

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

### **CROP NOTES for February 26, 2020**

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa  
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*Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:*

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang>

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### **ALFALFA**

#### **Early Thoughts on Overwintering**

“So far, minor concerns”. Let’s still wait and see once it gets warm enough for alfalfa to break dormancy that we don’t get a late cold spell. The only other concern is with fields that had extended saturated soil areas last fall. While the 2019 season was a wet season, the 2018 season was about 20% wetter. The fall of 2018 had numerous saturated soil areas in alfalfa fields that were simply just too wet for alfalfa to survive, or wet enough to lessen alfalfa’s winter-hardening ability and be more susceptible to overwintering cold temperatures. And the winter was colder,

including a couple Polar Vortices. So the soils were wetter, the winter was colder, and we had significant areas of winter-injury. The fall of 2019 was not as wet as for 2018, and the 2019-2020 winter has been mild. So again, at this time “minor concerns” about overwintering.

## **PASTURE**

### **Frost-Seeding**

Soon the snow will melt-off pastures and it will be time to get a jump on the 2020 season. Once the snow clears so that seed can make seed-to-soil contact, it is time to ‘frost-seed’. The typical window for this is February through March (the earlier in March the better). It is not recommended to frost-seed on top of snow cover, but it is perfectly fine to have snowfall on top of a frost seeding. Red clover is the most common species used for frost-seeding, usually at a rate of about 4 lb/ac. Success with frost seeding is hit-&-miss since we never know how well the next weeks of freeze-thaw weather will aid in seed-to-soil contact, germination, emergence and then how much early season competition will occur from the current pasture. Tricks of the trade to help reduce early season competition of frost-seeded pasture is to overgrazing in fall the areas to be frost-seeded in spring, and skip the late summer N fertilizer application for that area. More detailed information on frost-seeding is in the ISU publication available

at: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4158>

### **Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations**

Grass-based pastures generally respond very efficiently to the first 40-50 pounds per acre of nitrogen (N). Bluegrass will continue to respond to N applications up to 150-180 lb./acre annually, but at a decreasing rate of response. Tall cool-season grasses (bromegrass, orchardgrass, tall fescue) respond to total season N levels up to 250-300 lb./acre, but at a decreasing rate of response. The lower end of the N recommendation ranges listed below for grass-based pastures are considered modest and efficient. Timing of N applications listed below are generally most efficient for early spring > late summer > late spring. Thus some may consider not to apply any additional N in late spring, especially if rainfall is below normal. The other critical factor is efficiency of use of the forage. Can the livestock fully utilize the increase in forage production with N fertilizer applications? Can a portion of excess pasture be fenced-off for a spring hay harvest? Is the pasture fenced for rotational grazing to better utilize the forage, and manage regrowth cycles? A basic publication on rotational grazing is available as a free download at: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1097378.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1097378.pdf) A more advanced, just revised 167 page publication is available from ISU for purchase at: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/5256>

#### **Kentucky Bluegrass**

- Early spring (March and April) 60-80 lb./acre
- Late spring (May to early June) 30-40 lb./acre
- Late summer (August to September) 30-40 lb./acre

#### **Tall, Cool-season Grasses**

- Early spring (March and April) 80-120 lb./acre
- Late spring (May to early June) additional 40-60 lb./acre
- Late summer (August to September) additional 40-60 lb./acre

#### **Legume-Grass Mixed Pastures**

- If less than 1/3 legume, treat as a grass pasture
- If more than 1/3 legume, no nitrogen is recommended

Note for legume-grass mixed pastures, high or frequent applications of N, particularly spring N applications, will make the grass component of pastures more competitive and limit the amount of legumes in the mixture. To encourage a greater legume presence, use modest N rates and limit application to summer or fall.

## WEEDS

### Managing Residual Herbicides with Cover Crops

Tank mix or pre-mix herbicides used to kill a spring cover crop and provide residual weed control may have issues. The article linked below discusses this issues.

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2020/02/managing-residual-herbicides-cover-crops> This article was posted on the ICM News website. You can receive these types of articles directly to your email by subscribing to receiving these free email alerts at the top right hand corner of this articles web page.

### 2020 Herbicide Guide for Corn and Soybean Production

The 2020 version is now available and is a free pdf download at:

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/12150> Its 24 pages with information on product and management updates, the role of preemergence herbicides in glyphosate resistant crops, corn and soybean herbicide effectiveness ratings, herbicide package mixes, and herbicide site of action and injury symptoms.

## INSECTS

### Do You Want to be a Part of the Cutworm-Armyworm Trapping Network?

ISU is looking for volunteers to help monitor early season migratory pests. The IPM team's trapping network includes monitoring flights of Black cutworm and True armyworm. They use adult pheromone trap captures to estimate scouting time for feeding injury in field crops. Both of these pests are migratory and therefore the timing of injury is variable between growing seasons. If you are willing to establish a location in 2020, please email ISU by March 13 at [bugtraps@iastate.edu](mailto:bugtraps@iastate.edu) with your contact information (name, phone, email, mailing address, trap site location as GPS coordinates or other description like county, township and section).

Cooperator responsibilities include:

1. Assembling trap(s) according to instructions by April 1
2. Properly identifying moths caught – a guide to identifying moths will be included
3. Check traps at least every other day to accurately assess significant BCW flights (at minimum, check traps on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week).
4. Reporting moth captures as frequently as possible to generate up-to-date estimations of pest activity
5. Moth trapping lasts for 2 months: we will begin on April 1 and end May 31

We will mail supplies and instructions to you in late March. We hope to have traps active April 1!

This year, the Iowa Moth Trapping Network has partnered with EDDMapS and Ag Pest Monitor to visualize trap capture data – a feature that has been frequently requested by our cooperators. Using a website to track these pests also allows us to establish long-term trends in pest movement. The maps generated from our data will be available to the public (including you). Your privacy is important to us, so sharing your data and trap location will be optional on the website – you can even be an anonymous reporter if you wish. So you have 3 options with regard to this networking which are described at the following website:

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/ashley-dean-erin-hodgson/we-need-you-iowa-moth-trapping-network-seeking-cooperators-2020>

## **WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) TRAINING**

### **Are Your Employees up to Date on Annual WPS Training?**

If you have employees other than immediate family working in ag fields on your farm, the EPA required employers to provide annual training for those employees. This Blog from the ISU Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program explains how you can accomplish this:

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/blog/elizabeth-buffington/are-your-employees-date-wps-training> Immediate family is mostly exempt from WPS training requirements. EPA defines immediate family to include: spouse; children; stepchildren; foster children; sons-in law; daughters-in law; parents; stepparents; foster parents; father-in-law; mother-in-law; brothers; sisters; brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; grandparents; grandchildren; aunts; uncles; nieces; nephews; and first cousins.

## **EVENTS**

### **Mar. 3-5, Hawkeye Farm Show with ISU Extension Presentations, Cedar Falls**

Each day of the Hawkeye Farm Show at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM are presentations from ISU Extension Specialists. The agenda for 2020 is:

- Mar. 3, 11:00 AM, 2020 Crop Weather Outlook by Dennis Todey, Climatologist
- Mar. 3, 1:00PM, Farm Transfer Planning by Melissa O'Rourke, Farm Management Specialist
- Mar. 4, 11:00 AM, Ag Market Outlook, Chad Hart, Economist
- Mar. 4, 1:00 PM, Finalizing ARC/PLC Crop Insurance & Marketing Decisions by Steve Johnson, Farm Management Specialist
- Mar. 5, 11:00 AM, Using Cover Crops to Improve Manure Management by Brian Dougherty, Ag Engineering Specialist
- Mar. 5, 1:00 PM, Farm Stress Management by Cynthia Thompson

For more information about the Hawkeye Farm Show, go to: <https://hawkeyefarmshow.com/>

### **Mar. 5, ISU Southeast Research Farm Annual Meeting, Iowa City**

The Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association annual meeting will be held at the Johnson County Extension Office in Iowa City beginning at 10:00 AM.

Agenda:

- A Review of the 2019 Activities and Plans for 2020 at the Research Farm
- Market Outlook by Ray Jenkins, ISU Crop Marketing Extension Educator

- Grain Storage: Best Management Practices for the 2019 Crop, by Kristina TeBockhorst, ISU Extension Ag Engineer
- Safety and Sustainability in Agriculture, by Brandi Janssen, Director of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

Free program with lunch included sponsored by Hills Bank and Trust and Furlong Family Farms. Meeting concludes by 2:30 PM, to be followed by the Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association board of directors meeting.

For more information, contact Virgil Schmitt ([vschmitt@iastate.edu](mailto:vschmitt@iastate.edu)) at (563) 263-5701, or Rebecca Vittetoe ([rka8@iastate.edu](mailto:rka8@iastate.edu)) at (319) 653-4811.

### **Mar. 10, Feedlot Forum, New Hampton**

5:00 to 8:30 PM at the Chickasaw County Events Center, 301 N Water Ave., New Hampton.

Free event and meal. Topics include: Adaptive use of EID's Panel; Iowa Cattlemen's Association update; Iowa Beef Industry Council update; Market Outlook. RSVP by March 6 by calling 515-296-2266 or email [kate@iacattlemen.org](mailto:kate@iacattlemen.org)

### **Mar. 11, ISU Northeast Research Farm Annual Meeting, Nashua**

9:30 AM to 2:00 PM at the Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua.

Agenda:

9:30 AM NEIAEA Board Meeting call to order

10:00 AM "Tillage & Planting Tips for a Successful Spring", Emphasis on best practices to maximize emergence. Matt Darr, ISU Agricultural & Biosystems Engineer.

11:00 AM "Glyphosate & Cancer: Roles of the Ag Health Study & IARC", Chuck Lynch, MD, PhD, Professor, Epidemiology, University of Iowa

NOON Dutch-Treat lunch available from the Riverton Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

1:00 PM "Summary of 2019 ISU Northeast Research Farm Trials", Ken Pecinovsky, Research Farm Superintendent.

2:00 PM NEIAEA Board of Directors meeting.

Free program and receive a free copy of the 2019 ISU Northeast Research & Demonstration Farm Report.

### **Mar. 27, Beginners Crop Scout School, ISU Research Farm, Nashua** (pre-register by March 23)

Registration starts 9:00 AM, program 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Borlaug Learning Center, ISU Research Farm, Nashua. The program is designed for growers and crop scouts with limited scouting experience (0-2 years). It includes live plants for crop staging and weed ID.

Topics include:

- Corn and soybean growth and development
- Weed ID and herbicide injury
- Corn and soybean diseases
- Insect pest identification and management.

Registration fee of \$80.00 covers refreshments, lunch, and numerous Extension publications and other handouts. Class size is limited to the first 30 paid registrants, so please register early to secure a seat. The attached registration form needs to be filled out and sent to the Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua, IA **postmarked no later than March 23**. For more information contact Terry Basol at 641-426-6801 or email: [tlbasol@iastate.edu](mailto:tlbasol@iastate.edu)

## **Mar. 27 & Apr. 3, Dairy Design Workshops – Youngstock Facilities, New Vienna & Waukon**

Getting the most out of your youngstock facilities. At New Vienna Fire Station Community Room on March 27, and at the Allamakee County Extension office on April 3. Both meetings start at 1:00 PM with a local calf facilities tour starting at 2:30 PM. Agenda: 1:00 – design considerations for calf and heifer facilities; 1:45 – ventilating youngstock facilities for optimum animal health; 2:30 – tour. Please RSVP for New Vienna workshop at Dubuque County Extension, 563-583-6496; and the Waukon workshop at Allamakee County Extension, 563-568-6345. For more information about the workshops go to:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/dairy-design-workshops-be-held-spring> and/or contact Brian Dougherty at 563-583-6496 ext. 125, or email [brian1@iastate.edu](mailto:brian1@iastate.edu)

## **Commercial Pesticide Applicator Re-certification**

Mar. 4, Ornamental and Turf, Categories 3O, 3T, 3OT

Mar. 11, Certified Handlers

For details, go to: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/>

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