Working in Extension means your core knowledge is founded in sound science and replicated research. Extension professionals have access to information summarized from thousands of trials across the state. A lot of this research is done on ISU Research and Demonstration Farms. Results from trials done at the research farms and research done on farmers' fields is summarized in the annual farm reports. The results from 2014 for the Northern Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm are found in the farm annual report and on-line.

Speaking of the Northern Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm, Micah Smidt, the research farm superintendent, puts out a weekly newsletter during the growing season containing information about activities at the farm, as well as precipitation, growing degree days, depth to water table and soil temperatures. If you would like to receive this newsletter please contact Micah at mbsmidt@iastate.edu

Not all 2014 reports are available on-line at this time, but will be available later this month. You can find the links to the research farms and their reports at this link. Additional information about ISU Research and Demonstration Farms can be found on the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences farms web.

Soil, Water and Wind

With the recent lawsuit filed by the Des Moines Water Works, water quality in Iowa continues to be a hot topic. While there are no quick response to this dynamic and complex issue, raising awareness is always the first step.

Iowa State University and Extension has recently released an Extension Water Quality Web page. This site is loaded with information from current events to watershed resources, to information on specific...
Prepping for Spring

Cover Crop Termination

The USDA-Risk Management Agency has simplified termination guidelines for cover crops. The western third of Iowa (known as Zone 3 by USDA) must terminate winter-surviving cover crops at or before planting a cash crop. The central and eastern two-thirds of the state (known as Zone 4 by USDA) must terminate cover crops prior to cash crop emergence. For more information, including a map defining the zones, please click here.

Black Cutworm Monitoring

Black cutworm monitoring began in earnest this past week in Iowa. The IPM program reports that 93 people representing 60 counties are enrolled in the monitoring program for 2015. The black cutworm monitoring networks helps farmers and ag retailers determine when they should start scouting for black cutworm activity. Scouting fields is important in determine if cutting larvae are a problem in the field. Results from the monitoring network and scouting recommendations will appear in the Integrated Crop Management News.

Corn Suitability Rating 2 (CSR2)

Information regarding the Corn Suitability Rating 2, an index to inherent soil productivity, can be found in this recent ICM News article, Corn Suitability Rating 2 Equation Updated.

Events

April 9 Water Quality and Conservation Tour

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host a water quality and conservation practice tour on April 9. The tour will begin with coffee and discussion at the Borlaug Center at the Northeast Research Farm at 9:30 AM. The bus will leave at 10 AM and join

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Serving Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Webster, Worth and Wright Counties.
The Mitchell County Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Soybean Association Field Day featuring strip-till, no-till, and cover crops hosted by Dean and Josh Sponheim. The tour will continue after lunch with stops at the Charles City WhiteWater at Riverfront Park, a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) wetland near Nashua, a denitrification bioreactor at the Northeast Research Farm, and the Northeast Research Farm water quality research sites. The tour will conclude at 2:30 PM at the Borlaug Center, Northeast Research Farm, 3327 290th Street, Nashua, IA 50658, [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/BorlaugLearningCenter.php](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/BorlaugLearningCenter.php)

The conservation tour is sponsored by Cerro Gordo, Floyd, and Mitchell County Extensions. To reserve your seat on the tour, RSVP to Darla Olson at 641-732-557 or daolson@iastate.edu.

**April 10 Boone River Watershed Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage Field Day**

The Boone River Watershed, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa State University Extension and Hagie will sponsor a field day on Friday, April 10 from 1-3 p.m. at the Chuck Legler farm. The objective is to hear local farmers' experience with cover crops and different methods of conservation tillage and how those practices might fit on your farm. Mark Hanna, ISU Ag Engineer will discuss and demonstrate different planter attachments for conservation tillage. Extension field agronomists Paul Kassel and Angie Rieck-Hinz will discuss agronomic consideration for conservation tillage. The field day will be held 6 miles north of Renwick on Hwy 17.

Please RSVP to Kellie Blair at kellieblair@akrfarm.com

**June 25 Hold the Date**

The Northern Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm will host a field day. Topics and time to be announced. These field days are open to all and I encourage you to attend and learn more about the research being conducted at this farm.
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.

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