



..... **STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH**
Duane A. Lienemann, Nebraska Extension Educator, Webster County
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Can you believe that February is over and we are headed into March? It is hard to believe how fast time flies. It seems that everything is a little early this year, or is it just me? When you see the geese and cranes in the air and even some grass greening up it gives you pause to wonder what all of this means. As we bask in nice warm weather right now and you hear the weather report that we may get snow in a few days – it all seems surreal. But then we in Nebraska have come to expect the unexpected in March. It is only a few days until we put our clocks ahead for daylight savings time.

This time of the year also brings the fast paced educational seminars, clinics, workshops and other events that are created to get ready for the upcoming year. I look at my calendar and marvel at all the stuff that is on each little square. There seems there is a little bit of something for everyone. There are a couple of upcoming events that I want to highlight this week. I realize that it is difficult to keep track of all the things that are available so perhaps a reminder or two is appropriate.

Private Applicator Training: Bladen will be a popular destination this coming couple of weeks as there are a couple of important meetings that are scheduled at the 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall at the Fairgrounds including a private applicator certification meeting. A valid certification is needed to allow the purchase and use of restricted use pesticides on the farm. Producers will therefore need to attend a training session for initial certification, or to renew their certification for another three years. If you need a Private Applicator license, you can come to **Bladen on March 2** starting at 9:00 am.

Chemigation Class: You can get more bang for your buck the same day (March 2) as the private applicator training as we will also be having a Chemigation class at the same location. It is slated to start at 1:30 pm. So if you are interested in Chemigation or need to certify or re-certify you may want to keep that in mind. For you that don't know, Chemigation is the practice of applying agrichemicals to cropland using an irrigation system to distribute both the water and chemicals. Individuals whose Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality chemigation certificate expired on December 31, 2015 can become recertified by attending training and successfully completing an exam.

The Nebraska Chemigation Act of 1987 requires a person directly involved in calibrating and monitoring a chemigation system to be certified by NDEQ. Chemigation training and certification help ensure that applicators are well informed and can avoid ground and surface water contamination from backflow of nutrients and pesticides. Attendees should pre-register at the Adams County Extension Office at 402-461-7209. You will need to do this quickly however as participants will need to get a training manual and calibration workbook to review before the training session. On the day of the session, participants should bring the manual, calibration workbook, No. 2 pencil, and a calculator.

Farm & Ranch Business Succession & Estate Planning Workshop: There is a free workshop on business succession and estate planning for farm and ranch owners, families and beginners. The workshop will be held in Blue Hill, **March 4th** at the Blue Hill Community Center. The workshop runs from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The workshop is about farm and ranch business succession, family estate planning and beginning farmer programs. It is intended to be useful for established farm and ranch owners, for their successors, and for beginners. Topics include: the stages of succession planning, contribution & compensation, balancing the interests of on-farm and off-farm heirs; the importance of communication, setting goals, analyzing cash flow, and balancing intergenerational expectations and needs; beginning farmer loan and tax credit programs; the use of trusts, wills, life estate deeds and business entities (such as the limited liability company) in family estate and business succession planning; buy-sell agreements, asset protection, taxation (federal transfer taxes, Nebraska inheritance tax, basis adjustment), and essential estate documents.. Lunch will be provided. To register (and for questions) call the Rural Response Hotline at 1-800-464-0258 or the Webster County Extension office at 402-746-3417.

South Central Region Beef Quality Assurance and VFD Meeting: This meeting will qualify regional beef producers for Nebraska BQA certification. It can also be used for past BQA qualifiers to recertify. Topics that will be covered include: BQA Best Management Practices; Animal Health Stewardship; and Veterinary Feed Directives. **March 8** is the date for another meeting at the Webster County Fairgrounds. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. In order to secure the proper material we are asking that attendees pre-register for the meeting by Monday, March 7. Please contact the Webster County Extension Office at (402) 746-3417 or email dlienemann2@unl.edu to register, or if you have any questions.

Little Blue NRD Mandated Classes: Operators of both dryland and irrigated cropland located in the Little Blue NRD District's Water Quality Management Areas are required to obtain or renew their LBNRD Operator's Certificate which must be obtained before 2017 and then be renewed every four years. If you own or operate a farm in this area and are not certain if you need to get a certificate you may want to contact the Little Blue NRD Office in Davenport at 402-364-2145. There has been several of these meetings already and if you didn't know about them, or haven't been able to get to one it may be useful for a small reminder that there is still one coming up at the Webster County Fairgrounds in Bladen, NE on **March 10** from 8:30-11:30 am. A flyer is available from our office at <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster/>. I hope to see you at any of these important meetings in March! Now I am going outside to listen to the cranes!! Is Spring here??

The preceding information comes from the research and personal observations of the writer, which may or may not reflect the views of UNL or Nebraska Extension. For more further information on these or other topics contact D. A. Lienemann, Nebraska Extension Educator for Webster County in Red Cloud, (402) 746-3417 or email: dlienemann2@unl.edu or on the web at: <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster>