CROP NOTES for November 26, 2014
Past issues of Crop Notes are posted at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/page/crop-notes-brian-lang

Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa
By Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist
325 Washington St., Suite B, Decorah, IA 52101
563-382-2949

TABLE OF CONTENTS
SOIL TEMP & MANURE MANAGEMENT
   Soil Temperature
   Manure Application Issues
GRAIN DRYING & STORAGE
   Drastic Outdoor Cooling May Create Grain Storage & Drying Problems
VARIETY TRIALS
   Including Corn Silage Trials from Minnesota
HEALTH INSURANCE
   Free Online Seminar to Assist with Health Insurance Decisions
EVENTS
   Remaining Farm Bill Overview Meetings Across Iowa
      Dec 1, Peosta & Independence
      Dec 2, Independence, Monticello & Waterloo
      Dec 3, Calmar & Marion
      Dec 10, Calmar
      Jan 12, Allison
      Jan 26, Grundy Center
   Crop Events
      Dec 3 to 4, Integrated Crop Management Conference, Ames
      Dec. 10, Ag Chemical Dealer Update, Ames
      Jan. 6-29, Crop Advantage Conference, various locations
   Livestock Events
      Dec. 11, PQA Plus & TQA Certification Meeting, Fayette
      Jan.-Feb., Dairy Days, 5 Locations in Northeast Iowa
      Jan. 22-23, Driftless Region Beef Conference, Dubuque
      Jan. 31, Annual Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference, Ottumwa

SOIL TEMP & MANURE MANAGEMENT
Soil Temperature
Upper 4-inch soil temperatures are near freezing. Temperature map available at: http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/

**Manure Application Issues**

If you still need to apply manure this fall or winter because of limited available storage capacity, and incorporation is no longer an option, there are several things to consider to minimize nutrient loses and water quality impacts.

1) Obviously there is more risk of runoff from steep land. Prioritize the more level fields.
2) Although it may seem counter intuitive, ISU research showed that runoff losses where higher from standing corn stubble than from soybean stubble, which they attributed to the deeper snow cover in the cornfield as compared to the soybean field.
3) Still incorporating the manure when you can, avoiding areas of concentrated flow such as waterways, ditches, or similar areas, using setbacks from sensitive areas like stream banks, sinkholes, and similar.
4) If possible, avoid application near areas that drain to surface tile inlets. If these areas can’t be avoided, add protection around drainage tile intakes to prevent entry by manure or runoff water.

There are a few other legal requirements to keep in mind.

1) Follow required separation distances (available at: www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/AnimalFeedingOperations/AFOResources/AFOFactsheets.aspx)
2) Update your manure management plan to reflect surface application rates.
3) If your Master Matrix lists inject or incorporate, contact Iowa DNR before surface applying to get written permission to do so.
4) If you have an NPDES permit or comprehensive nutrient management plan, make sure you know what’s in them and follow them accordingly.
5) Keep records of the rate, date, method of application, field, and other application precautions taken when applying the manure.

Iowa’s restrictions on application to frozen or snow covered ground will be in effect this winter for confinement operations with more than 500 animal units.

1) Iowa law prohibits liquid manure application from these larger operations between Dec. 21 and April 1 if the ground is snow-covered, unless manure can be properly injected or incorporated or an emergency exemption is granted. Snow-covered ground is defined as soil having one inch or more of snow cover or one-half inch or more of ice cover.
2) Starting Feb. 1, confinement producers with 500 or more animal units are limited to emergencies only for applying liquid manure on frozen ground unless the manure is injected or incorporated. A recent press release from the Iowa DNR provides additional clarification of these requirements: http://www.iowadnr.gov/insidednr/socialmediapressroom/newsreleases/vw/1/itemid/2304

In summary: If winter manure applications are not avoidable,

1) Take into account soil and weather conditions
2) Avoid applying before a snowmelt or rainfall event
3) Apply to areas of level ground and where soil erosion is controlled
4) Apply to areas with less snow cover
5) Follow appropriate setback distances
6) Update your Manure Management plan to reflect surface application rates and if subject to Master Matrix requirements for injection or incorporation get approval before surface applying

GRAIN DRYING & STORAGE
Drastic outdoor cooling may create some grain storage and drying problems. Ken Hellevang, Extension Engineer, University of Minnesota discusses these potential problems at: http://nw-minnesota-crops.blogspot.com/2014/11/drastic-outdoor-cooling-may-create-some.html

VARIETY TRIALS
Including corn silage trials from Minnesota
Illinois: http://vt.cropsci.illinois.edu/corn.html
Iowa: http://www.croptesting.iastate.edu/
Minnesota:
  Corn silage: http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/prod/groups/cfans/@pub/@cfans/@sroc/@research/documents/article/cfans_article_492079.pdf
North Dakota: http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/varietytrials
South Dakota: http://igrow.org/agronomy/other-crops/oat-variety-trial-results/
Wisconsin: http://fyi.uwex.edu/fieldcroppathology/university-of-wisconsin-variety-trials/

HEALTH INSURANCE
Free Online Seminar to Assist with Health Insurance Decisions
Changes in health insurance raise many questions for consumers. ISU Extension & Outreach is offering a FREE online 2-hour educational workshop for consumers on Dec. 10 from 6 to 8 PM. The program will equip consumers with tools they need to make the best possible decision when choosing health insurance plans for themselves and their families. To register contact your local ISU Extension & Outreach office or register online at: http://tinyurl.com/pvmceb7 For more information, contact Barb Wollan, human science family finance specialist, at 515-832-9597 or bwollan@iastate.edu

EVENTS
Nov – Jan, Farm Bill Overview Meetings at Many Locations Across Iowa
For dates, times and locations click on a county on the colored state map posted at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html#meetings
Dec 3 to 4, Integrated Crop Management Conference, Ames
On-line registration is now open. The conference which offers over 30 different seminars and workshops focusing on the latest in crop production technology. Experts from Iowa and surrounding states will provide research updates and results in soil fertility, soil and water management, crop production and pest management. Attendees can choose from up to 5 topics each hour. This format allows you to customize your conference experience to meet your interests and CCA credit needs. This program usually sells out. Don’t wait too long to register. Conference information is at: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/

Dec. 10, Ag Chemical Dealer Update, Ames
The meeting qualifies for Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) continuing education credits: 0.5 crop, 1.0 nutrient, 1.0 soil and water, 4.0 pest (including applicator session) and Commercial Pesticide Applicator recertification for calendar year 2014 in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Program details are available at: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/

Dec. 11, PQA Plus & TQA Certification Meeting, Fayette
PQA Plus, 3:00 to 5:30 PM at the Fayette County Extension Office, Fayette, $25 registration. Pre-registration is requested, with 5 participants needed to justify the session. Please e-mail mstorlie@iastate.edu or phone 563-425-3331.

Jan. 6-29, Crop Advantage Conference, various locations
Crop Advantage brings the latest crop production information to 13 locations statewide. Multiple topics to choose from each hour. Details on agenda and registration are available at: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas/

Jan.-Feb., Dairy Days, 5 locations in northeast Iowa
An annual Dairy Management Extension program in northeast Iowa. This year’s program, along with dairy management issues, includes a farm bill update, alfalfa production, and raising beef on your dairy. Program details are available at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/2015-Dairy-Days-Brochure.pdf

Jan. 22-23, Driftless Region Beef Conference, Dubuque
Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin Extension team up to offer the annual Driftless Region Beef Conference at the Grand River Convention Center in Dubuque, Iowa. Program details are available at: http://www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/

Jan. 31, Annual Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference, Ottumwa
Details to be provided at a later date.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs are available to all without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance, 3280 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612. Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Brian Lang