

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

SEPTEMBER 2008

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FALL FIELD DAY

SE IA RESEARCH & DEMO. FARM - CRAWFORDSVILLE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1:00 P.M.

Tour stops will include; current crop concerns, farm bill update and marketing in volatile times, harvest, drying, and storage concerns with the 2008 crop, and alternatives to glyphosate for soybean weed control.

COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR COURSES ANNOUNCED

Commercial pesticide applicators across Iowa will return to the classroom this fall for re-certification, in accordance with the Pesticide Act of Iowa. Instruction is offered through Iowa State University Extension's Pest Management and the Environment Program (PME), which makes the continuing instructional courses (CIC) available. More than 90 sites will be available for CIC this fall.

Scheduled courses include:

Roadside, Forest and Aquatic Pest Management, Oct. 1 Categories 2 (Forest Pest Control); 5 (Aquatic Pest Control); 6 (Right-of-Way Pest Control) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management, Oct. 23 Categories 7D (Community Insect Management); 8 (Public Health Pest Control) and 10.

Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators, Nov. 12 Categories 2 (Forest Pest Control), 3O (Ornamental Pest), 3T (Turfgrass Pest Control), 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Commercial Ag Weed, Insect and Plant Disease, Nov. 19 Categories 1A (Agricultural Weed Management), 1B (Agricultural Insect Control), 1C (Agricultural Crop Disease Management) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Fumigation Course, Dec. 2 Categories 7C (Fumigation) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Pest Control Operators, Dec. 3 Categories 7A (General and Household Pest Management), 7B (Termite Control), 8 (Public Health Pest Control) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Two courses with dates pending are:

Greenhouse and Ornamental Applicators Categories 3G (Greenhouse Pest Control), 3O (Ornamental and

Turf Pest Control), and 10 (Demonstration and Research); and **Aerial Applicators** Categories 10 (Demonstration and Research) and 11 (Aerial Application). Employers and applicators receive notification during the summer about the course schedule. Additional information can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME. For information about registration, contact your local county extension office.

FORAGE/BEDDING PRICES

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

FARMLAND LEASING BOOKS AVAILABLE

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

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

IOWA BEEF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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

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

PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE PLUS™

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

PROGRAM GUIDELINES, ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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

PQA PLUS™ TRAINING SESSIONS

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

Jones County Extension Office. 605 East Main Street, Anamosa. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Larry McMullen by e-mail at lkcmcmull@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-462-2791. September 16, 2008 ; November 18, 2008; January 20, 2009; March 17, 2009; May 19, 2009; July 21, 2009

Washington County Extension Office. 2223 250th Street, Washington. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Tom Miller by e-mail at tmiller@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-653-4811. October 21, 2008;; December 16, 2008; February 17, 2009; April 21, 2009; June 16, 2009

CREDIT NEEDS & CASH RENTS IMPACTED BY INPUT COSTS

By William Edwards, Department of Economics

Corn and soybean farmers have been enjoying record high prices and sizable profits for their past two crops. But higher input prices will eat into those margins in 2009.

Many producers have already been confronted with soaring prices for fertilizer, with anhydrous ammonia selling for up to \$1,000 per ton, payable in advance. Potash and phosphate fertilizers have shown similar increases. There are various reasons behind the sharply higher prices, but most of them are related to higher energy prices and their impacts on transportation and manufacturing costs. Seed, pesticide and fuel prices have also been affected, though to lesser degrees. Gary Schnitkey, farm management specialist at the University of Illinois, has estimated that nonland costs of production in Illinois could be up \$141 per acre for corn and \$82 per acre for soybeans from 2008 to 2009. Mike Duffy from Iowa State University has estimated increases of \$120 to \$140 per acre for corn and \$65 per acre for soybeans next year. However, actual prices for many inputs could change significantly by this coming winter.

Credit Needs Grow

The total dollars needed to plant a crop next spring may find some operators exceeding their operating line limits from past years. An early consultation with the short-term lender will help adjust credit availability to the new cost levels. Fortunately, profits from the past two years have made it possible for many producers with high levels of operating debt to pay down their balances. More valuable crop inventories have made current ratios and operating capital values look healthier as well. The volatile grain and input prices make budgeting much more difficult. Extension has several electronic spreadsheets available for developing cash flow budgets. They can be downloaded from the [Ag Decision Maker Web site](#).

Cash Rents

The annual rent negotiations with landlords are in full swing, as well. Most landowners are well aware of where grain prices have been. They may be less aware of the higher input costs. Tenants should be honest about both their costs and profits, and be prepared to negotiate 2009 rents in good faith. Rents that were renegotiated for 2008 may not change much for 2009, but rents that are still at levels set prior to 2007 will likely be brought up to current market levels. Some producers and landowners have developed flexible cash leases in the past two years, with cash rents being determined by actual yields and the prices available at or prior to harvest. Often a base rent is specified, with a bonus paid when gross revenue exceeds a certain level.

One easy way to reflect higher input costs in a flexible lease is to increase the level of gross revenue needed to trigger a bonus payment. In other word, start sharing revenue after the tenant has earned enough to cover all nonland costs plus the base rent.

PRE-HARVEST RESTRICTIONS FOR FUNGICIDES

By Daren Mueller, Department of Plant Pathology

With the buzz of airplanes still being heard out in the countryside and September within sight, this is just a quick reminder to growers about the pre-harvest intervals (PHI) for fungicides applied to corn and soybean. Last month in Kansas, some wheat was embargoed when fungicide levels were questioned until tests could be completed to determine residue levels. Pre-harvest Interval (PHI) is the minimum amount of time that must pass between the last pesticide application and the harvesting of the crop, or the grazing or cutting of the crop for livestock feed. Typically, PHIs for fungicides applied to field crops range between 21-30 days. Some triazoles and triazole + QoI fungicides have restrictions based on growth stages instead of a specific number of days; fungicides cannot be applied later than soybean growth stage R5 for soybean or after silking for corn.

Corn and soybean foliar fungicides and their preharvest intervals.

Trade Name	Chemical Group	Active Ingredient	Preharvest Interval for Corn	Preharvest Interval for Soybean
Chlorothalonil products	Chloronitrile	chlorothalonil	14 days	42 days
Quadris®	Strobilurin	azoxystrobin	7 days	14 days
Headline®		pyraclostrobin	7 days	21 days
Alto®	Triazole	cyproconazole	---	30 days
Punch™		flusilazole	---	30 days
Topguard™		flutriafol	---	21 days
Laredo™		myclobutanil	---	28 days
Tilt® and Bumper®		propiconazole	30 days	Not after R5 growth stage
Proline™		prothioconazole	---	21 days
Folicur® 3.6F and others		tebuconazole	21 days for forage 36 days for grain or fodder	21 days
Domark®		tetraconazole	---	Not after R5 growth stage
Quilt™		Triazole + strobilurin	propiconazole + azoxystrobin	30 days
Stratego®	propiconazole + trifloxystrobin		30 days for forage After silking for grain	21 days

SOYBEAN SUDDEN DEATH SYNDROME

Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) is common again this year, but does not appear to be quite as widespread as last year. You can't really identify SDS from your pickup window because Brown Stem Rot (BSR) can cause leaf symptoms identical to SDS. You need to split some stems lengthwise to know which disease is present. See pages 70 – 72 of the March 26, 2007 Integrated Crop Management Newsletter or http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/3-26/bsr_vs_sds.html for identification and management of SDS and BSR. If the field has not been tested for Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN), the presence of SDS in the field should prompt a soil test for SCN as SCN is usually present if SDS is present. The sample submission form and instructions for taking the sample are in PD-32 "Plant Nematode Sample Submission Form" which is available at Iowa State University Extension offices or can be downloaded from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PD32.pdf>.

2009 FLEXIBLE CASH FARM LEASES GAIN TRACTION

Steven D. Johnson, Ph.D., Farm & Ag Business Management Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension, (515) 261-4215, sdjohns@iastate.edu, www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/farmmanagement.htm

While Flexible or Bonus Cash Leases make up a small percentage of Cash Rent Lease Arrangements to-date, the interest in these types of leases is increasing rapidly. That's because the additional payment above an established base rent is getting triggered from revenue (yield times price). That additional flexible rent payment can be determined by the specific farm revenue or by the county average revenue. If the revenue reflects the yield and/or price from that farm, then the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office will likely determine that this is a share lease and the tenant should share a portion of the government farm program payments with the landlord. To avoid additional FSA and specific farm record keeping, many tenants and landlords may choose the posted county price to determine the county average revenue for that crop year in order to finalize the size of that "flex payment." In such a case, that payment won't be made until at least March following harvest, when the final county yields are determined by the USDA National Ag Statistics Service.

Interest in flexible cash leases is likely to increase in 2009. The reason is that once tenants and landowners understand that beginning in 2009 revenue triggers at both the state and farm levels are a major portion of the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payment, they will see that leases could be structured in a similar fashion. These revenue concepts will be incorporated by both tenants and landlords to write multi-year leases that benefit both parties through the 2012 crop year, the last year of the ACRE program.

In addition, farms that enroll in ACRE in 2009 will likely need to prove their actual farm yields by FSA farm number beginning with the 2004 crop year. That's because ACRE requires the use of both state and farm yields using a 5-year Olympic average for planted acreage. For some farms, the easiest year to prove yields will be 2008 when scale tickets, settlement sheets, grain bin measurements, and yield monitor data can be segregated by FSA farm number during and immediately following harvest. However, the FSA regulations pertinent to ACRE and farm yields have yet to be written and likely will not be completed prior to the 2008 harvest. More information is available in Ag Decision Maker File C2-21, **Flexible Farm Lease Agreements** and the associated Decision Tool on analyzing a flexible lease agreement.

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