

# AG newsletter

August-September 2009

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

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## IOWA DRAINAGE SCHOOL

The **Iowa Drainage School** is coming to SE Iowa! It will be held on August 25 – 27 at the SE Research Farm near Crawfordsville.

This is a three-day school with each day including a combination of hands-on training, field activities, classroom discussion, and problem solving using examples. By attending this school, participants will be able to plan and layout subsurface drainage systems and complete estimated project costs. This school is designed for drainage contractors, ag professionals, landowners, NRCS professionals, and anyone interested in subsurface ag drainage design and maintenance.

Registration and brochures will be handled through the ISU Agribusiness Education Program. The URL for the school is: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/ids/homepage.html>.

Participation will be limited to 30 participants. Cost is \$275 for early registrations. Contact Greg Brenneman, Johnson County Extension, for more information!



## CROP MANAGEMENT & DIAGNOSTIC CLINICS AUGUST-SEPTEMBER – AMES

The Field Extension Education Laboratory is a 43-acre teaching and demonstration facility dedicated to providing a hands-on learning experience for crop production professionals. The demonstration plots are used to show a wide range of management problems, solutions, and diagnostic challenges. “We make the mistakes on these plots so you won’t in the future!” The clinics and programs are taught by Iowa State University staff and faculty and invited specialists from other institutions and industry. Modern, air-conditioned classroom facilities complement the in-field sessions, all of which are within walking distance. Current open programs for this summer include the following:



Aug 25-27	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/ids/homepage.html">Iowa Drainage School</a>	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/ids/homepage.html">www.aep.iastate.edu/ids/homepage.html</a>
September 2	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/alfalfa.html">Alfalfa Production Clinic</a>	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/alfalfa.html">www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/alfalfa.html</a>
September 3	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/disease.html">Corn Disease Diagnostics</a>	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/disease.html">www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/disease.html</a>
September 15	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/soils.html">Soil Management Clinic</a>	<a href="http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/soils.html">www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/soils.html</a>

For other Agribusiness Education program information, check out the Homepage at: [www.aep.iastate.edu/homepage.html](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/homepage.html).

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University Extension

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... and justice for all

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# THE DAIRY FINANCIAL SITUATION: TAKING CHARGE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

AMES, Iowa--This is a turbulent, trying time for the U.S. dairy industry, with the dynamics of the global economy impacting dairy farm owners and agri-businesses. Through no fault of their own, dairy owners may be facing a financial crisis.

Iowa State University Extension invites dairy producers, bankers and lenders, and community leaders to an informational meeting to learn about financial and legal options available to dairy farm owners, and about stress management strategies and resources for farm owners and their families. Speakers will include John Baker, Attorney at Law, Iowa Concern Hotline; Erin Herbold, legal consultant, Center for Agricultural Law & Taxation; and ISU Extension specialists in farm management, dairy, and family life.

The workshops will address these topics:

- What is going on in our dairy industry?
- What are my financial options and strategies? How do I talk to my banker about my situation?
- What legal options and strategies do I have?
- Making good decisions during stressful times: What tools are available to me and my family?
- What should I tell the kids?

The meetings will be offered throughout Iowa:

Aug 18 - ISU Extension - Dubuque County Office, 14858 West Ridge Lane, Dubuque

Aug 19 - Elkader AEA Building, 1400 2nd Street NW, Elkader

Aug 20 - ISU Extension - Jones County Office/Jones County Farm Bureau, 605 E. Main, Anamosa

Aug 21 - Freedom Security Bank, 402 B Avenue, Kalona

Light refreshments and printed materials will be available. All are encouraged to pre-register by calling Chris Mondak, (712) 737-4230, for northwest sites, and by contacting Dale Thoreson, (319) 267-2702, or Larry Tranel, (563) 583-6496, for northeast Iowa locations.

## RESOURCES FOR ANALYZING THE ACRE PROGRAM

Producers faced with deciding whether to enroll in the ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) program for 2009 before the Aug. 14 deadline have an array of Iowa State University Extension information available to them. The ISU Extension Ag Decision Maker Web site at [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) provides an assortment of online information related to ACRE participation.

The new ACRE program provides protection against the risk of falling revenues from crop production over the next four years in exchange for reduced direct program crop payments. The guarantees are based on historic yields and selling prices. Producers can elect to sign up for the ACRE program beginning in any crop year from 2009 through 2012. The election remains in effect through 2012.

Resources available from the Ag Decision Maker website include the *ACRE Fact Sheet*, File A1-45, for Iowa corn and soybean farmers, and the ACRE electronic spreadsheet, A1-45, a decision tool that allows producers to enter data and calculate returns under participation and non-participation. Archived ACRE video presentations made by Extension specialists are also posted on the site.

ACRE information is readily available by going to the Ag Decision Maker homepage at [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) and clicking on "Farm Bill Information."

# MASTER CONSERVATIONIST PROGRAM OFFERED

The Master Conservationist program is a cooperative effort among the County Conservation staff in Johnson and Washington Counties, Iowa DNR, and Iowa State University Extension. We cover a number of topics over the course of about four weeks. The dates for the classes and field trips are shown below. The classes will be offered from 6:30-9:00 p.m. while the 2 field trips will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

DATE & TIMES	LOCATION	TOPICS
<b>LAB</b> Saturday, August 29, 9 a.m.-4 pm, 7 hrs	Kent Park & Fossil Gorge	Start with Prairies and Invasive Species at Kent Park, (lunch provided) and move to Gorge for afternoon with geology, hydrology, Corp of Engineers
Tues., Sept. 1, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Marr Park	Soils and computer lab
Thurs., Sept. 3, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Kent Park	Woodlands
Tues., Sept. 8 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Marr Park	Wildlife & Problem Management, Habitat
Thurs., Sept. 10, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Kent Park	Conservation Practices
Tues., Sept. 15, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Marr Park	Planning & Zoning, Archeology
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Kent Park	Alternate Energy, Waste Reduction
Tues., Sept. 22, 6:30-9 pm, 2.5 hrs	Marr Park	Wetlands, Rain Gardens, Work Sessions
<b>LAB</b> Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 am-4 pm, 7 hrs	Marr Park, SE Research Farm, Fern Farm	Sustainable Ag Practices/Programs, River, Ponds, Aquatics, Research Farm or Fern Farm (lunch provided)

If you are interested in learning more about the program or would like to register please contact me at the Johnson County Extension Office at (319)337-2145 or at [mohling@iastate.edu](mailto:mohling@iastate.edu). The program fee is \$60 per person. Please share this program information with others who may be interested. Registration space is limited.

# CONSERVATION INITIATIVE GROUP OFFERS AUGUST GRAZING CONFERENCE

AMES, Iowa --The end of the summer will bring a grazing conference to south central Iowa, sponsored by the Iowa Beef Center. The conference, “Optimizing Grazing and Enhancing the Environment,” held by the Iowa Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, will be Aug. 25 and 26 at the Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake, located near Moravia. Fred Provenza of the Utah State University Department of Wildland Resources will be the kick-off speaker for the conference. Provenza will also close the conference on the second day. Other speakers include Rob Kallenbach from the University of Missouri and two speakers from the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma. In addition to Provenza speaking on understanding behavior as a means to better manage landscapes, other topics addressed will be year-round grazing management, grazing management to benefit livestock and wildlife, optimizing fertilizer dollars, and incorporating annual forage crops into a grazing system.

Paired with presentations on these topics will be an evening pasture walk on Aug. 25 featuring Iowa State University research on grazing riparian areas. A weed and brush control demonstration will also be a part of the evening events. Attendees can earn continuing education credits by attending this conference. Certified crop advisors earn 7.5 hours of credits and veterinarians earn seven hours. A pre-registration fee of \$50 is due by Aug. 10 to the Iowa Forage and Grasslands Council, 900 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. For more information, contact co-chairman Joe Sellers, Iowa State University Extension livestock specialist, at (641) 203-1270 or at [sellers@iastate.edu](mailto:sellers@iastate.edu); or Brian Peterson, retired NRCS state grassland conservationist, at (641) 344-1026 or at [bckapeterson@gmail.com](mailto:bckapeterson@gmail.com). The agenda and conference location details can be found at [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).

## SERIES OF FREE PQAPLUS™ & TQA CERTIFICATION SESSIONS BEGIN AUG. 26

AMES, Iowa -- The Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC), Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) have teamed up to provide a series of free training sessions for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (PQAPlus™) and Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) programs. IPIC director John Mabry said the timing of this series, with sessions scheduled between Aug. 26 and Sept. 22 in various Iowa locations, is ideal. And, with IPPA's sponsorship, there is no charge to attend. Ordinarily, the fee is about \$25 per person for each session.

"We appreciate the sponsorship of IPPA in helping provide and promote these certification programs in late summer," Mabry said. "This is a good time for anyone who needs certification in either or both programs to get that accomplished at no charge." Tyler Bettin, IPPA producer education director, urges people to plan to attend a session closest to them. "We are fortunate to have the cooperation of our ISU Extension swine field specialists to conduct these sessions," he said. "And we want to give producers every opportunity to complete these sessions prior to the harvest season." Preregistration is strongly encouraged for all sessions to ensure adequate materials are available. Contact the ISU Extension swine field specialist listed to preregister at the desired location.

The following PQAPlus™ and TQA sessions are part of the IPPA-sponsored series.

- Aug. 26. Hancock County Extension Office, 327 West 8th St., Garner. PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Russ Euken at (641) 923-2856 or at [reuken@iastate.edu](mailto:reuken@iastate.edu).
- Aug. 27. Story County Extension Office, 220 H Ave., Nevada. PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Terry Steinhart at (800) 515-2680 or at [tsteinha@iastate.edu](mailto:tsteinha@iastate.edu).
- Aug. 27. Butler County Extension Office, 320 N. Main St., Allison. PQAPlus™ 9:45 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3:30 p.m. Contact Mark Storlie at (319) 267-2707 or at [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu).
- Sept. 9. Northwest Iowa Community College, Bldg. A, Room 118, Sheldon. TQA 10 a.m. to noon; PQAPlus™ 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Dave Stender at (712) 225-6196 or at [dstender@iastate.edu](mailto:dstender@iastate.edu).
- Sept. 15. Jones County Extension Office, 605 East Main St., Anamosa. PQAPlus™ 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Larry McMullen at (319) 462-2791 or at [lkmcnull@iastate.edu](mailto:lkmcnull@iastate.edu).
- Sept. 15. Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. PQAPlus™ 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Tom Miller at (319) 653-4811 or at [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu).
- Sept. 22. Sac County Extension Office, 620 Park Ave, Sac City. PQAPlus™ 10 a.m. to noon; TQA 1 to 3 p.m. Contact Jerry Weiss at (712) 335-3103 or at [weissj@iastate.edu](mailto:weissj@iastate.edu).

To learn more about PQAPlus™, see the National Pork Board website at <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx?c=About>.

## ADVANCES IN PRECISION AG EXPO

ISU SE Iowa Research & Demonstration Farm – Crawfordsville  
September 17 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Come see the latest in precision ag technology, including RTK guidance systems, auto-steer, automatic shut-off planters and sprayers. The expo will feature field demonstrations and industry exhibits on the latest technology. More details will be follow soon!

## 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; (LgRd \$30/bale May); Grass: SmSq \$1.75-2.75/bale; (LgRd \$30/bale May); Straw: SmSq \$1.75-2.50/bale  
**Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Thurs, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Thurs Oct-winter) Alfalfa: (SmSq \$4.00-4.20/b; LgSq \$28-46/b May); LgRd \$110/T; Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.70-4.10/bale; LgRd \$ \$55-60/b; Grass: SmSq \$2.20-2.70/bale; (LgRd \$33-39/bale May); Straw: SmSq \$4.00/bale



# HORTICULTURE HOT SPOTS TO HELP KEEP YOU COOL AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

By James Romer, Master Gardener Coordinator, Iowa State University Extension

The Iowa State Fair is almost here. With all of the exhibits, entertainment and food it's easy to overlook the beautiful horticultural displays throughout the grounds. However, there are many locations to sit back, relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the Iowa State Fair. A few are listed below with many other locations to explore as well.

## **Discovery Garden**

The Discovery Garden, located southwest of the Agriculture Building, is a cooperative effort between the Polk County Extension Master Gardeners and the Iowa State Fair. The garden features new, unusual and tried-and-true annuals, perennials, and other plant materials. (All plants in the garden are identified with both their common and botanical names.) Fair guests also have the opportunity to ask gardening questions and learn more about the Master Gardener program from Master Gardeners located in the garden. The Discovery Garden, open to visitors year round, blooms all summer with interesting and unusual plants.

## **Legacy Terrace**

Located just south of the Grandstand, Legacy Terrace is a popular spot to take in the sights and sounds of the fair. This 2003 addition to the Fairgrounds features annual flower plantings, arching fountains, shade trees and benches. This is the perfect place to rest, relax and people watch as fairgoers, employees and others stream along the Grand Concourse.

## **Pella Plaza**

Created in 1996 by a donation from the Pella Corporation, this 50,000 square foot park features benches, flowers, trees, a water fountain and flags representing each of Iowa's 99 counties. During hot weather, this is the ideal place for visitors to cool off. Children can dance (get wet!) in the fountains while adults rest nearby under shade trees.

## **Agriculture Building**

Throughout the run of the fair, check out Iowa's best in flowers, vegetables and potted plants in the Agriculture Building. If you have visited the Agriculture Building once during the fair and thought you had seen it all, think again. Different flower, potted plant, vegetable and floral arrangement classes occur about every two days. Don't miss the roses, bonsai, gladiolus, dahlias, potted plants, floral arrangements and vegetable displays. Check the Agriculture Building schedule for dates of shows. Finally, no visit to the fair would be complete without viewing the famous butter cow. Don't miss your chance to celebrate the best Iowa has to offer. It's State Fair Time Aug. 13-23.

# STATEWIDE 2009 COMMERCIAL MANURE APPLICATOR TRAINING SCHEDULED

Commercial manure applicators who have not fulfilled their 2009 manure applicator certification training requirements can receive the three hours of annual continuing instruction required to maintain their manure applicator certification on Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct a statewide reshoot of the 2009 Commercial Manure Applicator Satellite Downlink at that time. There is no fee to attend the workshop, but commercial applicators must register by Aug. 14, by calling the Washington County ISU Extension Office at 319-653-4811 or the Johnson County Extension Office at 319-337-2145.

Applicators unable to attend the program on Aug. 19 need to schedule time at their local ISU Extension Office to watch the training videotape. Due to scheduling conflicts, many ISU Extension Offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch these tapes. If attending the reshoot of the satellite program or watching the three-hour tape is not convenient, commercial applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam to meet certification requirements. Commercial manure applicators who already have completed training for 2009 are not required to attend. Questions about the statewide reshoot of the 2009 Commercial Manure Applicator Satellite Downlink, contact the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 or Johnson County Extension Office at 319-337-2145 or go to <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>.

**Iowa State University Cooperative Extension**

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