

# AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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# newsletter

January 16, 2013

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*The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension ANR*

*... and justice for all*

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## PREPARING FOR CALVING SEASON

As we move into the new year it will be worthwhile to spend a little time planning and preparing for the upcoming calving season. Management decisions made now can have a big impact on the success of the upcoming calving season and the following breeding season.

There is tremendous fetal growth during the third trimester of pregnancy, particularly during the last 45 days of pregnancy. Nutrient requirements of the cow will increase accordingly. Nutrient requirements will also increase with cold weather, wind, moisture, etc. Make sure that you are providing adequate nutrition to meet the high energy demands of fetal growth and winter weather. This point is particularly important this year following the drought of 2012. Some cows may have come into the winter thinner than usual. Some producers may not have the quantity or quality of winter feed that they usually do. Adequate nutrition is critical not only for the health and rebreeding success of the mother but also for the health and vigor of the calf.



One way to analyze nutritional status of the cow is to monitor body condition score (BCS). It is worthwhile to systematically and consistently evaluate body condition scores every two weeks in order to notice small changes in condition and hopefully prevent any severe loss of condition. Ideally cows should enter the calving season with a BCS of 5. For early calving cows and heifers (two and three year olds) it is usually recommended they enter the calving season with a BCS of 5.5 to 6. It is critical to assess BCS now and adjust nutrition accordingly. Nutritional demands will continue to increase through the third trimester of pregnancy and into early lactation.

Vaccinations are important to protect herd health and prevent illnesses, particularly reproductive and respiratory diseases. There are many different vaccines available and many different vaccination strategies depending on your situation. Some vaccinations are designed to be administered to the cow prior to calving in order to boost the antibody levels of the colostrum, effectively offering the calf more protection. Proper timing and administration of these vaccines will be very important. Work with your veterinarian to come up with a health management plan that makes sense for your herd.

Try to prepare some sort of maternity pen with functional head-gate, crowd-gate, etc. to make things easier when you do have to assist with calving. Have your veterinarian's phone number readily available. Make a list of the necessary supplies and be sure to have everything on hand. Some important supplies include OB sleeves, chains or straps, calf jack, towels, halters, feeding tube, light source, OB lube, soap, water, bucket, calving book, etc. Finally, plan ahead for problems and unique situations. A little planning can go a long way!

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2012-2013 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.

Date	Time	County	City	Address
February 7	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Expo Fairgrounds, Sigourney
February 7	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Expo Fairgrounds, Sigourney
February 13	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Product Center
February 13	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Product Center
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension Office
March 21	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension Office
March 21	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension Office

## MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. “My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season,” says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist.

Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service. Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:

- Confinement site certification - Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 9:30 a.m.-Noon. , Johnson Co. Extension
- Confinement site certification - Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 7:00-9:30 p.m. , Washington Co. Extension
- Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Washington Co. Extension

For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at [gregb@iastate.edu](mailto:gregb@iastate.edu) or 319/337-2145; Tom Miller, Program Specialist, [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu) 319-653-4811 or Terry Steinhart, Swine Specialist, [tsteinha@iastate.edu](mailto:tsteinha@iastate.edu) 641-622-2680.

## RYAN DROLLETTE, FARM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST



Ryan Drollette, new Farm Management Specialist, joined ISU Extension & Outreach on Dec. 10. He will be working and serving east central and southeast Iowa and be housed in the Johnson County Extension Office., 3109 Old HWY 218 S, Iowa City, IA 52246. His email address is [drollett@iastate.edu](mailto:drollett@iastate.edu) and locally he can be reached at 319-337-2145. He is a native of the state of Utah and has been working in the agribusiness field in Iowa for several years. We welcome Ryan to ISU Extension & Outreach. For more information visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/farm-management-ryan-drollette](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/farm-management-ryan-drollette)

## CRAIG JOHNSON AT CROP CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 30

Craig Johnson, meteorologist and Executive Director of the Iowa Academy of Science, will be the lead-off speaker at the Iowa State University Extension Crop Advantage Series at 9:00 a.m. on January 30 at the Highlander Conference Center in Iowa City. Johnson will address the topic, "Iowa's Weather: Past, Present, and Future." Also featured at the conference are topics on making fertilizer decisions after the drought, and corn rootworm management strategies. The conference is one of 13 scheduled around the state, where crop producers can choose among a variety of topics, including pest management, cover crops, bio-energy crops, soil fertility, and grain marketing. "Each year attendees tell me they wish there were more breakout sessions during the day. They are interested in so many of the topics and can't be at every workshop. The topics are in demand. It's a great problem to have," says Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist in eastern Iowa. Certified crop advisors can earn up to 5 credits at the conference in Iowa City and private pesticide applicators can become re-certified. Advance registration for each location is \$35 and includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. An additional fee is charged for CCA credits and private pesticide applicator recertification. Registration less than one week prior to the meeting or at the door is \$45. Another site in eastern Iowa for the conference is at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo on January 24. Registration materials for all sites are available at [www.cropadvantage.org](http://www.cropadvantage.org) or from your local ISU Extension office.

## NEW LOOK FOR AG DECISION MAKER WEBSITE

Ag Decision Maker, one of the most visited Iowa State University Extension and Outreach websites, has a new look. The decision-oriented agricultural business website now showcases new and emerging issues within farm management. While the design of the Web page has changed, the Web address [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) and the Ag Decision Maker purpose, to provide up-to-date information from agricultural economists at Iowa State University and other Midwest universities and institutions, remain the same. Ann Johanns, program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach and editor of Ag Decision Maker, said the site is designed for farmers, lenders, farm managers, agriculture instructors and others involved in agriculture. She urges them to visit the redesigned website. "The site offers a wide range of business information on marketing, leasing, land values, legal issues, costs and returns, new business development, and many other topics," Johanns said.

**Website Features** -The Ag Decision Maker website provides assistance in a variety of ways. A six-page business newsletter is provided monthly that contains information and analysis of current business and economic issues. More than 430 information files provide information and analysis for finding solutions to many of the decisions facing farmers and agribusinesses. Many of the information files have decision tools for online computation. Figures can be entered into the spreadsheet to analyze individual situations and save the analysis as a file with personal records. Teaching activities are provided for use in the classroom. Voiced media presentations offer further details on some information files.

**Information Updated Regularly** - Outlook and profitability files on the website are updated on a monthly basis to show profitability for various crop and livestock enterprises. These files as well as links to the Iowa Farm Outlook newsletter, USDA reports and weather information can be found on the Outlook and Profitability page. AgDM posts timely tips throughout the month on the [AgDM blog](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) and through its Twitter feed, [@ISU\\_AgDM](https://twitter.com/ISU_AgDM). Visit the site at [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) and bookmark it for future reference. Monthly email notification of new information posted to the website is available at no charge. Visit the "email sign-up" link on the homepage for the online form, or email [agdm@iastate.edu](mailto:agdm@iastate.edu)

## FARM POLL: FARMERS SAY LAND MARKET BUBBLE WILL BURST

AMES, Iowa — Many farmers appear to believe that farmland is overvalued and eventually the market bubble will burst, according to the 2012 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll found at [www.soc.iastate.edu/extension/farmpoll2012.html](http://www.soc.iastate.edu/extension/farmpoll2012.html). "The value of farmland in Iowa and across the Midwest has risen steeply over the past few years," said J. Gordon Arbuckle Jr., a sociologist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "We wanted to know what farmers are thinking about those increases." Arbuckle co-directs the annual Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll with Paul Lasley, another ISU Extension and Outreach sociologist.

"In the 2012 Farm Poll we asked farmers to share their perspectives regarding the future trajectory of land values and farm income, as well as their opinions about the relative importance of several factors that are driving increases in land values," Arbuckle said. "We also asked them to rate how much they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about potential impacts of rising land values on farming." Arbuckle said 1,296 farmers participated in the 2012 Farm Poll and on average they were 64 years old. Fifty-one percent earned more than half of their income from farming, while an additional 18 percent earned between 26 and 50 percent of their household income from the farm operation.

## PQA PLUS<sup>®</sup> TRAINING SESSION IN MT. PLEASANT

The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are teaming up to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus<sup>®</sup> (PQA Plus<sup>®</sup>) program. One certification session has been set for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Pleasant.

The session will be held at the Henry County Extension office, 127 N. Main St. Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641, and will be taught by ISU Extension and Outreach swine program specialist Tom Miller. The PQA Plus<sup>®</sup> session is set for 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Anyone who plans to attend should contact the Extension Office as soon as possible to ensure that there are adequate materials for everyone.

Cost for this certification program is \$25 per person and is payable at the door. To preregister, contact the Henry County Extension office at 319-385-8126. To learn more about PQA Plus<sup>®</sup> please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/certification/default.aspx>

## CASH RENT IS UP SLIGHTLY By Steve Johnson, Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist

Iowa State University's cost estimates for producing corn and soybeans are made according to crop rotation and displayed as four different categories: land, crop inputs, machinery and labor. For a rotation of corn following soybeans, there are three different yield expectations: 160 bushels per acre, 180 bushels and 200 bushels. Costs are then assigned based on these expected yield levels. The cash rent equivalent cost is estimated at \$276 per acre, but keep in mind that yield expectations above 180 bushels will likely carry a higher rent.

Many cash rental rates for 2013 are still being established between landlords and tenants, despite the fact that the termination deadline for existing leases has passed. In Iowa, the deadline is September 1 for one party to serve a termination notice to the other party on a cropland lease.

Increases of 5 to 10 percent in cash rent for 2013 will likely be common on the more productive Iowa land. An upward limit on cash rents is expected depending on the impact of drought on yields and when the lease terms are established.

Many farmers own land and rent land with multi-year land rental agreements. Most locked in their fertilizer for fall application. Farmers who control the land and have fertilizer prices locked in have already established two of the largest crop production costs for growing corn in 2013. These two prices added together for land and fertilizer likely represent nearly 50 percent of the total cost to produce the crop.

## 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. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

**Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A** Alfalfa & Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$4.00-7.00/bale Grass: SmSq \$3.00-5.00/bale LgRd \$60-70/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.00/bale Cornstalks (local Private sale) LgRd \$ 35/bale CRP SmSq ( \$1.75-3.00/bale Aug); LgRd \$40-50/bale

**Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM** Alfalfa: SmSq \$5.00-6.25/bale; LgSq \$62-100/B Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$4.50-5.25/bale; ( LgSq \$95-140/b Aug); LgRd \$12.50-100/bale Grass: SmSq \$2.50-5.25/bale; LgSq \$32-97.50/bale; ( LgRd \$40-127.50/bale Straw: (SmSq \$ 1.75-3.75/B Aug) Cornstalks: LgRd \$20-28/bale

### Yoder Auction (Frytown)

Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$4.50-7.10/B; LgSq \$82.50-105/b; LgRd \$132/T Grass: SmSq \$3.10-6.50/bale; LgSq \$55-90/bale; LgRd \$87.50/bale

## FSA DEVELOPS GUIDE TO FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing clear and concise explanation of its farm loan process, and is pleased to announce the online publication titled "Your guide to FSA Farm Loans."

The guide is designed to serve as an informational tool and resource to help you in providing outreach and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. The guide, written in "plain language", provides information about FSA's farm loans and loan servicing options. A list of additional resources is also included in the guide.

The guide is available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl). You are encourage to download and share it with the farmers and ranchers in your community who may require assistance in understanding FSA's loan process. You are also invited to contact me at (319) 354-1074, Ext. 2 or at [steve.carson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:steve.carson@ia.usda.gov) to discuss partnering opportunities.

Through effective tools and partnerships, together we can improve outreach efforts to successfully deliver program and services information to FSA's customers.

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## EXTENSION & OUTREACH TO HOST IOWA DAIRY DAY IN KALONA - FEB. 12

This year's agenda for topics and speakers are:

1) **Feed Budgeting and Feed Values** by Lee Kilmer

2) **The New Iowa Dairy Budget** by Kristen Schulte

3) **Low Cost Parlor and Automatic Milking Systems Producer Surveys** by Jenn Bentley or Larry Tranel

4) **2012 Iowa Dairy Survey Results** by Leo Timms

5) **Effluent Pumping, Milkhouse Waste & Nutrient Management** by Dan Huyser or Greg Brenneman

6) **Fungicides & Forage** by Brian Lang or Mark Carlton

Dairy Days will take place from 10am-3pm on the following dates and locations:

**Feb 12 Kalona**—Chamber of Commerce Building, 514 B. Ave, 9:30 a.m. Call the Washington Co. Extension Office 319-653-4811 for more information. **Cost for Dairy Day is \$5 and includes lunch. This event is sponsored by Freedom Security Bank in Kalona.**



## MANAGING THROUGH STRESS: A LIVE- STOCK INFORMATION EVENT - FEB. 4

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation are teaming up to deliver current market and management information to Iowa livestock farmers in these challenging times. The “Managing Through Stress: A Livestock Information Event” starts at 10 a.m. with a morning general session delivered to 14 sites throughout the state via the Web. Farmers will hear from leading experts on livestock and feed price outlook and strategy, weather outlook, financial strategies and managing the stress of farming in challenging times.

Ed Kordick, IFBF commodity services manager. “Those who come to the event can hear nationally noted experts give advice on a variety of issues, including the looming feed supply and 2013 costs.”

Presenters are Chad Hart and Lee Schultz, economists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach; Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension and Outreach climatologist; and Dr. Mike Rosmann, ag behavioral health psychologist. Hart and Schultz will present 2013 feed and livestock price outlooks and strategies, while Taylor will give the weather outlook. Rosmann will speak about indicators of human stress.

The seminar is free to farmers; there is no registration required. More information can be found at [www.iowafarmbureau.com](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com), on the ISU Extension and Outreach calendar, or by contacting IFBF commodity services manager Ed Kordick at [ekordick@ifbf.org](mailto:ekordick@ifbf.org).

### Area seminar locations and afternoon focus at each location

Borlaug Learning Center, 3327 290th St., Nashua — Swine

Delaware Co. Extension Office, 1417 N. Franklin St., Manchester — Dairy

Jefferson Co. Extension Office, 2606 W. Burlington Ave., Fairfield — Beef

Mahaska County Extension Office, 212 North I St., Oskaloosa — Swine

Washington Co. Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington — Swine

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## IOWA LEARNING FARMS WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES IN 2013

AMES, Iowa — Iowa Learning Farms will continue its monthly educational webinar series in 2013. Webinars are held on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 11:30 a.m. through Adobe Connect. All that is needed is a computer with Internet access. The topics discussed will be beneficial for technical service providers, watershed project coordinators, extension specialists and others interested in the topic of the month.

### 2013 ILF webinars

Feb. 20 – Mark Rasmussen, director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, will talk about the center's initiatives and his outlook toward its future.

Mar. 20 – Dan Barker, assistant scientist in the agronomy department at Iowa State, will discuss nitrogen-sensing technologies to apply variable-rate nitrogen fertilizer.

Apr. 17 – Andy Larsen, ISU Extension and Outreach agriculture specialist, will talk about Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). He is the Iowa coordinator for the national organization and will discuss building stronger relationships and grant opportunities through SARE.

May 15 – Michael Castelleno, assistant professor of agronomy at Iowa State, will focus on soil sustainability.

June 19 – Iowa State sociology professor Lois Wright Morton is the project director for the four-state Heartland Integrated Regional Water Coordination project. She will report the accomplishments of this project to date.

To connect to the webinars, go to: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/> at 11:30 a.m. on the date of the webinar to log in. Webinars are archived and available on the ILF website at [www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/page/webinars](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/page/webinars).