

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

AUGUST 2008

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FARM LAND LEASING WORKSHOP HELD ON AUGUST 21

"How much should the cash rent increase?" has been a much-asked question this year. Setting a cash rent in stable times is hard enough. Setting a cash rent with higher prices for corn and soybeans and increasing land values is even more difficult. Input costs, such as seed and equipment, are rising dramatically.

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Farm Bureau is offering two Farm Land Leasing workshops on Thursday, August 21, at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Amana on I-80. You may attend either session. Jim Jensen and Bob Wells, ISU Extension Field Ag Economists, will be the presenters. According to Jensen, "The 2008 Cash Rental Survey shows increases in all land classes for the last year." They will be discussing land values, leasing practices, crop share leases and lead an interactive discussion on methods to calculate a fair cash rent. Jensen stated, "The most frequent stumbling block for setting a cash rental rate is knowing the expected yield. A soil analysis program called "Soilview" can be used to get the expected yields of the farm and then plug that information into a spreadsheet from the Ag Decision Maker" web site. Use of those tools will be discussed.

The Farm Land Leasing workshop costs \$20 per person, and includes the 2008 Farm Leasing Arrangement booklet, copies of the presentation, and refreshments. To pre-register call the Johnson County Extension Office at 319-337-2145 or email Gene Mohling mohling@iastate.edu, please indicate which session you plan to attend. Registration cost can be paid at the door approximately 30 minutes before the workshop begins. For those that pre-register after August 15 or register at the meeting, a \$5 late registration fee will be added.

FORAGE/BEDDING PRICES

Recent auctions in east central and southeast Iowa have resulted in the following forage/bedding prices:
Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A; Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.00-3.25/bale; Grass : SmSq \$1.75-2.50/bale Oat Hay: Sm Sq \$2.00/b; **Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Thurs, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Thurs Oct-winter); Alf & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.20-5.70/b; LgSq \$38-61/b, \$145/T; LgRd \$50-60/b; Grass: (LgSq \$30/b Jun) LgRd \$45-52.50/b

FARMLAND LEASING BOOKS AVAILABLE

With farmland rental rates reaching record highs, leasing questions are on the top of producers and landowners minds. The 2008 Farmland Leasing booklets are now available at Iowa/Johnson/Washington County Extension Offices for \$10.00. The Farmland Leasing booklet offers many farmland leasing publications and resources in a single document. It is designed for use by farmland owners, tenants, and agricultural professionals. The book compliments farmland leasing meetings, the Farm Leasing Arrangements online course, and offers a compact package for those wanting a current comprehensive set of leasing publications.

Also included in the booklet are sample leases, notice of termination, and information on the Iowa Fence Law. The booklet is a joint effort of Iowa Farm Bureau and Iowa State University Extension. For more information contact the County Extension Office or email Gene Mohling mohling@iastate.edu .

STATEWIDE RE-SHOW OF THE 2008 COMMERCIAL MANURE APPLICATOR TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Commercial manure applicators who have not fulfilled their 2008 manure applicator certification training requirements can attend the three hours of annual continuing instruction required to maintain their manure applicator certification on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct a statewide re-show of the 2008 Commercial Manure Applicator Satellite Downlink at that time. There is no fee to attend the workshop which will be held at the Washington County Extension Office.

Commercial manure applicators who have not completed their 2008 training and those wanting to certify for the first time should attend. The workshop will provide the required three hours of annual training and will cover applicator rules, recordkeeping requirements, road and transportation issues by the Iowa Department of Transportation, and a review of manure spills and prevention and mitigation strategies.

Applicators unable to attend the program on Aug. 20 need to schedule time at the Extension office to watch the training videotape. If attending the re-show of the satellite program or watching the three-hour tape is not convenient, commercial applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam to meet certification requirements.

Commercial manure applicators who have already completed training for 2008 are not required to attend. If you have questions about the statewide re-show of the 2008 Commercial Manure Applicator Satellite Downlink, contact the Washington County ISU Extension Office at 319-653-4811.

IOWA BEEF CENTER NEWSLETTER

The Iowa Beef Center staff have started a new electronic newsletter for Iowa beef producers. The first issue which focuses on weaning management is enclosed and can also be found online at the following address: [http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter\(AUG\).pdf](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter(AUG).pdf)

As a monthly publication, the IBC newsletter will focus on a different timely topic each issue, offering producers information on relevant research and advice on a topic they're likely to be handling in the near future. Any producers interested in receiving this monthly newsletter via email should contact Denise Schwab, Extension Beef Field Specialist, at 319-642-5504 or dschwab@iastate.edu .

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT WEBSITE

The integrated crop management website at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/> contains the latest research on crop production practices. The site also contains an archive of past articles.

PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE PLUS™

PQA Plus™ was developed by the Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition to be a continuous improvement program. The coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being. PQA Plus™ merges the food safety and animal well-being concepts of the original PQA program into three steps: individual certification through education, farm site assessment, and the opportunity for audit that gives customer credibility. For more information on PQA Plus™ contact the National Pork Board at 800-456-PORK, or go to [that Web site](#).

PROGRAM GUIDELINES, ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Pork producers with current Pork Quality Assurance™ (PQA) Level III certification should be aware that the PQA™ program has been revamped and expanded to include an animal well-being assessment. Because of this new structure and the renaming of the program to PQA Plus™, all existing PQA™ certifications will not be renewed at the end of the certification period. The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Extension are teaming up to provide necessary certification training for producers.

PQA PLUS™ TRAINING SESSIONS

Each session is two hours long with a registration fee of \$25 per person, payable at the training session. Preregistration is strongly encouraged to ensure that adequate materials are available for all in attendance. See the individual meeting entries below for appropriate contact information.

Jones County Extension Office. 605 East Main Street, Anamosa. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Larry McMullen by e-mail at lkcmull@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-462-2791.

September 16, 2008 ; November 18, 2008; January 20, 2009; March 17, 2009; May 19, 2009; July 21, 2009

Washington County Extension Office. 2223 250th Street, Washington. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Tom Miller by e-mail at tmiller@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-653-4811.

August 19, 2008; October 21, 2008; December 16, 2008; February 17, 2009; April 21, 2009; June 16, 2009

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT TOUR – AUGUST 20

Iowa State University Extension & Linn Cooperative will present a nitrogen management tour on the Bob McArthur farm west of Whittier the evening of August 20. The record flooding in 2008 has increased concerns about nitrogen fertilizer losses in area corn fields, according to Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension Field Agronomist. Research and demonstration plots at the site of the tour include both fall and spring nitrogen applications, with and without nitrogen stabilizers, with nitrogen rates from 0 to 200 lb/A, says Fawcett. Dr. John Sawyer, ISU Extension Soil Fertility Agronomist, will discuss the future direction of nitrogen management at the tour. A free meal will be available at 5:30 p.m., courtesy of Syngenta and DOW, with the tour following the meal. Please call the Linn Co-op at 854-6192 or 1-800-747-2616 by Friday, August 15, 2008 to reserve a meal. The field plot is located 2 miles west of Whittier on the south side of County Home Road.

RAPID INCREASE IN SOYBEAN APHID NUMBERS REPORTED IN SOME AREAS OF IOWA

AMES, Iowa -- Soybean aphid numbers have increased dramatically in some Iowa soybean fields, especially in northern Iowa, and are reaching levels where there will be an economic benefit from the application of insecticides, according to an Iowa State University Extension entomologist.

Jon Tollefson, ISU professor of entomology, said Iowa has been experiencing heavy aphid infestations during odd numbered years such as 2005 and 2007. The even numbered years have had lower aphid numbers. He said “the weather this year, however, has been somewhat atypical. There were frequent rains, with the totals now reaching the total typically had in a whole year. We also have been having a summer that has been rather cool. This cool weather is very favorable to soybean aphid reproduction and increased numbers in our soybean

crop.” Minnesota experienced the increase the week before last and ISU Extension released an alert last week in the Integrated Crop Management News that encouraged soybean fields to be closely watched for aphid invasions and increases.

By this week extensive economic infestations of soybean aphids were reported in northwest Iowa with some economic infestations in northeast and north central Iowa, Tollefson said. “There is the possibility with the last several days of very hot and humid weather that the aphid increases will slow down. However, you should not wait to see if the weather stops the aphid increase. Walk your beans and look at the upper trifoliolate leaves for aphids,” he advised. If aphids are present, sample them by counting the aphids on the plants. If there is an average of more than 250 aphids per plant in a field, apply an insecticide to it. There is also a ‘speed scouting’ technique that requires less time.

Speed Scouting: When aphids are found, estimate the population size per plant. Count all the aphids on several leaves and the plant terminal to establish what 100 or 250 aphids look like and then use this as a mental reference for gauging populations on other plants. Tollefson said a quicker scouting method, called speed scouting, has been developed at the University of Minnesota, described at http://www.soybeans.umn.edu/crop/insects/aphid/aphid_sampling.htm. Speed scouting uses the number of infested plants (40 or more aphids per plant equal an infested plant) as a guide for determining whether an insecticide application is justified. This is not a new threshold but rather a sampling tool that helps determine if the soybean aphid population within a field is above the 250 aphid per plant threshold.

ISU Extension offers several resources to assist soybean producers with aphid management. The ISU Entomology Soybean Aphid Web site, <http://www.soybeanaphid.info>, is produced and maintained by Matt O’Neal in ISU Entomology focused on soybean aphid. It includes links to local and regional soybean aphid information. The Web site includes links to insecticide evaluation reports from 2005-2007 for soybean aphid management; a thorough description of soybean aphid biology and distribution; Integrated Crop Management Newsletter articles on soybean aphids; and other resources. Two new publications directly addressing soybean aphid are now available from ISU Extension county offices or directly from the ISU Extension store, www.extension.iastate.edu/store. They are *Soybean Aphid Management Field Guide, 2008*, CSI-11, and *Speed Scouting Soybean Aphids*, CSI-15. Both are available free, supported by a grant from the Iowa Soybean Association.

COOL WEBCAST TO OUTLINE MARKET UPDATES & IMPACT OF MANDATORY LABELING

Ames, Iowa – In light of mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) taking effect Sept. 30, 2008, Iowa State livestock experts are coming together to help producers understand how they will be affected.

Iowa Beef Center (IBC) Director John Lawrence, along with several other Iowa State livestock experts, will be speaking at a COOL webcast held Aug. 25, 2008, at 7 p.m. Host sites will be available so individuals can attend a nearby location to watch the speakers broadcast throughout the state.

County Extension Offices in Iowa, Johnson and Washington County will act as one of the host sites for the Iowa State COOL webcast. If interested in attending the webcast at this host location, please contact Gene Mohling, mohling@iastate.edu or call your county office to pre-register. For an up-to-date list of all host sites, visit the IBC Web site (www.iowabeefcenter.org).

Along with hearing details about COOL’s impact on beef producers from Lawrence, and its impact on pork producers from Iowa Pork Industry Center Director John Mabry, attendees will also hear updates on cattle, hog and corn market outlook. To learn more about the COOL webcast, including information about local host sites, contact Taylor Gerling, IBC communications specialist, at 515-708-4133 or tgerling@iastate.edu. Further details are also available on the IBC Web site, along with the IBC COOL resource section at www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL.htm.

The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, was established in 1996 with the goal of supporting the growth and vitality of the state's beef cattle industry. It serves as the university's extension program to cattle producers and is comprised of faculty and staff from ISU Extension and the colleges of agriculture and life sciences and veterinary medicine. Together, the Iowa Beef Center's members work to develop and deliver the latest in research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry. To learn more, visit www.iowabeefcenter.org.

DISCOVER ISU EXTENSION 4-H AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

AMES, Iowa – ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development returns to the 2008 Iowa State Fair with a variety of events and exhibits that are sure to provide entertainment and new experiences for even the most veteran of fair visitors. The 4-H Exhibits Building will be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, Aug. 7 to 17, and will offer many exhibits that have been prepared by 4-H members.

See the 4-H Projects in the 4-H Exhibits Building

The 4-H Exhibits Building will be full of new and exciting exhibits from 4-H'ers around the state. In addition to the photography and woodworking projects, there will be a half-scale replica of a Model T Ford truck, a restored Maytag engine, restored furniture and a variety of food, citizenship and arts projects.

Get Involved with Hands-On Activities

4-H will be offering fun, hands-on workshops most days of the fair. These include Operation Military Kids activities, a GPS Scavenger Hunt, "Growing in the Garden," a robotics workshop, solar car building, "Laser Shot," and the Iowa State University Insect Zoo, sure to provide a creepy-crawling experience.

4-H'ers Go Green with Fashion

Sue Bogue, coordinator of the 4-H Clothing Event at the fair, has given participants a \$15 challenge. With that amount of money, and no more, they are required to search through consignment stores and garage/yard sales to find a complete ensemble to present at the fashion show.

Check Out the Iowa 4-H Foundation Online Auction

An Iowa 4-H Foundation online auction runs throughout the fair to support state and local 4-H programs. More than 200 items are expected to be offered for auction online during the fair – so 4-H supporters can bid from the comfort of their homes, offices or at the 4-H Foundation booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building at the fair. The items can be found online by searching for "i4h" on e-Bay or at the 4-H Foundation's Web site at <http://www.iowa4hfoundation.org>.

Go Green with 4-H and Ford

The Iowa 4-H Foundation has partnered with the Midwest Ford Dealers Association to raffle off a 2008 Midwest Limited Edition Ford F-150 Flex-fuel Truck. Tickets will be available at the Iowa State Fair, where 4-H friends can "kick the tires" on this vehicle. Learn more by visiting 4-H's "A-Team" blog [online](#)

See the Very Best of 4-H Receive Recognition

The Iowa 4-H Foundation will present more than 120 scholarships to deserving 4-H'ers from across the state at the annual scholarship awards program, Saturday, Aug. 16, at 3 p.m. The Iowa 4-H Foundation and ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program sponsor the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 17 in the 4-H Exhibits Building. Adair through Jackson counties will receive awards beginning at 1:30 p.m. Jefferson through Wright counties will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Gene Mohling, County Extension Director, mohling@iastate.edu