Extension Web Sites
Ag Decision Maker
www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/
Beef Center
www.iowabeefcenter.org/
Manure Management
www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/
Pork Center
www.ipic.iastate.edu/
ISU Extension Dairy Team
www.extension.iastate.edu/DairyTeam/

Swine Producers are Trying to Avoid Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus
Dave Stender, Swine Program Specialist

As the new swine disease continues to spread, we are learning more about it. Currently, over 2000 operations are infected from 22 states, and the numbers of infections grow during the cold weather winter season. The virus is highly contagious, evidenced by the fact good bio-security systems have failed in some cases. The most common movement of the virus has been with transport trucks. A recent study showed that 17% of trucks entering the harvest plant facilities were positive for the virus and 28% leaving the plant were positive. The virus is difficult to kill in cold weather. Research suggests it takes 10 minutes at 160 degrees F to be sure the virus is de-activated. Most truck washes don’t have the capability to reach those temperatures, and during winter weather some of the active virus is frozen and preserved before it is inactivated even after washing and disinfecting.

Some good news is that the virus is not a threat to the consumer nor any food safety issue; it is only a pig disease. The bad news is that the new disease is financially devastating for local pork producers. The characteristic of the disease is a yellow scour that overcomes young pigs that are still nursing on the sow. The death loss for very young pigs is 100%. Some in the industry have estimated that over 3 million baby pigs have died since the outbreak and that number is growing.

ISU Extension and Outreach has been hosting meetings and providing fact sheets to help producers avoid the disease. That is a difficult challenge because our herds are naïve and the virus is very contagious. A microscopic piece of manure can infect a whole herd in a short time. Producers are working very hard to identify weak areas in their bio-security plans. Some are thinking about contamination from contact outside the farm.

An example of possible transmission of microscopic manure could be on the trip to town for gas. Maybe at the pump there is some microscopic virus, just enough to be picked up on shoes and to contaminate the floorboard of the pickup. From the pickup floorboard the virus seems to be able to find its way to the pigs. Producers are starting to utilize the concept of “clean/dirty lines” to try to keep the virus away from the pigs. The clean/dirty line establishes a barrier— in order for anything to move from the dirty to the clean side, it must either be decontaminated or proven to be free of disease contamination. With clean/dirty lines, the producers change shoes often, leaving the dirty behind and only wearing clean footwear around the farm. An important part of the farmer’s strategy is to not have areas on the farm where foot traffic from town crosses with foot traffic toward the pig barn.

Some producers are considering separate driveways and entrances for service providers. Electricians, plumbers or a feed truck is commonly needed on the farm. Once the virus gets into a local area, these service providers are a risk to the operation. Most operations are providing plastic boots and hand washing requirements to help reduce the risk. There are many things we are learning about the virus and local producers are implementing many of the practices. The stakes are high; large herds can lose tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of dollars with an outbreak. They are motivated to do all they can to avoid the disease. Producers can check the pork board website or the Iowa Pork Industry Center site for more information regarding this new disease.
**Beef Programs and Issues**

*Beth Doran, Beef Program Specialist*

**ISU-UNL Feedlot Roundtable** - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the University of Nebraska are teaming up to offer a Feedlot Roundtable session at the Pocahontas County extension office on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The ISU-UNL Feedlot Roundtable is offered annually in Nebraska and Iowa for feedlot operators and agri-business professionals.

The Roundtable, which will be delivered via webcast to the Pocahontas site, features nationally recognized speakers on timely feedlot issues. Dee Griffin, veterinarian at the UNL Vet Education Center in Clay Center, NE, will discuss how FDA’s elimination of antibiotics for growth promotion and efficiency will affect feedlot producers. Dustin Loy, veterinarian at the UNL Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will speak about Bovine Respiratory Disease pathogens and antimicrobial resistance. Galen Erickson, feedlot specialist at UNL, will focus on the use of fiber for cattle or ethanol. Beth Doran will present an update on ISU beef research.

Pre-registration is requested by Tuesday, Feb. 11 and may be made with Dianne Dirks (call 712-335-3013 or e-mail dianne@iastate.edu). Registration will be $10 per person, but is payable at the door.

**Meeting to Address Current Feedlot Issues** – ISU Extension and Outreach and the O’Brien County Cattlemen’s Association are partnering to offer a meeting for area beef producers and agri-business staff on March 25, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Community Center in Primghar. The meeting features the following topics and speakers:

- Iowa DNR Work Plan for Beef Feedlots – Ken Hessenius, IDNR Supervisor for Field Office 3
- New Animal Welfare Protocols for Beef Feedlots – Lora Wright, Tyson Beef Farm Check Program Coordinator
- Market Situation and Outlook – Kooima and Kaemingk Commodities, Inc.
- Animal Welfare Protocols for Beef Feedlots – Ken Hessenius, IDNR Supervisor for Field Office 3
- Market Situation and Outlook – Kooima and Kaemingk Commodities, Inc.

There is no fee to attend, but participants are encouraged to pre-register with the O’Brien County Extension Office (call 712-957-5045 or e-mail mrehder@iastate.edu) in order to prepare materials and refreshments.

**CME Proposes Heifer Delivery** – The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) is proposing that heifers be accepted for delivery against the Live Cattle Futures contract. Currently, the CME does not allow heifers to be delivered against open future positions. More information about this proposal can be found at: [www.dailylivestockreport.com/documents/dlr%202001-14-14.pdf](http://www.dailylivestockreport.com/documents/dlr%202001-14-14.pdf)

**Warming Cold Calves** – The extreme cold weather we’ve experienced points to the importance of having a plan for warming newborn calves.

Canadian researchers compared methods of reviving cold-stressed baby calves. Heat production and rectal temperatures were measured in 19 newborn calves during cold stress and recovery. Rectal temps of the calves were 86°F before re-warming was initiated. Normal rectal temperatures before cold stress were 103°F.

The four treatments for re-warming were: 1) re-warming in a 68-77°F air environment with added thermal insulation; 2) re-warming in a 68-77°F air environment with supplemental heat from infrared lamps; 3) re-warming by immersion in warm water (100°F) with a 40 cc drench of 20% ethanol; and 4) re-warming by immersion in warm water (100°F) without a 40 cc drench of 20% ethanol.

The time required to regain normal body temperature from a rectal temperature of 86°F was longer for calves with added insulation and those exposed to heat lamps than for calves immersed in one of the two warm water treatments (90 and 92 minutes vs 59 and 63 minutes, respectively). No advantage was evident with the oral administration of ethanol.

Bottomline: Immersion of cold-stressed calves in warm (100°F) water allowed the calves to regain normal body temperatures most rapidly and reduced the calves’ use of stored body energy reserves.

Cautions: Be sure to dry the calf before returning it to the cold weather outside. Remember to support the calf’s head above water to prevent drowning.

**New ISU Publications and Spreadsheets** – are available on the Ag Decision Maker website at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/homepage.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/homepage.html). New publications include:

- Raising versus Buying Heifers for Beef Cow Replacement
- Livestock Planning Prices
- Livestock Enterprise Budgets for Iowa
- The following three spreadsheets may be downloaded free of charge:
  - Buying Heifers for Beef Cow Replacement
  - Raising Heifers for Beef Cow Replacement
  - Livestock Enterprise Budgets for Iowa

**Stover Harvest and Nutrient Removal**

*Paul Kassel, Crop Field Specialist*

Recent meetings on stover harvest have raised questions on the nutrient content of stover harvest. Stover harvest has been in the news lately because of the need for stover for conversion to ethanol and livestock producers need corn stalk bales for bedding.

Stover harvest is defined as harvest of some portion of the crop residue that remains in the field after grain harvest. Total stover remaining after corn grain harvest can be as much as 4 to 5 tons per acre.

Corn stover harvest for ethanol is usually considered more of a partial harvest and may be in the 0.7 to 1.5 tons per acre.
range. Stover harvest for livestock bedding is usually 1.5 to 3.5 tons per acre.

Determination of nutrient content of baled stover can be complicated. Factors like stover harvest timing, corn hybrids, soil contamination and rainfall amount after stover harvest can affect nutrient content of stover. However, the figures listed below are the acceptable nutrient concentrations for crop stover. More information is available in Table 2 of ISU publication PM 1688 (revised, October 2013).

These figures estimate the nutrient content of stalks, stems, cobs and leaves immediately after harvest. The figures listed also represent stover that has very little soil contamination. Soil contamination would tend to overestimate the nutrient content of the stover. These nutrient content figures have been adjusted recently to reflect recent research on these stover materials.

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<th>P2O5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corn stover, 15% moisture</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean residue, 10% moisture</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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</table>

The potassium content of the stover would likely decrease if rainfall occurs after crop maturity and before harvest. Potassium is fairly soluble in crop stover after harvest and is moved from the crop material to the soil with rainfall. It is difficult to assess the amount of potassium that might be moved from the plant material to the soil with rainfall.

There is some nitrogen content of stover following harvest. However, economic value of nitrogen content of stover is not considered a factor when valuing corn stover harvest because nitrogen fertilization is not necessary for a soybean production. Also, partial corn stover harvest before a year of corn production is considered beneficial. This may seem to be a contradiction, but if some stover is removed before a corn crop, less carbon is added to the soil and then less nitrogen is needed to produce a corn crop.

Good Farm Policy: Avoid The Top Ten Estate Planning Mistakes (Part 2)
Melissa O’Rourke, Farm and Agribusiness Management Specialist

Having worked with farm and ranch families over the past twenty years on issues of estate and succession planning, certain trends become apparent. Last month (January) I shared the first five of the top ten mistakes – and the second five are contained in this month’s issue of Field and Feedlot. The entire article can be found on Ag Decision Maker: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/orourke/OrourkeOct13.html Please contact me about more estate and farm transition planning resources and programs from ISU Extension and Outreach.

6. Doing nothing because “I’m worth less than $5 million”
The corollary to this mistake is “We (my spouse and I) are worth less than $10 million.” In the U.S., many farmland owners are land rich, cash poor, and have little or no estate plan in place. As the value of farmland continues to increase, the bottom line on a balance sheet goes up – and an estate plan problem could be on the horizon in the years ahead. Some farmland owners may have a false sense of federal estate tax security because they think their share of the farm is worth less than $5.25 million. Maintain an accurate balance sheet that reflects the current and future market value of your assets.

7. Death is not cheap: Lack of Liquidity
Farmers can be good at accumulating assets such as land, equipment, farm buildings, livestock and other investments, but they lack sufficient liquidity to deal with the costs that arise at death. These include the costs of final illnesses, funerals, and estate settlement costs (either probate or trust administration fees or fees to other professionals). Cash may be needed to continue farm operations prior to final estate settlement. Maintain assets with sufficient liquidity to convert to cash or utilize life insurance as a tool for this purpose.

8. Failure to be organized and maintain good records
The lack of adequate records is the greatest heartache of the estate executor or POA. Maintain a recordkeeping system that can be found and utilized by others at the time of your incapacity or death. Keep all records in a safe place yet still accessible to those who need them when you are gone. Sit down with your executor, trustee or POA and have a show-and-tell session, explaining where everything is located and organized. Leaving well-organized records and documents makes procedures at the time of your incapacity or death less time-consuming, expensive and frustrating for those you leave in charge.

9. Trying to do it on the cheap and not using a team approach
There is nothing wrong with being frugal. But think about the value of your assets, and your goals for those assets and your heirs, both during your lifetime and after death. Does it pay to adopt a do-it-yourself approach? Build relationships with a comprehensive team of professionals: legal, accounting, tax, financial, insurance, real estate, farm management – and others that may be vital to your goals. Proper estate planning is not an inexpensive proposition; but it is well worth the investment when the results you desire are achieved.

10. Not maintaining your estate plan
Do not just your estate plan on the shelf and forget about it. Estate planning documents – wills, trusts and substitute-decision-making (powers of attorney) designations – should be reviewed on a regular basis. Similarly, beneficiary designations on intangible assets – retirement accounts, CDs, bank accounts, life insurance policies – should be reviewed regularly. Certain life events should trigger an automatic review. Watch for changes in estate tax law, and changes in your income or wealth. Good estate planning is never truly done – it is always a work in progress. Circumstances and needs of both you and your heirs change and these should be discussed at least annually with your professional team. The peace of mind you have will be worth it.
## Hotlines Available For All
- **Iowa Concern** (800-447-1985)
- **Farm On** (877-BFC-1999)
- **Teen Line** (800-443-8336)
- **BETS OFF** (800-BETS-OFF) (800-238-7633)

## Hotlines Available to Iowa Residents Only
- **Families Answer Line** (800-262-3804)
- **Hortline** (515) 294-3108
- **Iowa Healthy Families** (800-369-2229)
- **PORKLine** (800-808-7675)

### Smart Choice Health Insurance Workshops

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Le Mars</td>
<td>Spencer</td>
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<td>Seed Treatment Continuing Instruction</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
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