



Farm Views

1999 Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs

For more in-depth workshops that cover many topics, check out the Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs. These workshops will be held at UNL research and extension centers throughout Nebraska. Several workshops will be held at the ARDC, near Mead and two will be held in Lincoln. One-day workshops will have approximately six hours of training and will begin at 9 a.m. and end about 4 p.m. The two-day *Managing Alfalfa for Quality and Profit* workshop will include 9 hours of training. Registration fees include refreshments, lunch, and reference materials.

Feb. 15: Advanced Row Crop Sprayer School; Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk; \$50/\$60

Feb. 17: Advanced Soybean Management; College Park, Grand Island; \$65/\$75

Feb. 17: Understanding Farm Level Mapping with GIS/GPS Technology; Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk; \$65/\$75

Feb. 22: Herbicide Mode of Action; ARDC, near Mead; \$65/\$75

Feb. 24: Applications in Farm Level Mapping; ARDC, near Mead; \$65/\$75

Feb. 25: Understanding Genetically Engineered Crops; Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk; \$65/\$75

Feb 25: Reseeding CRP Acres, Lancaster Extension Education Center, Lincoln; 7 p.m.

Feb 26: Developing and Improving a Weed Management System; West Central Research and Extension Center; North Platte; \$65/\$75

March 2: Integrated Weed Management; Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk; \$65/\$75

March 3: Why Silver Bullets Don't Last; College Park, Grand Island; \$65/\$75

March 4: Understanding Genetically Engineered Crops; West Central Research and Extension Center; North Platte; \$65/\$75

March 4: Highlights of Recent Nebraska Irrigation Research; Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, UNL-East Campus; \$65/\$75

March 9: Introduction to Farm Level Mapping with GIS/GPS Technology; College Park, Grand Island; \$65/\$75

March 15-16: Managing Alfalfa for Quality & Profit; College Park, Grand Island; \$95/\$105

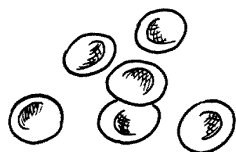
March 17: Fundamentals of Bacterial & Viral Pathogens; Plant Science/Keim Hall; UNL East Campus; \$65/\$75

April 2: Prescribed Burn School, time and location TBA

For more information, contact Barb Ogg (441-7180) for a brochure detailing these workshops. (BPO)

Reseeding CRP acres

Some landowners and tenants who have CRP acres reentered into the program have found themselves facing a fairly complicated task. A lot of the CRP acres from the original program were seeded with brome grass, orchard and/or other cool season grasses. However, under the new Conservation Reserve Program, many producers have been informed that it is necessary to destroy the existing stand of grass before reseeding to native grasses or other options specified. Even though they have 12 months (24 months with NRCS approval) to get the new seeding established, a realistic conversion plan must be started now to meet the deadline. This information must be in their conservation plan



filed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

A workshop on Reseeding of CRP acres will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center Thursday, February 25, at 7 p.m. Participants will be informed of the legal procedures related to reseeding CRP acres. Other items to be discussed will include cultural methods to destroy existing grasses and recommendations to obtain optimal establishment of the new crop. Representatives of the Lancaster County NRCS and FSA offices will be present to answer questions relating to the procedures and rules for converting to the new Conservation Reserve Program. (WS)

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Computerized financial record keeping

Lancaster County will be the site for two computerized financial record keeping workshops. A beginning-level workshop will be held on Thursday, February 11 and an advanced-level workshop on Thursday, February 25, both at the UNL Animal Science Building on East Campus in Lincoln. Both workshops will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

The workshops will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants actually performing the tasks being demonstrated throughout the day. The concepts covered in the beginning level workshop include: setting up and starting your records, developing a chart of accounts (categories) to key income and expense transactions to, entering single and split

transactions, generating various types of reports, organizing transactions by enterprise, handling term loans, and reconciling your records with the bank statement.

The concepts covered in the advanced level workshop include: Saving time by printing checks on the computer (which automatically makes the ledger entries), handling non-cash transactions (inventory shifted between enterprises), handling pre-paid expenses in a cash accounting system, tying transactions to tax schedules to save time on tax preparation, how to handle depreciation schedules, generating a balance sheet, handling lines of credit, and using the memo field to track expenses that cross enterprise and category groups (such as expenses associated with a

particular piece of equipment that may be used in multiple enterprises).

The concepts taught are applicable to any of several inexpensive computerized record keeping programs, with modifications. These workshops will be taught hands-on using Quicken '98 Basic™ in the classroom. Registration will be limited due to space and computer availability on a first-come first-served basis. If you are interested, please contact the Extension office and ask to have a brochure and registration form sent to you. Registration fee for each workshop is \$30 for one person, \$37 for two people sharing one computer with two meals and one set of handouts, and \$45 for two people at one computer with two meals and two sets of handouts. (TD)

Lime and other nutrients key to soil fertility

Many soils, especially in the southeast and eastern part of Nebraska, need lime and other nutrients such as phosphorus or potassium. Each year producers face questions of when and how to apply these fertilizer nutrients.

Soil tests taken to a commercial or university lab can show if these nutrients are needed for optimum crop production.

While some plant nutrients are applied annually, a proper lime application should last about eight years.

When soils become acid (pH values of 5.6 are acid and below

5.2 are very acid) elements such as aluminum and manganese are more likely to become soluble. Once aluminum is soluble, it becomes toxic to plant growth and will reduce yields.

Lime recommendations usually are made to neutralize the top six to eight inches of the soil. The reaction takes place faster if the lime material is mixed in by disking or other tillage.

However, a large number of crop producers are under a no-tillage system and don't want to till the soil. Lime work reported from Wisconsin indicates the recommended rate of lime can

be broadcast without incorporating. Eventually, lime left on the surface will move into the soil and slowly correct the acidity. There were no reported yield reductions; however, correcting the acidity problem in the top soil is slower than if the material is mixed in.

Lime recommendations are based on 60 percent effective calcium carbonate. Lime effectiveness is determined by the actual amount of calcium and magnesium carbonate present in the material and how finely the material is ground. The finer the grind, the faster

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Introduction to precision agriculture

March 19th 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road

Precision Agriculture has grown in importance and application as more agricultural producers become interested in this technology. This one-day seminar will introduce participants to the basics of this new and expanding field and provide information for future decisions. Participants will learn the principles of Precision Agriculture by both classroom instruction and hands-on examples. Topics include GPS technology, GIS technology, yield monitors and interpretation of collected data.

Cost: \$15—Includes coffee, rolls, lunch and a reference manual.

Preregistration is requested, 441-7180. (DS)



Final private pesticide applicator training session

Private pesticide applicators have one more opportunity to receive certification training in Lancaster County in 1999. An evening session is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 7-10 p.m. A registration fee of \$10 will be charged at the door. (TD)