

2015

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Recommended Citation

Edwards, William (2015) "“Insuring Iowa’s Agriculture” workshop set for Nov. 5," *Ag Decision Maker Newsletter*: Vol. 16 : Iss. 12 , Article 4.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/agdm/vol16/iss12/4>

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“Insuring Iowa’s Agriculture” workshop set for Nov. 5

by William Edwards, extension economist, 515-294-6161, wedwards@iastate.edu

Are you interested in the latest innovations in crop insurance? A one-day workshop for crop insurance providers and users will be held Nov. 5, 2012, at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. The leadoff topic is the APH trend adjustment, led by Dr. Gary Schnitkey, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois. The premium rerating process will be discussed by Dr. Bruce Sherrick, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois. That will be followed by production records and reviews, led by Michael Sieben, senior vice president, National Crop Insurance Services.

In the afternoon, Tim Davis, Product Standards and Administration Division, RMA, will cover the High Risk Alternative Coverage Endorsement (HR-ACE). Dr. Roger Elmore and Dr. Andy Lensen, extension crop production specialists with the

Department of Agronomy at Iowa State will discuss the recommended corn and soybean practices following a drought. They will be followed by Dr. Charles Hurburgh, ISU Extension grain quality specialist, discussing the grain quality considerations for 2012. To wrap up, Chad Hart, ISU Extension economist, will show the implications for crop insurance from the proposed 2012 Farm Bill.

The workshop has been approved for six hours of continuing education credit for crop insurance professionals. The registration fee is \$100 before Oct. 29 and \$110 after that date. Registration is from 8-9 a.m. with the conclusion of the sessions at 4 p.m. The workshop will also include lunch with one of the Cyclone coaches and displays from the major crop insurance companies in Iowa.

Register now at <http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/insuringiowasag/home.html>, or call 515-294-6222.

Management tips for drought-stressed forages

By Stephen K. Barnhart, professor, Department of Agronomy, (515) 294-7835, sbarnhar@iastate.edu

The Midwest has seen some of the most extreme drought conditions of recent memory. Some rain has come recently for most of this area, but not enough for most of us to feel comfortable. Pastures may still be in poor condition. Many hayfields are showing enough recovery to maybe yield at least one more cutting. Regionally, hay supplies are tight and prices are high. Forage management considerations are many. Here are some things to think about as you prioritize your options.

Hay and pastures

The goal is to help keep perennial forage plants ‘perennial.’ During the fall weeks, perennial forage legumes and grasses respond to shortening days and cooling average daily temperatures and progress through their gradual “cold hardening” process. The genetics of the variety and local

climatic conditions determine how cold tolerant the plant crown and taproot can be during the winter months. Most successfully winterhardened perennial forage legumes and grasses can withstand soil temperatures in the crown area to about 0-4°F without crown tissue damage. At lower soil and crown temperatures, varieties and individual plants will vary in the degree of cold damage they may experience.

To best acquire their potential for winter survival, these forage plants should get five to six weeks of uninterrupted growth to accumulate root carbohydrates and proteins before going dormant for the winter. A ‘killing freeze’ is about 23-24°F for several hours. Then, no more cutting or grazing until next season.

If you do decide to cut one more hay cutting or grazing, it is important to manage fall harvests

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