New Proposed Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training Rule from EPA - Public Comment Period Now Open

By Kristine Schaefer and Betsy Buffington, Department of Entomology

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a proposal for a new certification and training rule for pesticide applicators who apply restricted use pesticides. The current rule has been in place since 1974.

According to EPA: “The goal of this proposed rule is to reduce the likelihood of harm from the misapplication of toxic pesticides and ensure a consistent level of protection among states. EPA has determined that use of restricted use pesticides would be safer with increased supervision and oversight. EPA is proposing stricter standards for people certified to use restricted use pesticides and to require all people who apply restricted use pesticides to be at least 18 years old. Certifications would be renewed every three years. Additional specialized licensing is also proposed for certain methods of application that can pose greater risks if not conducted properly, such as fumigation and aerial application. Individuals working under the supervision of certified applicators would now need training on using pesticides safely.”

More information about the proposal and certification for pesticide applicators can be found at [EPA’s pesticide-worker-safety](https://www.epa.gov/). EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until November 23, 2015.

Iowa DNR Changes Environmental Emergency Telephone Number

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has changed its 24/7 Environmental Emergency telephone number. Spills can happen any time, so having the correct number -- in your emergency action plan, on-site records and your cell phone -- can help ease worry and stress during unwanted events. The new number is (515) 725-8694 and should be used to report manure, fertilizer or chemical spills, as well as fish kills and other environmental emergencies. The IDNR [Environmental Reporting Hotline Guide](https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Reporting-Hotline/) is available online.
**Fall Color in Iowa**

When we think of fall we often think of apple pie, football, volleyball, carving pumpkins, cool weather, and the beautiful display of tree foliage changing colors. As the different types of trees show their many variations of purple, yellow, red, brown, and orange we know that winter is close by. People often travel hundreds to thousands of miles to see the annual leaf color change in different parts of the U.S., but in Iowa we are fortunate that the beauty of fall is often close by, or just a few hours away from our back door.

The color we see when we look at leaves comes from cells called pigments. The green color we see every spring comes from the pigment called chlorophyll. Throughout the summer the pigments that give us fall colors such as orange, yellow, and brown are produced in the leaves, but they are hidden by the green chlorophyll. In fall as the days become shorter and cooler the production of chlorophyll slows down and eventually stops. As the green color disappears, the hidden pigments are unmasked and their beauty is released. Not all pigments are present in the leaves throughout the summer. For example, in species such as the sumacs, **hard maples**, **white oak**, **red oak**, and **white ash** the pigments that provide the eye-catching red and purple colors are actually not in the leaf until they are produced during the fall.

The timing, intensity, and quality of fall color varies each year throughout the state and even on the trees scattered in your yard or neighborhood. In general, fall color change occurs between the middle of September and the middle of October. There are many things such as temperature, moisture, rain, wind, and the availability of sunlight that impact the quality of fall color. Clear days, cool nights, and dry conditions promote high quality fall color. These colorful displays are often cut short by heavy winds, rainfall, and freezing temperatures which can actually kill leaf tissue and cause the leaves to fall early.

The beauty of fall color can be found throughout the entire state. There are many state parks, forests, wildlife areas, county parks, lakes, and rivers that provide an opportunity to enjoy Iowa's fall magic. There are a number of sources that can be utilized to locate scenic drives or spots in the area of your choice such as, local chambers of commerce, travel bureaus, county conservation offices, county nature centers, and Iowa State University County Extension Offices. Also, these sources along with the Iowa Department of Tourism can often provide lists of local fall festivals and recreational activities that are occurring.

The biggest challenge to a successful fall color expedition is venturing out when there is a good array of color. A good way to find out about your favorite area in the state is to call the Iowa [Department of Iowa Natural Resources (DNR) Leaf-Line](tel:515-233-4110) at 515-233-4110. The message on this line is updated every Monday from the middle of September to the middle of October.

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**Leaf color characteristics of some common plants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Walnut</strong></td>
<td>Turns yellow in fall. One of the first to turn and drop leaves. One of the last to leaf out in spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Red oak</strong></td>
<td>Brilliant red leaves in fall. Color not as intense as some hard maples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White oak</strong></td>
<td>Subdued red color of leaves in fall. Then turning brown and often staying on the tree until new leaves begin to grow in the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bur oak</strong></td>
<td>Buff to yellow. Turning brown before falling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hickory</strong></td>
<td>Leaves turn yellow, then brown before falling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ash</strong></td>
<td>Leaves turn yellow, but some have a purplish cast. Leaves fall after walnut but earlier than oaks and maples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elms</strong></td>
<td>Leaves turn yellow, some turn brown before falling, others while still yellow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soft maple</strong></td>
<td>Leaves turn yellow. They don’t turn brown before falling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard maple</strong></td>
<td>Brilliant red hues. Red pigmentation of some leaves breaks down before falling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sumac</strong></td>
<td>Very bright red, but often overlooked because it is a small tree confined to openings and edges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Virginia creeper</strong></td>
<td>Bright red. Very spectacular when it grows on dead snags.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you go out on your leaf color hunt in the next few weeks, remember to call ahead, dress for cool weather, put film in the camera, drive safely, and stop once in awhile to really enjoy Iowa's beauty.
**Pay Attention to Condition of Stored Corn**

Quality of stored grain must be maintained through the entire summer period, until stocks can be rotated in the fall. Summer storage is challenging because warm temperatures and high relative humidities put even dry grain at risk for mold and insect activity. Relative humidities in the last two weeks have been very high. The chart below explains why summer aeration can create either continued mold growth or excessive moisture shrink (below 14% moisture corn; 12% moisture soybeans). The horizontal lines are the market standard moistures for corn and soybeans (15% and 13% respectively).

Aeration in the fall is not likely to create overdry grain. Market moisture grain is not likely to spoil if steady fall conditions are maintained. However, in summer, even dry grain can spoil. Aeration in summer creates further drying and moisture shrink, and if the humidity is high, spoilage will continue.

Wet grain in storage now has probably used up its shelf life. It should be marketed quickly. Elevators and processors report that average condition of inbound corn is declining; there are still almost two warm weather months remaining to reach the 2015 crop.

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**Annie’s Project - Farm Business Management**

A six-session course created to guide women in making good decisions for their farm business.

Annie’s Project is the agricultural business education program that empowers farm and ranch women who want to be more knowledgeable about their agricultural enterprises. Women learn best with and from other women, and Annie’s Project takes advantage of that fact by creating a comfortable and supportive learning environment focused on the best farm business management practices. Course participants will learn effective strategies to make good decisions in five key management areas including financial, human resources, legal, marketing, and production topics.

This course will be offered in Bloomfield on Mondays from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and December 7. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Classes will be held at the Success Bank, 109 North Madison Street.

Cost: $75. Includes meals and class materials
For more information or to register online, please visit: [http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2015/bloomfield.html](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2015/bloomfield.html)
For questions, please contact: Stephanie Knox, Program Coordinator, [Davis County Extension](http://www.aep.iastate.edu), (641) 664-2730 | [sknox@iastate.edu](mailto:sknox@iastate.edu)
Cover Crops

Cover crops will require some additional management. You will need to make adjustments to your practices and also be aware of new potential issues you may introduce. For instance, this past spring many people who planted cereal rye had armyworms in their corn and even soybeans. The key thing here is to be aware of potential issues that might arise.

If you plan on grazing your cover crops be aware of any restrictions there might be based on the herbicides you used this year. Most herbicide labels have restrictions at this time that limit the planting of cover crops for grazing/forage. Here is a fact sheet from the University of Wisconsin that does a good job summarizing those restrictions. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Mark Licht, Extension Cropping Systems Agronomist wrote an ICM Article: Tips and Considerations for Getting Started With Cover Crops. This article also contains links to additional resources for cover crops.

County Extension offices are at your fingertips. Find out who and where they are all located inside. Chances are they are closer than you think!

Supply is limited, be sure to pick up enough copies for yourself and for holiday gifts. Gardeners, anyone who enjoys the outdoors, and the beauty of nature alike will certainly thank you.

2016 Garden Calendar - Guests of the Garden

For many, hosting birds, butterflies, bees, and other guests in the garden is one of the most rewarding aspects of gardening. As each month passes you’ll find striking, close-up photos of those visitors who can captivate the gardener with their unique personalities.

Use the large calendar grid to note planting, emergence, and harvesting dates and totals. Horticulture resources at Iowa State and County Extension offices are at your fingertips.

Supply is limited, be sure to pick up enough copies for yourself and for holiday gifts. Gardeners, anyone who enjoys the outdoors, and the beauty of nature alike will certainly thank you. Cost is $7.00
Grassland Management Field Day to be Held Near Melrose on Sept. 17

AMES, IOWA—Iowa Learning Farms, along with the Cooper Creek Watershed Project, will host a field day on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 5:00-6:30 p.m., at Moore Angus Farms, rural Melrose.

The field day will focus on grazing and grassland management. Speaking at the field day is Joe Sellers, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Beef Specialist, who will discuss how improved grazing management can positively impact soil erosion and water quality. He will also share the benefits of rotational grazing in cow-calf operations. Craig Foster, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will discuss the importance of soil health and what cost share programs are available for grazers. Host farmer Charles Moore will talk about his cattle grazing practices on his farm. The Iowa Learning Farms rainfall simulator will be demonstrated. Also Cooper Creek Watershed Project coordinator Charlotte Head will provide updates on the project. The field day will wrap up with a complimentary supper catered by KC Landing.

The field day is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is recommended. Contact Iowa Learning Farms by Sept. 10 to be included in the meal count: phone 515-294-8912, or email: ilf@iastate.edu. The field day is at Moore Angus Farms, 14527 Highway J18, Melrose. From Moravia, go west on County Road J18 for approximately 9 miles. The farm will be on the south side of the road.

For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit the website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/.

Established in 2004, Iowa Learning Farms is building a Culture of Conservation, encouraging adoption of conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best management practices that improve water quality and soil health while remaining profitable. Partners of Iowa Learning Farms are the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (USEPA section 319), Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Water Center and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Mosquito Spray Can Kill Grass

Nick Christians, nchris@iastate.edu  iaTURF

It is a common phenomenon on the golf course to have green footprints appear in mid summer, with brown grass surrounding the prints. While this is a common problem on creeping bentgrass on golf course, there have been questions from people who had this occur on their Kentucky bluegrass lawn this summer. The problem is mosquito spray that contain a chemical called DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). This material is a great mosquito repellent, but is deadly to grass. The problem occurs when someone stands on the grass and spray their feet to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

This past summer, undergraduate research associate Zack Olinger, performed a demonstration on this problem for the annual field day in July. He did this in conjunction with his supervisor at the research station, Dan Strey. Details of his research project can be read at: http://iaturf.blogspot.com/
Fall Field Day Tour at ISU SE Iowa Research Farm on September 10

Farmers and those who advise farmers about crops will want to attend the annual fall field day at the Iowa State University Southeast Iowa Research Farm near Crawfordsville on September 10, according to Rebecca Ahlers, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension Field Agronomist. The field day begins at 1:30 p.m. and will include four stops.

“One of the features on the tour will be Meaghan Anderson’s presentation on “Weed Management for 2016,” said Ahlers. Anderson is also an ISU Extension Field Agronomist in east-central and southeast Iowa.

Also highlighted on the tour will be “Grain Harvest Management and Storage” by Greg Brenneman, ISU Extension Agricultural Engineer and two local machinery dealers; “Deciding What Tillage to do When” by Mark Hanna, ISU Extension Agricultural Engineer; and “Farm and Crop Update” by Myron Rees, Farm Superintendent.

The field day is free and open to the public. Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Units will be available.

To reach the farm, follow U.S. Highway 218 one and three quarters miles south of Crawfordsville, then two miles east on county road G-62, then three quarters mile north. Signs will be posted to guide you to the event.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Ahlers at 319-653-4811 or rka8@iastate.edu. Additional Contacts: Virgil Schmitt, ISU Extension Field Agronomist, 563-263-5701, vschmitt@iastate.edu Myron Rees, SE Iowa Research Farm, 319-658-2353, mrees@iastate.edu

Serious Graziers Workshops Set for September

Livestock producers looking to enhance their grazing management skills should plan to attend one of four workshops held by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach across Iowa. Guest speaker Laura Paine, holistic management certified educator from Wisconsin, will be at the September workshops to discuss balancing family life and raising livestock concepts for the next generation of graziers and those who are serious about sharpening their management skills.

Paine is currently program director for the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, a formalized, nationally accredited training program for beginning dairy farmers in Wisconsin. She has been involved in managed grazing in a variety of roles for more than 20 years, teaching and conducting research in livestock production and market development for grass-fed products for the University of Wisconsin Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. Paine and her husband utilize holistic management principles in managing their own grass-fed beef operation near Columbus, Wis.

“Serious graziers of cattle, dairy cows, sheep or other animals will be able to sharpen their grazing management skills at this workshop,” said Joe Sellers, beef specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. This series was planned specifically for participants of previous ISU Extension sponsored grazing programs such as Greenhorn Grazing, Certified Graziers, Iowa Grazing Series with Jim Gerrish and Grassroots Grazing, to build on their grazing skills.

September workshops dates, times and locations are:

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015
· 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Madison County Fairgrounds–Jackson Building, 73 East Jefferson St., Winterset
· 5:30–9 p.m., ISU McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm, 45249 170th Ave., Chariton

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015
· 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Jefferson County ISU Extension and Outreach Office, 2606 West Burlington Ave., Fairfield
· 5:30–9 p.m., local farm TBD, Monticello

There is no charge to attend; however, lunch or dinner is provided depending on workshop time. To make reservations by Sept. 4, contact either Lucas County Extension office, 641-774-2016, or Joe Sellers, sellers@iastate.edu, 641-203-1270 or Denise Schwab at the Benton County Extension office, dschwab@iastate.edu, 319-472-4739.
Pesticide CIC Schedule:

Roadside, Forest, Aquatic Pest Management: Wednesday, October 21; 9:00 AM
Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management: Thursday, October 29; 9:00 AM
Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators: Wednesday, November 11th; 9:00 AM
Greenhouse: Wednesday, November 11th; 1:30 PM
Fumigation: Tuesday, November 17; 9:00 AM
Commercial Ag (Weed, Insect, Disease): Wednesday, November 18; 9:00 AM
Aerial Applicators: Wednesday, November 18; 1:30 PM
Pest Control Operators: Wednesday, December 2; 9:00 AM

Private Pesticide Application Training and Certification: The program is delivered by an Iowa State University and Extension Ag Agronomist. Please contact your local Extension office for times and locations.

Van Buren County Pasture Walk set for September 16 to Feature Baleage

The annual Van Buren County Pasture Walk is set for September 16th starting at 5:30 p.m., and will be held at the Roberts Memorial Building at the Van Buren County Fairgrounds in Keosauqua.

The focus for this year’s pasture walk will be on baleage. “The wet growing season has no doubt made it challenging for anyone with hay to get it baled in a timely manner,” said Rebecca Ahlers, ISU Extension Field Agronomist. “Baleage is one alternative that helps to shorten the window in getting hay baled.”

The pasture walk will feature Sinclair Tractor discussing and doing a presentation on baleage equipment. Patrick Wall, ISU Extension Beef Specialist giving a short presentation on feeding baleage, and Ahlers discussing managing soil fertility for forage crops.

The pasture walk is open to the public and has a $5 registration fee to help cover the meal, which a local 4-H Club will prepare and serve. Please call the Van Buren County Extension office to register 319-293-3039. The Registration deadline is September 11.

The Pasture Walk will take place at the Roberts Memorial Building at the Van Buren County Fairgrounds. The address is 20497 Highway 1 North, Keosauqua, IA 52565.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Ahlers at 319-653-4811 or email rka8@iastate.edu or contact Patrick Wall at 515-450-7665 or email patwall@iastate.edu.
4-H News: Registration begins September 7th

Enrollment for 4-H for 2015/2016 opens on Monday, September 7th. You need to register at 4H Online annually to be a member of Van Buren County 4-H! Go to https://ia.4honline.com to enroll online. If you have any questions, call Kaela Foor at 319-293-3039.