



## Farm Views

# Crop management winter workshops

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension will sponsor 13 intensive workshops to provide in-depth education on a variety of crop management topics. Taught by Extension specialists, educators and research scientists, workshops answer a need for higher level, more in-depth training for agricultural professionals and continue educational credits in the Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) Program.

Persons interested in attending should carefully note workshop locations.

One-day workshops will have approximately 6 hours of training, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration fees include lunch and reference materials. Interested persons should register one week prior to the date of the course. Workshops offered, locations and per person fees include:

- Jan. 28-29**, Managing Irrigation Systems; College Park, Grand Island. (Two-day workshop; nine hours of training starting on Jan. 28, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., and Jan. 29, all day.) - \$100
- Feb. 10**, Understanding Transgenic and Plant Breeding Techniques; Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC), near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 12**, More Information ... More Control. A Workshop to Help You Understand Precision Agriculture; ARDC, near Mead - \$109
- Feb. 13**, GIS/GPS Technology: Introduction to Farm-Level Mapping; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 17**, Managing Alfalfa to Grow Quality and Profitable Alfalfa; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 18**, Assessing Soil Quality; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 19**, Using Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers for Nebraska Crops; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 24**, Herbicide Mode of Action; College Park, Grand Island - \$65
- Feb. 25**, Weed Biology and Ecology, College Park, Grand Island - \$65
- Feb. 26**, Herbicide Mode of Action; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Feb. 27**, Field Crop Scout Training; ARDC, near Mead - \$25
- Mar. 3**, Transgenic and Plant Breeding Techniques; College Park, Grand Island - \$65
- Mar. 5**, Advanced Row Crop Sprayer School; ARDC, near Mead - \$45
- Mar. 12**, Effects of Stress on Growth, Development and Yield of Corn and Soybeans; ARDC, near Mead - \$65
- Mar. 25**, Fundamentals of Fungal and Nematode Pathogens; UNL, East Campus - \$65

For more information or to receive a brochure that details these workshops and a registration form, contact Extension Educators Barb Ogg, 441-7180 or Keith Glewen, 402-624-8005. (BPO)

# Feeding high quality hay after calving

Cows need good feed after calving. Each cow experiences much stress after calving because she is producing milk for her calf and preparing her reproductive system to rebreed. As a result, nutrient demands are high. Energy requirements increase about 30 percent and protein needs nearly double after calving. Underfeeding reduces the amount of milk she provides her calf, and it can delay or even prevent rebreeding. And if it gets cold, wet, or icy again, nutrient demands can skyrocket.

Winter grass and crop residues are low quality right now because these feeds already have been pretty well picked over. So it is critical that the hay or silage you feed will provide the extra nutrients your cows need.

Not just any hay or silage will do. Your cow needs 10 to 12 percent crude protein and 60 to 65 percent total digestible nutrients (TDN) in her total diet. If she is grazing poor quality feeds, your forage and supplements must make up any deficiencies.

Make sure your forage has adequate nutrients; if you haven't done so, get it tested now for protein and energy content. Also determine the nutrient requirements of your cows. Then feed your cows a ration that will meet their requirements. But don't overfeed, either. That is wasteful and expensive.

In summary, avoid underfeeding after calving; it can delay rebreeding and slow down calf growth. Use good quality forages to provide adequate nutrition. Your cows will milk well, rebreed on time, and produce healthy calves year after year. Source: Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist (WS)

# Extension meetings scheduled

## Taxes and transitions

Passage of LB 54 changed the standards for management of trusts and The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 makes very important changes in taxation affecting farm transitions. Extension staff will host a workshop addressing changes in taxes and real estate transition planning as well as trust management. Dr. Paul Gessaman, Extension Economist with the Ag Economics Department, will present a workshop Thursday, January 29, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Please call the Extension office to pre-register or for more information. The registration fee for this workshop is \$10.

## Pesticide applicator training

Private applicators whose cards have expired or will be expiring in 1998, will want to attend a Private Applicator Training (PAT) to renew certification. Six separate training classes are planned for Lancaster County. Classes will be held Monday, February 2, 1:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Two sessions will be held Monday, February 9, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The final two classes are Friday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a

\$10 charge for this training. Call the Extension office for details.

## Who needs to be certified as a private pesticide applicator?

Applicators who use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent, on an employer's property, or on property of another person if there is no compensation other than trading personal services.

## Commercial applicator training

Those needing commercial and non-commercial certification will have several opportunities to receive certification training this spring. Commercial applicators may be recertified in the *General Standards* and *Ag Plant* categories at one of the Crop Protection Clinics. Additionally, four dates have been established at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. The dates are Tuesdays, February 3 and 10, Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 19. General Standards will be covered in the morning of these dates, but only certain specific categories will be presented on a given day in the afternoon sessions. Call Environmental Programs at UNL 1-800-627-7216 or the Lancaster

County Extension Office for more details. Pre-registration is required for any of the commercial applicator training sessions.

## Who needs to be certified as a commercial or non-commercial applicator?

Commercial applicator certification is required if the applicator uses or supervises the use of restricted use pesticides for any purpose other than provided for in the definition of a private applicator. In Nebraska, commercial certification is required if the person applies lawn or structural pest control pesticides (either general use or restricted) for hire or compensation. Nebraska law also provides for non-commercial certification of certain individuals. This category includes any person who applies restricted use pesticides on land owned or controlled by his/her employer or for a governmental agency or subdivision of the state.

## Computerized financial record keeping

Cooperative Extension Educators in the area will be collaborating on a series of computerized financial record keeping workshops this spring. Entry-level workshops are scheduled for Thursday, Febru-

*continued on page 12*

# City purchases manure spreaders for use in biosolids program

A grant from the Department of Environmental Quality was awarded to Lincoln's Biosolids Land Application Program for the recent purchase of two manure spreaders. These can be leased at a reasonable cost by cooperating farmers for the application of the city's de-watered biosolids.

The cost of leasing each spreader is \$0.25 per cubic yard. Currently, the city pays \$0.65 per cubic yard to partially reimburse cooperators for their application costs. Persons interested in using these spreaders must sign a rental agreement which gives the terms and procedures of their use.

The new manure spreaders hold 12.5 cubic yards of material and require a minimum tractor size of 100 HP, the larger the

tractor, the better. These spreaders have an auger system that pulls biosolids to the rear before it is distributed on the field. This equipment has been shown to give an even application, using the city's biosolids. It is anticipated that cooperators who would like to try out biosolids

without the expense of buying a spreader will consider becoming a part of this program.

For more information about the biosolids program or these spreaders, call Barb Ogg or Ward Shires at the Cooperative Extension Office, 441-7180. (BPO)



# Prepare calves for feedlots

Beef producers can prepare calves to thrive in a feedlot environment. Calves prepared for the feedlot have lower death losses and are less likely to get sick.

Backgrounding calves for feedlots is like preparing children for the first day of school. The calves do a lot better in the new environment if taught what to expect and are eased into the transition.

For cow/calf producers who typically sell calves at weaning, preparing calves for the feedlot may allow them to garner a greater than market price for the next set of weaned calves. If the producer has records of how the calves performed in the past, this

information can be used in marketing the next calf crop.

Suggestions for cattle producers include:

- Give vaccinations that match the feeder's production system.
- Administer the first vaccinations 30 to 45 days before weaning. Follow with a booster vaccination at weaning, when required. Weaning stress impacts the immune system, so the effectiveness of a single vaccination at weaning is dramatically reduced.
- Train calves to eat from feed bunks and drink from automatic waterers, especially if calves will be backgrounded for

a time after weaning.

- Ease calves into high-energy rations. Start them out on a familiar feed such as coarse hay and gradually introduce higher-energy rations and supplements. This helps calves learn how to eat from a feed bunk and eases the transition's effect on their digestive systems.

- Train calves to use waterers by letting the waterers trickle a little water at first. Calves will be attracted to the sound of running water.

- When shipping calves, time their arrival for morning so they have the entire day to become used to their surroundings. (WS)