

New publication helps farmers use data for tractor selection, continued from page 4

before purchasing a larger or heavier tractor, consider that at least seven percent of tractor power is commonly required just to overcome rolling resistance created by the tractor's weight."

This publication illustrates the most relevant data that is available to estimate tractor fuel efficiency before purchasing a new tractor. Test measurements include drawbar load tests, lift capacity, hydraulic power and power and fuel use during power-take-off (PTO) operations. Tractor test data for tractors manufactured in the U.S. is available from the Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory (NTTL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"If you're considering adding new equipment to your fleet before harvest begins, the tractor

test data can help you compare newer and older models effectively," said Dana Petersen, ISU Extension program coordinator with ISU Farm Energy. "Seeking the best tractor to suit your operation can reduce costs by conserving fuel."

The Farm Energy publications are part of a series of farm energy conservation and efficiency educational materials being developed through the ISU Farm Energy Initiative. These publications address a variety of energy efficiency topics for farmers and raise awareness of on-farm energy conservation.

For more tips on energy efficiency around the farmstead, visit the website or follow @ISU_Farm_Energy on Twitter.



Harvest crop insurance reminder checklist

By Steven D. Johnson, farm and ag business management specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 515-957-5790, sdjohns@iastate.edu

The 2011 growing season saw extreme weather conditions that will likely result in yield variability even within a field. Harvest projected prices are determined in the month of October by using the average futures price for December corn and November soybean. These final projected prices will be watched closely as they have the potential for increasing final indemnity payments.

It is estimated that 90 percent of Iowa's row crops are covered by crop insurance in 2011. Most producers use farm level policies such as Revenue Protection (RP) or Yield Protection (YP). Special attention to detail prior to and during harvest is recommended.

Always practice good communication skills with your crop insurance agent.

Consider these reminders to maximize your potential indemnity payment:

1. Any old crop grain still stored on-farm should

- be measured by an adjuster prior to harvest.
2. Notify your agent before destroying or chopping corn for silage.
 3. Contact your agent within 72 hours after discovering damage to a crop.
 4. Keep production records so that yields for each unit can be separated.
 5. Mark production records including yield monitor data and scale tickets by unit, farm name or specific reference.
 6. Keep track of feed records for production that is being fed.
 7. Report your actual production history (APH) for each unit to your agent immediately following harvest.

Should you have questions, notify your crop insurance agent.

Source: USDA Risk Management Agency and private industry sources, August 2011.

Updates, continued from page 1

Internet Updates

The following information files and tools have been added or updated on www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

Beef Cow Joint Agreements -- C2-36 (4 pages)

Beef Cow Share Agreement Analysis -- Decision Tool

Current Profitability

The following tools have been updated on www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/outlook.html.

Corn Profitability -- A1-85

Soybean Profitability -- A1-86

Ethanol Profitability -- D1-10

Biodiesel Profitability -- D1-15

Returns for Farrow-to-Finish -- B1-30

Returns for Weaned Pigs -- B1-33

Returns for Steer Calves -- B1-35

Returns for Yearling Steers -- B1-35

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