"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." Anne Bradstreet. It is hard to believe that just one week ago I ate my lunch outside in the company of a colleague. One week into the frigid weather and I am ready to fast-forward to warmer temperatures. Winter's early arrival has brought anhydrous ammonia application to a halt. Several conversations with retail agronomists indicate less than 50% of the dry fertilizer was applied this fall in some areas. No doubt some retailers will feel the need to continue to apply throughout the winter.

Manure application is still happening in some places. Winter application rules for liquid manure from confinement facilities do not go into effect until December 21 for snow-covered ground and Feb 1 for frozen ground. Application of any nutrients, manure or commercial fertilizer, is not recommended given our current frozen ground and snow cover. The risk is due to lack of nutrient contact with soil leaving our nutrients subject to increased loss as we have nutrients on top of snow and get a snow melt or if we get a rain event on top of frozen ground. Protect your nutrient investment by delaying applications until field work is more suitable.

**Water Quality and Soil Conservation**

As I start thinking about 2015, I have decided I will start devoting a segment of each newsletter to water quality and soil conservation practices. Your job is to
help me come up with a catchy title for this segment. Drop me an email with your suggestion by December 20. The final title will be selected by myself and the ISU Water Quality Project Coordinator. I will see if I can come up with some coveted ISU gear for the winner.

EVENTS
November 19, 2014. 10:30 to 12:30. Iowa Learning Farms and Practical Farmers of Iowa are hosting a cover crop workshop at the Kanawha Fire Station. This workshop will focus on cover crop mixtures that are currently established at the Northern Iowa Research Farm at Kanawha as well as looking at three different types of seeding methods: above canopy, below canopy, and drilling post-harvest. The deadline for RSVP for lunch was last Friday, but you can still contact Iowa Learning Farms (515-294-8912) if you plan to attend.

Farm Bill Program Overview
Please contact your Extension office for more details.
Nov. 19, 9 to noon, Hamilton County
Nov. 20, 9 to noon, Wright County
Nov. 20, 1:30 to 4:00p/m., Humboldt County
Nov. 21, 9 to noon, Webster County
Dec. 4, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Calhoun County
Dec. 8, 1:30 to 4:00p.m., Cerro Gordo County
Dec. 11, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Hardin County, Iowa Falls
Dec. 17, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Worth County, Kensett
Dec. 18, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Franklin County
Dec. 19, 9 to noon, Hardin County, Ackley
For more information and exact locations see ISU Extension Scheduling Farm Bill Program Overview Meetings.
December 3-4, 2014. Integrated Crop Management Conference in Ames, IA. There is a total of 36 workshops and seminars focusing on the latest in crop production technology. Registration is now open. Schedule and Registration.

December 10, 2014. Ag Chemical Dealer Update in Ames. This meeting delivers the latest crop production recommendations, news and information directly from ISU Extension and Outreach. Meetings review the positives and negatives of the previous growing season and prepare seed, chemical and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists for the challenges of the crop production year ahead. CCA credits and Commercial Pesticide Applicator certification for 2014 is also available. Agenda and Registration Information.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training Starts in December. Here is a list for NC Iowa for December.

Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m., Community Bldg., Clare
Dec. 5, 1:30 p.m., Community Bldg., Pomeroy
Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m., Zion Luthern Church, Humboldt
Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eldora
Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m., Community Center, Dows
Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m., Fairgrounds, Webster City
Dec. 17, 1:30 p.m., Community Center, Hansell

Hold the Dates- Crop Advantage Series

January 8, 2015  Mason City
January 13, 2015  Ames
January 21, 2015  Fort Dodge