

AG newsletter

ISU Extension & Outreach
Serving Iowa, Keokuk,
Johnson &
Washington County

September 2016

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

... and justice for all

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FIELD DAY AT ISU SE IOWA RESEARCH FARM-SEPT. 8

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Iowa -- 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 8, according to Meaghan Anderson, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension Field Agronomist.

Registration for the field day begins at 1:00 p.m. with the tour starting at 1:30 p.m. with a "Season Review and a CenUSA Research Update" by Myron Rees, Farm Superintendent, and Greg Brenneman, ISU Extension Ag Engineering Specialist. "One of the featured tour stops will be a presentation on UAVs that includes a demonstration and discussion of the basics of imagery," said Anderson.

Also highlighted on the tour will be "Farm Pond Management" by Allen Pattillo, ISU Extension Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist; "FACTS: Yield Forecasting Tool" by Sotirios Archontoulis, ISU Extension Cropping Systems Specialist. 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 Meaghan Anderson at 319-337-2145 or mjanders@iastate.edu

FARM PROGRESS SHOW VISITORS WILL EXPERIENCE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

AMES, Iowa - The Iowa State University exhibit at the 2016 Farm Progress Show again will be located at the corner of Central Avenue and Seventh Street on the showgrounds near Boone. Iowa State has added a speaker's stage and plaza filled with planters, seating, picnic tables and Cy statues along Central Avenue for the Aug. 30-Sept. 1 show. Iowa State University students, faculty and extension specialists will engage visitors in demonstrations and conversations to connect them with current research applicable to individual agricultural operations.

"Stewardship of our land, water and environment is a major theme of the Iowa State exhibit again this year," said John Lawrence, associate dean for extension and outreach in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension. "The care of these natural resources comes from farmer management decisions rather than products bought and applied. Throughout the show we feature Iowa women impacting the land through decisions about how their land is farmed. We also have interactive displays, a speaker's stage, and experts to discuss and demonstrate the latest research." To view the complete Iowa State University Extension and Outreach agenda visit <http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016fps>

GRAIN BIN RESCUE WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN IOWA FIRE AND RESCUE UNITS

An evening workshop for Eastern Iowa fire and rescue departments focused on rescuing people trapped in stored grain will be held Sept. 7 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Iowa City. The workshop is sponsored by Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa and the National Education Center for Ag Safety in Peosta. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Death and injury due to entrapment in grain stored on farms is on the rise. A Purdue University study, released earlier this year, reported 38 entrapments nationwide, resulting in 17 deaths in 2014. Four of those deaths occurred in Iowa. Entrapments typically happen when a farm worker enters a grain bin or silo to break up clumps of out-of-condition grain during loading or unloading, said Bill Field, Purdue professor of agricultural safety and health.

The Sept. 7 workshop will teach best practices for entering a grain bin, including a discussion of why farmers enter a bin and how they get trapped, said Dan Neenan, director of NECAS safety, transportation and EMS. Topics covered include: 1) Lock-out, tag-out of electricity to the bin 2) Roping and rigging 3) Harnesses 4) Air-quality sampling 5) Alternatives to entering a bin

The workshop will conclude with a demonstration of the use of a grain-rescue tube to extract people trapped in stored grain and the proper procedures for cutting into a grain bin when performing a rescue.

There is no charge to attend the workshop, however pre-registration is requested. To register, contact Kevin Blind, development and communications director for Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa., phone 319-540-4954, or by email at kevin.blind@gmail.com. An afternoon session for farm families to teach best practices for safely working with stored grain, will also be held at the fairgrounds on that day. Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa is a non-profit organization working in partnership with Mercy of Iowa City to promote agricultural health and safety in Cedar, Iowa, Louisa, Muscatine, Washington and Johnson counties.

WANTED: FARMERS TO TEST ONLINE ISU CONSERVATION COST TOOL

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University researchers are seeking feedback from Iowa farmers willing to test an early online version of a tool to better understand the costs of implementing nutrient management and soil conservation practices.

The researchers are near completion of a beta version of the online tool to help articulate the cost of various best management practices designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loss. John Tyndall, associate professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, says he hopes to glean insights from user interaction and feedback.

“Cost information is so crucial for decision making,” said Tyndall. “While developing this tool, it became very clear that up to date, scalable and transparent cost information for environmental Best Management Practices is scarce and in some cases, simply non-existent.” Tyndall says that much of this work was initiated by Dr. Laura Christiansen as part of her PhD work at Iowa State and that it’s caught the interest of other states. “Other states with nutrient reduction strategies have been borrowing initial cost numbers from us,” he said.

The latest update to the decision tool includes the addition of management practices such as contour prairie strips and saturated buffer strips, all of which have demonstrated ability to reduce nutrient transport into waterways. The research is funded by the Iowa Nutrient Research Center.

Farmers who are interested in learning more about this decision support tool may contact Tyndall at jtyndall@iastate.edu. To learn more about Iowa Nutrient Research Center funded projects, visit the Iowa State exhibit at the Farm Progress Show near Boone Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 (<http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016fps>) Many research results around best management practices will be on display and serve as topics for speakers. Find the Iowa State building at the corner of Central and Seventh Avenues on the Farm Progress Show grounds.

Research funded by Iowa Nutrient Research Center

The Iowa Nutrient Research Center has funded 31 research projects conducted by scientists at Iowa State, University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa since its establishment in 2013 by the Iowa Board of Regents in response to legislation passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed by Governor Branstad.

VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE WORKSHOP AUGUST 31

AMES, Iowa – *Are you prepared for implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive on January 1, 2017?* Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Farm Bureau, and the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association are partnering to offer an educational series about the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Iowa State Extension beef program specialist Chris Clark said Iowa veterinarians, livestock producers, and feed industry personnel are invited to participate.

“The program will include a general overview of the VFD, species break-outs, and discussion panels featuring veterinarians, producers, and feed industry personnel,” Clark said. “The implementation date of January 1, 2017, is approaching and at this point people may have some specific questions or scenarios that they are unsure about. Hopefully we can help answer some questions and clarify some of those issues.”

Iowa veterinarians, livestock producers and feed industry personnel are invited to attend any of the 11 session locations. Each program features breakout and discussion sessions, with a primary objective of helping attendees learn about the roles and responsibilities of all involved parties.

The series runs from Aug. 22 through Sept. 1 with specific times set for each location. There is no fee to attend, but preregistration is encouraged to assist organizers with planning. Please register by calling the number associated with the session you would like to attend.

A session will be held locally on August 31 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at the Washington County Extension Office. Please RSVP to the Extension Office at 319-653-4811. For more general information, contact Clark at 712-250-0070 or email at caclark@iastate.edu You also can contact your regional Iowa State Extension livestock specialist.

COVER CROP AND SOIL HEALTH FIELD DAY SEPT. 7 NEAR KEOTA

AMES, Iowa — [Iowa Learning Farms](#), along with West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed Project and Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, will host a cover crop and soil health field day 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7. The field day near Keota is free, open to the public and includes a complimentary lunch. Cover crops continue to grow in popularity in Iowa due to the many benefits they provide. Such benefits include reduced nitrogen and phosphorus loads entering water bodies, increased soil organic matter and reduced soil erosion. Choosing which species and seeding method to implement can have a significant impact on achieving these benefits and a farmer’s goals.

The agenda topics include:

- cover crop seeding rates, termination and pest management with Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
- local famer Tim Sieren sharing his experience with cover crops
- soil health discussion with Brian Hora of Continuum Ag LLC of Washington

The field day will be hosted by Vision Ag at 2038 Keokuk-Washington Road, on the east side of Keota. The workshop is free, but reservations are suggested to ensure adequate space and food. Make reservations by contacting West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed Project Coordinator Dan Mahoney at 319-653-2138 ext. 3.

VAN BUREN COUNTY PASTURE WALK SET FOR SEPTEMBER 7: LOOKING AT THE FORAGE POTENTIAL OF COVER CROPS

Mark your calendars for the annual Van Buren County Pasture Walk, which is set for September 7th starting at 5:30 p.m., and will be hosted by Jason and Paul Wells from Milton, IA. The focus for this year’s pasture walk will be on using cover crops as a forage source. The pasture walk will include Jason and Paul Wells sharing their experiences with using cover crops as a forage source with their dairy. ISU Extension Beef Specialist Patrick Wall and Vittetoe will discuss and share information on how to incorporate cover crops as a forage source into an operation. The pasture walk is open to the public and has a \$5 registration fee to help cover the meal, which will be prepared by the Van Buren County Cattlemen’s and served by a local 4-H club.

Please RSVP to the Van Buren County Extension Office at 319-293-3039 by September 2.

Directions: The Wells’ dairy farm is located at 14658 252 St, Milton, IA. To get there from Keosauqua go south on HWY 1, turn west on HWY 2 for about 8 miles toward Rte V64. Turn north onto V64 for 2 miles and then turn west onto 252 St. for about 0.5 miles until you arrive at 14658 252 St. Milton, IA.

EASTERN IOWA BIO-RENEWABLES AND PRAIRIE STRIPS FIELD DAY SEPT. 8

AMES, Iowa — [Iowa Learning Farms](#), along with the Eastern Iowa Airport, University of Iowa and the STRIPS project, will host a field day on Thursday, Sept. 8. The 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. field day near Cedar Rapids is free and open to the public. It will begin with a complimentary meal served by the Linn County Cattlemen.



The field day will highlight the installation of prairie strips and miscanthus, a biomass fuel crop, at The Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids. As one of the largest farms in Linn County, the airport farmland is leased and farmed by five local farmers. It has over 1,900 acres in corn and soybean production and is located at the top of the Cedar and Iowa River watersheds. In an effort to have a positive and sustainable impact on the environment, while still generating revenue, the airport partnered with Iowa State University and the STRIPS Project as well as the University of Iowa Biomass Fuel Project. Through these partnerships, the airport seeded about 10 percent of a 100-acre section to prairie to monitor the impacts on soil and water quality. In addition, Giant Miscanthus was planted on about 63 acres of low performing farmland. Both the miscanthus and the prairie grass will be harvested for use in the Biofuel Project.

Speaking at the field day is Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett, Emily Heaton, Iowa State University assistant professor of agronomy and extension biomass specialist, Lisa Schulte-Moore Iowa State University professor of Natural Resource Ecology and Management and STRIPS team researcher, University of Iowa representatives Ingrid Gronstal-Anderson and Ben Anderson, and Airport Director Marty Lens.

The field day site will be at the Eastern Iowa Airport, Curtiss Ct, Cedar Rapids. The field day will take place west of the main terminal. From Exit 13 on I-380 head west on Wright Brothers Blvd for 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Cessna Pl SW following the field day signs. Parking is available on the north and south sides of Curtiss Ct.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but reservations are suggested to ensure adequate space and food. Contact Liz Juchems at 515-294-5429 or email ilf@iastate.edu.

The STRIPS project, Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips, is at Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City. During the 2007 to 2012 trial period, the team found that the 10 percent conversion to prairie reduced sediment export by 95 percent, total phosphorus export by 90 percent, and total nitrogen export by nearly 85 percent when compared to the losses from the 100 percent row-crop, no-till watersheds. Iowa farmers are now applying this conservation practice on their own fields for the benefits that the research results have shown.

The biomass fuel crop the airport will be growing is a large perennial grass called miscanthus (specifically, *miscanthus × giganteus*) a sterile, noninvasive variety. As a deep-rooted perennial grass, it provides soil and water quality protection similar to prairie strips. Miscanthus is able to produce more biomass of fuel per acre, and per unit input, than other types of grass or prairie, making it more economically viable and reducing the amount of land needed for fuel production.

MANURE APPLICATOR PROGRAMS SEPTEMBER 2

Washington County Extension will reshew both the Commercial and Confinement Manure Applicator Programs on Friday, September 2, for those that were unable to attend a workshop. These programs are shown free of charge on the first Friday of each month. Applicators that need to schedule a reshew at any other time will be charged a \$10 fee per person.

The Commercial Manure Program (3 hours in length) will be shown at 8:30 am and the Confinement Manure Program (2 hours in length) will be shown at 1:30 pm at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington, IA 52353.

ISU PROVIDES CROP DISEASE RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS

AMES, Iowa – Farmers, agronomists and agribusiness professionals are encouraged to seek out upcoming opportunities and new resources offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach on corn and soybean diseases during the late growing season. These include a Crop Disease Clinic on Aug. 24, recently released national corn and soybean disease guides, newly combined and revised corn and soybean disease field guides for the Midwest, and an opportunity to speak with crop disease experts at the 2016 Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa.

New Corn and Soybean Disease Publications

Earlier this summer, *A Farmers Guide to Corn Diseases* and *A Farmers Guide to Soybean Diseases* were published by the American Phytopathological Society, with ISU Extension and Outreach specialists serving as contributing authors. These publications are customized to the needs of farmers throughout the United States, with an emphasis on diagnosing diseases in the field. The guides are available for purchase at the online Extension Store. <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/A-Farmers-Guide-to-Soybean-Diseases> Also coming soon are revised field guides that combine the Corn Field Guide and Soybean Field Guide in one publication for ease of use by corn and soybean farmers, agronomists and crop scouts in Iowa and the Midwest. This 158-page pocket-sized weatherproof guide will be available at the Extension store by Aug. 19 in print and electronic formats.

Crop Disease Experts at Farm Progress Show

Robertson and Mueller also will be present in the Iowa State University tent at the 2016 Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa, Aug. 30-Sept. 1. Robertson will be in the Iowa State tent between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, before taking the stage to discuss prevalent corn diseases that are currently in Iowa corn fields and provide a disease outlook for the rest of the growing season. Mueller will be available for questions and discussion on Thursday, Sept. 1, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feel free to stop by the exhibit, located at the corner of Central Avenue and 7th St., to talk to experts, view demonstrations and listen to experts talk on the speaker stage throughout the show. Keep up on Twitter during the Farm Progress Show by using or searching #IowaStateFPS or by following the crops Twitter account @ISUCropNews.



The Iowa State speaker schedule can be found at <http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016fps/isu-speakers>. Take a look at the Ask the Expert schedule to know when ISU Extension and Outreach specialists will be available for questions, <http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016fps/ask-the-expert>.

MONOSLOPE FACILITY AND ROTATIONAL GRAZING FIELD DAY

IOWA CITY, IOWA – The Rapid Creek Watershed Project with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District will host a tour of Travis and Erin Spevacek's monoslope beef cattle facility at their farm on Wednesday, September 14th in rural Iowa City from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and complimentary refreshments will be provided. The Spevacek's have grown corn and soybeans and managed a cow-calf operation near Iowa City for 22 years. Travis started no-till management in 2001 and implemented cover crops and targeted fertilizer applications in 2013 in order to reduce soil loss while improving the farm's economic sustainability and soil quality. In 2015, the Spevacek's added a monoslope cattle barn where they finish calves raised both on the family farm and in the surrounding area. Southeast Iowa beef extension specialist Patrick Wall will join Spevacek in hosting a tour of the monoslope facility. Following the tour, the field day will continue at the Morse Community Club with a series of informational talks. George Schaefer will discuss strategies to implement rotational grazing and grazing cover crops. Schaefer has been using rotational grazing and working with Practical Farmers of Iowa to increase his forage production for the past 15 years. Justin Bisinger will discuss grazing in stream corridors and progress in Rapid Creek Watershed Project to close-out the meeting. **Directions** The field day will begin at the Spevacek Farm, 5140 Morse Rd NE, Iowa City. From Iowa City, take IA -1 N for about 5 miles. Turn right on Morse Rd NE and head east for 2.5 miles. The destination will be on the north side of the road.

Following the monoslope tour, the field day will continue at the Morse Community Club, 2542 Putnam St. NE, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. From the Spevacek Farm, drive 0.5 miles SE on Morse Rd and turn left on Putnam St NE. The Community Club will be on the east side of the road. The workshop is free and open to the public, but reservations are suggested to ensure adequate space and refreshments. To RSVP contact Justin Bisinger at 319-499-4826 or email Justin.Bisinger@ia.nacdn.net.

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JOIN START TO FARM, A NETWORK FOR NEW FARMERS

The Start to Farm: New Farmer Learning Network, organized by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, is a statewide program designed to provide education and support for beginning and early-career agricultural producers. Start to Farm groups will meet several times throughout the year. Based on priorities and topics determined by each group they will discuss production techniques, ways to grow and improve business practices, and farm management strategies.

Multiple groups will be organized throughout the state, with beginning farmers able to join a group that will be most beneficial to them through either a focus on farm enterprises or geography. Group members will participate in a wide variety of activities, including touring successful farming operations. "Our goal is to provide an open atmosphere for discussion, sharing of ideas and learning about resources for producers who are in their first 10-12 years of farming," said Patrick Gunn, assistant professor in animal science and extension beef cow-calf specialist. "Each group will have its own focus depending on the needs of its members." Registration for the program is requested, but there is no participation fee. Start to Farm groups will be organized across the state. Contact the specialist listed below for information about a local Start to Farm group and to register for upcoming Start to Farm: New Farmer Learning Network meetings. Start to Farm groups will be facilitated by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists. Specialists and their topic area are listed by location.

Eastern Iowa Networks:

Benton Co.– Denise Schwab, Beef; dschwab@iastate.edu, 319-721-9624
Iowa Co.– Patrick O'Malley, Commercial Horticulture; omall@iastate.edu, 319-330-0337

Mahaska Co.– Charles Brown, Farm Management; crbrown@iastate.edu, 641-673-5841

Washington Co.– Tom Miller, Swine; tmiller@iastate.edu, 319-931-3781

Wapello Co.– Colin Johnson, Beef/Swine; colinj@iastate.edu, 515-291-9287

For more information visit: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/join-start-farm-network-new-farmers>

FARMLAND LEASING MEETING-AUGUST 29

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting farmland leasing meeting on August 29 at the Johnson County Extension Office starting at 1 p.m.. This year's decreased profitability will require landlords and tenants to look closely at 2017 production cost estimates. Attendees will learn about types of leases and results of farmland value surveys. A 100-page workbook will be included with registration that includes land leasing information such as surveys, sample written lease agreement and termination forms, and many other publications.

Registration is \$25 per individual for those that pre-register, an additional \$5 fee will be added if registering fewer than two calendar days before the workshop. Pre-register by calling 319-337-2145.