, which can damage stands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row spacing</th>
<th>Distance to measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 inch</td>
<td>14 ft. 6 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 inch</td>
<td>17 ft. 5 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 inch</td>
<td>26 ft. 1 in.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Complete this activity in June because you likely can remember any planting problems. Items like seed size, seed weight and seed treatment may affect planter performance. Notes that you make this time of year can be helpful when you make seed selections for next season.

Evaluate the performance of insecticide seed treatments. Products like Gaucho, Poncho and Cruiser are effective on white grubs and wireworms. High populations of white grubs and wireworms may not be effectively controlled by insecticide seed treatments.

The transgenic traits also can be evaluated also. Agrisure Viptera, Herculex 1 and Genuity SmartStax have activity on black cutworm. These traits will control moderate to low populations of black cutworm. Higher populations of black cutworm may not be controlled by these traits.

Corn rootworm damage may begin to be evident by late June. Dig a few plants to evaluate the performance of corn rootworm transgenic traits and/or insecticide treatments. Damage from corn rootworm larval feeding is not expected to be a large problem this year. However, issues with corn rootworm management have become more common in recent years and it is good advice to check your fields before it becomes a large problem.

**Check soybean plant populations.** Recent research has shown that a final plant population of 100,000 seeds per acre is effective for maximum soybean yields. Check soybean plant populations using the following information in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row spacing—inches</th>
<th>One plant per foot of row equals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>26,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>75,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Measure out a three-foot section of row, count the plants and figure
the stand count. Compare planted seeds per acre to the final plant population.

Check soybeans for:
- Soybean cyst nematode; be sure to dig a few plants.
- Soybean disease; like damping off, rhizoctonia and fusarium root rots.
- Effectiveness of the iron deficiency chlorosis resistance of your soybean variety.

Check field drainage. Make notes on field drainage needs and identify areas that are poorly drained. Crop growth is very sensitive to poor drainage this time of year. Maps that show areas that need additional drainage can be very useful in determining field drainage needs next fall.

Update your field records. Update your field maps with hybrid/variety information, planting dates, tillage operations, seeding rates, and herbicide applications. Record the locations of different hybrids/varieties.

Update RUP Records. Update your Restricted Use Product (RUP) records. Record product name, EPA registration number, rate, application date, area treated and total amount used for each RUP used in each field.

Some of the RUP products that need to be recorded are atrazine, products that contain atrazine, Balance Flexx, Corvus, Prequel, and the granular rootworm products applied at planting time (except Lorsban 15G).

Many Swine Events in June
Matt Swantek, Swine Program Specialist

June is bursting with swine activities!

The Advanced Reproductive Management Seminar is June 10 in Le Mars and June 11 in Waverly. Presenters are Larry Coleman, DVM from Broken Bow, Nebraska; Dr. Jason Ross, assistant professor, ISU Department of Animal Science; and Dave Stender, ISU Extension and Outreach swine specialist. Dr. Coleman’s topics are “No pig left behind” and “Increasing employee success.” Dr. Ross will present on summer’s heat impact on breeding herd fertility and ideas to improve breeding herd reproductive performance. Dave Stender will update the latest research on sow calipers measuring sow body condition scores.

The fourth annual Iowa Swine Day is June 25 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State campus. The world protein supply, preparing for new swine diseases and other pork production related issues will be the topics of discussion. Regional, national and international leaders in swine research, economics, production and the marketplace will address key challenges facing the pork industry. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4:35 p.m. in Benton Auditorium. John Patience, Iowa State animal science professor and an event organizer, said the sessions offer a variety of timely topics.

“We are seeking to continue to build momentum with this event. The key is to offer a program that addresses important issues for the pig industry–today and in the future. We do this by asking an industry panel to help us select topics and speakers,” he said. Iowa Swine Day is open to the public and targets pork producers, pork industry suppliers, extension personnel, consultants, researchers, veterinarians and students.

The cost of the meeting is $60 (students receive a $35 discount), if registered by June 12. The fee includes coffee, snacks, lunch and a copy of the proceedings. Registration is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/iowaswineday/.

Topics on the program include updates on PRRS and PEDV and how they impact nutrition, how heat stress affects reproduction, and how the industry can respond to the unique expectations of employing millennials. Speakers include William Sawyer, vice president of Rabobank; Alan Wessler, vice president of MFA, Inc.; and Matt Culbertson, director of Global Product Development, PIC.

The Iowa Pork Producers Association is partnering with the Iowa Pork Industry Center and ISU Extension and Outreach swine field specialists to offer free training and preparation sessions aimed at helping Iowa pork producers prepare for a Common Swine Industry Audit. All session dates and time are listed below.

Session attendees will have an opportunity to walk through steps of the common audit, evaluate areas for improvement on their farms and customize Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be prepared for the audit process. Attendees will have an opportunity to work with the field specialists on-site to develop farm specific documentation towards meeting the audit’s criteria. Training sessions have been established across the state of Iowa. Click Here for locations and dates.
Farmland Leasing and Land Value Meetings

Thursday, July 23
Le Mars 6:30 p.m. Le Mars Convention Center Lower Level
Plymouth County • 712-546-7835

Monday, July 27
Spirit Lake 6:30 p.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Office
Dickinson County • 712-336-3488

Tuesday, July 28
Sergeant Bluff 9 a.m. Sergeant Bluff Community Center
Woodbury County • 712-276-2157
Orange City 1:30 p.m. Extension Office-Main Floor Classroom
Sioux County • 712-737-4230
Rock Rapids 6:30 p.m. Forster Community Center
Lyon County • 712-472-2576

Wednesday, July 29
Emmetsburg 9 a.m. Extension and Outreach Office (Old Library)
Palo Alto County • 712-852-2865
Estherville 1:30 p.m. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Emmet County • 712-362-3434
Spencer 6:30 p.m. Spencer School Administration Building
Clay County • 712-262-2264

Thursday, July 30
Pocahontas 9 a.m. Extension and Outreach Office
Pocahontas County • 712-335-3103
Storm Lake 1:30 p.m. Extension and Outreach Office
Buena Vista County • 712-732-5056
Cherokee 6:30 p.m. Western Iowa Tech Auditorium
Cherokee County • 712-225-6196

Friday, July 31
Sheldon 9 a.m. Iowa State Bank meeting room
O’Brien County • 712-957-5045

June 6 Flavors of Northwest Iowa
Lunch on the Farm • Larchwood

June 8 Master Gardener Webinar
Design from Yard to Trough • Hull

June 10 Advanced Swine Reproduction Seminar
Le Mars

June 24 Food Preservation 101 • Sibley

June 25 Dykstra Dairy Open House • Maurice

June 30 ServeSafe • Spencer

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