



November 22, 2013

CROPPING UPDATE

Former Saline County 4-H'er and Extension Educator in Fillmore County, Brandy VanDeWalle, has asked me to be her guest columnist in December as the birth of her second child is getting close. I wish Brandy the best during this holiday season.

With on-farm grain storage it's important to manage it properly so that you maintain it in quality condition. Currently, UNL does not have a grain management specialist to address grain storage and management questions, but at UNL CropWatch we've added a link with comprehensive grain drying and storage information. This information was compiled by Tom Dorn, retired Extension Educator from Lancaster County. Check it out at: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/grainstorage2>

Just a reminder that the Landowner/Tenant workshops are coming up. Locally there is one scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th in Wilber at the new Lutheran Church Hall at 1:00 p.m. and a similar meeting on Thursday, December 12th in Fairbury at the Fairgrounds at 1:00 p.m. It's a sponsored meeting so there is no cost to attend but please register by calling our office so we can set up the room appropriately and have the right amount of refreshments. Call us at 821-2151 if you are planning to come. Check out this link to other sessions across Nebraska: <http://go.unl.edu/c5j2>. As crop budgets tighten, it is more important than ever to learn the latest information about leasing options and issues.

The University of Nebraska is conducting additional studies and collecting additional data to document information about the value of grazing crop residue. UNL Extension has a checklist for first time renters. The residue remaining in a corn field after the grain has been harvested is an excellent feed resource for beef cows and backgrounding weaned calves. The corn residue field may be a distance from where the cows reside. Rick Rasby, Extension Beef Specialist, has put together a great check list and YouTube video of things to consider when renting or renting out corn stalks and other forages. It's available at: <http://beef.unl.edu/cattleproduction/rentingcropresidue>.

There is also the calculator that is useful that came out last year in looking at stalk rental rates and staking density. This calculator allows users to consider corn yield as criteria for calculating the worth of cornstalks using formulas from the article "A Review of Corn Stalk Grazing on Animal Performance and Crop Yield" that is found in the 2004 Nebraska Beef Report and information from Aaron Stalker. <http://beef.unl.edu/learning/cornstalkgrazingcalc.shtml>

There are several programs being planned or coming up in with conservation in mind. Paul Jasa, UNL Extension Engineer, will be speaking at the Southeast Corn Growers Banquet at Classics in Beatrice on Monday, December 2nd. Social is at 6:00 p.m. and meal at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Kyle Dorn, phone 402-988-8188.

Gail Fuller, from Emporia, Kansas who spoke at Hallam last year, is coming back to Nebraska City on December 18th at the UNL Kimmel facility. I will have more information next week as this meeting comes together and structure will include breakout sessions to help enhance learning



about cover crops. Gail will discuss soil health and nutrient management in no-till, as well as grazing options from his own experiences.

I will be organizing a travel group to Salina, Kansas to the No-Till on the Plains Conference January 28th and 29th. The Southeast Nebraska No-Till Conference will be held in Syracuse February 11th and the local Wilber Crop Clinic is planned for Sokol Hall, February 14th, Valentine's Day.

So mark your calendars and we sure have a lot of blessings to be thankful for this year in our agricultural community compared to 2012.

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