

# AG

Washington County Extension  
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## newsletter

November 2010

[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."*

## INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE DEC. 1-2

The Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management Conference will be held Dec. 1 – 2 on the Iowa State University (ISU) campus. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 in the Scheman Building and the program concludes at 4 p.m. Dec. 2.

Conference attendees can choose from 36 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 and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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 at one location," said Brent Pringnitz, conference coordinator with ISU's Corn and Soybean Initiative. Invited speakers this year include:

- Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture, State of Iowa, speaking on the Iowa statewide nutrient reduction initiative
- Peter Thomison, Ohio State University, on selecting corn hybrids for performance and profit
- Richard Fawcett, Fawcett Consulting, presenting on 50 years of atrazine and its benefits, impacts and current status
- Paul Fixen, International Plant Nutrition Institute, discussing the 4R nutrient stewardship program
- Robert Mullen, Ohio State University, speaking about nitrogen additives, what they are and do they work
- Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Kansas State University, on managing poultry manure nitrogen for optimum corn yields
- Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska, speaking on no-tillage and water issues

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 can obtain Certified Crop Adviser credits as well as recertification for Commercial Pesticide Applicators in categories 1A, 1B, 1C, 4 and 10.

To register online for this event or for more information, visit the conference website at [www.aep.iastate.edu/icm](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm). Registration is \$185. After Nov. 19, registration increases to \$235. Enrollment is limited and no registrations will be accepted at the door.

## AG DECISION MAKER WEBSITE

Ag Decision Maker is an excellent resource of agricultural economics and business news for producers to use in making management decisions. The information and analysis provided will help you find solutions for many of the business, economic, and financial decisions facing farmers and agribusinesses. Please take time to stop by the ISU Extension office or visit the Ag Decision Maker website. For questions, please call the Washington County Extension office at 319-653-4811.

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

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## FARMERS CAN GROW COMMUNITIES ONE DONATION AT A TIME



Rural communities are important to farmers. They give farmers a place to call home, a place to meet with friends for breakfast, a place to raise families. Now, Iowa farmers in 99 counties have the opportunity to win \$2,500 awards for their favorite nonprofit organization. The awards are available through Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities<sup>SM</sup> program. The program's first two pilots provided nearly 500 farmers in 10 states with \$2,500 awards to direct to their favorite nonprofit. That totals nearly \$1.2 million invested since the first pilot program began in January. The program has now expanded to more than 1,200 counties across 38 states.

The America's Farmers Grow Communities program is intended to benefit non-profit community groups such as ag youth organizations, schools and other civic groups important to America's farmers. Farmers can apply online at [www.growcommunities.com](http://www.growcommunities.com), or they can call 1-877-267-3332 to apply by phone.

Farmers, age 21 and over, who are actively engaged in farming a minimum of 250 acres of corn, soybeans and/or cotton, or 40 acres of open field vegetables, or at least 10 acres of tomatoes, peppers and/or cucumbers grown in protected culture are eligible. Farmers can enter now through Dec. 31, 2010. The program is open to all qualifying farmers, and no purchase is necessary in order to enter or win. One winner will be drawn from each of the participating counties, and Monsanto Fund will announce winning farmers and recipient organizations by February 2011.

Eligible counties in Iowa include: Adair, Adams, Allamakee, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Sac, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Woodbury, Worthy and Wright.

## UPCOMING CIC'S OFFERED IN REGION 15

County Extension Offices in Region 15 will be offering the continuing instructional certification courses in several commercial pesticide applicator categories:

### **Ornamental and Turfgrass - Wednesday, November 10**

Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by the session 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$35. The 2010 course will provide continuing instructional credits for commercial and public pesticide applicators certified in categories 2 (Forest Pest Control), 3O (Ornamental Pest Control), 3T (Turf Pest Control), 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control), and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

### **Commercial Ag, Weed, Insect, & Plant Disease Management - Wednesday, November 17**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the session 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35. The 2010 course will provide continuing instructional credits for commercial and public pesticide applicators certified in categories 1A (Agricultural Weed), 2A (Agricultural Insect), 3A (Crop Disease), and 10 (Research and Demonstration).

### **Fumigation - Tuesday, November 30**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the session 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35. The 2010 course will provide continuing instructional credits for 7C (Fumigation) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).



### **Pest Control Operators - Wednesday, December 1**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the session 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$60. The 2010 course will provide continuing instructional credits for 7A (General and Household Pest), 7B (Termite), 8 (Public Health) and 10 (Demonstration and Research) **To register for any of these classes, or for additional information, please contact the office at 319-653-4811.** The fees for this service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the Continuing and Distance Education County Extension Program.



## 2011 COUNTY BEEF WEIGH-IN DATES SET

The 2011 market beef weigh-ins are set for 8 a.m. to NOON for Washington County youth - Dec. 18, Kalona Sale Barn and January 8, Johnson County 4-H fairgrounds, for Johnson County exhibitors. Contact your local Extension office for the full set of guidelines. Each youth is limited to nominating 6 head of halter cattle.

## GRAZING RYE FIELD DAY NOV. 12

With the weather we've had this year, any additional grazing will have a big impact on the cost of wintering cows in Iowa. Cereal rye grain seeded in the early fall is one option to extend the grazing season and reduce feed costs in the beef herd. A field day to demonstrate grazing cereal rye will be held on Friday, Nov. 12, at 1:00 pm at the Welter farm north of Onslow.

Al Welter has been seeding cereal rye in the fall following corn chopping for many years. Winter seeded rye provides ground cover throughout the winter and early spring to prevent soil erosion, as well as feed for the late fall and early winter. Rye also provides early spring grazing allowing cows and calves to move out of dry lots sooner in the spring and reduces the need for stored feed until typical pasture turn-out in May.

The field day will begin at 1 p.m. with Welter sharing his many years of experience with grazing rye. Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist, will discuss forage quality from 2010 and other winter feeding issues. The field day will be held one mile south and ¼ mile east of the Welter Seed plant on Hwy 136 north of Onslow.

This same 70 acre field was seeded with rye in the fall of 2009, at a cost of about \$62/ acre for seed, equipment and labor. Despite the poor fall weather, it produced 900 cow grazing days in the fall and another 3330 cow grazing days in the spring. This calculated to about \$1.31 feed cost per cow per day, which is much lower than conventional drylot hay feeding programs. Last month both cereal rye and oats were drilled into this field, along with a few strips of turnips.

This event is weather dependent so be sure to check before driving if field conditions are questionable. For more information on the field day, contact Iowa State Extension beef specialist Denise Schwab at 319-472-4739 or dschwab@iastate.edu.

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. For more information about the Iowa Beef Center, visit [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).

## HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP DEC. 3-4

Current commercial fruit or vegetable growers and traditional farmers interested in diversifying can learn more about high tunnel production and marketing at a Dec. 3-4 workshop in Mt. Pleasant. The workshop is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Pathfinders RC&D.

High tunnels are inexpensive, simple, passive-solar greenhouses in which crops are grown directly in the soil. They allow growers to extend the season and produce high yields of quality produce earlier than field-grown crops, thus commanding a higher price at market.

Topics to be covered at this in-depth workshop include site and high tunnel selection, construction, soil management, irrigation, pest management, bed design and cropping systems, market plan development and business plan development.

The workshop will be held at the Henry County Extension office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. This workshop is funded through an Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship specialty crop grant. Pre-registration is required by calling Sue Woods at 515-294-9483 or e-mailing at [swoods@iastate.edu](mailto:swoods@iastate.edu). Fees for the workshop are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple, which includes a training manual and refreshments. Registration deadline is Nov. 29.

## Eastern Iowa Forage Prices

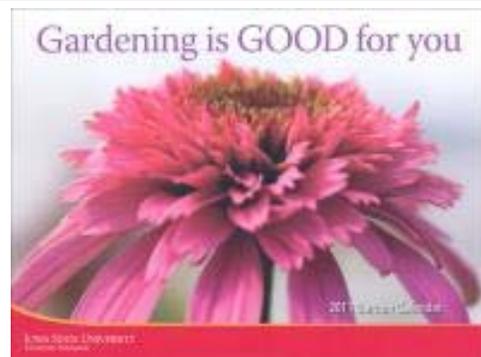
These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets. Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

**Walcott** (EC IA) 2nd Sat Dec-Mar; Noon Sales Resume in the Autumn

**Keosauqua** (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa & mixed: SmSq \$2.25-3.25/bale Grass : SmSq \$1.50-2.75/bale  
Straw: ( SmSq \$2.00-4.00/bale Aug)

**Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Wed, Yr-round 11:30AM Wed. (& 3rd Wed Oct-winter) Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$3.00-4.70/bale; ( LgSq \$50-62/bale Aug); LgRd \$48-60/bale Grass: SmSq \$2.00-3.30/bale; LgSq \$36-42/bale; (LgRd \$15-45/bale Aug)

These calendars are available for purchase for \$6 at the Washington County Extension Office.



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.

## ESTIMATED RETURNS TRACKS PIG PRODUCTION COSTS

The ISU Estimated Returns Series is a widely recognized barometer of the swine industry's economic health. See links to the estimated returns for farrow-finish-wean and weaned pigs on this website [http://www.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/lawrence/lawrence\\_website/livestockreturns.htm](http://www.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/lawrence/lawrence_website/livestockreturns.htm) ISU Extension program specialist Shane Ellis maintains the series and can speak about current conditions and prospects for the future. For more information, contact Shane Ellis, 475 Heady Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; 515-294-8030, [shanee@iastate.edu](mailto:shanee@iastate.edu)

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## PRO-AG OUTLOOK WORKSHOP COMES TO AMANA

Policymakers, agriculture lenders, agriculture suppliers and producers all grow nervous when commodity prices, land values and input cost become volatile. Weather, breeding cycles, world stocks, and supply and demand swings coupled with the uncertainty of the economic recovery combine to make an uncertain future for farm income and profitability. Managing increased cost and decreasing margins is an area where today's producer turns to their lender, input supplier, Extension, neighbor, and other agricultural business professionals for advice.

To gather the research based information you need to advise clients and make crucial agricultural decisions, register to attend Iowa State University Extension's 2010 Pro-Ag Outlook workshop at the Amana Colonies Clarion Hotel (Interstate 80, exit 225) on Tuesday, Nov. 16. Registration begins at 4 p.m.

Dr. Chad Hart, ISU Extension Grain Marketing Specialist, will be discussing the supply and demand situation for grains. Another workshop speaker will be Shane Ellis, ISU Extension Livestock Marketing specialist. Shane will review the profit potential in the livestock sector. Erin Herbold, Staff Attorney for the Center for Ag Law and Taxation at ISU, will speak to the current farm legal issues including bankruptcy, taxes, and production contract issues.

This workshop will prepare participants to make those important production decisions this winter. Advance registration is recommended by calling the Henry County Extension Office at 319-385-8126. Registration includes workshop materials, breaks and a meal. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and the meeting concludes about 8:30 p.m.

## PQA PLUS & TQA CERTIFICATION FOR PORK PRODUCERS NOV. 16

Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus certification training will be offered on Nov. 16 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Williamsburg Farm Bureau basement office for any adult (18 years and older) wishing to be certified. The TQA Certification will be in the afternoon starting at 1 p.m. Pre-registration is advised and a fee of \$25 per participant per session will be assessed for the certification training.

The PQA Plus certification status is three years. As of June 10, 2007 producers can no longer receive PQA Level III certification; therefore, producers must be certified in the new PQA Plus program once the PQA Level III status expires. Many harvesting facility companies are requiring Transportation Quality Assurance Certification (TQA) also and this is being offered in the afternoon at the same location. This program will start at 1 pm.

The Williamsburg Farm Bureau is located on the northwest corner of the square.

Many hog buyers are now requiring a production site assessment for animal welfare, each production site will need to have a site assessment done by a PQA Plus Advisor, this phase is essentially the old Swine Welfare Assurance Program (SWAP). Or, the producer may obtain a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment endorsement through a PQA Plus Advisor to obtain the Site Status for welfare. In order to obtain a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment endorsement, a producer must be PQA Plus certified and have completed the additional site self-assessment training from an Advisor and pass an exam.

For the PQA Plus Program and the TQA pre-registration please call the Iowa County Extension Office at 319-642-5504, or Terry Steinhart in Sigourney, at (800) 515-2680, or email at tsteinha@iastate.edu.



## WAIT UNTIL SOIL TEMPS DROP BEFORE APPLYING ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

With the early harvest, Iowa's conservation leaders are encouraging farmers to wait until soil temperatures lower before applying anhydrous ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) this fall. Anhydrous ammonia applied before daily soil temperatures remain below 50 F and continue trending lower can result in the nitrogen loss that can impact crop development and have negative environmental impacts, such as enhanced leaching into groundwater and streams once converted to nitrate.

"By waiting for cold soil temperatures, the applied ammonia will have a better chance to be retained in the soil and benefit the crop next spring," says Barb Stewart, state agronomist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Cooler soil temperatures slow biological activity, which slows conversion of ammonium to nitrate, therefore allowing nitrogen to stay in the ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>) form longer."

Heavy rains throughout 2010 caused a lot of yellow corn due to nitrogen loss. Stewart says applying anhydrous ammonia prior to soils dropping below 50 degrees could produce similar results. "With high anhydrous prices this fall, consider a spring or split spring/sidedress application to make the best use of the nutrients," she says.

Historically, soil temperatures at a four-inch depth cool below 50 F in the northern third of the state during the first week of November. In central and southern Iowa, soil temperatures cool below 50 F during the second week and third weeks of November, according to Iowa State University Extension. Producers and fertilizer dealers are encouraged to visit the Nitrogen and Phosphorus Knowledge Web page, <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>, to view daily, previous day, and three-day history of average soil temperatures in every Iowa county.

ISU Extension research indicates lower yields can result when anhydrous ammonia is applied in the fall versus spring, and crop residue cover can be reduced by the tillage action of NH<sub>3</sub> application, increasing the risk of soil erosion.

To save energy and money, NRCS recommends farmers use online energy estimators for tillage and nitrogen, at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/energy/index.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/energy/index.html). The energy estimator for tillage estimates diesel fuel use and costs in the production of key crops. It compares potential energy savings between conventional tillage and alternative tillage systems. The energy estimator for nitrogen enables farmers to calculate the cost of nitrogen product use. It also evaluates options based on user input.

According to the USDA, nitrogen fertilizer is one of the largest indirect uses of energy in an agricultural operation. Fertilizer accounts for 29 percent of agriculture's energy use, according to USDA research data. The energy consumption for nitrogen fertilizer manufacture and relation to application rate is outlined in an ISU Extension publication, *Energy Consumption in Corn Nitrogen Fertilizer*, available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM2089I.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM2089I.pdf). Proper management of nitrogen fertilizer, including the use of organic sources of nitrogen, such as animal manure and cover crops, can save producers energy and money.

## EXTENSION WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS ROLE OF FARM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

AMES, Iowa – Subsurface drainage, commonly known as ag tile systems, is an important part of agricultural systems in Iowa. A drainage workshop planned for December will examine various aspects of farmland drainage, according to Iowa State University engineers who will conduct the workshop.

The 2010 Drainage Workshop will cover the basics of planning a new drainage system or retrofitting an existing system. Economic and long-term benefits of tiling of interest to producers, drainage contractors, landowners and others interested in farmland drainage also will be discussed.

"To function most efficiently, all components of a subsurface drainage system should be designed to work together for optimum efficiency," said Kapil Arora, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. "While the economic benefits of tiling are well recognized, there are also environmental impacts from drainage." New technologies that may be useful in minimizing environmental impacts will be discussed at the workshop, Arora added.

A morning session will focus on drainage concepts, economics and long term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on implications of drainage water management, compliance with USDA-NRCS requirements, discussions on controlled drainage, bioreactors, and managing drainage water quality with wetlands.

The same workshop will be offered at three locations. All programs begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 3:30 p.m. The dates and locations are listed below.

- Dec. 7, Comfort Inn & Suites, 910 West 16th Street, Pella
- Dec. 8, Clover Hall, Greene County Fairgrounds, East Lincoln Way, Jefferson
- December 10, The Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, 1527 Highway 150 South, Calmar

The program is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, industry partners and United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The pre-registration fee, including lunch and refreshments, is \$35 for those registered by Dec. 1. Registrations after the pre-registration deadline will be \$45. Walk-in registrations will be accepted only if space is available.

Registration information is available online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/story](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/story) or by calling ISU Extension – Story County Office at 515- 382-6551.

# Enjoy the Fall Weather –Take a Walk & Collect Some Soil Samples

By Greg Tylka, Department of Plant Pathology

Once harvest is completed, a very productive way to enjoy the fall weather is to collect soil samples for soybean cyst nematode (SCN).

In the 1990s and much of the past decade, fall soil sampling for SCN was strongly recommended as a way to scout fields for the presence of this pest. If fields have not yet been tested for SCN, soil samples should be collected for this purpose. But many fields infested with SCN in Iowa likely have already been discovered.

Another reason to collect soil samples for SCN in the fall is to determine SCN egg population densities (numbers). These numbers will be useful for comparison when soil samples are collected again sometime in the future. Growers and agronomists are advised to take soil samples every six to eight years to assess SCN population densities as a check that management efforts are adequately controlling the nematode. Doing this is important because many SCN populations in Iowa and throughout the Midwest are developing increased ability to reproduce on the most common type or source of SCN resistance, called PI 88788. The key to profitable long-term soybean production in SCN-infested fields is to prevent SCN population densities from increasing.

Comparing results of soil samples collected six to eight years apart requires good record keeping and also consistent soil sample collection methods. Accurate and detailed notes of when and how samples were collected are needed so the same methods can be used in future years. Details should include the specific areas of fields that are sampled, the number of cores that are collected and their depth, the specific sampling date, whether samples are collected before or after a soybean or other crop, and which laboratory processes the samples.

*Following are some general soil sampling guidelines for this purpose.*

- The more soil cores collected and the smaller the area sampled, the more accurate the results will be.
- Soil cores should be from the upper eight inches of soil.
- If corn or some other nonhost crop was last grown in the field, it doesn't matter if soil cores are collected in the previous crop's row.
  - It is better to collect soil cores after the previous corn (or other nonhost crop) rows have been destroyed by tillage.
  - If soybeans were last grown in the field, collect soil cores from under the old crop rows.
  - If sampling conventionally (not grid sampling), collect 15 to 20 soil cores in a zigzag pattern from no more than 20 acres. The 20-acre parcels of the field do not need to be square or rectangular; samples can be collected from zones according to the agronomic features of the field.
  - If grid sampling: collect one or two extra soil cores from every grid cell sample and combine these extra cores from the number of cells that represent approximately 20 acres.

Many private soil laboratories can process soil samples to determine SCN egg population densities. Samples also can be sent to the Iowa State University Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic, Room 327 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-1020. The current fee for SCN analysis at the ISU clinic is \$15 per sample for samples from Iowa. Samples sent to the ISU clinic should be accompanied by a completed Plant Nematode Sample Submission Form. More information about the biology, scouting, and management of SCN can be found at [www.soybeancystnematode.info](http://www.soybeancystnematode.info).

## 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.

December 16	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Hills	Community Center
December 16	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Wash. County Extension
January 3	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
January 3	7:00 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
February 9	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. room
February 9	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conf. 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	Wash. County Extension
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Wash. County Extension

## SMARTSTAX: MULTI-TRAIT CORN OFFERED BY DOW AND MONSANTO

By Aaron Gassmann and Erin Hodgson, Department of Entomology

Beginning in 2009, Dow AgroSciences and Monsanto have entered into an agreement to offer SmartStax, which combines the Bt traits found in Herculex XTRA and VT Triple Pro. This product will include several Bt traits, with multiple toxins providing control of some key pests and with a broader overall spectrum of pest control. Additionally, there will be a reduction in the refuge requirement with the product. Growers should carefully consider how the pest-control benefits of this product balance against seed costs when deciding what to plant in 2011.

### How does SmartStax differ from other products?

SmartStax combines the Bt traits found in VT Triple Pro and Herculex XTRA. VT Triple Pro contains Cry3Bb1 which targets corn rootworm species along with Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2 for control of Lepidoptera including European corn borer and corn earworm. Herculex XTRA contains Cry34/35Ab1 for control of corn rootworm and Cry1F for control of Lepidoptera including European corn borer and western bean cutworm. Additionally, SmartStax has tolerance of the herbicides glyphosate and glufosinate.

### Implications for pest control

Historically, the primary corn pests of concern in Iowa are the European corn borer and corn rootworm. Both of these pests are controlled effectively in most cases by either VT Triple Pro or Herculex XTRA. SmartStax should provide control that is as good as or better than the parent products. Secondary pests of corn in Iowa currently controlled by Bt corn include corn earworm, western bean cutworm, black cutworm and armyworms. High adaption of Bt corn over the last decade is likely responsible for the drastic reduction in European corn borer populations, making it less of a problem in corn. Conversely, some secondary pests may become more problematic over the coming years; for example, the western bean cutworm has only recently expanded its range to include Iowa. Smartstax offers some advantages for control of secondary pests compared with either VT Triple Pro or Herculex XTRA.

### Changes in refuge requirement

SmartStax requires a smaller refuge than either Herculex XTRA or VT Triple Pro. In Iowa, a five percent block refuge is required for all pests targeted by Smartstax. This includes below ground pests (western and northern corn rootworm) and above ground pests such as European corn borer and corn earworm. The refuge must be within or adjacent to the SmartStax field and cannot contain any Bt traits for pest control.

### Things to consider

Advantages of SmartStax include a reduced refuge requirement and broader control of secondary pests. While the use of multiple traits should increase the durability of SmartStax, this benefit may be counterbalanced by the reduced refuge requirement, which should decrease durability. The extent to which SmartStax will increase profits on the farm depends on pest pressure, pest management strategies and seed costs. For example, corn rootworm can be effectively controlled by crop rotation. In such cases, a stacked event such as SmartStax or a single-trait rootworm event such as VT Triple Pro should confer little additional benefit of increasing yield by reducing pest injury.

## ISU EXTENSION OFFERS AG CHEMICAL DEALER UPDATE

Updates on the latest crop production products and recommendations for seed, fertilizer, and ag chemical dealers are the featured topics of the Ag Chemical Dealer Update on December 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Highlander Conference Center in Iowa City. "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," says Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist in eastern Iowa.

Featured speakers will be Bob Hartzler, ISU Extension Weed Specialist; Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist; Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Plant Pathologist; and John Sawyer, ISU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist. There will also be similar meetings in Ames on December 8 and Storm Lake on December 14. The meetings are approved for Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits, and Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicators can renew their certification for 2010 in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Registration fees for the meetings are \$70 one week prior to the event (\$85 at the door).

For more information about this program call Jim Fawcett at (319) 337-2145 ([fawcett@iastate.edu](mailto:fawcett@iastate.edu)) or Virgil Schmitt (563) 263-5701 ([vschmitt@iastate.edu](mailto:vschmitt@iastate.edu)). Registration materials and additional information about the meetings is available at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/>.

## IOWA BEEF CENTER FORAGE TESTING PROJECT 2010-11

2010 weather has severely impacted the quality of forages produced, which will also impact the nutritional status of the beef cow herd. Know the quality of your forages to better balance the ration for your cow herd and minimize nutrition related calving problems next spring. Producers can receive 50% cost-share on forage samples analyzed and assistance in ration balancing.



Bring samples to county Extension offices in Iowa, Keokuk, Johnson or Washington. Samples must be core samples. Special information forms need to be completed. All forms and materials available from participating county

Extension offices.

Focus will be on hay and silage samples impacted by flooding, excess rain, late maturity, etc. Producer's cost \$6.19 per sample.

Contact your County Extension Office or Extension Beef Program Specialist for details. Sponsored by the Iowa Beef Center and the Leopold Center's Grass Based Livestock Working Group.

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## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

### ADDITIONAL DISASTER PAYMENTS FOR 2009 IOWA SOYBEANS

By Chad Hart, Department of Economics

USDA has announced additional disaster payments for the 2009 crop year via the Crop Assistance Program (CAP). Payments will be made to producers of rice, upland cotton, sweet potatoes and soybeans in counties that received Secretarial disaster designations in 2009 for excessive moisture or related conditions.

In order for producers to qualify for payments, they must have suffered a five percent crop loss in 2009 from excessive moisture or related conditions. The five percent crop loss requirement is based on a comparison of the producer's 2009 actual yield to the higher of the producer's crop insurance APH yield or the county expected yield as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee. The payment is based on a flat dollar per acre amount, \$15.62 for soybeans. If the total payments under the CAP exceed \$550 million, then the payment rate will be prorated to cap payments at \$550 million. A qualified producer will receive the payment on all 2009 planted acres for the eligible crops on land that is physically located in one of the Secretorially declared disaster counties.

Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their expected payment, with the remaining amount being paid when sign-up is complete and the final payment rates are determined. There is a payment limit of \$100,000 per producer in this program. And the payments will be considered as revenue under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2009. The CAP payments are being administered by the FSA. To sign-up, visit your local FSA office. Sign-up for the payments began Oct. 25, 2010 and continues through Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010. Producers will self-certify the crop losses, but should have documentation to support the crop loss claim. Acreage will be certified from FSA acreage reports. CAP is being funded from a standing USDA program that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to reestablish the purchasing power of agricultural producers.



CAP Program Eligibility  
Not Eligible  
Eligible

#### Eligible Counties in Iowa

Allamakee	Clarke	Grundy	Jackson	Van Buren
Benton	Clay	Hamilton	Jefferson	Wapello
Bremer	Clayton	Hardin	Keokuk	Wayne
Butler	Decatur	Howard	Lucas	Webster
Calhoun	Delaware	Ida	Mahaska	Winneshiek
Chickasaw	Fayette	Iowa	Sac	Woodbury