

December 24, 2014

CROP CLINIC REGISTRATIONS OPEN

With the new year coming soon, it's time to put in a plug for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln crop production clinics held across Nebraska. UNL experts and pest management specialists will be crossing the state in January to provide the latest research-based information and recommendations for the 2015 crop season. Topics will cover soil fertility; soil water and irrigation; insect, disease and weed management; cropping systems; and agribusiness management and marketing. The agenda for each program will be posted soon to the CPC website.

Closest to our area is Thursday, January 15 — Beatrice Country Club, 1301 Oak St. and Thursday, January 22 — UNL ARDC, Ithaca or the Saunders County Extension Office, 1071 County Road G.

Specific topics may vary from eastern to western Nebraska sites, the following topics are a sample: Corn Yield Forecasts for Nebraska and the Corn Belt, Herbicide-Resistant Weed Update and Management, Managing Goss's Wilt, Pest-Resistant Crops: A Perspective from Game Theory, Dry Bean Production Practices and New Varieties (Gering), Nutrient Management Update; Solvita/Haney Soil Tests, Effects of Baling and Grazing on Soil Properties, Checkup for Pivot Efficiency, Use of Climate Information for Agricultural Decisions, Cover Crops: What we Know and Don't Know, On-Farm Research: Reliable Data to Drive Decisions and How to Control Crop Input Costs and Land Lease Update.

My specific talk in Beatrice will be on the new irrigation management apps Nebraska Extension has created and their application.

The Crop Production Clinics will be the primary venue for commercial and noncommercial pesticide applicators to renew their licenses in the following categories: Ag Plant, Regulatory, and Demonstration/Research.

Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture will be present to verify attendance. You don't want to ever allow your commercial license to lapse as to renew it means written exams again as an initial applicant would take.

The Crop Production Clinics also will serve as a venue for private pesticide applicators to renew their licenses. Check-in is from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. followed by sessions from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To register for a meeting go to: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/cpc>

LOCAL FARM BILL UPDATE

I want to encourage you to go ahead and take Step 1 at the FSA office which is Update PLC yields for the years, 2008 to 2012 (easy if you were in ACRE program), and not all that hard if you weren't for those that have certified yields through your crop insurance agent. It's time to get the process started to make the decision to keep the old base or go with the newly reallocated base acres. Aaron Peithmann reports activity in Saline County is really slow right now and is starting to have concern with all the work ahead.

We know it's in the producer's interest to wait until closer to the deadline to re-run all the numbers on the computer tools, however, there are so many FSA farms to do by the deadline. Just remember, if you sign up now and change your mind on keeping the old base acres versus the new base, you have the right to change your mind before the February deadline if need be. The ARC vs PLC decision will come later, initially with a March 31 deadline. If it's all corn and bean base and you gain a few acres of corn base then the decision is easy. If you have a blend of old base acres and the new base drops quite a few feedgrain's base acres, then a computer tool is helpful in deciding such as <https://usda.afpc.tamu.edu/>

We are continuing to take appointments at the Saline County Extension office for anyone that needs help running the Texas A&M computer analysis. The first week in January is full and we are taking appointments for the second week already with Kelsey Homolka and Sharon Kastanek helping.

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