Greetings! The agrarian lifestyle is a way of life I know well. Farming is and has been for generations, my family’s way of life. I come from a farming family in southeast Wisconsin, where my parents still own and operate a Holstein dairy farm of approximately 150 milking cows. I received my Bachelor of Science degree at Marian University of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, majoring in pre-veterinary science/biology. From there, I completed my veterinary training in 2012 and received my veterinary license at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. I worked in private practice following school as a large animal veterinarian, primarily dairy.

I sought the chance to work with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach as a dairy field specialist because it offers me the chance to do what I enjoy—working with people that feed the world and choose dairying as their profession. Farming is a challenging but rewarding lifestyle and to have the opportunity to help those involved in the dairy industry is an amazing experience.

As an ISU Extension and Outreach dairy field specialist I hope to provide important keys for success to dairy producers and industry personnel here in Northwest Iowa by keeping them up-to-date with the newest dairy cattle advancements, research and industry support tools available. Through the use of these tools and education, knowledge may be gained on animal nutrition, quality management on the farm and environment, health and well-being for dairy animals, etc. In achieving these goals, I hope that the information and opportunities gained through Extension and Outreach support will help these individuals operate more efficiently and effectively while still maintaining high standards of animal welfare and health, to produce excellent quality products for consumers.

As the dairy field specialist for Northwest Iowa I will serve Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Monona, O’Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Sioux, Webster and Woodbury counties. My office is in the Sioux County office, Orange City.

I also want to direct attention to the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Team’s Web page. This page has many resources and materials pertinent to enhancing dairy profits and quality of life for those involved in the dairy industry: www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam.

I look forward to visiting the many dairy farms in the region and discussing how the Extension and Outreach Dairy Team can better serve the dairy industry here in Northwest Iowa. To schedule an appointment to have me out on your farm, contact me through the Sioux County office at 712-737-4230 or email rmbreuer@iastate.edu.

UP COMING DAIRY EVENTS:

June Dairy Month
June 25 | Open House Dykstra Dairy
Four Things You Can Do About Water Quality
Kris Kohl, Ag Engineer

The Des Moines Water Works lawsuit has made us all aware of nitrate water quality issues. Nitrate in the soil is the primary nutrient for corn and is present in most tile water at levels of 20 parts per million (ppm) or more. A standard of 10 ppm of nitrate has been established for drinking water by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

1. Everyone can learn more about the problem by following the real time Iowa nitrate levels at the USGS stations. There are four locations on the Raccoon River located at: http://ia.water.usgs.gov/ by hovering the mouse hand over the dots on the map of Iowa. The locations will give the data that is being collected at the moment.

2. Learn more about the possible ways to improve water quality using the Iowa Strategy to Reduce Nutrient Loss: Nitrogen Practices found at www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/info/SP435.pdf. Learn what practices will improve water quality and what could make sense on your land.

3. Test the water yourself. I have 12 test kits for farmers to test the water coming out of their tile lines or drainage ditches. Test the water weekly and see where the current levels are and where they are trending. The kits use paper strips that change color when dipped into the water to give an indication of the nitrate level. Contact me if you would like to get a kit at 712-730-5068.

4. Tile drainage is a highly visible pathway of water transporting nitrate from the landscape to surface waters. Other pathways of water movement from the landscape, such as leaching, shallow groundwater flow, and agricultural drainage surface runoff, are less visible and more difficult to sample and quantify. Try something to solve the nitrate problem in any drained landscape. Farmers will need to test different interventions. The goal is a 45% reduction in the loss going down stream. Choose a practice from the nutrient reduction strategy listed (2.) and apply it to a location that has a drainage tile under it and see how it works for you. Using test strips, measure your results.

Each one of us needs to do what we can to protect our water.

2015 Corn Insect Scouting
Joel DeJong, Crop Specialist

I have visited with several corn growers this past winter who were planning to plant corn hybrids with fewer or no insect Bt traits than in the past few years. Of course, we can successfully grow corn without those traits, but our management skills need to increase if we are going to do it well.

If you have some Bt insect management traits on your hybrids, are you sure you know which insects are managed with the hybrids you plant in 2015? To help, there is a good reference piece available from Michigan State University Extension titled “Handy Bt Trait Table” that I find useful. It lists the trait families, the Bt proteins events—which insects are targets—if it is herbicide tolerant, and refuge requirements. You can find it on the web at www.msuent.com.

Here are some scouting hints for those fields not protected by Bt insect management traits:

Black Cutworms (BCW) don’t overwinter in Iowa. ISU has a scouting system throughout the state that traps adult BCW moths as they return to Iowa and lay eggs in the spring. We then calculate when larvae should be large enough to cut off corn plants, and try to share scouting advisories. Scout from emergence through five leaf corn. Low lying and weedy areas seem to get hit the hardest. Scout five areas in the field, 20 plants in a row at each site. If 2% are cut and larvae are less than .75” in length, treat. If over .75” long, then the threshold goes up to 5%. If you only see leaf feeding, flag those plants and re-check in about three days to see if plants are being cut.

European Corn Borers used to be a big pest. But the numbers seem quite a bit lower now. However, some regions of the US that haven’t used many Bt corn borer traits recently are seeing a resurgence of that pest. Start scouting the early field first after corn reaches 17” high extended leaf height. Watch for “shot hole” damage on leaves, then scout by pulling the whorls of five plants at each of five random locations in the field. Unwrap each whorl and count how many live larvae you are finding. Brakeven estimates for treating are about one larva per plant. ISU has a calculator to estimate profitability of treatment at different costs. Let me know if you want it, and I will get the Excel spreadsheet to you. There is a second generation of corn borers that can hit, too. If you
are concerned about that later summer pest, let me know and I will work with you on scouting – which is more difficult than scouting for the first generation of corn borers.

**Common stalk borers** attack the outside rows of cornfields, moving in from the brome found in ditches and terraces. When they get too big to fit into a brome stem they leave and look for plants that are bigger – like corn. Damage typically occurs only on the outside few rows of a field. We can predict, using growing degree days, when they will be moving out of brome – which is the time period to treat those areas with an insecticide. That usually happens sometime during June, but varies depending on the year. I will be monitoring that information, and will share when that time approaches.

The other major pest is **corn rootworms**. Rescue treatments for larval damage aren’t effective. If you have the possibility of rootworms and aren’t using the Bt rootworm traits, think seriously about using an insecticide treatment as prevention in the absence of rootworm Bt protection. During early August, dig roots to evaluate for damage, and monitor what specie of rootworm adults, and how many, are present in your fields so you have a better handle of potential rootworm pressure for the future.

For more information call your extension agronomist or look for information on the ISU Extension Integrated Crop Management Newsletter web site at [www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/).

---

**New Swine Extension Veterinarian Explains Antibiotic Issues at Midwest Animal Science Meetings**

*Dave Stender, Swine Program Specialist*

I recently attended the Midwest Animal Science meeting in Des Moines to learn about ongoing swine research. More than a thousand livestock research reports were presented. Many were swine-related.

The highlight for me was a seminar on the topic of antibiotic resistance. During the seminar, I learned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has published guidance papers that will change the rules of antibiotic management for swine producers. Antimicrobials are used in swine production for three reasons: to treat disease, to prevent disease, and to improve gut health for improved gain and feed conversion (often referenced as growth promotion). In the future, swine producers will be restricted in the use of some feed antimicrobials and much more veterinarian oversight will be required.

One of the speakers for the seminar was Dr. Chris Rademacher. He joined the faculty at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine last December as the Swine Extension Veterinarian.

Dr. Rademacher is internationally renowned for his experience and expertise in evidence-based swine production medicine. He grew up on a swine farm in Minnesota and went on to earn his undergraduate and veterinary degrees from the University of Minnesota. Following graduation, he served as the Director of Health Strategies for New Fashion Pork, where he oversaw the animal health program for more than 1 million market pigs. Dr. Rademacher was recruited to join Western Operations of Murphy-Brown in 2009, where he served as Director of Production Improvement for 330,000 sows and 7 million market pigs per year. Most recently he worked with the MBMO division in Princeton, Missouri.

As the ISU Swine Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Rademacher will continue his focus in using research methodologies to answer specific health and production questions and disseminate that information broadly to swine veterinarians and pork producers.

As part of the seminar, Dr. Rademacher outlined the most important upcoming issues for swine production. He discussed using antibiotic growth promotion and a change in reporting antibiotic use. He also discussed the possible removal of antibiotic use for prevention, more sensitivity in FSIS testing, and the veterinarian privilege to prescribe extra label use.

In the future, the trend will be toward prescription only phasing out the over-the-counter option. Special attention will be focused on medically important antimicrobials. Feed additives for growth promotion will have some options for a few antimicrobials that are not medically important. Feed additives will mostly be administered only through the veterinarian feed directive (VFD). Additional paperwork will be required for VFDs.

Swine producers will be facing rule changes and more required documentation in the years ahead. Most will be able to adapt to the new rules without much trouble. The health and welfare of a pig is a huge factor in the discussion as the industry moves forward. Antibiotics are necessary for most pigs at some point in their life cycle.
Growing Season Webinars

Gardeners have the opportunity this summer to learn about theme gardens, planting trough gardens, water features and conservation, attracting butterflies and bees, and growing herbs. The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach “Growing Season” webinar series will be offered at ISU Extension and Outreach Plymouth County.

Monday, June 8th 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Design from Yard to Trough. Learn how to add spark to landscape designs and trough planters filled with conifers and their companions.

Tuesday, July 7th 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Water in the Garden. Discuss various water saving techniques to apply to the garden and how to incorporate creative water features.

Monday, August 17th 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Pollinators and Growing Herbs. Learn about attracting bees, birds and butterflies, and focus on growing, harvesting and preserving culinary herbs.

To register please call 712.546.7835 or email janelle@iastate.edu

Preserve the Taste of Summer

Anyone that would like to learn how to make and preserve jams/jellies should consider registering for the “Preserve the Taste of Summer” on-line course and hands-on workshop. All participants will take an on-line course through ISU Extension and Outreach and then Renee Sweers, ISU Extension and Outreach Nutrition Health Specialist will work with participants at the hands-on workshop on June 23rd from 5:30-9:30pm at the LeMars Bible Church. To sign up for the online class please visit http://www.extension.iastate.edu/registration/events/conferences/preservation/ and choose Home Food Preserver and then call Renee Sweers at 712.276.2157 to sign up for the hands-on workshop by June 16th.