

December Update

Thu, 4/28 11:54AM 37:13

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

growers, year, iowa, state, patrick, farm, trees, budgets, people, bit, conference, orchard, crop, specialty crops, produce, winter, farmers, good, talk, tunnels

SPEAKERS

Patrick O'Malley, Speaker 3, Christa Hartsook, Joe Hannan

C Christa Hartsook 00:15
Hello, and welcome to the small farms podcast, a production of the small farms program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Our podcast covers the opportunities and challenges associated with real life.

J Joe Hannan 00:29
Greetings, everyone. I'm Joe Hannan, commercial horticulture field specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and welcome to the small farms sustainability podcast. With me today is Patrick O'Malley, my counterpart on the eastern side of the state again, ISU extension commercial horticulture field specialist, Patrick, how you doing today?

P Patrick O'Malley 00:50
I'm doing just fine.

J Joe Hannan 00:52
Yea, a little bit cool, cloudy and foggy over there in eastern Iowa to this last couple of days.

P Patrick O'Malley 00:58
Yep.

J Joe Hannan 00:59
Yeah I am looking forward to some warm sunny weather and a couple of days of decent

Yeah, I am looking forward to some warm sunny weather and a couple of days of decent weather before maybe a little bit of precip. Well, Patrick, as we're sitting here in December, uh, you and I were just talking as we're before we were recording that. December is just kind of a quiet time. There's not a whole lot going on in horticulture. Most of us are just starting to look at catalogs and starting to think about next year. So I thought I'd just kind of run through a few odds and ends kind of come up here this time of year. So first, I thought, you know, why don't we talk a little bit about some of the upcoming winter conferences that we have this year, all of them that I know of are going to be online virtual conferences, but kind of taking a look at some of the agendas and things it looks like we're gonna have a very good diverse group of speakers at many of these conferences so really like the Great Plains growers conference. Normally, that's the one that's right after the holiday season, right in early January, and is down in St. Joseph, Missouri good size conference anywhere from 200 to 400 people per day down there. Typically, what are they 4,5 or 6 tracks, you'd say Patrick?

P

Patrick O'Malley 02:11

At least four.

J

Joe Hannan 02:12

Okay. I'm thinking at least that many last couple of years, they've had some issues with the school shutting down and canceling due to ice storms and things which was, you know, the last couple of years, it's been two or three times and it's almost never happened prior to then.

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Patrick O'Malley 02:30

What's nice is it's so close. I mean, St. Joseph, Missouri is not that far away, especially if you're in western Iowa. It's just a couple hours.

J

Joe Hannan 02:38

Yeah, from western Iowa, from Central Iowa. Two and a half, three hour drive to get down there. Hotel situation is pretty good. A lot of food options available. And frankly very reasonable training, I think, is it less than when it was in person? I think it was \$50 or less a person. I think it's even cheaper than that now that it's gone virtual.

P

Patrick O'Malley 02:58

Yeah, I think it was like maybe \$40-\$50 a day. It total goes three days if you do this, especially program the first day on Thursday.

J

Joe Hannan 03:06

Yeah, so it's very reasonable. And again, that's one that they bring a lot of speakers in from across the country. So you're not getting your typical speakers that you just are getting from

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin. You get a few of those, but you get a lot of folks that are flown in from around the country. So

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Patrick O'Malley 03:25

in the last several years, like you mentioned, there has been some snow and ice on the other side. I've been there a few times where it's been in the 60s in late January,

J

Joe Hannan 05:28

right. There's been some days where I'm out there and basically t shirt after coming out of Iowa and being below zero all Christmas break. So yeah, that one this year will be February 12 and 13th. I've gone to just two days this year, and it's all virtual. So it's a little bit smaller, shorter format. But the quality and content of the speakers that I've seen has not gone down. They're still bringing in a lot of folks from across the country. So should be a good one. So then Patrick, we have two upcoming Iowa conferences this year. Do you want to talk about those at all?

P

Patrick O'Malley 07:46

Well, this specialty producers conference is basically the Iowa fruit and vegetable growers.

J

Joe Hannan 07:52

Iowa specialty the producers conference, so it does also include the wine grape growers now as well. So that's kind of a joint conference, so is some kind of mesh sessions between I will fruit vegetable and wine growers. And it's their second year for doing that this year. I know the Iowa specialty producers conference is online. Again, they're bringing in because it's virtual, they're able to bring in a lot of speakers from around the country again.

o

08:18

Practical Farmers of Iowa does livestock they do corn and beans, but they also have a pretty strong horticulture component as well.

J

Joe Hannan 08:25

I imagine Practical Farmers is online this year.

P

Patrick O'Malley 08:29

They're virtual this year. And I know at least one of the days are going to have like storytelling where people can tell stories about what they've done and so forth.

J Joe Hannan 08:37


Okay, very fun. Again, if you haven't been to any of these conferences, this is a good year to do it. You can get a lot of good sessions, I think throughout any of these great lakes, Great Plains, Iowa Specialty Producers or Practical Farmers.

P Patrick O'Malley 08:53

And then hopefully the following year, everything will be in person.

J Joe Hannan 08:56

I hope we're back in person. I miss being in person then I missed field days and everything just haven't seen anybody now in a year. I don't know any other conferences, Patrick, that you tend to go to.

 09:34

I haven't been for a long time but there's a small farms conference in Illinois. Springfield, I think.

J Joe Hannan 09:40

Yeah, I saw that one coming through. It's virtual as well. I think Minnesota conference Indiana, Indiana conference, I think they're all gone virtual this year. So just just time in the ever air. So. Well, Patrick, maybe talk just a little bit about how things are going soil moisture wise, Temperature wise, maybe you ought to talk a little bit about your side of the state. And I'll talk a little bit on my side of the state.

P Patrick O'Malley 10:08

Well, especially as you get to the eastern third of the state is we're for the most part in pretty good shape. But it's been dry the last couple of weeks. But there's also not been a lot of moisture loss, because temperatures and so forth this time of year, but about two or three weeks ago, we get pretty decent rain throughout the area. And so we're going into winter with pretty good soil moisture.

J Joe Hannan 10:30

Yeah, I thought for the most part, from what I've heard you guys are basically at capacity in good shape for going into next spring and summer. Now it sounds like



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Patrick O'Malley 10:39

yeah, we're almost out that elusive level of the normal year.

J

Joe Hannan 10:45

Although normal, quote unquote, little little odd when we're talking Iowa, it seems but you guys are back on basically on track for for normal year, huh?

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Patrick O'Malley 10:54

Yeah. We're pretty good shape here. But you know, obviously, in your area in parts of western northwest Iowa look not so good.

J

Joe Hannan 11:04

Yeah, we it's improved in my area, kind of around Des Moines and West Des Moines a little ways, at least on the upper soil profile has gotten wetter, the deep water wells and things are still fairly dry, it just seems like that that dry pattern has kind of shifted to the west and northwest a little bit. So we really, really, really could use some good wet snow or rain or anything. And I'm not a winter guy. I don't want snow. But we really needed over in our neck of the woods. So you know, even a half inch here and there still, everything helps because we're not using much right now. So take what we can get. And I'm not plowing snow. So that helps. I don't know, last I saw, you know, we're still looking at getting some precipitation forecasted kind of late winter, early spring. So we may still kind of catch up here yet, but who may stay a little bit on the dry side for us for a while.

P

Patrick O'Malley 12:02

So temperatures have been really good, though. I mean, it's been a warmer November in December than we've seen for a while.

J

Joe Hannan 12:09

Yeah, it's been really quite nice. I just paid my heat bill the other day, and it's probably one of the lowest December heat bills I paid in a while.

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Patrick O'Malley 12:19

Try to keep that up.

J


Joe Hannan 12:21

Right. Definitely keep that up and keep that around somewhat not rock solid. So if we do get


right. Definitely keep that up and keep that ground somewhat not rock solid. So if we do get some precip it, will infiltrate,

 12:29


like usual, I played in my garlic late this year. My goal is to plant garlic by late October. In more years than not, I don't get that done. But I got it done in late November. And sometimes I run into frozen ground at that point. But now things are still really good to go.

 Joe Hannan 12:46


Try to think last year I think I did this the same. The ground was basically a bit frozen when I stuck in my garlic in and this year I didn't plant any I was just so dry was wanting to stay off the well and just let it recover over the winter. So I don't want to do in any irrigation or anything like that. But I think when I let me see, I've been down at my dad's house for a couple of weeks now since before Thanksgiving. But when I was up, I still had cabbage and broccoli and things still alive and doing well inside of my one tunnel. Just a little bit of frost damage, because we had some nights in mid 20s there but I'm in pretty decent shape.

 Patrick O'Malley 13:25


But I still have petunias that are related to tomatoes and peppers. I still have some petunias that are alive.

 Joe Hannan 13:33

Wow. You guys just you guys haven't gotten that cold over there. They'll have you not not much below mid 20s. Or I

 Patrick O'Malley 13:40


don't think we've gotten much below mid 20s. So far this year. I mean, this fall

 Joe Hannan 13:45

this fall. Yeah, that's not too shabby, then the winner could definitely stay on that track.

 13:50

You know, I just I just brought my orange tree inside the house about a week ago.

 Joe Hannan 13:55

Really? Wow.

P Patrick O'Malley 13:57

Because it can take up her 20s No problem.

J Joe Hannan 14:00

That's not too bad. I'll take well, Patrick, I don't know about you. But I've been getting a lot of questions from people that are looking at getting into growing produce. Next year. That's probably the most common thing I hear in December and January as far as getting calls and emails and things. Is that pretty normal for you too?

P Patrick O'Malley 14:20

for the most part, although I seem to get a lot more of those in March.

J Joe Hannan 14:25

A lot more in March when it's maybe a little too late. Yeah. So I don't know when you when you get those calls, what are some of the things that you kind of talk about when you when you get those calls from people that want to start to grow produce.

P Patrick O'Malley 14:43

Well, one important question to ask is whether they are going to be organic or not. Because that changed a lot of the considerations of what they need to do and so forth. Another thing would be talking about the soils to see if it's maybe conducive to the crops. If they want to grow,

J Joe Hannan 15:02

especially if you're talking vegetables versus fruit crops, I think

P Patrick O'Malley 15:08


like, for instance, vegetables ideally would be a well drained even sandy soil with irrigation available versus fruit trees, maybe on a slope. And it can be even a later soil.

J Joe Hannan 15:23


Yeah, you know, the veggies, the veggies can take a little bit more heavy stuff, I think normally, but you know, if you're gonna grow strawberries, raspberries, you really don't want any. You don't want a lot of clay content or heavier soil on those crops. So

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But if you're doing like pumpkins or sweet corn they can they can do pretty well on heavy soil.

 Joe Hannan 15:45


Yeah. So I get a lot of questions too about, you know, what do I even need to do to sell at a farmers market? Can I just show up? But do I gotta get a license or certificate or anything like that? So? Well, that one's generally pretty easy. I mean, there's no licenses or certificates that you need to necessarily have to sell at a farmers market.

 Patrick O'Malley 16:09


Right. I mean, the good news is, if you're selling the edible product is there's no sales tax involved.

 Joe Hannan 16:16

Yeah, you probably need to have liability insurance, because most markets will require you to have a liability insurance for for selling at the farm market. So that's one, my number one thing I always tell people to do is go talk to your insurance agent before you go down this rabbit hole.

 Patrick O'Malley 16:31

Yeah, it's a good idea to have a umbrella insurance policy with you. I mean, not just selling fruits and vegetables, just in general, just keep yourself covered.


 Joe Hannan 16:40

Yeah, that's a good life thing to have. And in general, but definitely to make sure that your insurance agent knows you're going to be selling produce if you're going to be selling produce, because that's generally a separate plan that they can tack on and add separate for some additional coverage. The other one I usually tell people to do is make sure that determine is there going to be a sole proprietor LLC or S corp, basically, talk to their accountant, talk to their lawyer once again, and kind of get that actual farm business structure set into place over winter, because that can take, you know, 30 to 90 days, depending on how long, fast everything goes. Particularly to get that tax ID from the Secretary of State.

 Patrick O'Malley 17:??

 Patrick O'Malley 17:22


With the sole proprietor they just use their own social security number,

 Joe Hannan 17:25

you can or you can also get a tax ID number under as a sole proprietor as well. So you can go either way there. What I do is when I'm doing like foreign tax exempt, I'd rather put that tax ID number down rather than my social security number at stores and things.

 Patrick O'Malley 17:42

That's a good thing to mention is that a lot of the stuff that you buy for your farm can be tax exempt.

 Joe Hannan 17:49

Yeah. And that's kind of one of those other good things to take care of during the winter is those primary stores that you're going to be shopping from and buying supplies from on that day to day basis. Like you may order a lot of materials from from notes or pharmtech, or any of our other suppliers in the state. But if you're going to Menards or Tractor Supply, or Theisons or who else we got in the state.

 18:11


Or the US like Theisons or Orschelons,

 Joe Hannan 18:14

Orschelons, bombgars Yep. So you're going to be doing a lot of your day to day business there go into service kind of during the offseason and set up your farm tax information there. And I know at Tractor Supply, because that's the one that's five minutes from or a few minutes from my house, I don't have to do anything once I get it set up because it's just in their computer system. So that makes things a lot easier. And I'm assuming a lot of the other ones are pretty similar. So get in there and get that set up. Because again, you might also take advantage if you're going to be doing the business.

 Patrick O'Malley 18:46

In most places, you save that 7% state tax. Although I'm extremely lucky being in Johnson County right now, because we're only 6%.

 Joe Hannan 18:56

I don't even know what mine is because I'm all over different tax areas. And I'm out and about just I live right on the border of a couple counties. So farm taxes and get that taken care of. The other thing that I always recommend people do right away from the get go is go to their local USDA Service Provider and get a farm number established with the Farm Service Agency. And that allows you to then turn around and go over to the USDA office and apply for NRCS equip funds for getting a high tunnel bill. Patrick over here, people are putting in ad and applications for high tunnels and it's anywhere from one to three years before you get funded, at least in my neck of the woods. Have you heard much over on your side of the state as far as time between applying and actually getting funded?

P

Patrick O'Malley 19:49

I think we're looking at about a year or so.

J

Joe Hannan 19:52

You guys are generally getting pretty quick turnarounds.

P

Patrick O'Malley 19:56

Yeah, there's there's some counties where you know, it's like totally new to them.

J

Joe Hannan 20:00

Got a few friends over in eastern Iowa and a few friends in central Iowa that have have gotten on the first year that they've applied. But then I got a few folks, myself included, who's going on year three and still hasn't gotten one. The thing is you can, you can apply. And even if you get awarded the funding for the building, you can always turn it down and say I'd rather wait until next year when I get a little bit more established. But because you don't know what year you're going to actually get funded to just go ahead and do it right off the bat. Regardless of what produce crop you're growing, just go ahead and apply. So actually, somebody asked the other day about growing flowers inside a high tunnel, you have much going on with flowers over there patrick and in tunnels,

P

Patrick O'Malley 20:47

there's so many flowers, it's you know, again, it's mainly like tomatoes is the main thing. Going back a little bit. You mentioned the farm tax exemption. Another thing maybe I could bring up is there's a couple of programs out there that might interest some of the growers is there's orchard reserve and forest reserve. In with both of those any ground that you've got in, in orchard, new orchard or in trees, you can not have to pay property tax if you apply to your I think it's the county assessor or whatever. But the forest reserve, if you got some timber on your property, all those acres in timber that have at least 200 trees per acre and the almost any type of tree. There's no property tax involved with the orchard reserve, that with the forest reserve, it's basically unlimited number of years until the legislature changes that which they

may come about and doing. The Orchard reserve is more limited. I think it's offhand I think it's seven years that for the first seven years that you plant the fruit trees is there's no property tax on those particular acres. That's a nice savings not to have to pay property tax on a number of your acres.

J Joe Hannan 22:03

Yeah, you know, I kind of always forget about that program. But that is a couple of really good programs. And especially when you're putting it in an orchard and you're a couple years from getting any, any revenue off, they're not having property tax. Now they're in property tax definitely helps out and ends up a bit. Patrick since we're talking kind of grants and taxes and things like that, are there any other funds or support that you're aware of for beginning farmers to kind of jump on and take advantage of bringing their business up and going?

P Patrick O'Malley 22:36

Well, maybe not so much for beginning farmers. But there's the specialty crop grants, which is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture, land stewardship. And those are they've got a number of dollars available for growers for doing projects with specialty crops, which include flowers, fruits, vegetables, herbs, and so forth. Usually, they're not going to award to just an individual grower that has an idea what they want to do, it's usually maybe more a nonprofit, or maybe a group of growers getting together having a project to maybe do some sort of processing or maybe trying a new crop or something. But, but if you can work together with a few other growers, you might have a chance to get one of these specialty crops grants.

J Joe Hannan 23:23

Yeah. And those are usually about 20 to 25,000 for two years, or up to 20 to 25,000 for two years.

P Patrick O'Malley 23:31

Or two or three years. Yeah.

J Joe Hannan 23:33

Yeah, great. If you're looking at doing market expansion, that's really kind of market expansion, market development for a new crop or creating something new market wise within the state, those tend to get funded. We've gotten funded a few times with Apple folks for doing pest modeling and frost protection. So basically, risk management type projects have been funded pretty well. Lots of different options. For those, when are those typically due, Patrick springtime?

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I don't have the information right in front of me, but I think you need to have them in probably by the end of February, early March.

J Joe Hannan 24:15

Yeah, that's kind of the timeline. I was thinking.

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Again, probably not suitable for beginning growers, but existing growers that are that are working with other growers. It's a possibility.

J Joe Hannan 24:26

Yeah, I think every single one I've ever been involved in has had one or more farmers involved in the project and stuff and that's, that's really kind of critical. They want to make sure it's on farm type stuff. The other one that's available again, not really for beginning farmers is the SAR farmer rancher grant. And that is for doing small on Farm Research. Projects kind of testing new production methods is new. New anything with that can be anywhere from one two or three For three growers and the amount of money that's available is increases as you add growers up to that party of three, and Christa Hartsook is our lead for that in the state of Iowa. She's located at the small farms sustainability program here as well. Patrick, I know what I wanted to ask you a little bit about too. At times when I get, I'm talking to beginning farmers, I talk a lot about what tools and equipment is kind of absolutely essential for them getting off and often going in that first year or two, you have any favorite or primary tools that you pretty much recommend somebody just get your one right out the bat.

P Patrick O'Malley 25:42

I mean, if you're commercial, fruit vegetable grower of any size, you need to lease a small utility tractor.

J Joe Hannan 25:50

tractor tiller. Yeah,

P Patrick O'Malley 25:53

that's that's kind of a given that you need that you're probably going to need, even if you're organic, you're probably going to need a sprayer.


J Joe Hannan 26:02

 Joe Hannan 26:02


Yeah, a lot of products organic or conventional are probably applied. So

 Patrick O'Malley 26:09


it's sometimes a misconception to newer growers is they want to be organic, which is understandable. Nobody wants to spray chemicals. But even if you're organic, you're still gonna have to spray things. It's just there organically approved.

 Joe Hannan 26:22

Yeah, I mean, we still have aphid outbreaks. And we have this and that and the other Japanese vehicles they go on during the, during the summer manage and has always pretty much recommend just go ahead and find a cooler, or fridge or something of some sort to keep produce cold right away as you're going to market.

 Patrick O'Malley 26:40


The big thing in the last few years seems to be those cool bots where you take the air conditioner and put it in a small area and you're actually able to cool it with a modified air conditioner.

 Joe Hannan 26:52

Yeah, there was a lot of those floating around the state good friend of mine just built one this past year. You gotta have a pretty good sized air conditioner. If you got a fairly good size cooler, I want to say his like eight by eight and it gets the job done. But his is a little undersized. I don't think he quite brings it down on much under 40 degrees on a 90-95 degree day. But that's still better than nothing and the cost is dirt cheap. Yep. I think even how the cool bots now whether you can set them up on your Wi Fi system. So you can check them and monitor from your cell phone and all that good stuff now. So

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if people aren't familiar with that, they should just do like a search engine for cool bot.

 Joe Hannan 27:36

And C O O L, B O T. There's a lot of great information out there a lot of great bills and step by step Instructables and how to put together a cool bot cooler and really insulate it and make it work well for you. So definitely pretty cheap. I've been watching like Facebook marketplace and things like that for equipment and things like that. And I found some decent coolers and stuff like that online as well. So right now there's quite a bit of used inventory on on that kind of stuff. So be watching just for stuff like that, too, you might be able to buy something for about

as cheap as what you can build it right now. I don't know the other, the other must do handle items, I really like to have a little wagon or cart or something that I pull around. So I don't always want to take the utility tractor out but allows me to hold tools and equipment around or pull produce back up into the shed and things. You know, gators and golf carts and stuff are nice, but not always in the budget where a garden wagon is \$150 a little bit cheaper. Any other frequent questions that you get Patrick is for beginning farmers coming in?

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Patrick O'Malley 28:46

Well, I guess we discussed the oftentimes wants some sort of help with grants and financing. So we talked about that. One thing I advise them is you know, it depends every person in every situation is different. But sometimes you get these people that want to do 200 acres of grapes or apples or even tomatoes, and I don't know, maybe start off a little bit smaller, and you know, grow for a year or two and see how that goes. And then if you want to expand, go that route, don't maybe don't start super big

J

Joe Hannan 29:19

yeah with grapes and apples go spend the summer working on somebody else's grape and apple farm. Before I do that, realize how much labor is involved in making sure you're on the same page there. yeah, that said, that's actually a really good point. So I get a lot of people that are about 55 or 60 and kind of want to pseudo retire and go in and grow produce and a lot of folks want to think that they're going to get off just working 20-25 hours a year and make pretty good money and I will tell you that's not not the case. When you're growing produce you're gonna work as hard or harder growing produce than any other job that you've you've had. Be realistic on what your actual work time and stuff is going to be on, on a produce farm, it's it's significant.

P

Patrick O'Malley 30:07

Another thing would be, make sure they have either themselves or more likely somebody else a good accountant. Because there's a lot of expenses here and they can be worked into the business and so forth. And if you have a good accountant, I think things at least financially look a lot better for you.

J


Joe Hannan 30:27

Yeah, I agree. Have a good accountant. And again, that's one those conversations that you should ever have, before you ever purchase anything, let's talk to the accountant, talk to a lawyer and make sure you've got things set up for when you are purchasing things I can speak for personally did not do that. And I missed out on a few. A few things from not getting that set up first. So definitely do that. I think a lot of people ask about budgets and things for specialty crops. And we definitely have some budgets, posted online at the extension store. And ag marketing resource center has a few and there's quite a different crop budgets out there. But

you really gotta go through them with a fine tooth comb, I think to really see if that budget is going to be accurate for the scale that you're working on. Definitely scale makes a difference on budgets.

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Iowa State has some budgets, but you can also check some of the other states, their extension services have some pretty good budgets as well.

 Joe Hannan 31:27

Yeah, Google search will come up with budgets from quite a few different universities. And,

 Patrick O'Malley 31:33


and generally, when I'm using other states stuff, I like to have a state that's, you know, somewhat similar climate to Iowa. So I'm looking at like Cornell or Penn State, Michigan State, even Minnesota, Wisconsin, are good choices to look at.

 Joe Hannan 31:49

Yeah, and that same line, similar climate, but also similar market type. So if you stick to the Midwest, or you stick to the northeast part of the country, you're going to see a lot of similar farms that will look very similar to what we have here in the state and looking at their budgets and things is a good starting point.

 32:08


Right? As opposed to you really don't want to use California or Texas A&M or Florida.

 Joe Hannan 32:13

Yeah, and D, those are likely not going to be super relevant. Say the least anything else you want to talk about? Patrick, before we wrap up today?

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Would it be kicking a dead horse because it's been talked about already, but we can maybe a little bit about the derecho or not?

 Joe Hannan 32:30

Yeah, we can talk about derecho, Do you still seein pretty big impacts over there.

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Patrick O'Malley 32:38

Well, as far as what I can tell is Cedar Rapids in particular was the hardest hit community in the state. I mean, it's just incredible. You go out there and even today, most of the parks are still closed because they had no time to deal with the parks because we were dealing with everything else. Was was only about a month ago that they are less than a month ago, that they got the first pass through the entire city on some of the tree debris. And they're still going through with the non tree material and the tree material. It's just it's a mess up there.

J

Joe Hannan 33:11

Yeah, my sister had stuff sitting in her front yard up until just recently, it still has, I don't think she has a hole in her roof anymore. But still has major damage and stuff to get repaired. So

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I was talking to a Forrester, in my office, one of the DNR foresters. And he was saying he never saw anything like that either in Cedar Rapids, whether what he calls White stem trees, which are ones where they broke it off, and you can see the white at the top of the stems. He's never seen anything like that before. We actually had a great show go through in 1998. You know, Iowa City and some of the other cities along here. But that was compared to the damage on Cedar Rapids. This time. There was nothing including in Iowa City this year. It's I mean, Iowa City in Des Moines area you've had some damage. We had some damage but I mean Cedar Rapids a Benton County, Tama just terrible

J

Joe Hannan 34:05

hearing that quite a few high tones are getting replaced through E clip funds. Again this year, actually, they came out and said that they were going to help replace and rebuild some of the buildings and infrastructure that was damaged. So I don't know numbers statewide on how many were replacements versus new buildings and stuff like that, or new contracts. But it sounds like they really stepped up and helped out a lot. The tree Assistance Program is there for people that lost or had trees like orchard trees split off at and graft union, but they've also brought in the whip Plus program. So and you can apply for both tap and whip plus, saying tap is for putting in new trees with health pay for the loss from the trees that you already had in the ground. So if you had trees that you'd spent four or five years trying to get established or just getting into your production, whip will actually pay you for some of that time loss and an effort on those trees that you're having to pull out as well. So you can collect on both ends there for a limited time. So

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35:14

I believe tap stands for Tree Assistance Program. Yes. And maybe more up applicable to you.

Easy for me to say is that also if you had a tree is impacted by drought that you can use it for that as well.

J Joe Hannan 35:29

Yep, yep. So you could use it for any of those. The whip plus I think is just derecho specific forest is normally whip is for like, hurricane and fire damage and things like that stuff that we don't tend to see a lot of here but they brought it in and added the plus to it to help us out with the derecho here. So again, talk to your USDA Service Centers For further assistance, accessing those programs because the funds are there to help folks get reset, and there's definitely some orchards over in eastern Iowa that should be able to tap in and take advantage of these, this help. I don't know hopefully people get their buildings, put back up and stuff. Having a nice warm fall ground. not frozen. Definitely helps for getting buildings in. So

P Patrick O'Malley 36:16

I know a number of high tunnels we got replaced already.

J Joe Hannan 36:19

Yeah, good. I'm sure the cost was up a little bit this year, just from what I was hearing, buying tunnels and things like that, that cost and availability. Some of the products were little bit tight, but especially if you're buying treated lumber seems to be hard to get right now for at least over here it is. Well, Patrick, I think that's probably as good a time as any to wrap this up. We got pretty chatty here this morning. Appreciate you coming on and have a little chat about lots of different things going on here. Kind of the quiet time of the year for for everybody. But again, thanks for coming in and having a chat.

P Patrick O'Malley 36:55

Thanks. Thanks for having me.

S Speaker 3 36:57

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