



# The IICCA Newsletter

November 2006

Iowa Independent Crop Consultants Association

## President

**Mark Raasch**  
3021 Hope Ave  
Odebolt, IA 51458  
e-mail:  
croprecon@yahoo.com

## Newsletter editor

Byron Peters  
AG PLUS Consulting  
410 1/2 2nd St  
Ida Grove, IA 51445  
Ph: 712.364.2885  
e-mail:  
agfocus@longlines.com

**Fall IICCA Tech Mtg**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 28th**  
**Gateway Hotel, Ames**

**ICM Crop Conference**  
**Wed./Thurs. Nov.29/30**  
**ISU Campus**

## Member survey results:

During spring 2006, a survey was done to collect ideas. This survey has been summarized and is being sent as a separate document so that only IICCA members will have access.

## President's Comments

### Editor note:

Mark provided these thoughts earlier this fall for newsletter.

*What a year to learn from.* With the dryness moving west and the western bean cutworms moving east, we were all challenged. As consultants, we have to continually update ourselves on what each year may bring. Our winter meeting will have many current topics to meet this need. One important topic during this meeting will be a discussion time within the group. The questions to be answered are; 'What was your best success during 2006?' and 'What will be your biggest challenge for 2007?' This is meant to be a time to learn from each other. We, as a group, have a vast range of experiences and knowledge. Let's take advantage of this resource.

An Ag loan officer told me the other day, "My best clients make use of consultants in their operations." Consultants are part of a management team. Our role in a client's operation doesn't always have to be specific. Many times, our familiarity of the operation allows us to pull in other specialists to solve problems. Ultimately, this reduces the amount of stress our clients have when problems arise, because they know they have a team supporting them.

As a farmer, I belong to a group called the Professional Crop Seminar. This group is made up of farmers that farm loess soils in Western Iowa. We meet three times per year and have topics related to crops, livestock, marketing and technology. The meeting in December will cover our annual review of each member's crop enterprise analysis and discussion of RTK field navigation. Field navigation is becoming a hot topic among farmers as margins narrow and fuel remains high. It will be a challenge to make this technology cost effective in our hilly terrain. We'll see what the discussion fleshes out.

**Have a safe fall season!**

## IICCA awards scholarships during spring 2006

Thanks to Wayne McClintock of Charles City for providing info.

**Congratulations!**

**Rachel Baumgartner** from Ponce, Puerto Rico. Major Agronomy, Graduation spring 2007.

Rachel plans to get her Masters and eventually a PhD in plant breeding. Her emphasis would be disease and insect resistance. She would also like to conduct research on sustainable cropping systems.

**Michael Borcharding** from Hampton, IA. Major Agribusiness. Graduation spring 2007.

Michael plans to go into commodity merchandising while also having personal investments in the swine and cattle industry.

## Consultant's View

During the fall season, some fellow consultants were asked to provide their view of 2006 season and yield prospects. Thanks for consultant cooperation. While at crop conference, we can learn more about conditions around the state.

### Wayne McClintock, consultant Charles City ( east of Mason City area )

Planting of oats/new seeding alfalfa was delayed into mid-April, but corn and soybeans planting were timely. Record heat over the Memorial Day weekend started a trend where crop growth and development stayed slightly ahead of normal for the rest of the season.

For only about the second time since 1989, (2003 was the other year) spotty areas had yield reducing moisture stress over the summer.

Potato leaf hoppers were plentiful from mid-June through August. Soybean aphids stayed below threshold in most fields. This was the highest western bean cutworm infestation in history for this area. Rootworm feeding in 1st year corn is significantly less than '05. A high wind event on July 1 caused susceptible varieties to "green snap" in southern Floyd and Chickasaw county. A high wind event on July 21 "downed" corn in northern Floyd and southern Mitchell county.

There was a surprising amount of white mold for as warm and dry as July was. Corn had more foliar disease (mainly Northern Leaf Spot) as compared to the last four years - likely causing the crop to prematurely black layer and reduce yield and possibly test weight.

.....

### Hal Tucker, consultant Storm Lake (western IA)

Weather: Spring through May 8th ... wet and cool. May 9th through August 5th ... extremely dry.  
August into early September ..... wet

Corn yields will be extremely variable ranging from 40 bu. to 190 bu. The 190 bushels will come in the LeMars area (north of Sioux City), while the 40 bushels will come from Sac Co. area (corn on corn).

Western bean leaf beetles was spotty with some heavy areas scattered around Buena Vista Co. Soybean yields will be much better than most expect, ranging from 40 to 70 bushels. The extremely dry areas will have the lowest yields (ran out of moisture early in season). Aphids barely showed up, while bean leaf beetles were at or below threshold.

**Thanks** to Kirk Leeds, IICCA executive director

and to his assistants for making fall conference arrangements and working to provide speakers covering a diverse range of topics for our consultants group.

Developments in the ag industry in recent months are creating a new set of pressures on production agriculture. What an intellectually challenging time to be an ag consultant in Iowa!

Happy Thanksgiving.....  
enjoy time with family and friends

