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Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Released for Public Comment

Last month, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad joined Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey and Director Chuck Gipp from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Dr. John Lawrence from Iowa State University to announce the release of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy for public comment.

"Iowans care about our natural resources and want to protect them for future generations," Branstad said. "This strategy keeps us at the forefront of using voluntary, science-based practices to improve water quality in our state, and is an important step forward."

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a science and technology-based approach to assess and reduce nutrients delivered to Iowa waterways and the Gulf of Mexico. The strategy outlines voluntary efforts to reduce nutrients in surface water from both point sources, such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban areas, in a scientific, reasonable and cost effective manner.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) worked with Iowa State University over a two-year period to develop the strategy. The resulting strategy is the first time such a comprehensive and integrated approach addressing both point and nonpoint sources of nutrients has been completed.

The Iowa strategy has been developed in response to the 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan that calls for the 12 states along the Mississippi River to develop strategies to reduce nutrient loading to the Gulf of Mexico. The Iowa strategy follows the recommended framework provided by EPA in 2011 and is only the second state to complete a statewide nutrient reduction strategy.

"The strategy's science assessment provides a research-based foundation

to quantify the effectiveness of current practices for reducing nutrient losses from the landscape," said John Lawrence, associate dean for extension and outreach programs in ISU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of ISU Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension. "The assessment reflects two years of work to evaluate and model the effects of the practices by scientists from ISU, IDALS, DNR, USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other institutions."

Iowans are invited to review the strategy and provide feedback during a 45 day comment period that started on Monday and will end on January 4, 2013. The full report, additional information and place for comments can be found at www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu.

In addition, presentations will be made to farmers, certified crop advisors and others in the agriculture industry as part of ISU Extension and Outreach educational meetings beginning this fall. Thousands of people will learn of the strategy, where to find more information and how to provide comments about it.

By harnessing the collective innovation and capacity of Iowa agricultural organizations, ag businesses and farmers the strategy takes a significant step forward towards implementing practices to improve water and soil quality.

"This strategy provides the most up-to-date scientific information available to farmers as they seek to use the best practices available to reduce nutrient delivery from their farm," Northey said. "The goal of this strategy is to get more conservation practices on the ground. This is not about rules or regulations, instead this strategy provides resources to farmers to help them improve water quality."



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Spreading the news

Official Notice: ICNAA Annual Meeting & Commercial Nutrient Applicators Recertification to be Held at 2013 Iowa Pork Congress

The Iowa Commercial Nutrient Applicators Association (ICNAA) will hold their Annual Meeting and Commercial Nutrient Applicators Recertification workshop on January 23, 2013, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa, during the 2013 Iowa Pork Congress.

ICNAA's is excited to once again offer a **FREE** and unique recertification program for nutrient applicators. Rather than watch a three hour video for recertification, nutrient applicators will have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop. The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and will conclude by 2:40 p.m. The Annual Meeting will be bookended by the recertification workshop and will start at 11:45 a.m. and is open to all ICNAA members. Lunch will be served in the training room, so please RSVP if you plan to attend the lunch.

Registration to the Iowa Pork Congress is **FREE** for ICNAA Members. The Pork Congress offers something for everyone and pork producers, pig handlers, allied business representatives and high school and college students are encouraged to attend. Decision makers in farrowing, finishing and seedstock production, production employees, veterinarians or anyone with an interest in the swine industry will gain valuable insight by attending the event. Attendees can visit with IPPA producer leaders and representatives from the National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council and other affiliated organizations.

A full agenda and registration details are below and inside this newsletter. Iowa Pork Congress registration is available below.



FREE Registration for 2013 Iowa Pork Congress

There are two easy ways to register.

- 1. Online (Recommended)**
 - Visit www.iowaporkcongress.org and click attendee registration.
 - Fill out the online registration and use the voucher code: ICNAA13 (Use all caps – no spaces) to receive complimentary registration.
- 2. Onsite**
 - Cut along the dotted line above and present this voucher at the event to receive complimentary registration.
- 3. Lunch RSVP**
 - Fill out the form inside of this newsletter or call us at 515-262-8323.

2013 Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops

Iowa law requires confinement site manure applicators to meet certification requirements for manure handling and land application. Certification requirements include attending 2 hours of annual training for each year of the 3-year license or to take and pass a certification exam once every 3 years. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides the opportunity to attend annual training via a series of statewide workshops (listed below) or by watching the training DVDs during monthly scheduled dates and times.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach highly encourages all confinement site manure applicators to attend one of the workshops listed below or to consult their local County Extension Office's policy for "reshowing" these programs. There is no charge for attending the workshops or viewing the video on the scheduled reshow date and time. However, applicators requesting to view the training materials at non-scheduled times will be charged a fee.

We encourage you to contact your County Extension Office for exact workshop locations, dates and times or to determine meeting options in the event of bad weather. Registration is not required for these meetings, but you may wish to contact the Extension office to ensure there will be adequate space and training materials available. Please bring your certification card with you or be prepared to share your certification number so we may assist you with your paperwork.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Pork Producers Association will offer a confinement site applicator workshop on Thursday, January 24, 2013 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Iowa Pork Congress.

Contact your County Extension Office for locations, dates and times or visit
www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confdates.html
for more information.

EPC Upholds Applying Manure Nutrients on Soybean Ground Policy

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) met on October 16 to decide whether to ban liquid manure application to soybean crops.

Liquid manure application on soybean fields has been limited to 100 pounds per acre since 2008. The EPC initiated the limit because soybeans naturally produce or "fix" nitrogen along with the concern that added nitrogen will leach and affect water quality. *The Des Moines Register* reported that Iowa State University made a presentation at the meeting "that showed the practice would have little effect on nitrate pollution, which is a cancer risk, bumps up water treatment costs and contributes to a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Larger applications would lead to large jumps in nitrate leaching, the ISU studies added." The panel voted to uphold the current policy and allow manure application on soybean fields which lead to a small yield gain.

Brownfield Network reported that "during the debate, commissioners expressed concern that a statewide ban could affect areas of the state differently and would take away flexibility that confinement feeding operations might need to deal with emergency situations." The decision was met with protest by the Iowa Citizens

for Community Improvement during the public comment period which resulted with having the room cleared before the agenda was completed.

The Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and Iowa Corn Growers Association were in support of upholding the policy due to variations in soil conditions and farm management warrants light use of manure on fields.

Additional Links

"Panel calls police after CCI outbursts" *The Des Moines Register*

- <http://tinyurl.com/942jbc>

"Iowa EPC's 'manure' decision triggers outburst" *Brownfield Network*

- <http://tinyurl.com/9bxs52u>

"ISA supports EPC's decision on manure application on soybean fields" *Iowa Soybean Association*

- <http://tinyurl.com/9dupwhn>

Iowa Commercial Manure Applicator Certification

Commercial manure applicator training for business owners/manager and employees is scheduled for Friday, January 4, 2013 from 9 a.m. to noon in 69 Iowa county Extension offices and one location in Wisconsin. You can access the list of training locations by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/d5f9jjj> or from the list below.

A postcard was mailed to all commercial manure applicator business owners/managers in early December. Please be sure to share this information with you employees as the card is only mailed to the business owners. If you did not receive a postcard please be sure

to update your commercial manure application business contact information with DNR. Be sure to register for this event with the location where you plan to attend. Some county Extension offices in Iowa will host training at different dates so please consult with your local office to inquire if there is alternative training. If you are a commercial manure applicator that primarily deals with dry or solid manure resources, we encourage you to attend one of the seven dry manure workshops scheduled for February 2013. The list of those dates and locations is also listed below.

Locations

Adair	641-743-8412	Des Moines	319-394-9433	Jefferson	641-472-4166	Ringgold	641-464-3333
Adams	641-322-3184	Dickinson	712-336-3488	Johnson	319-337-2145	Sac	712-662-7131
Allamakee	563-568-6345	Dubuque	563-583-6496	Keokuk	641-622-2680	Shelby	712-755-3104
Benton	319-472-4739	Emmet	712-362-3434	Kossuth	515-295-2469	Sioux	712-737-4230
Black Hawk	319-234-6811	Fayette	563-425-3331	Lyon**	712-472-2576	Story	515-382-6551
Boone	515-432-3882	Floyd	641-228-1453	Madison	515-462-1001	Tama	641-484-2703
Bremer	319-882-4275	Franklin	641-456-4811	Mahaska	641-673-5841	Taylor	712-523-2137
Buena Vista	712-732-5056	Greene	515-386-2138	Marion	641-842-2014	Wapello	641-682-5491
Calhoun	712-297-8611	Grundy	319-824-6979	Mills	712-624-8616	Warren	515-961-6237
Carroll	712-792-2364	Guthrie	641-747-2276	Mitchell	641-732-5574	Washington	319-653-4811
Cedar	563-886-6157	Hamilton	515-832-9597	Montgomery	712-623-2592	Webster	515-576-2119
Cerro Gordo	641-423-0844	Hancock	641-923-2856	Muscatine	563-263-5701	Winnebago	641-584-2261
Cherokee	712-225-6196	Hardin	641-648-4850	O'Brien	712-957-5045	Winneshiek	563-382-2949
Clay	712-262-2264	Howard	563-547-3001	Osceola*	712-754-3648	Worth	641-324-1531
Clayton	563-245-1451	Humboldt	515-332-2201	Palo Alto	712-852-2865	Wright	515-532-3453
Clinton	563-659-5125	Ida	712-364-3003	Plymouth	712-546-7835		
Crawford	712-263-4697	Iowa	319-642-5504	Pocahontas	712-335-3103	Other Location	
Delaware	563-927-4201	Jasper	641-792-6433	Poweshiek	641-623-5188	Wisconsin	
						Sauk County	920-232-1970

Dry Manure Workshops

Each workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. except for Ellsworth and it begins at 9:00 a.m.

February 5*
Branding Iron
Thompson
 641-584-2261

February 15*
Heartland Museum
Clarion
 515-532-3453

February 28
Extension Office
Storm Lake
 712-732-5056

February 6
Extension Office
Orange City
 712-737-4230

February 18
Extension Office
Washington
 319-653-4811

February 14* at 9:00 a.m.
Community Bldg
Ellsworth
 515-832-9597

February 19*
Adair County Fairgrounds
Greenfield
 641-743-8412