CROP NOTES for January 29, 2018
Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa
Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist, Decorah, IA
Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang
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CROP MANAGEMENT
New Site for Crop Management Resources
The following new web site provides Midwest farmers easy access to crop management
resources. The Crop Protection Network (CPN) is a multi-state and international collaboration of
university and provincial extension specialists, and has redesigned its website at
www.cropprotectionnetwork.org The new website still has all of the great CPN content that
users are familiar with, but also adds new resources, and will be updated frequently,” said Kiersten Wise, University of Kentucky Extension plant pathologist, and co-director of CPN. “Our goal is to help farmers make crop management decisions with relevant and timely information.”

Iowa Soybean Association Searchable Database of Replicated On-Farm Trials
A great feature of the ISA On-Farm Network® Replicated Strip Trials is a database with various drop menus to sort and summarize research that most interests you. This searchable database is at: https://www.iasoybeans.com/onlinedb/index.php

WEEDS
Additional Dicamba Training Meetings Underway
Approximately 60 meetings have been schedule state-wide to meet EPA’s additional training requirement for those that wish to use dicamba on dicamba resistant soybeans. Go to: https://www.agribiz.org/dicamba-training/

Explaining Downwind Buffers and Dicamba
This article should clear up any confusion you might have about downwind buffers and application of the new dicamba products. Go to: https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/2018/01/downwind-buffers-and-susceptible-crop-restrictions-new-dicamba-products

PASTURE
Frost Seeding
In winter and very early spring, once the snow clears so that broadcast seed can make seed-to-soil contact, it is time to ‘frost-seed’. The typical window for this is February through early March. It is alright to have snow fall on top of a frost seeding, but it is not recommended to apply seed on top of snow. Frost seeding tries to mimic nature in that mature forages would drop seed to the ground in fall, winter and spring. A small percentage may germinate and establish. To improve our odds, we use quality seed and techniques to optimize the practice. In fall, overgraze the site (stress the forage) intended for frost seeding to better open up the canopy for the seed to achieve seed-to-soil contact and reduced competition early in development. While frost seeding attempts to take advantage of freeze-thaw cycles to achieve seed-to-soil contact, if feasible let cattle walk on a frost seeded area to improve seed-to-soil contact. Frost seeded areas should not receive nitrogen fertilizer in early spring in order to minimize early growth competition from already established plants in the area. It is understood that frost seeding is a hit-&-miss practice that only succeeds about 60% of the time, but it’s a very easy low cost method of trying to improve pasture quality. More details about frost seeding is available in the ISU publication at: https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Improving-Pasture-By-Frost-Seeding

Southwest WI Grazing Newsletter and Events
Promoting managed grazing and grass-based agriculture. Go to: http://www.kickapoograzinginitiative.com/
EVENTS

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, Dairy Days at Ryan and Holy Cross
Registration starts at 9:30 AM, program runs 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. A $15 registration fee covers proceedings and lunch. Pre-registration is requested by the Friday before each event to reserve a meal. Vouchers for the event may be available at your local agri-service providers or veterinarian’s office. For more information go to: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/files/events/files/2018DairyDaysBrochure4.pdf or contact dairy specialists Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496.

Jan. 31, Feb. 15 & 21, Women in Ag Farm Business Management in Monticello, Elkader and Toledo
Farm Management Education for Women in Iowa, 6-week course.
  Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar. 7, Monticello 9:00 to Noon:
  http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2018/monticello.html
  Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, Elkader 5:30 to 9:00 pm:
  http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2018/elkader.html
  Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28, Toledo 8:00 to 11:30 am:
  https://www.extension.iastate.edu/tama/news/annies-project-farm-business-management
The program is dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. The courses foster problem solving, record keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women. Visit the website for more locations, program details and registration. Pre-registration is required:
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/

Feb. 6-7, Two-Day Iowa Beef Center Cow-Calf Short Course, Ames
For details about the program, go to: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cowcalf/

Feb. 7, Women Grain Marketing Program, Nashua
9:00 AM to Noon. No fee but register by Feb. 5. Topics include: understanding basis, calculating carry in the market, cost of storage, seasonal price trends, crop marketing tools, estimating cost of production and developing a crop marketing plan. Location: Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm in the Borlaug Learning Center, 3327 290th Street, Nashua, IA. For more information, go to: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/chickasaw/news/women-grain-marketing-program

Feb. 8, Boots in the Barn - Dairy Cow and Beef Herd Basics for Women, Dyersville
1:00 - 3:00 PM & 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Commercial Club Park Community Room, 225 11th St SE, east at Hwy136 & 6th Ave SE
Dyersville. This is a new program for women beef and dairy producers.
Dairy from 1-3 PM Dr. Hugo Ramirez, ISU State Extension Dairy Specialist, and Jenn Bentley, Northeast Extension Dairy Specialist will discuss what makes a quality TMR and ways to assess the TMR before and after it’s delivered. Learn how to use simple tools like the Shaker Box and Koster Moisture Tester. Women are encouraged to bring a sample of their farm’s corn silage for discussion. For more information contact Jenn Bentley at 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu
Beef Herd Basics from 6:30-8:30 PM on nutrition, feed management, Dr. Hugo Ramirez will discuss making and managing quality silage, and Denise Schwab, Extension Beef Specialist will discuss feed budgeting and cost control. For more information contact Denise Schwab at 319-721-9624, dschwab@iastate.edu

Feb. 12, Winning the Game – Grain Marketing, Calmar
At the NICC Dairy Center, Calmar. Learn pre-harvest selling using price & time objectives determined by the farmer. These workshops will be led by an ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist and Iowa Farm Bureau's Commodity Services Manager. Topics include: Useful seasonal price trends in crops; Target dates in marketing plan; Setting price objective ranges; Learn marketing tools advantages. https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Article/Launch-Your-2018-PreHarvest-Marketing-Plan-Calmar-Ia

Feb. 14, Workshops on Cow Herd Winter Feeding Basics, Calmar & Independence (preregister by Feb. 12)
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Dairy Center, Calmar
5:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Heartland Acres Event Center, Independence
With narrowing margins in the beef cow industry, winter feeding management is more important than ever. Controlling feed cost while meeting all of the cow’s nutrient requirements requires knowledge of both the feed supply and the animal’s requirements. To help producers understand those important aspects, ISU Extension Beef Specialist Denise Schwab has scheduled two separate workshops in northeast Iowa on Feb. 14. The content for both will be the same with emphasis on providing information for participants and helping them create plans that work for their herds. Topics include an overview of feeding basics and cost controls, and demonstration of the application of those concepts using the newly updated ISU BRaNDS computer program. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their own cow wintering rations using that software and the computer lab. Also, we will talk about the importance and interactions of mineral nutrition for the beef cow. Fee is $15 per person regardless of location, and payable at the door. Registration for both sessions is due Feb. 12 by calling the Benton County Extension Office at 319-472-4739. Please indicate which location you will attend when you register.

Feb. 19, Women in Ag Farm Transition Planning for Rural Women, Fayette
A 5-week program on Estate, Succession and Retirement, Feb. 19, 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM with a light supper at 5:30 PM. Participants will learn about business, estate, retirement and succession planning from ISU Extension specialists and area professionals. There will be discussions based on participant questions and follow-up activities for family members to complete at home. The course is intended to educate and empower rural women to be better business partners by managing and organizing critical information, improving decision-making skills, and networking with other women and professionals. The registration fee is $75 for the 15-hour program and includes a comprehensive workbook with fact sheets, hands-on activities and presentations, as well as the light supper. Class size is limited to 25 women. For more information contact the Fayette County Extension office at 563-425-3331 or e-mail the local office manager Deb Kahler at dkahler@iastate.edu More information and on-line registration is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag

Feb. 19, 2018 Iowa Pork Regional Conference
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua. The conference is free for those who pre-register or $5 at the door. To pre-register for the conference and/or certification training, contact Drew Mogler at (800) 372-7675 or dmogler@iowapork.org. Presentations include: Environmental Regulations: (1) What’s New - Eldon McAfee, Brick Gentry Law Firm. Practical aspects of compliance with Iowa DNR regulations and other environmental compliance and protection. Eldon will discuss updates on the EPA’s notice to livestock farms for reporting air emissions as well as current legislation in the statehouse. (2) Swine Market Outlook - Dr. Lee Schulz, ISU Extension livestock economist. Exports, domestic demand, expansion, new packing plants, input costs, and a multitude of other factors can impact livestock producer’s bottom line. (3) Vaccine Management - Dr. Chris Rademacher, ISU Extension Swine Veterinarian. Rademacher will disclose what’s been learned about how to manage and prevent disease with vaccine management. (4) More Tools for your Toolbox - ISU Extension Swine Specialist Mark Storlie. Are you prepared for the Common Swine Industry Audit? Do you have questions about managing ventilation in your barns? Perhaps you are interested in collaborating in an applied research trial. Free PQA Plus® producer certification training sessions will be held prior to each conference. Training will be hosted from 9:30 AM to Noon. For more information, contact Drew Mogler at (800) 372-7675.

Feb. 20-21, Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Short Course, Ames
This is an in-depth course covering soil fertility and nutrient management that provides an opportunity to dig deeper into the fundamentals of soil fertility, nutrient management, and relationships to profitable crop production and water quality. Class size is limited to 40 individuals and pre-registration is required. Course topics include: Iowa soils, soil properties, crop productivity; Soil sampling and testing; Cation exchange; Soil pH and liming; Essential plant nutrients; Secondary and micronutrients; Nitrogen management; Soil nitrogen dynamics, crop uptake, and diagnostic tools; Phosphorus and potassium management; Environmental phosphorus and the Iowa P-Index; Site-specific management; Manure nutrient management; Nutrient recommendation development. For more information and registration, go to: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/soil/homepage.html

Feb. 27-Mar. 1, ISU Extension Presentations at the Hawkeye Farm Show, Cedar Falls
The Hawkeye Farm Show will be held Feb. 27-March 1 inside the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls. The event runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily. ISU Extension presentations at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM are as follows:
Tuesday, Feb. 27
  11:00 AM, 2018 Weather Outlook, Elwynn Taylor, Extension Climatologist
  1:00 PM, Crop Disease Update, Alison Robertson, Extension Plant Pathologist
Wednesday, Feb. 28
  11:00 AM, 2018 Crop Market Outlook, Chad Hart, Extension Grain Markets Specialist
  1:00 PM, Iowa Cover Crop Research Updates & Recommendations, Liz Juchems, Program Specialist with Iowa Learning Farms
Thursday, March 1
  11:00 AM, Timely Scouting for Insect Pests Utilizing a Crop Scout Calendar, Brian Lang, Extension Agronomist
  1:00 PM, Dicamba Update, Terry Basol, Extension Agronomist
For more information, go to: https://hawkeyefarmshow.com/
Mar. 6, Northeast Iowa Ag Experimental Association Annual Meeting (NEIAEA), Nashua
Free program, all are welcome. Come for whatever times/topics that interest you. Receive a free copy of the 2017 Annual Research Farm Progress Report which includes summaries of many of the research trials conducted at the farm.

Agenda:
- 9:30 AM, NEIAEA Board Meeting, call to order
- 10:00 AM, Alejandro Plastina, Extension Ag Economist, “Current Financial Situations for Agricultural Producers in IA”
- 11:00 AM, Melissa O’Rourke, Farm Management Specialist, “Critical Importance of Farm Succession Planning”
- Noon, lunch available for purchase from Riverton Lucky Clovers 4-H Club
- 1:00 PM, Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent, “Summary of the 2017 Farm Research Trials”
- 2:00 PM, NEIAEA board of directors meeting

For more information, contact Terry Basol, 641-426-6801, tlbasol@iastate.edu  Directions from Nashua Exit 220: Go west on B60 (1.5 miles). Turn south on Windfall Avenue (1mile) At the T intersection turn east on 290th street (1/4 mile). Free CCA credits.

Mar. 21, Crop Scout School, Nashua
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua. Designed for growers and beginning crop scouts. Class size is limited, so register early to secure your seat. Taught by your local ISU Extension Agronomists. Registration is $75.00, includes lunch, many materials, and break refreshments. Live plants for weed ID & crop staging. Classroom and hands-on learning. See attachment for more details and registration.

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Brian Lang
Iowa State University Extension
Agronomist
325 Washington St., Suite B
Decorah, IA 52101
Office 563-382-2949
Fax 563-382-2940
Cell 563-387-7058
www.agronext.iastate.edu/