



The Ag Quarterly

News for Southern Illinois Farm Families

Summer 2009

Ewing Field Day Topics to Include Disease Management, Delayed Planting

Dennis Epplin, crop systems educator

Crop diseases and delayed planting will be the hot topics for the Spring Agronomy Tour at the University of Illinois, Ewing Demonstration Center on Thursday, June 11. The program begins at 9 A.M.

Carl Bradley, U of I Extension plant pathologist, will discuss corn and soybean disease management and the proper use of fungicides. Concerns and issues surrounding this spring's delayed planting will also be addressed.

Other topics include

- Wheat variety performance
- Crop insurance
- Farm program update

You'll also get the first look at a new multi-purpose storage building that has been built in the last few weeks. This year marks the centennial observance for Ewing Field. The University of Illinois started research and demonstration work at Ewing in March of 1909.

The Ewing Demonstration Center is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Benton, Illinois. From Illinois Route 37, turn east on Ewing Road and watch for signs. If weather conditions are questionable, call 618-242-9310 before traveling to the field day.

Handy List of Soil Testing Labs

Soil testing and plant sampling provide valuable information to help you get the most from your investment. Here are two websites worth a visit:

Illinois Soil Testing Association

Includes a lab list and tips on taking a good soil test and plant sample.

<http://www.soiltesting.org/membersadvisors.html>

U of I Extension List of Soil Testing Labs

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/soiltest/>

U of I Extension
Ginger M Boas
County Extension Director

Fayette County
118 N 6th Street
Vandalia, IL
Tel: 618-283-2753

Clay County
235 Chestnut
PO Box F
Louisville, IL
Tel: 618-665-3328

<http://fayette.extension.uiuc.edu>



Field Days Offer Unique Setting for Learning

Robert Bellm, crop systems educator

Where can you get unbiased, research-based information that represents the unique soil type and growing conditions similar to your farm? The answer is a university field tour.

The Department of Crop Sciences at University of Illinois and the Plant, Soil Science and Agricultural Systems Department at Southern Illinois University–Carbondale will host summer field tours at their field research centers this summer. These tours highlight the latest agronomic research being conducted by the universities, and provide valuable information to growers throughout the state.



In addition to its main research farm on the Urbana campus, U of I operates five outlying research centers representing the major soil types and growing environments in the state. SIUC operates a research center near Belleville.

Although field day tour topics vary by location, research developments in weed, insect, disease, and fertility management are normally offered at all locations. Some locations also offer tours covering plant breeding, soil and water management, crop marketing, and engineering technologies.

Dudley Smith field day features biofuels and grazing research.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend one or more of these events. In addition to seeing current research results, you will get a chance to check out the crops around the state and visit with your neighbors about their cropping systems. If you need further information, call the number

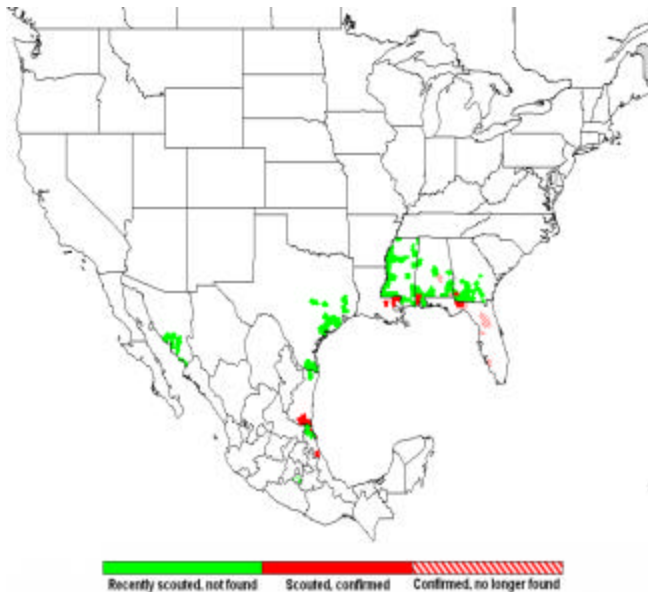
Location	Date	Time	Contact Number	Details
Ewing ¹	June 11	9 A.M.	(618) 242-9310	See the new storage barn!
Urbana – Weeds	June 24	8 A.M.	(217) 265-0344	Includes Snack
Pana– Dudley Smith	June 30	10 AM	(217) 287-7246	Includes Lunch
Belleville – SIU ²	July 9	9 A.M.	(618) 566-4761	Includes Lunch
Brownstown	July 30	9 A.M.	(618) 692-9434	Includes Lunch
Dixon Springs	August 6	8 A.M.	(618) 695-2790	Includes Lunch
Urbana	August 13	7 A.M.	(217) 333-4256	Includes Lunch
Orr Center	August 19	4 P.M.	(217) 236-4911	Includes Dinner
Ewing ¹	Sept. 10	9 A.M.	(618) 242-9310	

¹ Ewing Field (100 years old in 2009) is operated by University of Illinois Extension in Southern Illinois.

Dennis Epplin, crop systems educator

Yes, we have dodged the soybean rust bullet on several occasions. But, it is probably still a good idea to be informed and prepared.

- Soybean rust has overwintered for the first time in Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana.
- The weather in the gulf states has been favorable for disease development.
- Later planting of soybeans in southern Illinois could result in later maturity and increased chances of soybean rust.
- It is far too early to predict problems, but watch the soybean rust website at <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>.



DUDLEY SMITH FARM FIELD DAY JUNE 30TH.

The Dudley Smith Farm Research Field Day will be Tuesday, June 30, 2009 beginning at 9:30 am. The morning will feature presentations of research projects from the farm. Ed Ballard, Animal Systems Educator (ret), will discuss grazing research, Dr. Dan Shike will present corn stock grazing supplement with DDGS, and Mike Vincent will present the tropical maize project plan for the farm.

Just before lunch, Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky Forage specialist will cover "Selecting and Managing Forages to Compliment Your Rotational Grazing Program." Lunch will be served by the Christian County Extension office at noon. An optional tour of the projects on site will begin at 12:45.

To sign up contact University of Illinois Extension, Christian Co. Office at 217-287-7246.

Tour Series to Include Franklin County Farm

If you've been thinking about fruit production as a way to diversify, you'll want to attend Extension's next sustainable agriculture tour set for June 19 at Jed's Farm, Thompsonville. The program starts at 9 A.M. and concludes with a lunch presentation.

Judy and Ernie Duckworth will showcase their way of growing strawberries, which includes fewer chemicals and a longer growing season. They use black plastic with compost that is made from the manure in their cow/calf operation, rather than the methyl bromide that many other fruit growers use.

Only three acres of the 80-acre farm are devoted to their fruit and vegetable operation. But, Ernie says that the strawberries are more lucrative than the cows.

During the lunch that follows the tour, John Pike, U of I Extension community and economic development educator, will discuss marketing specialty crops.

Advance registration by **June 12** is needed. The fee is \$20. You can register online or by phone:

- For credit card payment, visit http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/ag_tours.cfm
- For check or cash payment, call U of I Extension, Franklin County, 618-439-3178

Controlling Mosquitoes in Your Yard Dave Robson, Horticulture Educator

To reduce mosquito problems in your yard, eliminate breeding sites. An ongoing program of eliminating these sites in your yard is actually easy and not very time consuming. However, it must be done regularly, states David Robson, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

Many ponds and backyard water features can be potential breeding grounds for the mosquitoes. Heavy rains that flood these areas cause the eggs to hatch, resulting in larvae that develop into adult, biting mosquitoes in about two weeks.

Permanent bodies of water—such as ponds, abandoned swimming pools and garden pools—should contain top-feeding fish to eat any mosquito larvae that try to develop. Gambusia (known as mosquito fish), most bait minnows or guppies will eliminate any mosquito larvae that are present. Minnows from a bait shop will probably be the cheapest, most available form of season-long mosquito control.

Mosquitoes can also be controlled as larvae in water with insecticides. *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis*, a bacteria that kills only the larvae of mosquitoes and closely related insects, is available in some garden centers. Other mosquitoes will develop throughout the summer in small amounts of water that may accumulate in bird-baths, old tires, tin cans and other containers. These containers should be eliminated, pierced so that they do not hold water or emptied and dried at least once a week so that mosquitoes are not able to develop in them.

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
If you need special dietary or disability accommodations to participate in any programs listed in this newsletter, please contact your local U of I Extension office.

Beef Day Set for July 23

The U of I Dixon Springs Agricultural Center will host its annual Beef Day on Thursday, July 23. The program gets underway at 5:30 P.M. and will include dinner.

U of I experts Dan Faulkner and Frank Ireland, along with student interns, will present the latest developments in the industry. You'll get practical advice for making your beef operation as profitable as possible.



Watch your local newspapers and the SI Agriculture website, <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/ag>, for more details.

Is Your Farm 100 Years Old?

The Centennial Farms program honors generations of farmers who have worked to maintain family farms in Illinois. To qualify for Centennial Farm status, an agricultural property must have been owned by the same family of lineal or collateral descendants for at least 100 years. Visit the website <http://www.agr.state.il.us/marketing/centfarms/> for more details.

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