



February 24, 2012

### **MARCH ACTIVITIES TO CHECK OUT**

Last week I attended another meeting at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture with state officials, EPA, NRCS, NDEQ, Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the registrant of Atrazine herbicide, Syngenta. The story line was farmers in the Nebraska-04 watershed (dry creek in the Tri-County High School area) had the lowest recorded levels of atrazine last year in the runoff water. If this keeps up that is very good news to area farmers and the future labeled use of this product. Different modes of action of herbicides are needed to combat Roundup resistant weeds in the future so state officials and producers in that watershed hope 2012 will be another good year for water quality in the watershed.

**Chemigation Meeting:** I teach a chemigation certification class for Southeast Nebraska at the Gage County Extension office meeting room, located at the Fairgrounds, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday, March 2nd. These meetings are for area applicators to comply with state law and be licensed when injecting nitrogen or other chemicals in irrigation water. Applying a chemical or nitrogen in irrigation water with the proper safety equipment to protect the water supply can often be less expensive and more timely than other conventional application methods. The meeting is for first time applicants or for recertifications. Licenses by state law are good for four years.

**Small Beef Herd Cow-Calf Meetings:** If you have a small cow-calf herd, this meeting is for you. A program is scheduled for Saline Center Hall from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. and the Gage County Extension office meeting room, located at the Fairgrounds, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The emphasis will be on herd health, reducing feed costs and marketing strategies. Jeff Jensby at Farmers Cooperative is coordinating the meals. Extension Educator Dennis Bauer will be a new speaker for us, who is traveling down from Ainsworth, NE. We need a meal count so please call us to register by Monday, March 5th at 821-2151.

**On-Farm Research Plots:** I attended a meeting on East Campus among selected extension educators and the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. Dan Nerud, Dorchester, was one of the representatives at the meeting. Basically, Keith Glewen in Saunders County has a large grant proposal to increase on-farm research plots across Nebraska that are randomized and replicated plots that are statistically sound. Results assist growers in analyzing new ideas. The goal is to have 35 new cooperators in Nebraska this year with more in the next two years. There will be specific information in March when protocols are finalized.

**Irrigation Technology Meeting:** New producers and existing growers that have used the watermark sensors and ET gauges are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, March 21st at the Plymouth Community Center from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. Gary Zoubek from York County is an invited guest speaker and part of the focus will be going over the cost share program for 2012 and understanding the equipment recent research. Dialogue among producers with their experiences will be a key feature at the end of this meeting. There is a sponsored meal at the beginning of the meeting, therefore, call ahead to pre-register at 821-2151 by Thursday, March 15th.



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