

Extension Ag Update



Providing education and research support to the agricultural industry
March / April 2008

eXtension On-line: Accessing National Extension

eXtension (pronounced "e-Extension") officially launched on Feb. 21, 2008 at www.extension.org. This multi-state effort to bring easy access to the best that Extension has to offer allows easy searches of publications, articles, news columns, etc. from Extension throughout the nation. This is a new way that Extension is bringing research based information to people beyond our traditional newsletters and workshops. More than 100 land-grant colleges and universities and thousands of county Extension offices are adding new content every day.

Teams of Extension and research personnel worked to identify the most urgent information needed. They reviewed current materials available for accuracy and appropriateness. When needed, materials were written on new topics. The "Ask the Expert" section is available if you can not find an answer to your question. The website can be personalized to bring up local information first by registering.

Check out many of first topics available on eXension's including: Personal Finance; Family Caregiving; Parenting; Horticulture; Beef Cattle; Dairy; Horses; Livestock Environmental Learning Center; Poultry Environmental Learning Centers; Wildlife Damage Management; Floods; Science, Engineering, and Technology for Youth; and Entrepreneurs and Their Communities. Others will be added soon.



Rural Route 2 is Available at 1-800-468-1834

<http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/ruralroute/>

The Rural Route 2 service is designed to help farm families get through tough times. This **confidential service** provides referrals for farm business and family financial advice; helps manage economic as well as personal situations; helps locate local support; and identifies assistance through the Illinois Farm Development Authority.

RESEARCH RESULTS

High yields and a cost savings with Swine Manure

Candace Pollock, Ohio State University, pollock.58@cfaes.osu.edu, (614) 292-3799;
Glen Arnold, OSU Extension, arnold.2@cfaes.osu.edu, (419) 523-6294

Sidedressing pre-emergent corn in the spring with swine manure produces yields comparable to applying commercial fertilizer, according to Ohio State University Extension research. Coming off of several years of research that showed that applying swine manure to post-emergent corn produced comparable or higher yields to commercial urea, OSU Extension educators in Putnam and Hancock counties hoped to find the same results in treating pre-emergent corn. “We want to find out if a farmer could plant corn and then use a dragline manure application system to sidedress before the corn even comes up out of the ground,” said Glen Arnold, an OSU Extension educator in Putnam County. “In 2007, we completed research on three pre-emergence corn plots using liquid swine manure as the primary nitrogen source. Two of the three plots yielded the same or higher compared to urea.”

“At today’s fertilizer prices, using manure from livestock could easily save farmers \$75 to \$100 per acre in purchased fertilizer,” said Arnold. Not only can springtime manure application potentially fatten a farmer’s wallet, but it can also benefit the environment. “There is less chance for nutrient loss in the spring as opposed to the fall, because the manure is actually going to a growing crop that will utilize its nutrients,” said Arnold. “We’ve always known that manure provides good nutrients for the soil. The idea is to find a way to make better use of it than applying it to bare fields in the fall.”

He added that farmers could potentially be throwing away an economically valuable resource if a spring or early summer application to growing crops is not a consideration. In Putnam County, for example, if farmers fully utilize the ammonia nitrogen in their liquid swine manure they could save over \$500,000 annually through reductions in purchased nitrogen, said Arnold. Putnam County is the fourth-largest swine-producing county in the state.

RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

Publications Plus –*University of Illinois Agricultural and Horticultural Publications*
Call 1-800-345-6087 or order on the web www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu
It’s a one-stop shop for a current catalog of research-based information (Mastercard and VISA accepted)

How to Direct Market Your Beef

www.sare.org/publications/beef.htm

Describes how a beef farmer became a profitable grass-based beef operation focused on direct-market sales, 96 p., Download from the web or order print copies from Sustainable Agriculture Publications, PO Box 753, Waldorf, MD 20604-0753, Telephone: (301) 374-9696, Fax: (301) 843-0159, Email: sanpubs@sare.org

Manage Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies

www.sare.org

Offers help to farmers on effective, affordable and environmentally sound insect pest management strategies. Download from the web. Or order print copies from Sustainable Agriculture Publications, PO Box 753, Waldorf, MD 20604-0753, Telephone: (301) 374-9696, Fax: (301) 843-0159, Email: sanpubs@sare.org

INTERNET RESOURCES

“So How Do I Make Corn and Soybean Pricing Decisions?”

http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/marketing/mobr/mobr_08-01/mobr_08-01.html

This brief introduces a new approach to making corn and soybean pricing decisions. This new “pricing matrix” approach is an integrated model of pricing that considers a broader range of strategies than the traditional approach. Use of the pricing matrix approach not only has significant potential to improve pricing performance, particularly for the chronic poor performers, but there is opportunity to reduce price risk for individual producers and to reduce the level of frustration associated with crop pricing.

Using Foliar Fungicides to Manage Soybean Rust, p. 112

<http://oardc.osu.edu/soyrust>

The manual covers a wide variety of information related to risk assessment, pesticide basics, fungicide applications and alternatives for organic soybean production

Manure Characteristics

http://www.abe.iastate.edu/fileadmin/www.abe.iastate.edu/extension/wastemgmt/CNMP_Curriculum/Manure_Characterisitcs_MWPS18-1.pdf

Describes how to manage manure including: instructions on sampling manure; how to choose a lab; interpreting manure analysis results; and the differences between types of manure.

Precision Technology Can Reduce Spraying Website

<http://tinyurl.com/2kne6a>, scroll down to "decision-making tools" and select "KSU-GPS guidance" to download an Excel spreadsheet, a tool for evaluating the economics of machine guidance and section control investment.

“Map-based, satellite-guided automatic control systems for both planting and spraying equipment is said to be rapidly gaining interest as a new agricultural technology. Systems are being developed that control individual nozzles on a sprayer, stopping and starting spray flow based on global positioning satellite maps. Unintended duplication (spray overlap) can be avoided with savings in both reduced amount of material sprayed as well as in costs. In some instances on large farms, the costs of the systems are reported to be recovered in less than two years through direct savings. A spread sheet prepared at Kansas State Univ. (U.S.) can be used to estimate the savings of precision-control technology.” (Source: IPMnet News)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

University of Illinois Agriculture Events

New programs are being confirmed every day. Keep in touch with your Extension Office for programs addressing the topics that interest you and are offered in your County. To find your counties website go to: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/findoffice.html>

Statewide University of Illinois Extension Calendar Website

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/calendar.cfm>

To search for programs throughout the state, check out Extension’s searchable calendar. Search by location, topic or date to find a program of you interest.

AG FACTS

“The United States’ land area totals nearly 2.3 billion acres.

- 52 % = agricultural purposes accounted for 52 percent of total U.S. land,
- 35 % = grazing area comprised 35 % of the total and 2/3 of all agricultural land.
- 28.8 % = forest-use land 651 million acres
- 25.9 % = grassland pasture and range, 587 million acres
- 19.5 % = cropland, 442 million acres
- 13.1 % = special uses, 297 million acres
- 10.1 % = miscellaneous other uses, 228 million acres
- 2.6 % = urban land, 60 million
- 4.2 % nonurban land-use categories, about 94 million acres”

Source: *Major Uses of Land in the U.S.*

http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/EIB14/eib14_reportsummary.pdf

About the Ag Update Newsletter

The Ag Update Newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter providing education and research support to the agricultural industry. Current and past issues may be found at the following website <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/agupdate/index.html>

Contact your county Extension office and request to be put on their agricultural mailing list to receive the local agricultural newsletter and notices about upcoming agricultural events near you. To find your counties location, phone and website go to: <http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/ve/>

For further information about this newsletter, please contact:

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