IN THIS EDITION
News Releases specific to NE Iowa:

- MN/ISU Extension host Nutrient & Sand Laden Management Field Day
- Margin Protection Program Informational Meetings across Iowa
- Farm Program Offers Updates and New Crop Programs

Previous Editions:

**News Release**
Contacts: Jenn Bentley, ISU Extension Dairy Field Specialist, jbentley@iastate.edu, 563-382-2949

**Extension to Host Nutrient and Sand Laden Management Field Day**

Managing nutrients from manure is becoming a high priority among most livestock farmers for economic and environmental reasons. Dairy producers utilizing sand bedding on their farms have the opportunity to visit two farms to examine their nutrient management strategies and methods to manage sand.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and University of Minnesota Extension will jointly host a field day tour in SE MN on Thursday, September 25 at three farms in SE Minnesota.

Discussions will focus on nutrient management including various options and methods to manage total farm nutrient balance, manure management, and nutrient runoff.

For those traveling from Iowa, vans will be available and leaving the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation in Calmar at 8 AM or participants can drive separate and meet at each site. Event locations:

- 9-10 AM, Eric & Gail Nelson Farm, 15043 Gap Drive, Caledonia, MN, 350 cow dairy featuring a 2-stage sand system. Directions: From Caledonia, take MN State Highway 44 west, south out of town. In four miles when Highway 44 curves to the left, go straight on Gap Drive. Farm is .5 mile on the right.

- 10:30-12:30, John & Karyl Diersen Farm, 8245 Co. Rd 3, Caledonia, MN, 135 cow dairy featuring daily haul sand system. Directions: From Caledonia, go east on County Road 3(East Main Street), go 5 miles, farm on the right side of road. Registration opens at 10:00 AM, with the program beginning at 10:30. Free noon meal to farmers and allied industry. Agenda:
  - Local SWCD and Watershed District introduction
  - Jose Hernandez, UMN Extension Livestock Nutrient Management Specialist, “Manure Economics and Manure/Soil Interaction”.
  - Kevin Kuehner, MN Dept of Ag, “Nutrient Runoff Data from Local Farms”.
Randy Pepin, UMN Extension Educator Livestock Systems, “Phosphorus Balance Case Study Overview”. Included will be discussion time with the Diersen Family and their experience with nutrient management and a tour of their facilities.

- 1:30-3:00, Johnson Rolling Acres, 24486 Bear Paw Road, Peterson, MN, 1000 cow dairy featuring a sand flush, settling, and sand cleaning system. Directions: From US-52 N/MN-44 follow to Canton and go north on County Hwy-21 for 8 miles, then take sharp right onto County Hwy-12 for 1.3 miles and a left on County Hwy-23 for 1.9 miles. Stay straight to go onto County Hwy-10 for 6 miles and then turn right onto Bear Paw Rd.

To help us plan for food and van capacity, pre-registration is requested. In Iowa, contact the Winneshiek County Extension Office, Jenn Bentley at jbentley@iastate.edu or 563-382-2949. In Minnesota, contact the Houston County Extension Office at 507-725-5807 or steve.rischette@co.houston.mn.us.

Workshops are sponsored by University of Minnesota Extension, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the North Central Risk Management Education Center.

-30-

**News Release**

Contacts: Jenn Bentley, ISU Extension Dairy Field Specialist, jbentley@iastate.edu, 563-382-2949

---

**Margin Protection Program Informational Meetings across Iowa**

As part of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Margin Protection Program (MPP) provides a new safety net program for dairy producers. It will provide payments when a national benchmark for dairy income minus feed costs falls below coverage levels producers select. Several meetings will be held across Iowa to educate producers and related persons regarding the Farm Bill programs and decisions. Specifically pertaining to MPP for dairy, two tiers of meetings will be held. The first tier of meetings will be a 1.5 hour meeting.

The following topics will be discussed during this meeting: MPP Dairy program details and examples; Iowa dairy cost of production; reviewing Farm Bill update decisions and review crop programs ARC and PLC.

These meetings will be held at the following northeast Iowa locations in September. Pre-registration is encouraged prior to meeting.

Sept 17, 1:00-2:30 pm at the Delaware County Extension Office, RSVP to 563-927-4201.
Sept 18, 10:00 – 11:30 am at the Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank, Waukon, RSVP to 563-568-6345.
Sept 18, 1:00-2:30 pm, Cresco Bank & Trust, 126 2nd Avenue, Cresco, RSVP to 563-547-3001.
Sept 22, 10:00-11:30 am, Fayette County Extension Office, RSVP to 563-425-3331.
Sept 22, 1:00-2:30 pm, Waverly Civic Center, RSVP to 319-882-4275.

Follow-up meetings in mid-October will feature Marin Bozac, University Minnesota Dairy Economist. Bozac will cover MPP and the application of the program into your dairy operation utilizing decision tool software. More information on these meetings will be coming soon.

-30-

**News Release**

Contacts: Kristen Schulte, Farm and Ag Business Management Field Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu, 563-547-3001

---

**Farm Program Offers Updates and New Crop Programs**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) has authorized a one-time base acreage reallocation and program yield update. The Farm Bill has also authorized new farm programs including Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and

---

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.
Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). PLC and ARC crop programs provide price and revenue, respectively, payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

The Farm Bill decision process is a three-step process:
1. Reallocation of base acres and/or update of counter-cyclical yields (CC yield) by FSA farm number.
2. Election (one-time) of PLC or ARC program by FSA farm number for the period of the farm bill.
3. Enrollment (annual) of the farm in the program elected.

**Summary Acreage History Report**
In early August 2014, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will mail all farmland owners and operators a Summary Acreage History Report by FSA farm number. This report will provide the farm owners and operators with the base acres and counter-cyclical yield (CC yield) as of Sept. 30, 2013. This report will also identify the planted acres of covered commodities reported (for 2008 through 2012), prevented planted acres, and acres planted after failed or prevented (subsequent acres). These were reported to FSA by the producer for all covered commodities planted on the farm for each year 2008 through 2012. Also, in approved double crop counties, both covered commodities planted will be included.

**Reallocation of Base Acres**
Upon receipt of the Summary Acreage History Report, farmland owners and operators should thoroughly review the acreage data by farm for each crop and each year outlined in the report. If the acreage history is accurate for the farm then no further action is required by the farmland owner or operator at this time. However, farmland owners and operators who determine the Summary Acreage History Report is incorrect or missing data should contact their local FSA county office to request corrections to the acreage history report. Additional information will be provided once the reallocation software and forms are available in FSA county offices which may require farmland owners and operators input or action.

Base acreage reallocation allows the landowner/producer to reallocate base acres to covered commodities based on historical plantings from the current base acre allocation. The historical plantings are based on the years of 2009 to 2012. Individuals cannot increase the number of base acres; they can only reallocate the base acres. The individual/s will have the option to keep the current base acre allocation as of September 30, 2013 or reallocate the base acres.

**Update of CC Yield to Program Yield**
The historical CC Yield will be provided in the letter; the producer/landowner will have the option to update the program yield based on a 5-year (2008-2012) historical planted yield history. The updated Program Yield will be equivalent to 90% of the simple average of the planted yield from 2008 to 2012. A plug yield per year of 75% of the county average planted yield will be used for farm planted yields below the 75% county average value. FSA is projected to launch their reallocation of bases/yield updates software in the early fall 2014. If the decision to update Program Yield (from CC Yield) is taken, producers should be watching for further information on what information will be accepted to document historical yields.

**Information on Farm Bill Crop Programs**
The initial program information has been released. See the Ag Decision Maker – Farm Bill homepage for the latest information related to Iowa producers [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html)

USDA hopes to publicize the final program and the regulations for both ARC and PLC in the fall of 2014. Producers can visit FSA’s Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and are encouraged to visit often for the latest in FSA federal farm program news and updates. FSA also recommends farmland owners and operators subscribe to GovDelivery – FSA’s online news source. You can self-subscribe at [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribeor](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribeor). Monthly updates and related announcements will be electronically delivered to online subscribers with 24/7 access to the latest Farm Bill information.

Additionally, the USDA has allocated funding to state-based Extension services to educate producers/landowners, and has authorized the academic institutions to develop web-based tools to help producers/landowners decide on ARC, PLC and other programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

Information obtained from USDA Notice ARCPLC-7 and provided by Steve Johnson, ISUEO Farm Business Management Field Specialist.
For questions, contact Kristen Schulte, ISUEO Farm Business Management Fields Specialist, at 563-547-3001 or kschulte@iastate.edu.

-30-