



Farm Views

CRP Meeting and Burn School Planned

The Lancaster County Extension Office will host a meeting on Tuesday, March 17 from 9:00 to 12:00 for landowners with questions about the Conservation Reserve Program. The program format will be an informal panel discussion led by Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist at UN-L. Other panelists include Russ Schultz, Superintendent of the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Authority, Ken Nagel; Lancaster County Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency and a representative from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The purpose of the meeting is to answer any questions landowners might have regarding establishing and maintaining a CRP stand including weed control and interseeding legumes into existing stands.

An afternoon session on controlled burning is also planned, if there is interest. The session will cover the basics of planning and conducting a controlled burn and will be led by Ward Shires, an Extension Educator in the Lancaster County Extension Office. For more information please call 441-7180. (SCB)

Farm Leases Seminar

Whether you are a landowner or farmer who leases land for agricultural production, you probably have some questions concerning farm leasing arrangement. A Farm Lease Seminar will be held 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2. Three Extension specialists from the University of Nebraska Department of Agricultural Economics will be on hand to lead the discussions.

Farm Management Specialist Doug Jose will present information on the various leasing arrangements available and how to develop a lease to fit your situation. Farm Management Specialist Larry Bitney will discuss making adjustments for changing farm programs and site specific management methods utilizing modern technology such as GPS/GIS systems. Extension Water Law Specialist David Aiken will address concerns affecting the legal aspects of various farm leases and how to legally terminate a lease.

There will be a \$4.00 registration fee to cover the cost of material. Couples may register as one. Advanced registration is recommended to insure enough resource material by calling the Extension Office 441-7180, by Thursday, February 26. (WS)

Oats for pasture, hay and silage

Oats have not exactly been a very profitable crop to grow as grain the past few years. However, there are several other good reasons for planting oats this spring. Need a quick spring pasture, a high quality grass hay, maybe a short-season silage, or something to thicken old stands of alfalfa? Oats might be your answer.

Anyone that has grown oats knows they're easy to establish, can be seeded early in the spring and can solve short-term forage needs. Oats will be ready to graze earlier than anything else you plant this spring. Drill about three bushels per acre as soon as possible after mid-March and oats will be six to eight inches tall and ready to graze in five or six weeks. With good soil moisture and 30 to 60 pounds of nitrogen, oats provide a couple months of grazing for one or two cows per acre.

What if you need hay that's ideal for young stock? Then cut oats just as it is heading out. This hay can have over 10 percent protein and 65 percent TDN as well as be very palatable. Or you can increase yield by about one-third, and cut oats in the milk stage for hay with eight percent protein and 55 percent TDN - an excellent feed for stock cows.

Oat hay cut at dough stage or with mature seed often is less palatable and the leaves and stems are low quality. But these late cut oats make good silage, if chopped fine and packed tight. Oats also have a hidden potential to stimulate yields from a thin, worn out alfalfa stand. If you discover that you suffered winter injury to your alfalfa and have thin stands, you won't reach your yield potential or much of it might be in the form of weeds. To get that extra yield as good hay, just drill a bushel of oats per acre directly into your alfalfa, as soon as possible. Then cut your hay like normal.

There might not be much glamour in growing oats as a forage. But its versatility more than makes up for any lack of prestige.

Source: Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist, UNL (WS)

For more Farm Views articles,
please turn to page 11.

Extension meetings scheduled

Computerized Financial Recordkeeping

Lancaster County will be the site for two computerized financial record keeping workshops. A beginning-level workshop will be held February 26 and an advanced-level workshop March 12. Both workshops will begin promptly at 9:00 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 bank statements.

The concepts covered in the advanced-level workshop include: Saving time by printing checks on the computer (which automatically makes the ledger entries), managing 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, coping with 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 computerized record keeping system 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-serve basis. If you are interested, 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 or two people sharing one computer and one set of handouts. The fee covers handout materials, refreshments, lunch and software site license costs.

Building Your Safety Net

Lancaster County Extension will be offering an in-depth, multi-session short course teaching risk management principles. Each successive workshop builds on previous instruction. The workshop will

be offered on successive Wednesday evenings from March 11 to April 1 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Participants will develop a set of goals and a risk management plan over the course of the four weekly sessions. They will learn about numerous forward pricing and other risk management tools and will learn which marketing strategies work best under various price outlook scenarios.

Three follow-up visits are planned to assess how well the risk management plan is working and to measure the financial impact of the implementation of the plan versus business as usual. A registration fee of \$60 per person will cover the instruction, handout materials, refreshments and the dinner meal each week for the 4 week series. Interested parties should call the Extension office for more information and a registration form.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Private pesticide applicators still have two opportunities to receive certification training in Lancaster County. Sessions are scheduled for Friday, March 13, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. or Saturday, March 14 9:00 a.m. - 12:00. A registration fee of \$10 will be charged at the door. (TD)

Check out these winter workshops

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension will sponsor the following workshops taught by Extension specialists, educators and research scientists. Workshops will provide higher level, more in-depth training for agricultural professionals.

One-day workshops will run approximately six hours, 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 workshop. Most of these workshops will take place at the Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC), near Mead, Nebraska.

Persons interested in attending, should carefully note workshop locations.

February 17 Managing Alfalfa to Grow Quality and Profitable Alfalfa.

This workshop will detail all aspects of alfalfa production, including insect, weed, disease, fertilizer management, cutting schedules for optimal quality, quantity and stand viability and water management/irrigation. *ARDC, near Mead*

February 18 Assessing Soil Quality.

This workshop will provide tools and approaches for monitoring soil quality, sustainable crop production, soil properties, soil chemistry and physics. Diagnosing and finding solutions to problem soils. Hands-on activities will measure soil quality indices using field test kits. *ARDC, near Mead.*

February 19 Using Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers for Nebraska Crops.

Elements used by plants: functions and effects of the essential elements. Nutrient uptake by plants. Fertilizer sources, including manures, sewage sludges and inorganic fertilizers on Nebraska crops. *ARDC, near Mead*

February 24 Herbicide Mode of Action.

Herbicide absorption, translocation, metabolism, and site of action in plants. Why herbicides kill weeds and not crops. Site of herbicide action as a basis for weed resistance. *College Park, Grand Island*

February 25 Weed Biology and Ecology.

Will examine how weeds compete with each other and crops for nutrients and sunlight, weed population persistence, shift in response to management practices, processes and mechanisms involved in crop responses. *College Park, Grand Island*

February 26 Herbicide Mode of Action.

Herbicide absorption, translocation, metabolism, and site of action in plants. Why herbicides kill weeds and not crops. Site of herbicide action as a basis for weed resistance. *ARDC, near Mead*

February 27 Field Crop Scout Training.

Identification and economic

thresholds of insect pests in corn and soybeans, weed management, crop disease identification, fertility deficiency symptoms and growth and development of corn and soybeans. *ARDC, near Mead*

March 3 Transgenic and Plant Breeding Techniques.

What is a gene and how does it work? What techniques are used to develop genetically engineered crops? How transgenic crops are developed and how are they different from other plants. Other sources of genetic variability. Principles of developing self and cross pollinated crops. *College Park, Grand Island*

March 5 Advanced Sprayer Technology for Row Crops.

How to get a quality spray job. Which nozzle types are best for your application? Nozzle demonstration. Spray coverage, particle sizes and factors that contribute to drift. How can you avoid spray drift? Problem situation and solutions. *ARDC, near Mead*

March 12 Effect of Stress on Physiology of Crops.

Participants will acquire a better understanding of how stress factors such as soil pH, moisture, temperature and nutrient deficiencies impact the growth, development and eventual yield of corn and soybeans. *ARDC, near Mead*

continued on page 11