

# AG

Washington County Extension  
2223 250th St.  
Washington, Iowa 52353  
319-653-4811

## newsletter

February 2011

[www.extension.iastate.edu/washington](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington)

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*"The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension ANR Program."*

## GRINGER AG & ISU EXTENSION TO HOST AG PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Gringer Ag, Inc., in cooperation with Iowa State University Extension Johnson County will host the 2011 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar. The program will be held at Gringer Ag, Inc, on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Speakers and topics include: Jim Fawcett, Iowa State University Extension Agronomist, providing management tips for 2011 to reduce costs and optimize yield. He will provide a look into the high cost of NPK with application suggestions plus take your questions. [www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops); Greg Brenneman, Iowa State University Agricultural Engineering Specialist, will review subsurface and surface drainage principles and research; Steve Carson, Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, will provide an update on the current FSA programs - SURE, Farm Storage Facility Loans, 2011 DCP, CRP; Gringer Ag, Inc. will provide an update on the grain markets.

Call Melissa Swartzendruber, Gringer Ag, Inc. 319/338-2280 or [gringerag@yahoo.com](mailto:gringerag@yahoo.com) or the Johnson County Extension Office 319-337-2145 to pre-register. There is no charge to attend this program and lunch will be provided courtesy of Gringer Ag, Inc.

## 2011 AG MARKET OUTLOOK SEMINARS

Unpredictable weather patterns, volatile markets and rising inputs costs will certainly challenge producers in 2011. Iowa State University Extension in cooperation with program sponsors are offering the 2011 Ag Market Outlook Seminars. The seminars are scheduled for Wednesday, March 9. Elwynn Taylor, ISU Climatologist; will discuss the 2010 weather patterns and what may lie ahead in 2011. Chad Hart, ISU Economist, will share the latest supply and demand figures impacting the grain markets and provide 2011 price projections. Shane Ellis, ISU Economist, speaking at the Hills site only will discuss livestock production numbers and the impact of the high grain prices may have along with livestock market projections for the upcoming year.

A breakfast seminar will be held at Hills Bank and Trust Company, 3905 Blairs Ferry Road NE, (lower level) in Cedar Rapids with parking at River of Life Church. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:00 a.m. with the program starting at 8:15 a.m.

The lunch seminar will be held at the Hills Community Center, Hills, with lunch from 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m. and program beginning at 12:30 p.m. These programs are offered free of charge. To pre-register for the Cedar Rapids site RSVP to Elaine Blythe at 319-866-7022 or [Elaine\\_Blythe@hillsbank.com](mailto:Elaine_Blythe@hillsbank.com); for the Hills site RSVP to Carrie Ebel at 319-358-2272 or [Carrie\\_Ebel@hillsbank.com](mailto:Carrie_Ebel@hillsbank.com) by Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Program sponsors are Eldon C. Stutsman, Inc.; Hills Bank and Trust Company; Latta, Harris, Hanon & Penningroth, LLP; Green Valley Ag & Turf and Iowa State University Extension Regions 10 & 15.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

Healthy People. Environments. Economies.

## BEGINNING FARMER WORKSHOP SERIES OFFERED

Iowa Valley RC&D in partnership with ISU Extension is providing a series of workshops for beginning farmers. Pre-register by contacting Jason Grimm at 319-622-3264. Attendance is limited. The program is sponsored by Leopold Center, Beginning Farmer Center, ISU Extension, Small Farm Sustainability and funded by a grant from the National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

Production Management & Land Stewardship, Feb. 19th, 2011 Marion, IA - Linn County ISU Extension Office - 1-5 pm  
Come and learn from some of ISU's production management specialists. Topics will range from record keeping, rotation management, etc. To help improve the management of your farm land Iowa's Natural Resource Conservation Service will be available to share details on cost share programs that beginning farmers can use to install vegetated buffers, ponds, fencing, cover crops, rotational grazing paddocks, and much more.



Merchandising and Marketing, March 12th, 2011 Marion, IA - Linn County ISU Extension Office - 1-5 pm

As you plan your farm business what types of markets are you hoping to sell your products at? Do you want to sell at farmers markets, your local grain elevator, to restaurants, wholesale to groceries, distributors, or even schools? Come and learn from Andy Larson, ISU Extension program specialist for small farm sustainability, and Nick McCann, Agriculture Marketing Specialist for the National Center for Appropriate Technology. Nick and Andy will give you the pros and cons of each marketing option and introduce you to best practices with each option.

## “COMBO” CHANGES THE CROP INSURANCE DECISION: WORKSHOP MARCH 1, 1-4 P.M.

For the 2011 crop year, USDA-Risk Management Agency has introduced a common crop insurance policy, COMBO. This product standardizes the yield and revenue crop insurance plans into one product plan. Washington County Extension with specialist from ISU Extension are hosting an interactive workshop to answer your questions about this new product. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, from 1-4 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th Street. Call 319-653-4811 to register or email Nancy Adrian at [nadrian@iastate.edu](mailto:nadrian@iastate.edu). The registration fee is \$25 per person and attendance is limited to the first 25 paid registrations. The program will utilize a computer lab to introduce you to several decision tools that can make your 2011 crop insurance decisions easier.

## PQAPLUS™ SESSION SET IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington, Iowa -- The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension are teaming up to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (PQAPLUS™) program. One certification session has been set for February 10th in Washington County.

Washington County administrative assistant Nancy Adrian said the session will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250<sup>th</sup> St. Washington, and will be taught by ISU Extension swine field specialist Tom Miller.

“The PQAPLUS™ session is set for 7 to 9 p.m.,” she said. “Anyone who plans to attend should let us know as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate materials for everyone.” Cost for this certification program is \$25 per person and is payable at the door. To preregister, contact the Washington County Extension office at (877) 435-7322 or (319) 653-4811.

To learn more about PQAPLUS™ please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx>



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## COMMERCIAL AG WEED, INSECT, PLANT DISEASE COURSE SET FOR FEB. 9

Washington County will offer the Commercial Ag Weed, Insect and Plant Disease Management Continuing Instructional Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, February 9, 2011. The program will be shown at locations across Iowa through the Iowa State University Extension Pest Management and the Environment (PME) program.

The local attendance site is Washington County Extension. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35 on or before Feb. 2 and \$45 after Feb. 2. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact the Washington Extension office by phoning 319-653-4811.

The course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Topics to be covered include protecting groundwater and other nontarget sites, phytotoxicity, pesticide stewardship, pests and pest management.

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in Soil and Water Management and Pest Management will be offered at this program. Please bring your CCA number if interested. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses offered by the PME program can be accessed at [www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/).

## NEW SOYBEAN DISEASE GUIDE

A new publication from Iowa State University and the Iowa Soybean Association is designed to help farmers more effectively manage soybean diseases when they appear. The publication, "Soybean Diseases" (CSI 0004), is a comprehensive compilation of soybean disease and management information. The 36-page guide includes information on 24 soybean diseases and features an overview of the major causes of plant disease; several photos of each disease; a glossary; and quick visual cues indicating which diseases are seed-transmitted. Copies can be ordered online free of charge through the ISU Extension Online Store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store). Shipping will be covered by ISU Extension.

## SEMINAR ON ACQUIRING MACHINERY & MACHINERY SERVICES

Have rapidly rising equipment costs been a problem for your farming operation? Would you like to have more modern and dependable farm equipment to work with? Iowa State University Extension will hold a seminar discussing various options for acquiring the use or ownership of farm machinery services in today's volatile farm environment. The cost of farm machinery has risen tremendously in recent years and the trend does not seem to be changing.

The seminar will be held on March 2, 2011 at the Letts Community Center. It will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm and include lunch. The program will consist of options for acquiring machinery, benefits and drawbacks of sharing equipment and labor, available resources for comparing leasing and ownership, and organizational issues associated with equipment and labor sharing. Speakers include Dr. Georgeanne Artz and Dr. William Edwards from Iowa State University Economics Department and Jim Jensen, ISU Extension Field Ag Economist. According to Jensen, "The rising cost of crop production requires everyone to explore all options to reduce cost". Registration for the seminar is \$15 per person, and includes lunch and materials. To pre-register call the Louisa County Extension Office at 319-523-2371.

## Eastern Iowa Forage Prices

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets.

Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

**Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A** Alfalfa & mixed: SmSq \$2.00-7.50/bale Grass : SmSq \$2.00-5.00/bale Straw: SmSq \$3.00-4.50/bale Soybean 'straw': SmSq \$1.25/bale

**Kalona (SE IA) 1st Wed, Yr-round 11:30AM Wed. (& 3rd Wed Oct-winter)** Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.90-5.10/bale; LgSq \$41-65/bale. LgRd \$37-67/bale Grass: SmSq \$3.00/bale; LgSq \$32-49/bale; LgRd \$40-56/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.60-3.00/bale; LgSq \$30/bale Cornstalks: LgSq \$17/bale; LgRd \$25-29/bale

## ISU Garden Calendar

This full-color 12-month calendar encourages gardeners with the message, Gardening is Good for You. Each month focuses on a different benefit from gardening including Education, Nutrition, Sustainability and Exercise.



In addition to stunning and inspirational photographs, every page provides tips on what you should be doing in your garden during the month. Gardening resources, such as web sites and publications, also are listed. These calendars are available for purchase for \$6 at the Washington County Extension Office.

## PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/ COORDINATORS

Serving Region 15

Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk & Washington Counties

### Agriculture

#### Ag Engineering

Greg Brenneman 319-337-2145

gregb@iastate.edu

#### Beef Livestock

Byron Leu 641-472-4166

bleu@iastate.edu

#### Commercial Horticulture

Patrick O'Malley 319-337-2145

omall@iastate.edu

#### Agronomy

Jim Fawcett 319-337-2145

fawcett@iastate.edu

#### Farm Management

Jim Jensen 319-385-8126

jensenjh@iastate.edu

Bob Wells 641-673-5841

wellsjb@iastate.edu

#### Swine

Tom Miller 319-653-4811

tmiller@iastate.edu

Terry Steinhart 641-622-2680

tsteinha@iastate.edu

#### Program Coordinator

Kelsey Weber 641-622-2680

klweber@iastate.edu

### Community Economic Dev.

Himar Hernandez 319-337-9839

himarh@iastate.edu

### Business & Industry

Sean T. Galleger 515-290-0181

galleger@iastate.edu

### Families

#### Family Life

Kristi Cooper 319-377-9839

kcoop@iastate.edu

#### Nutrition & Health

Jan Temple 319-337-2145

mjtemple@iastate.edu

#### Resource Management

Phyllis Zalenski 319-462-2791

zalenski@iastate.edu

Mary Weinand 641-472-4166

mweinand@iastate.edu

### Youth

Ray Reynolds 641-622-2680

raymondr@iastate.edu

Janet Martin 319-337-2145

jmmartin@iastate.edu

### County Youth Coordinator

Johnson County-Dianna Colgan 319-337-2145

Iowa County-Mary Kaiser 319-642-5504

Keokuk County-Shelly Koehn 641-622-2680

Washington County-Kati Peiffer 319-653-4811

### External Relations

Amber Bisinger 319-377-9839

bisinger@iastate.edu

### Regional Ext. Edu. Director

Gene Mohling 319-337-2145

mohling@iastate.edu

## McEowen to present *Tax Planning for the Future* at Overall Women Conference

The seventh annual Overall Women Conference is designed for women involved in or affected by agriculture. Coordinated by Iowa State University Extension, the two-day conference will be held at the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf on Feb. 10-11, 2011.

The conference provides today's rural women with the unique opportunity to come together, network and learn from each other and industry experts. More than 15 workshop sessions will be offered covering such topics as farm business, value-added agriculture, ag safety and family communication.

A special feature this year will be a large group session for all attendees with Roger McEowen, director of the ISU Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation. His session, *Tax Planning for the Future*, sifts through the swamp of income tax, estate and gift tax, self-employment tax and investment and retirement decisions in a time of economic and tax uncertainty. McEowen will look at the strategies and economic factors that impact the family business and family finances. The session is open to bankers, spouses, estate planners, and others who might not otherwise attend the full conference for only \$25.

To view the entire program, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/scott/news/overallwomen](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott/news/overallwomen) or contact your local county extension office for information. Register by mail, online or by calling 563-359-7577.

## PRUNING RASPBERRIES & SHADE TREES

### *What is the proper way to prune 'Latham' red raspberries in late winter?*

'Latham' is a summer-bearing variety of red raspberry. Other popular summer-bearing red raspberry varieties include 'Boyne,' 'Killarney,' and 'Newburgh.' All summer-bearing red raspberries should be pruned in the same manner. In March or early April, remove all weak, diseased and damaged canes at ground level. Leave the most vigorous canes, those approximately one-fourth inch in diameter when measured 30 inches from the ground. After thinning, remaining canes should be spaced about six inches apart.

Also, prune out the tips of the canes that have died due to winter injury. Cut back to live tissue. If the canes have suffered little winter dieback, remove the top one-fourth of the canes. Cane-tip removal or "heading-back" prevents the canes from becoming top heavy and bending under the weight of the crop. To obtain maximum yields, red raspberries should be confined to a one- to two-foot-wide hedgerow. Shoots growing beyond the one- to two-foot-wide hedgerow should be dug up and destroyed using a rototiller or spade.

### *When is the best time to prune shade trees?*

February through March is generally regarded as the best time to prune most deciduous trees. The absence of foliage at this time of year gives the individual a clear view of the tree and allows the selection and removal of appropriate branches. Also, the walling-off or compartmentalization of wounds occurs most rapidly just prior to the onset of growth in spring. Oaks are an exception. The winter months – December, January and February – are the best time to prune oak trees. Large amounts of sap often flow from pruning cuts on maple, birch and elm when pruned in late winter. However, the loss of sap doesn't harm the trees. The trees won't "bleed" to death. Eventually the flow of sap will slow and stop.

## MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. “My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season,” says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist.

Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service.

Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:

- Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., Washington Co. Extension
- Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Tues., Feb. 22, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Washington Co. Extension

For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at [gregb@iastate.edu](mailto:gregb@iastate.edu) or 319/337-2145 and Tom Miller, Program Specialist [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu) 319-653-4811.



## SOWBRIDGE EDUCATIONAL SERIES BUILDS ON INPUT

AMES, Iowa -- The successful distance education program SowBridge begins its fourth year in March 2011 and Iowa State University (ISU) animal science associate professor and extension swine specialist Ken Stalder said suggestions from subscribers help maintain the program's value to the industry. “We asked participants for suggestions on topics and speakers, and are happy to continue providing current content on topics that people are interested in,” Stalder said. “SowBridge provides all participants with the opportunity to hear directly from experts, and to contact those experts following the individual sessions.”

SowBridge is designed to improve the understanding and application of various tools, techniques and technologies involved in daily care of the breeding herd and piglets. “People from the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and West Indies took part in this past year's program, and they told us they appreciated having all employees participate in the sessions without requiring any travel or other expenses,” Stalder said. “With the live phone presentation and slide-show viewed on computer, participants do not need internet access and can take part from anywhere.”

Something new this year is a special rate for entities with more than one location. Cost is \$250 (\$U.S.) for the first registration from an entity and \$125 for each subsequent subscription from the same entity. This provides access to one phone line per session and all program materials for each registration. Stalder said materials, delivery process, and program costs are slightly different for those with non-U.S. mailing addresses, and encouraged potential subscribers from outside the U.S. to contact IPIC at 515-294-4496 or [shoyer@iastate.edu](mailto:shoyer@iastate.edu) for more information.

Before each session, U.S. subscribers receive a CD containing that session's presentation, along with information on accessing the live speaker presentation. Most participants will call a toll-free conference line to listen to and interact with presenters. Each session begins at 11:30 a.m. Central Time and lasts approximately 45 minutes. Stalder said the year-long program is offered by subscription only with a Feb. 14, 2011 deadline to ensure participants will receive materials for the first session on March 2. A brochure with information and registration form is available on the IPIC Web site at [www.ipic.iastate.edu/SowBridge/2011BrochureIPIC.pdf](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/SowBridge/2011BrochureIPIC.pdf). Iowa residents who want more information can call Stalder at 800-808-7675. SowBridge is sponsored by a group of 11 state universities. The program is coordinated through Iowa State.

IPIC was established in 1994 as a coordinated effort of the colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. IPIC focuses its efforts on programs that are integral and complementary to ISU Extension. Through IPIC, Iowa producers receive accurate and timely information to make their operations more efficient and profitable.

## CORNBELT COW-CALF CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

OTTUMWA, Iowa -- The premier educational event in Iowa for cow-calf producers has a big event planned next month and everyone is invited. The Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference (CCCC) will celebrate its 40th anniversary of providing timely, accurate and important information to the beef cattle industry. The Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) has moved its annual convention and trade show to the same date and location this year to help publicly recognize the importance of this event. Iowa State University Extension beef program specialist Byron Leu said this year's conference on Feb. 26 will continue its successful traditions.

"The Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference has been, and will continue to be, successful because it provides information and access to speakers that beef producers have come to expect," Leu said. "The steering committee does a great job of finding highly qualified and respected speakers in the industry who can speak with authority and sincerity on the topics pertinent to Midwestern operations." Leu has been part of the volunteer committee that oversees the conference for 25 years, both on the general committee and as chair of the program committee, and said the event has survived and thrived because of its dedication to the producers and the industry.

"The trade show has averaged 65-70 exhibitors for several years, and this consistency gives attendees the opportunity to hear, meet and share ideas with researchers, other area cattlemen, and industry and agency representatives in one location," Leu said. "One summary indicates more than 500 different exhibitors have participated through the years." In its early days, the CCCC's presentation and exhibits were production-oriented, Leu said. Now the topics are much more varied, which reflects the changing face of the industry to fewer farms and fewer cattle operations. One thing that hasn't changed much, however, is attendance.

"We count between 500 and 550 in total attendance annually, including a consistent percentage of Iowa's cow-calf producers," Leu said. "That's a good indication to us of the program's value to producers." Of course this kind of programming and history couldn't happen without dedicated longtime volunteers, like Dale Uehling, Allan Seim, Steve Banyas, Darrell Limkeman, and the other committee members, Leu said. Former ISU Extension area livestock field specialist Cliff Iverson got the ball rolling in the early 1970s with a format and agenda very similar to the CCCC of today. Originally held in the old Ottumwa Coliseum, the CCCC now is held in the larger Bridge View Center in Ottumwa, which allows for more educational sessions and exhibit space.

This year's conference begins with registration and the open trade show at 7:30 a.m. and the welcome at 9 a.m. Admission is \$15 which includes lunch and conference proceedings. No preregistration is necessary. A conference brochure is available at [www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2011CCCC.pdf](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2011CCCC.pdf). For more details on the two-day program including the ICA components, see the schedule at [www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2011CCCCICA.pdf](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2011CCCCICA.pdf).

## IOWA PORK REGIONAL CONFERENCE - MARCH 11

AMES, Iowa -- Iowa pork producers are invited to learn more about pig health and growth numbers, and get updates on ventilation management and disease research projects at the 2011 Iowa Pork Regional Conference scheduled for early March. IPIC extension program specialist Colin Johnson said that while the conference will offer information for owners and operators, others in the industry can benefit from attending. "Jim's presentation on PRRS will include tools to reduce impacts, eliminate the virus and minimize opportunities for reinfection," Johnson said. "He'll also talk about Draft Compliance Policy Guide 209 and potential impacts on pork production, and offer suggestions and strategies for reducing impacts of losing growth promotants." Other speakers are Ron Ketchum of Swine Management Services, speaking on "Benchmarking Sows and the Post-Weaned Pig," and local ISU Extension swine program specialists who'll present timely information on ventilation management and the scheduling of a ventilation trailer for on-site training workshops. The conference is held from 1 to 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 11, at Marr Park, Ainsworth, Hwy 92. There is no cost for those preregistered at least two business days prior. Walk-in registration is \$5 per person, payable at the door. More information, is available on the IPIC Web site at [www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/events.html) To preregister, people should call IPPA at 800-372-7675 or 515-225-7675.

## TRI-STATE AGRICULTURE SUMMIT SLATED FOR FEBRUARY

Farmers, landowners, agri-businesses and local processors are invited to spend a morning with some of the most knowledgeable agriculture experts in the Midwest. Iowa State University Extension, University of Illinois Extension and University of Missouri Extension are pleased to join forces and present the 2011 Tri-State Agriculture Summit on Wednesday, February 16 at the Holiday Inn Express (4<sup>th</sup> and Main) in Keokuk, IA.

The 2011 Tri-State Agriculture Summit will provide an outlook of land values, grain markets, technology and inputs. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. CEU credits will be offered for certified crop consultants.

The program includes four highly-regarded agriculture experts. **Melvin Brees**, University of Missouri Extension agricultural economist, will provide insight into the volatile grain markets of 2010-11, the impact of world grain supplies, trade conditions and potential shifts in 2011 planting intentions. **Gordon Roskamp**, well-known for his expertise with weed resistance and integrated pest management at the University of Western Illinois, will share his thoughts on new herbicides and weed resistance to help you make the most of crop input dollars. ISU Extension economist, **Mike Duffy**, will share the findings of the 2010 Iowa land value survey and highlight some of the historical data related to land value trends. The program will conclude with remarks from **Keith Fuller**, president of Fuller Fertilizer, with recommendations for interpreting yield maps, and using the data generated for maximum yield and return.

Cost of the program is \$15, which includes lunch, refreshments and meeting materials. To register for the program, please call the following Extension offices by Friday, February 11. In Iowa: Lee County 1-800-211-9328; in Missouri: Marion County 573.769.217; in Illinois: Adams County 1-217-223-8380 or Hancock County 1-217-357-2150.

## CONSIDER FROST SEEDING OR INTERSEEDING PASTURES

By Steve Barnhart, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University

Producers wanting to add to or improve the forage species in their existing pastures should consider using either the frost seeding method in February and early March, or interseeding later in the spring months.

**Frost seeding** Frost seeding involves spreading forage seed on existing pastures during the late winter or very early spring while the ground is still frozen. Freeze-thaw cycles then provide shallow coverage of the seed, which help shield from early spring rains. Frost seeding is the easiest method to add new forage legumes or grasses to pastures, and is likely the least expensive method, as well. To increase this method's success, spread seed on the thinnest pasture sod areas first and on areas where bare soil has been exposed due to heavy grazing or disturbance. One common misconception about frost seeding is that spreading the seed on top of snow works best. The goal of frost seeding is to get seed on bare soil. This is more effective and more safely done without snow cover. Red clover has been the Iowa forage species of choice for frost seeding. Other legumes, such as white clover and birdsfoot trefoil, also can be frost seeded but with less success than red clover. In general, frost seeding does not work as well with grasses. A few well researched steps will improve the success of frost seeding. Those steps, seeding rates and guidelines are available in the ISU Extension bulletin [Improving Pasture by Frost Seeding](#); PM-856. [www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM856.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM856.pdf)

**Interseeding:** Interseeding offers an opportunity for improving pasture productivity too. Interseeding involves using a no-till drill to aid in the incorporation of a legume or a more productive grass into an existing pasture sod. Interseeding is normally done from mid-March through early May, when soil moisture and temperature are more suitable for rapid seedling establishment. Interseeding can be accomplished with relatively few field operations. Opening of the grass sod, shallow seed placement, and seed coverage are required. A number of drills are available that can be used in sod-seeding efforts.

Some of these drills may have improved features related to sod penetration, depth control, seed metering, or coverage that improves their effectiveness in sod seeding situations. Equipment limitations for sod seeding implements sometimes are overcome by operator experience and home shop modifications. Legumes interseeded into grass sod should increase pasture yield, improve forage quality, and eliminate or minimize need for nitrogen fertilizer. Clovers, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil have been successfully interseeded. The more efficient seed placement provided by a no-till drill allows many of our more productive perennial forage grasses to also be successfully established by interseeding. Thin, low-producing, grass sod might best be improved by interseeding a grass legume mixture. A seeding delay into late spring to improve growing conditions often also leads to a greater competition from the existing grass sod. Close grazing in the fall or spring, ahead of interseeding, will help to reduce sod competition. Contact herbicides are sometimes also used to temporarily further reduce competition from plants present in the stand. Use only labeled herbicides for sod suppression, and follow label instructions.

Interseeding success depends a lot on paying attention to details, timeliness, careful management of sod completion, controlling seeding depth to no deeper than one-fourth to one-half inch, and a little bit of luck with weather. Interseeding research has been conducted in many parts of the U.S. and around the world. It shouldn't come as a surprise that the conclusions from these efforts all point to several very important issues that must be met for successful interseedings. See ISU Extension bulletin [Interseeding and No-Till Pasture Renovation](#); Pm-1097, [www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1097.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1097.pdf)

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Washington County Extension

2223 250th St.

Washington, IA 52353

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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2010-2011 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration is not required.

February 9	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 9	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
February 21	7:00 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
March 29	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension

and justice for all  
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