

## Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping Workshop, March 19

Over the years, Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping workshops have been one of the most popular in-depth programs offered by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension. This Spring, this workshop will be presented at six locations in southeast Nebraska.



intended as a guide in the classroom and as references as participants set up their records at home.

Participants should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard. No prior computerized recordkeeping experience is necessary, however, some prior experience with a hand-kept single entry accounting system (such as the extension blue book) would be useful.

The concepts taught in this workshop are applicable to any of several inexpensive computerized recordkeeping programs, with slight modifications in procedure. This workshop will be taught hands-on using Quicken® 2007 Basic in the classroom.

Reference materials, lunch and refreshments are all included in the registration fee. The registration fee for each workshop is \$50. A second person sharing the same computer and sharing a single set of handouts can attend for an additional \$10 to cover lunch and refreshments.

Registration will be limited due to space and computer availability on a first-come, first-served basis. Preregistration must be received with payment in order to hold a place in the workshop.

It will be held in Lincoln on Monday, March 19 from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Please pre-register before March 15.

A brochure with a list of workshop locations and registration form is available online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/ag/finanrec.pdf> or by calling 441-7180.

All workshops will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants sitting at computers performing the tasks being demonstrated. One extension educator will lead the discussion and the image from the instructor's computer will be projected on a screen. Other educators will circulate and give individual help as needed.

In addition to seeing the actions projected keystroke by keystroke, participants will also receive step-by-step written instructions for all tasks being demonstrated. These handouts are

## Manage Stored Grain Temperature with Aeration

Tom Dorn  
UNL Extension Educator

Hopefully, you were able to get your stored grain down to safe storage moisture content before sub-freezing temperatures set in last fall. You should not forget moisture content is not the only consideration for safe, long-term grain storage. The temperature of the stored grain is important as well.

When grain temperature is significantly warmer than the ambient air temperature, convection currents can occur in a grain bin. Air will sink in the cooler grain near the bin wall and rise through the warmer grain in the center of the bin. Warm air moving up through the center carries moisture with it. When the warm/moist air contacts cold grain at the top surface, some of the moisture can condense and re-wet the grain. Crusted, moldy grain, sometimes with active storage insect activity can result if this condition is not discovered early and corrected by breaking up the crust and running aeration to equalize the grain temperature throughout the bin.

To reduce convection currents in the grain, you need to maintain uniform grain temperatures throughout the bin. Temperature is controlled with aeration. If you have stored grain and have not run the aeration fan since the first of the year, it would be wise to watch the weather forecast to pick a time when average daily temperatures are predicted to be in the 30's and run the fan.

The hours to push a temperature front through a bin can be estimated by dividing 15 by the airflow rate. Many storage bins have small aeration fans with an output of 1/10 or 2/10

of a cubic foot per minute per bushel (cfm/bu). Using the rule of thumb, about 150 hours is needed with an airflow rate of 0.1 cfm/bu and 75 hours is needed for 0.2 cfm/bu. If you have a bin equipped with a drying fan with 1.0 cfm/bu, the time to push a temperature front through the bin would only be 15 hours. Check grain temperature at several locations to determine when the cooling front has been pushed completely through the grain.

If grain will be held into the warmer spring and summer months, it should be re-warmed in early spring to avoid convection currents that move the opposite direction through the grain but have the same detrimental effect. As the air temperature warms in the spring, the grain next to the bin walls will be warmed but the grain in the middle of the bin is insulated from the ambient temperature outside and stays cold. Air will rise through the warmer grain near the wall and will be replaced by warm, moist springtime air sinking into the grain at the top center of the bin. The moisture in the air entering the cold grain mass in the center of the bin will condense forming a wet spot at the top center of the bin. Once again, this can lead to crusted, moldy grain and result in active storage insect activity. Grain held until May should be warmed to about 50 degrees F. Grain held into the summer months should be warmed to 60 degrees F.

When not running the aeration system, remember to close roof hatches to prevent rain and snow from getting into the bin. Cover the fan whenever it's not running to prevent problems caused by the chimney effect that can draw in moist air at the bottom of the bin and up through the grain.

## Upcoming Pesticide Applicator Trainings

### Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings

Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent or on an employer's property if the applicator is an employee of a farmer. No pesticide license is needed if one will only be using general use pesticides on their farm.

Applicators whose certification is due to expire on April 15, 2007 will receive a letter from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

There are two certification options for private pesticide applicators: attend a UNL Extension training session or take a self study book and test. If you are re-certifying, bring the notification letter and registration form you received from the NDA.

Extension forwards all application forms to the NDA which then bills private applicators a \$25 license fee. Allow approximately three weeks for the application to be processed and the certification to be mailed to the applicant. The license is good for three years, expiring on April 15, 2010 for those who certify this spring.

**Private Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions** will be offered this Spring at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road,

Lincoln. No pre-registration needed. There is a \$15 extension training fee.

- Tuesday, Jan. 30, 8:30–11:30 a.m. and repeated 1:30–4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 10, 8:30–11:30 a.m.

**The Self Study Method** of receiving certification can be done at any time throughout the year. The study book may be picked up weekdays 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the extension office. There is a \$30 materials fee. The applicator can read the chapters, complete the test questions and bring the book back to the office where the test will be graded. Most people can complete the home study course in three to four hours.

### Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training

Commercial applicators are persons who apply restricted-use pesticides for any purpose on any property other than property owned or rented by the applicator or their employer or for hire or compensation. Commercial applicators shall also include any person who applies lawn care or structural pest control pesticides whether restricted- or general-use to property of another person. Public employees (employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control pesticides whether restricted- or general-use, must also hold a commercial or non-commercial certification.

To become licensed initially as a commercial applicator, one must pass a written examination in the general standards category and one or more additional categories. A commercial license is good for three years. Once licensed in a category, you can maintain commercial certification by attending a re-certification training session or by passing a written examination, with a few exceptions explained below.

UNL Extension offers Commercial Initial Certification and Recertification Training Sessions. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 to register for a session. The training fee for either initial or recertification sessions is \$30. Note: Due to time and space limitations, only specific categories will be presented on training days. Call the UNL Pesticide Education office at 472-1632 or the Lancaster County Extension office at 441-7180 to learn which specific categories will be offered on a given day.

Commercial applicators meeting the requirements for certification or re-certification will receive an invoice from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for \$90 for the license fee.

**Initial Commercial Certification** training and testing sessions will be offered on Tuesday Feb. 6, Thursday, March 1, and Thursday, April 19 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The general standards session will begin at

9 a.m. and other categories at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

It is highly recommended you obtain and review written study materials prior to attending the training session for initial certification. This will greatly improve your chances of passing the written examination. Study materials for all commercial categories may be purchased from the pesticide education office 101 Natural Resources Hall on East Campus, 472-1632 or materials can be purchased on the UNL Pesticide Education Web site at <http://pested.unl.edu>

**Commercial Recertification Training Sessions** will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 8 and Tuesday, March 20 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The general standards session will begin at 9 a.m. and other categories at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m.

*Note: There are no certification training sessions for: Fumigation of Soil, Agricultural Pest Control - Animal, Forest Pest Control, Sewer Root Control with Metam Sodium, Seed Treatment, Regulatory Pest Control (subcategory) and Demonstration/Research Pest Control (subcategory). There are self-study materials which will prepare the applicator to take the examinations in these categories. The only way to certify or re-certify in these categories is to pass a written examination. However, a commercial applicator may re-certify in the Regulatory and the Demonstration/Research subcategories at the Crop Protection Clinics.*