

# AG *newsletter*

November 2009

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

## ISU Soil Test Lab Update

<http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting>

March 2009

[www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/](http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/)

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## EXTENSION OFFERS 2009 AG CHEMICAL DEALER UPDATE

AMES, Iowa -- Updates on the latest crop production products and recommendations are the featured topics of the 2009 Ag Chemical Dealer Update Series. Sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, this series will be held Nov. 24 to Dec. 16 at eight locations around Iowa.

"These meetings are a chance for ag input dealers to meet with extension specialists to review current research, discuss new products and learn of new recommendations," said Brent Pringnitz, coordinator of the Agribusiness Education Program.

Each location will feature presentations on weed, insect and crop disease management as well as soil nutrient management. Each meeting is approved for Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits. In addition, the meetings offer recertification for Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicators in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10.

For more information about a particular program, contact the host listed below. Online registration materials and additional information about the meetings are available at [www.aep.iastate.edu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu). An early registration discount is offered to participants who sign up a week or more before the program date.

Program dates, locations and facilitators are as follows:

Nov. 24 - **Waterloo**, George Cummins, (641) 228-1453, [gcumms@iastate.edu](mailto:gcumms@iastate.edu)

Nov. 24 - **Calmar**, Brian Lang, (563) 382-2949, [bjlang@iastate.edu](mailto:bjlang@iastate.edu)

Dec. 10 - **Creston**, Aaron Saeugling, (641) 782-8426, [clonz5@iastate.edu](mailto:clonz5@iastate.edu),

and Mark Carlton, (641) 932-5612, [mcarltn@iastate.edu](mailto:mcarltn@iastate.edu)

Dec. 14 - **Iowa City**, Jim Fawcett, (319) 337-2145, [fawcett@iastate.edu](mailto:fawcett@iastate.edu), and Virgil Schmitt, (563) 263-5701, [vschmitt@iastate.edu](mailto:vschmitt@iastate.edu)

Dec. 16 - **Ames**, John Holmes, (515) 532-3453, [jdholmes@iastate.edu](mailto:jdholmes@iastate.edu), and Mark Wuebker, (515) 957-5778, [mwuebker@iastate.edu](mailto:mwuebker@iastate.edu)

### The Source for Iowa Crop Production News



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

### Market News & Updates



[www.econ.iastate.edu/outreach/agriculture/periodicals/ifo/](http://www.econ.iastate.edu/outreach/agriculture/periodicals/ifo/)

## INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SET FOR DEC. 2-3

AMES, Iowa -- The Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management Conference will be held Dec. 2 - 3 on the Iowa State University campus. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 2 in the Scheman Building and the program concludes at 4 p.m. on Dec. 3. Conference attendees can choose from 34 workshops that offer the latest information on crop production and protection technology in Iowa and surrounding states. Workshops are offered by ISU faculty and staff and invited speakers from around the Midwest. The conference is hosted by ISU Extension, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the departments of Agronomy, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

A popular feature of the conference is the variety of guest speakers on the program. "Each year ISU specialists invite colleagues in their field to share their research activities with conference attendees. This provides an opportunity to hear expertise and opinions from across the region and country in one location," said Brent Pringnitz, conference coordinator with ISU's Agribusiness Education Program. Invited speakers this year include:

- Emerson Nafziger, Extension Agronomist, University of Illinois, speaking on the agronomics of high-yield corn
- Chris Boerboom, Extension Weed Scientist, University of Wisconsin, on herbicide injury in soybeans
- Seth Naeve, Extension Soybean Specialist, University of Minnesota, on the little things in management that impact overall soybean yield
- Tamra Jackson, Plant Pathologist, University of Nebraska, discussing the reemergence of Goss's Wilt in Midwestern corn

In recent years the conference has filled to capacity with nearly 1,000 producers and agribusiness people in attendance. "The conference is fortunate to have a loyal following of people that attend each year. While filling to capacity is a good problem to have, we hate to turn people away. We encourage people to register early," Pringnitz said. Attendees also can obtain Certified Crop Adviser credits as well as recertification for Commercial Ag Pesticide Applicators. To register online for this event or for more information, visit the AEP website at [www.aep.iastate.edu](http://www.aep.iastate.edu). Registration is \$185. After Nov. 20, registration increases to \$235. Enrollment is limited and no registrations will be accepted at the door.

## IOWA-MINNESOTA DRAINAGE RESEARCH FORUM IN AMES NOV. 10

AMES, Iowa -- Those interested in agricultural drainage research issues and projects are invited to the 10th Annual Drainage Research Forum to be held Tuesday, Nov 10, at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Registration is at 8 a.m and the program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is jointly sponsored by Iowa State University and the University of Minnesota.

The program will feature results and updates on drainage research and implementation projects by university and agency research leaders from Iowa and Minnesota. Presentation topics at the Forum include drainage water management and water quality, bioreactor research for nitrate reduction, and reports on drainage water management performance in Iowa, Indiana and Minnesota. The program is intended for all drainage stakeholders, including state and federal agency staff, county supervisors, crop consultants, academics, contractors, producers and others interested in drainage research issues in the upper Midwest.

The registration fee, which includes lunch and refreshments, is \$55 for those registered by Nov. 3. Late registration is \$65. Registrations will be accepted the day of the program. Additional information, a detailed agenda and online registration are available at [www.aep.iastate.edu/df](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/df).

# PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION DATES SET

The 2009-2010 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington Counties. 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.

Date	Time	County	City	Address
December 15	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
December 15	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
December 18	9:30 a.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
December 18	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
January 5	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
February 10	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Manufacturing Conf. room
February 10	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Manufacturing Conf. room
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
February 17	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Iowa	Victor	KC Hall, 210 Washington St.
March 31	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 31	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension

## OVERALL CONFERENCE FOR RURAL WOMEN

Join other women involved in agriculture at the 6th Annual Overall Women Conference set for February 4 & 5, 2010. The conference, coordinated by Iowa State University Extension, will take place for the at the Isle of Capri Hotel in Bettendorf. Choose from over 30 educational workshops and enjoy a highly-motivating keynote address, *Stand Up for Agriculture*, from Farm Director & Manager of the *Brownfield Ag News*, Cyndi Young. For more information, go to <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html> for conference/registration information. Registration will begin soon!



## 2010 GROWING GREEN GARDEN CALENDAR ON SALE

ISU Extension Garden Calendars are on sale for \$6 each while supplies last. These calendars make excellent holiday gifts and are full of green thumb tips on shrubs, perennials, ornamentals and fruit & vegetable production.

## FORAGE/BEDDING PRICES

Recent auctions in east central/southeast Iowa have resulted in the following forage/bedding prices:

**Keosauqua** (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.50-4.00/bale: Grass : SmSq \$1.75-2.50/bale Straw: SmSq \$1.75-2.25/bale **Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Thurs, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Thurs Oct-winter) Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$\$2.80-3.30/b; LgRd \$45-6070/bale Grass: (SmSq \$2.75-4.10/bale Jul)

## CHECK YOUR MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

[www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/communications/EPC/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/communications/EPC/)

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.

"Although manure applicators sometimes complain about having to take annual training, they also say that the training has helped them respond quickly and well to a spill, or learn about law changes that affect their business," said Jen Christian, DNR Environmental Specialist. 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:

**Commercial manure applicator certification is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk & Washington County Extension Offices.**

**Confinement site certification - Thursday, January 14, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, Expo Building, Sigourney Fairgrounds**

**Confinement site certification - Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, Hills Bank in Hills**

**Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., Washington Co. Extension**

**Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Tues., Feb. 16, 2010, 1:00 to 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, at [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu) or 319-653-4811.

## 2009 BIOECONOMY eCONFERENCE

Iowa State University Extension invites you to join us on Dec. 1, 2009 when we will host a broadcast viewing site for *Growing the Bioeconomy: Solutions to Sustainability*. The 2009 conference, ISU's seventh, will promote agriculturally-based sustainable solutions to global climate change and energy supply. ISU's bioeconomy conferences have attained a national reputation for presenting the most cutting-edge research and thinking – last year drawing participants from 23 states to Ames.

Using high-speed communication systems, the conference will be held simultaneously at 12 universities in the Midwest Region. The two-and-a-half hour morning plenary session begins at 9 a.m. Two track options are available during each of the two-hour afternoon concurrent sessions. The conference ends at 5:30 p.m. View the basic conference agenda at <http://www.bioeconomyconference.org/agenda2009>.

You also have the option of attending the conference in Ames or at home on your personal computer – more registration information is available on the conference website for these options: <http://www.bioeconomyconference.org/registration>.

# STUDY MEASURES SIGNIFICANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO IOWA ECONOMY

AMES, Iowa -- Iowa agriculture puts healthy, affordable food choices on the table of today's consumers and it boosts county and state economies, according to a recently-completed economic analysis sponsored by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF). As harvest takes place it is appropriate to note agriculture's impact not only on the landscape, but on the state's economy. Production agriculture and ag-related industries directly and indirectly employ one of every six Iowans (or 17 percent of the state's workforce), based on 2007 Census of Agriculture data. They also are responsible for adding \$72.1 billion to the state's economy, or 27 percent of the state's total. This represents a 2 percent increase over a previous analysis using 2002 Census of Agriculture data.



"What impresses me," said Dan Otto, Iowa State University Extension Economist who helped prepare the study, "is that when you consider the growth and diversification of Iowa's economy over recent years, agriculture is still a very dominant player. For certain counties, it is the primary industry." Otto points out that agriculture related jobs account for over 50 percent of employment in 20 Iowa counties. Jobs associated with meat production and meat processing make up over 30 percent of the ag-related workforce in 30 Iowa counties. "Agriculture is important in all parts of the state," Otto said during a recent interview with Doug Cooper, ISU Extension Communications Specialist. "Value added agriculture processes have supported the increase of statewide agriculture sales and kept jobs in the state. This study shows that the diversification of farming has made agriculture the leading industry in more than a quarter of the counties in our state."

County summaries of the study data are available from the ISU Extension online store as County Agriculture Statistics for Iowa, PM 2023. The summaries look at county crop and livestock production, as well as related businesses that contribute by producing, processing and marketing farm and food products.

Craig Floss, Chief Executive Officer of the Iowa Corn Growers Association and CSIF Board President, says the purpose of the study was to find out how much the state's current economy is being helped by farming today. The findings are good news for Iowa. "It's clear that farming, food and feed processing, and every other area agriculture touches, is critical to Iowa," Floss said. "The continued support and growth of farming is vital to the long-term economic health of our state." The CSIF-sponsored analysis shows that farming and ag-related industries in Iowa account for nearly \$23 billion in added value (19 percent of Iowa's total), which takes into account the process of producing and converting agricultural commodities into products suitable for use by consumers both in and outside Iowa.

The analysis included a review of data from several sources including the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Labor Statistics, Iowa Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the IMPLAN economic modeling software. "While this study was pulled from 2007 data, it should be very consistent with the current crop year, considering yields are up and crop prices are good," said Otto. Additional study details are available at the CSIF website [www.supportfarmers.com](http://www.supportfarmers.com). Otto's interview with Cooper is available online at [Extension audio news](#). County summaries are available from the ISU Extension online store ([www.extension.iastate.edu/store/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/)) as [County Agriculture Statistics for Iowa, PM 2023](#). Download the document and click on the desired county to see county specific information.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF GRAIN TO IOWA 4-H



Crop producers who want to support Iowa 4-H Youth Development have a new option to consider. They can give the gift of grain. Giving grain is a viable option for donating to the 4-H program through the Iowa 4-H Foundation, said Albert Grunenwald, the Foundation's Associate Director. Self-employed farmers who donate grain to the Iowa 4-H Foundation not only benefit youth across the state, but also reduce their self-employment tax and increase their income tax savings, Grunenwald explained. "Giving grain can save farmers as much as 49 percent of the donation amount. For example, a grain donation worth \$1,000 could save farmers an extra \$490 because they gave grain in place of cash," he said. For specific instructions on how to donate grain to support 4-H, contact Grunenwald at (515) 294-4780 or [abgrunen@iastate.edu](mailto:abgrunen@iastate.edu). **The grain must be placed in the Iowa 4-H Foundation's name to be sold by the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Farmers may take the grain to their local elevator where a warehouse receipt showing the Iowa 4-H Foundation as the owner of the grain should be created. Then, farmers may notify the 4-H Foundation that the grain is available to sell.**

## Challenging Corn Drying Season in 2009



A record cool summer has made for a late maturing corn crop this fall. Much of Iowa's crop just matured in early October. While in-field drying still normally occurs in October, the best drying conditions are usually in late September. With a record cool first half of October, field dry down has been slow.

In 2009, it is anticipated that much of Iowa's corn crop will be harvested in the low to mid 20% moisture range as opposed to the mid to upper teens of a couple of years ago. A good look at expected field dry down is covered in a Minnesota website at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/cropnews/2008/08MNCN26.html>.

It takes 15-20 Growing Degree Days (GGD) to drop corn about one percentage point of moisture. With normal weather conditions, we can expect early October corn dry down of 0.5 to 0.75% per day and decreasing to less than 0.33% per day by late October. By November, little additional in-field drying can be expected. Based on these drying rates, corn maturing to black layer on October 1 can still be expected to be in the low 20% moisture range by late October.

One way to cut drying costs and increase the capacity of a high temperature dryer is to cool the corn after taking it out of the dryer. Cooling the corn after the dryer can remove an additional 1-2 percentage points of moisture. You can take this a step further with dryeration. Corn is unloaded hot from the dryer and held hot or "tempered" for 4 to 12 hours without aeration in a holding bin. It is then cooled and moved to storage. About 2 to 3 points of moisture will be removed during the delayed cooling. Dryeration boosts dryer capacity, improves corn quality, and reduces energy use. It is important to move the corn to another bin after cooling with dryeration because of condensation that will occur in the cooling bin.

With the rapidly fluctuating propane prices over the last several years, natural air drying has become more cost competitive. Under average weather and drying conditions, electricity costing \$0.10 per kWhr for using only fans for drying compares to about \$1.75 per gallon LP prices with average high temperature dryers. To make natural air drying work, adequate fan sizes are needed and corn should be 22% or less in moisture content. Fan capacity should be greater than 1 cfm/bushel which roughly equates to about 1 horsepower per 1000 bushels. Drying depths should be limited to about 16 ft.

Another way to greatly increase the capacity of high temperature dryer and save on drying costs is to use combination drying. This is using the high temp dryer to dry corn to under 20% moisture and then finish drying in a natural air bin. This combination drying can more than double the capacity of the high temperature dryer and save 10 to 20% on drying costs based on current LP and electricity prices.

Producers are encouraged to seek ways to reduce corn drying costs, but they should avoid the temptation to under-dry corn. Corn that is too wet will spoil when warm weather arrives in spring. Also, do not cut corners when operating aeration systems. Even if corn is adequately dried, it can spoil in storage if the grain is not adequately cooled. Corn should be aerated to cool it below 40F for winter storage. You can get more information about grain drying, handling, aeration and storage from several publications available through your County Extension Office or MidWest Plan Service at <http://www.mwps.org/> or by calling 800-562-3618. They are:

Dry Grain Aeration Systems Design Handbook, MWPS 29

Grain Drying, Handling and Storage Handbook, MWPS-13.

Low Temperature and Solar Grain Drying Handbook, MWPS-22

Managing Dry Grain in Storage – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, AED-20

# **PRO-AG Outlook & Management Series Comes to Amana & Mt Pleasant**

Iowa's farm economy is at a critical crossroad. Higher input costs and increased market volatility has significantly impacted farmers and the decisions they make. Iowa State University Extension Economics will be holding a series of Agricultural Outlook and Risk Management meetings across Iowa in November. The primary audience is agricultural lenders, farm managers, and agribusinesses that serve farmers. The purpose of these meetings is to help attendees better understand the challenges and opportunities facing farmers in 2010 and beyond.

To gather the research-based information you need to advise your clients, register to attend Iowa State University Extension's Agricultural Outlook & Management workshop at the Henry County Extension Office on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am or the Amana Colonies Clarion Inn, I-80 Exit 225, on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Dr. Chad Hart, Grain Marketing Specialist for Iowa State University will discuss the present grain markets and future outlook. John Lawrence, ISU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist will present the future livestock outlook and report on the present industry conditions. Both speakers will also discuss the general economic outlook for the economy including the "Cap & Trade" issues presently in Congress.

This workshop will prepare you to help producers make those important production decisions that lead to increased profitability. Advance registration is recommended by calling the Henry County Extension Office at 319-385-8126. Registration is \$45 per person at the Amana site and \$35 at the Mt. Pleasant site and includes workshop materials, breaks and a meal.

**Iowa State University Cooperative Extension**

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