



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

**August 2019**

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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 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

**Hortline** 515-294-3108

**Iowa 2-1-1** 211

**Iowa Concern** 800-447-1985

**Iowa Healthy Families** 800-369-2229

**Teen Line** 800-443-8336

**Meet Dawn Henderson, New Horticulture Program Coordinator for Northwest Iowa**

*Dawn Henderson, Horticulture Program Coordinator  
712-472-2576 or dawnh@iastate.edu*



Hello! My name is Dawn Henderson, and I am the new Horticulture Program Coordinator for Sioux, O'Brien, Lyon, and Osceola Counties. I started mid-June and have hit the ground running as summer, of course, is the busiest time of year for horticulture.

My background is in agronomy with a bachelor's degree from Iowa State as of this May. I also studied agricultural education and horticulture as extra-curricular courses. Public outreach is a passion of mine, and this position allows me to combine that passion with my background in agriculture.

Past experiences have also prepared me for this position. Two years ago, I served as an intern with Joel DeJong, learning everything I could about working with Extension and agronomy. I was given the opportunity to plan, present, and network with a community of people that I enjoy. My favorite experience from that summer was hosting the "Women in the Field" events. After presenting at those, I knew a career in Extension and Outreach would be an excellent fit for me. My final internship was also through ISU Extension and Outreach, although under a different program area: *Water Rocks!/Iowa Learning Farms*. This internship gave me the opportunity to present to youth and the public on a wide range of agricultural conservation topics.

My background in agriculture and home horticulture combined with a passion for public education has allowed me to enter this position with excitement and a drive to build the program as I go. One program in particular is the Master Gardener Program. I will be hosting trainings this fall in Orange City for Sioux, O'Brien, Lyon and Osceola Counties. Registration for this training is due Aug. 9, 2019. For more information visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/>.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I am based out of Rock Rapids and am available at dawnh@iastate.edu or 712-472-2576.

## Sizing Up the 2019 Corn Crop

Paul Kassel, Field Agronomist  
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The 2019 corn crop has a number of different planting dates. Four planting dates were selected for this discussion. These varied planting dates and varied planting conditions will greatly affect the maturity date and grain moisture of the 2019 corn crop.

The following information is based on the [Useful to Usable](https://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/) website (<https://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/>). This website can be used to estimate crop maturity by entering different locations, hybrid maturity ratings and planting dates.

The information in this table assumes a 100-day hybrid planted on the following dates with a Clay County location.

<b>Plant Date</b>	<b>Silking Date</b>		<b>Black Layer Date</b>	
	<b>Predicted</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Average</b>
April 24	July 17	July 14	September 13	September 11
May 7	July 20	July 18	September 18	September 16
May 16	July 22	July 24	September 23	September 22
June 4	August 1	August 3	October 16	October 11

A 105-day hybrid with the same planting dates will delay the silking date by a couple of days and will delay the black layer date by about a week.

This kind of web-based tool may be a little optimistic on corn development – actual silking dates were slightly delayed from what is listed above. This tool does not account for waterlogged soil conditions and nitrogen deficiency, which will often delay crop development. Also, this web-based tool does not account for the fact that hybrids require less *Growing Degree Days (GDDs)* to reach maturity when the planting date is delayed. Therefore, the 100-day hybrid in this comparison will require about 200 less *GDDs* to reach maturity when planted on June 4 as compared to the 2400 it requires to reach maturity if planted on May 7.

The good news is that some of the corn crop is expected to mature in mid-September. Therefore, the maturity of the early planted corn crop will allow it to take advantage of good conditions for field drying. Weather conditions in September will often dry corn in the field 5 to 7 percentage points of moisture per week.

## Iowa Swine Day 2019

Dave Stender, Swine Specialist  
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Iowa Swine Day has become a big event for swine producers. In 2019, more than 600 producers, students and agricultural professionals attended the one-day event on June 27.

One of the main reasons for the success of Iowa Swine Day is the quality and content delivered from the conference speakers. The day began with Dr. Daniel Robison, the new dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University, who introduced himself and offered some welcoming comments.

Dr. Frank Mitloehner, from the University of California at Davis, was the first keynote speaker. Mitloehner conducts research directly related to understanding and mitigating air emissions from livestock operations. He explained that greenhouse gas from livestock is different from fossil fuel greenhouse gas; the majority of gas from livestock is methane, versus fossil fuels which produce carbon dioxide. Mitloehner's point is that methane is part of a cycle, and most methane is destroyed every year. Taking this into account, livestock production is not a major factor in net greenhouse gas production. Burning fossil fuels however, is not a cycle, and thus, once released, carbon dioxide from fuel consumption will remain in the atmosphere for decades.

Dr. Mitloehner also pointed out that the United States livestock production is ranked among the best, having a low carbon footprint among nations. Efficiency is the reason. Think about a gas-guzzling car versus a very fuel-efficient car. Most know that the fuel-efficient car has less greenhouse gas emission. In a similar way, an average U.S. dairy

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cow producing 23,000 pounds of milk a year is more efficient than a cow from an undeveloped country producing 1,000 pounds per year.

The bottom line from keynote speaker Mitloehner is that trying to change the climate by changing what we eat is a misrepresented concept. One person giving up ALL meat for one year would reduce greenhouse gas as much as one person giving up one-half of one Trans-Atlantic flight. Therefore, including meat in a global warming debate is counterproductive.

Other speakers from the conference were equally informative on different topics. In summary:

- Dr. Wes Jamison focused on helping participants understand how generation Z thinks, speaking generally.
- Dr Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, from the University of Montreal, explained that human nature makes biosecurity strategies difficult to implement successfully. Vaillancourt showed data that compliance to operating procedures for biosecurity is low, something less than 35 percent.

We also learned more about African Swine Fever, how to manage employees, ventilation systems and a host of other topics. Check out the Iowa Pork Industry Center website at [www.ipic.iastate.edu](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu) for links to listen to some of the Iowa Swine Day 2019 recordings.

## Exports are a Cagey Beast

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While most ag commodities are bemoaning export shortfalls, dairy seems to be a bright spot with May exports hitting a 4-year high. Total U.S. dairy exports in May were valued at \$539.1 million, up 6 percent and the most in four years, fueled by an increase in cheese exports and aided by improved world prices. In the first five months of the year, overall volume is on track for the third-best year ever, only trailing the pace of 2018 and 2014, according to prediction from the United States Dairy Export Council (USDEC). May's exports continued trends of recent months. Overall volume trailed the strong levels of May 2018, but nearly all the shortfall came from lost sales to China. Shipments of milk powders, cheese, butterfat, whey products, and lactose to China were down 67 percent, while exports to the rest of the world were down just 1 percent. In total, all U.S. export volume was off 13 percent from a year ago.

Cheese remains a bright spot. Exports in May were up 11 percent, and year-to-date volume is the highest in five years. Shipments to Southeast Asia, Japan and South Korea were all up by more than 1,000 tons from a year ago. Sales to Indonesia were particularly strong (1,317 tons, up five-fold and the most in six years). However, in Mexico, the largest market for U.S. cheese, exports are down 7 percent year to date.

On a total milk solids basis, U.S. exports were equivalent to 14.7 percent of U.S. milk solids production in May. During the first five months of the year, exports were equivalent to 14.2 percent of production, compared with an average of 14.7 percent from 2014-18.

For most dairy producers this is welcome news. However, the current price increases after four years of prices generally below cost of production are more related to lower production than to increased exports. In the upper Midwest, our price is predominately based on cheese production.

USDA's most recent Cold Storage report was friendly to the cheese markets. It showed June 30 cheese stocks at 1.38 billion pounds, down 0.5 percent from a year ago. Inventories of American cheese fell 1.9 percent below year-ago levels, the smallest June total since 2016. The report is evidence of cheese demand and the impact that lower milk volumes have had on commodity cheese production. In the Midwest, cheesemakers are increasingly inclined to pay a premium for spot milk, when they had grown used to buying at steep discounts. In the eastern two-thirds of the nation, milk powder driers are running below capacity, as they traditionally do at this time of year. Higher prices and lower volumes are pushing milk to their best use, to the benefit of dairy producers who will enjoy a better blend, higher premiums, and lower hauling deductions. This week, prices were mixed, although the spot markets moved mostly higher. CME spot Cheddar blocks gained 4.5 cents and closed at \$1.825 per pound. Barrels climbed 1.5 cents to \$1.72.

Simply stated, the improved trendline prices are a function of lower production. The key to long term improvement will be how slow production grows. Weather, the availability of capital and replacement heifers will limit growth. However, dairy producers are very nimble at responding to price signals.

## Upcoming Events

- Aug. 1 - **Planning for Profitability** at 9:00-2:00 p.m. • Forster Community Center, Rock Rapids  
Aug. 1 - **Commercial Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 9:00-Noon • Primghar  
Aug. 1 - **Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 1:00-4:00 p.m. • Primghar  
Aug. 6 - **Commercial Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 8:30-11:30 a.m. • Sibley  
Aug. 6 - **Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training** at 10:00-Noon • Frontier Bank Basement, Rock Rapids  
Aug. 6 - **Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Sibley  
Aug. 7 - **Farmland Leasing Meeting** at 9:00-Noon • Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon  
Aug. 7 - **SDSU Forage Field Day** at 10:00-4:00 p.m. • SDSU Southeast Research Farm, Beresford, SD  
Aug. 8-18 - **Iowa State Fair** • Des Moines  
Aug. 8 - **Commercial Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 9:00-Noon • Rock Rapids  
Aug. 8 - **Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Rock Rapids  
Aug. 13 - **BQA Transportation Training** at 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Terrace View Event Center, Sioux Center  
Aug. 13 - **Writing Your Retirement Paycheck – Session 1** at 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Orange City  
Aug. 13 - **Farmland Leasing Meeting** at 6:00-9:00 p.m. • Rock Rapids  
Aug. 14 - **Farmland Leasing Meeting** at 9:00-Noon • Orange City  
Aug. 15 - **Commercial Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 8:30-11:30 a.m. • Orange City  
Aug. 15 - **Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Reshow** at 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Orange City  
Aug. 20 - **Writing Your Retirement Paycheck – Session 2** at 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Orange City  
Aug. 22 - **Soil Testing Interpretation & Recommendations** at 9:00-Noon • NW Research Farm, Sutherland  
Aug. 24 - **Local Master Gardener Training** at 9:00-11:00 a.m. • Orange City  
Aug. 27 - **Cover Crop Field Day** • Alford  
Aug. 29 - **Farm & Agribusiness Succession Workshop** at 5:00-9:00 p.m. • Spirit Lake  
Aug. 31 - **Local Master Gardener Training** at 9:00-11:00 a.m. • Orange City

*Field & Feedlot* is published monthly by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Agriculture and Natural Resources Field Specialists. Inquiries about the publication and/or how you can receive it in your inbox each month can be sent to Kiley Biedenfeld at [kkaufman@iastate.edu](mailto:kkaufman@iastate.edu) or 712-957-5045.

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