

# Unit 1 Ag News

January 2021



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**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

*Serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties*

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## Winter Program Calendar

### FEBRUARY

#### **2/3 Illinois Dairy Summit**

*Protecting Your Milk Check During COVID and Beyond (p. 2)*

#### **2/16 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Climate Change and Impacts in Northwest Illinois (p. 4)*

#### **2/23 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Corn Rootworm Management (p. 4)*

#### **2/25 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Cover Crops in Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin (p. 4)*

#### **2/25 Private Pesticide Applicator Test Only**

10 a.m. Elizabeth (p. 3)

### MARCH

#### **3/2 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Updates in Disease Management (p. 4)*

#### **3/3 NWIL Grazing Conference**

*Am I a Regenerative Grazer (p. 1 & 2)*

#### **3/4 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Grain Bin Entry (p. 4)*

#### **3/9 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*Will the Novel Soybean Herbicide Tolerance Traits Solve my Pigweed and Ragweed Problem? (p. 4)*

#### **3/10 NWIL Grazing Conference**

*Be Creative-Identifying Alternative Grazing Opportunities (p. 1 & 2)*

#### **3/11 NWIL Agronomy Summit**

*The Importance of Scouting to Mitigate Risk for Fungicide Resistance Development (p. 4)*

#### **3/17 NWIL Grazing Conference**

*Extending the Grazing Season (p. 1 & 2)*

#### **3/24 NWIL Grazing Conference**

*Encouraging Maximum Grazing and Weed Control (p. 1 & 2)*

#### **3/30 Rural Pond Management Webinar**

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[go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw)

## 2021 Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference

The theme for the 2021 Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference is “Reinvigorating Pastures and Expanding Grazing”. The conference hosted by University of Illinois Extension and sponsored by the Northwest Illinois Forage and Grasslands Council will be held virtually over four consecutive Wednesday evenings in March from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There will be a \$15 fee for all four sessions or a \$5 fee per session if you do not want to register for all sessions. Pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate. To register or for more information visit us online at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw) or call us at 815-858-2273.

On March 3, 2021 Laura Paine from UW Extension will kick the series off talking about “Am I a Regenerative Grazer?” “Regenerative” is the buzz word these days in agriculture, and particular attention is being paid to regenerative grazing. Should you consider becoming a regenerative grazer? What are the benefits? And how do you do it? Spoiler alert: you may already be doing it!

On March 10, 2021 Teresa Steckler from University of Illinois Extension will discuss “Be Creative – Identifying Alternative Grazing Opportunities”. One of the most limiting factors for small ruminant producers is adequate pasture size. Lack of pasture can lead to increased internal parasitism and decreased nutritional content. What “pasture” alternatives are possible for small farms with sheep and goats? Teresa will explore different possibilities, limitations and potential pitfalls of these alternative “pastures”.

On March 17, 2021 Travis Meteer from University of Illinois Extension will be talking about “Extending the Grazing Season”. Travis will be talking about keys to getting more grazing days. He will cover pasture grazing tips, utilizing alternative grazing opportunities such as crop residue and cover crops. He will also share some tools and equipment that will help make this easier to implement.

Finally, on March 24, 2021 Gene Schriefer from UW Extension will wrap up the series with his presentation on “Encouraging Maximum Grazing and Weed Control, Putting the Pieces Together”. Grazing is a system, an eco-system, interconnecting soil, biology, plants and livestock. Weeds can be controlled with herbicide and culture, but the more parts that are mismanaged the more external inputs are required to sustain production leading to cost increases. For this system to thrive we need to consider all the component parts and NOT ONLY manage one part if we want a dense, vigorous stand that produces low cost forage for the entire growing season and beyond, recovers quickly after grazing to sustain our livestock.

## 2021 Illinois Dairy Summit

*Protecting Your Milk Check  
During COVID & Beyond*

University of Illinois Extension and Illinois Milk Producers Association have partnered to bring you the latest in dairy management information. Scheduled for Wednesday, February 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the webinar, Protecting Your Milk Check During COVID & Beyond, will feature an expert speaker panel. New this year, John Newton, Chief Economist of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will lead a discussion on Milk Check Pricing followed by a live Q&A session.

There is no fee to attend but registration is required. Registration can be completed on-line at <http://www.illinoismilk.org/dairy-summit>.

## Rural Pond Management Webinar

Get a jump on spring and get the answers you need for your rural pond management. Duane Friend and Jay Solomon, Illinois Extension energy and environmental stewardship educators, will discuss fish stocking, weed management, fish kills as well as how to build and maintain ponds. They will be joined by Blake Ruebush, fisheries biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources who will discuss fish management.

This is a live, interactive session scheduled for March 30th at 7 p.m. Participants will be able to ask the presenters questions. There is no charge to attend but registration is required and can be completed at: [go.illinois.edu/farmpond](http://go.illinois.edu/farmpond)

## Attention Farmers *Your input is needed*

University of Illinois is conducting research on what influences land management decisions made by farmers in Northwestern Illinois and Southwestern Wisconsin. If you farm in this area, please take this 20-minute survey to express your viewpoint and earn the chance at a **\$100 Visa Gift Card**.

If you have any questions, contact: John Strauser at [johnrs2@illinois.edu](mailto:johnrs2@illinois.edu). Survey can be found at: <https://go.illinois.edu/NWILfarmingsurvey>

## Hay Auctions

The Northwestern Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is again conducting hay and straw auctions at the Boco Mini-Mart on Rte. 26 in Orangeville. The auctions are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays beginning at 11 a.m. and continue through April.

A 6% commission is charged to members of the NW IL Forage and Grassland Council, non-members are charged 7%. Quality tested hay, with accompanying printed analysis and scale tickets are encouraged.

### Questions:

Cal Schaver, auctioneer, 608-558-4377, or Don Brown, Jr., 815-238-8372.

## Private Pesticide Applicator Test Only Session

Private Pesticide Applicators that need their license renewed can take the Private Applicator test on the following date:

- **Thursday, February 25, at 10 a.m.**  
Elizabeth Community Center  
Elizabeth, IL

This is a **TEST ONLY** site and there is no charge, but pre-registration is required by calling University of Illinois Extension at 815-858-2273 or online at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw).

Seating will be limited to allow for social distancing. Participants will be required to wear a face mask. Pre-registration is required to guarantee a seat Commercial applicator tests will be available at this site as well, pre-registration is required.

## Private Pesticide Applicator Manuals & Workbooks

The U of I Extension offices in Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties have Private Applicator manuals and workbooks available for purchase. Manuals are \$12 and workbooks are \$3. The Stephenson County office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the Winnebago and Jo Daviess offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A limited number of commercial applicator books are available in each of the offices, so call ahead to check on availability.

Manuals can also be purchased online at:  
<https://extension.illinois.edu/study-materials>

## Private Pesticide Applicator Self Study

Private applicators that need to renew their license can complete an online training via the internet. The training includes 8 modules that can be completed at your convenience. This training can be viewed at:

[go.illinois.edu/privatepsep](http://go.illinois.edu/privatepsep)

The license examination is offered on-line this year. Please visit the following website to register for a test:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/psep/training-testing>

## Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference

Pumpkins, hard cider production, and updates on insects/diseases in fruit and vegetable production are the agenda this year for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference hosted by the University of Illinois Extension. Held virtual this year over Zoom, this program is geared toward commercial fruit and vegetable growers to provide them with updates for the upcoming season and information on diversifying their operation.

“This year’s program is virtual and because of that it presents an opportunity for us to bring in speakers to cover topics that we haven’t covered before,” states Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator for University of Illinois Extension. “For instance, there’s a wealth of research on new pumpkin varieties and growing vegetables in high tunnels that is occurring in Southern Illinois and this year, Extension Educators in those areas of expertise are presenting for our group in northern Illinois”

McCarty sees Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference as an opportunity for beginning and future growers. “While the topics are aimed for established growers, we also see this program as one that could provide those who are considering starting a specialty crop farm or wanting to diversify their farm.”

The Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference will be held on Thursdays, February 18 and 25 (Fruit and Vegetable Insect and Disease Updates) from 1:00-3:30PM and Fridays, February 12, 19, and 26 (Hard Cider, Pumpkin Varieties, High Tunnels) from 12:00-1:00PM. Cost for the program is \$20 (Thursdays and Fridays) or Thursdays (\$10) and Fridays (\$15). For more information and to register, please visit [go.illinois.edu/Stateline2021](http://go.illinois.edu/Stateline2021) or call the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 986-4357.

## Northwest Illinois Agronomy Summit

The University of Illinois Extension will continue the Northwest Illinois Agronomy Summit via a shift to a virtual platform in 2021. This live series will consist of weekly sessions to provide valuable updates for Midwestern corn and soybean producers while allowing them the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with the experts.

“As we often try to do, there is a little bit of everything presented here including research updates, producer recommendations, and best management practices,” says Commercial Agriculture educator Phillip Alberti. “The theme for this year’s summit is *Updates in Nutrient and Pest Management* and we are really excited to bring in both specialists from the University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin-Madison to discuss production strategies including pest management, cover crop management, and grain safety, and more.”

**All sessions will be hosted from 1-2PM Central time on their scheduled dates.**

### February 16<sup>th</sup>- “Climate Change and Impacts in Northwest Illinois”

*Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist*

### February 23- “Corn Rootworm Management”

*Nick Seiter, Research Assistant Professor and Faculty Extension Specialist, University of Illinois*

### February 25- “Cover Crops in Northern IL/ Southern WI and Combine Cleaning to Reduce Weed Seed Movement”

*Dan Smith, UW Madison Southwest Outreach Specialist*

### March 2- “Updates in Disease Management”

*Nathan Kleczewski, Research Assistant Professor and Faculty Extension Specialist, University of Illinois*

### March 4- “Grain Bin Entry”

*Salah Issa, Assistant Professor of Industrial Safety and Health, University of Illinois*

### March 9- “Will the Novel Soybean Herbicide Tolerance Traits Solve my Pigweed and Ragweed Problem?”

*Rodrigo Werle, UW Madison, Cropping Systems Weed Scientist and Extension Specialist*

### March 11- “The Importance of Scouting to Mitigate Risk for Fungicide Resistance Development”

*Chelsea Harbach, Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension*

Those interested in viewing a complete agenda can visit the **University of Illinois Extension website at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw>**. Registration can be completed on-line or by calling the University of Illinois Extension- Stephenson County at 815-235-4125.

## Illinois Crop Management Conference

This year, Midwestern corn and soybean producers can binge their favorite crop webinars without leaving home. CropFlix, University of Illinois Extension's 2021 Crop Management Conference, will provide virtual online sessions throughout February.

CropFlix participants can pick and choose from prerecorded programs and watch on demand for the entire month of February using the university’s Learn @ Illinois Extension online platform. The annual conference’s new virtual format has doubled the number of presenters, says program coordinator and presenter [Chelsea Harbach](#).

“There's a little bit of everything in here, we will have a nice range of updates, information and recommendations,” says Harbach, an Extension Commercial Agriculture Educator. “There's research reports, recommendations for best practices and the state climatologist is reviewing regional climates and providing future weather projections.”

New this year are presentations on grain bin safety, soil phosphorus management and more. Participants will also have access to two live virtual townhall events to engage with presenters.



“Since all the presentations are prerecorded and people are watching them on demand we wanted to make sure there was a way they could still contact the experts,” Harbach says. “After they watch the sessions, participants will be able to ask their burning questions and generate new discussions.”

Topics include Weather Review & Outlook for Northern, Central and Southern Illinois, Exploring the Cause of Injury or Death in Grain Entrapment, Engulfment, and Extrication, Tile Drainage and Nutrient Loss, Cover Crops and Insect Management, Corn and Soybean Economics, Myths and Best Practices for Phosphorous Management, Western and Northern Corn Rootworm in Illinois and more.

The program costs \$50 and participants will have access to the materials for the entire month of February 2021. More than 10 certified crop advisor continuing education units are available.

For more information or to register, visit [go.illinois.edu/CropFlix](https://go.illinois.edu/CropFlix). Registration opens January 2021.



[go.illinois.edu/CropFlix](https://go.illinois.edu/CropFlix)

## Certified Livestock Manager Training

### CLMT 2021 - 25 Anniversary year

2021 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Certified Livestock Managers Training (CLMT) program. Approximately 1000 livestock producers have participated in each of the eight 3-year cycles. Training for 2021 will be different from past (and hopefully future) due to COVID-19 impacts. IDoA has approved the following options with provisions for this year: new online training, and webinars. The additional information and registration site does remain the same [go.illinois.edu/CLMT](https://go.illinois.edu/CLMT).

The online training should be considered the first option for everyone. Updated for 2021 to more closely resemble the live meetings, the modules are available at any time and your own pace. Completion requirements: For less than 1,000 AU, work through the modules only. More than 1,000 AU requires completing the modules and passing a 40-question online test. This year, livestock producers with more than 1,000 AUs can take an online test in lieu of the IDoA's paper-based test.

Four webinars (virtual workshops) will be offered. These will have the same format as previous workshops starting at 9:00 am. Pre-registration is required. You must attend the whole webinar (about 4 hours) to be eligible for your certificate. After the webinar, those with over 1,000 AU will be required to login and take the 40-question on-line test in lieu of the IDoA's paper-based test. A password for accessing the test site will be sent after attending the webinar. The webinar dates *Friday, January 29; Tuesday, February 9; Thursday, March 4*.

To assist producers with this transition we will have three information sessions on the new online training system and the webinars.

Please consider attending one if you have any questions and/or want to learn more about registering and navigating the online training site or attending the webinars. There is no registration. Visit [go.illinois.edu/CLMT](https://go.illinois.edu/CLMT) and click the link provided to join us at the remaining information webinar times: February 23, 2021 (Tuesday) @ 6 pm.

Pre-registration will be required for the webinars. Registration fee is \$40 per person. Please go to [go.illinois.edu/CLMT](https://go.illinois.edu/CLMT) to learn more about the options and getting started. For questions with registration, please contact U of I Extension at: (815) 858 2273.



[go.illinois.edu/CLMT](https://go.illinois.edu/CLMT)

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If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in any of the programs in this newsletter, please contact the hosting office.

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