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March News



NDSU Offers ZoneMap Training for Variable-rate Fertilizing

ZoneMap users can incorporate their field data with satellite imagery to delineate field management zones, assign fertilizer rates for each zone and then download the fertilizer application maps.

Crop producers now have an online option to develop management zones and fertilizer application maps for their fields. ZoneMap is available for free use on the Web at <http://zonemap.umac.org>. North Dakota State University Extension John

Nowatzki, NDSU Extension Service agricultural machine systems specialist will conduct seminars on the use of ZoneMap in Bowman on March 24 and in Ashley on March 25. NDSU Extension agents Andrea Bowman and Bill Klein are coordinating the seminars.

ZoneMap is a interactive mapping application developed by the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium for use in the northern Great Plains area of the U.S.

“Participants will learn

how to use ZoneMap and have the opportunity to develop variable-rate fertilization application maps for two fields,” Nowatzki says. “Anyone interested in participating in these seminars is asked to preregister by contacting the NDSU Extension Service agents in Bowman or McIntosh County.”

Management zones are used with variable-rate fertilization. Each zone on the field map is assigned a unique yield

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NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center Offers ‘2009 Sheep Research Report’

Producers and others interested in the sheep industry have a variety of ways to view the “2009 NDSU Sheep Research Report.” The sheep research was completed by faculty and staff at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University Extension Service and NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, but compiled at the Hettinger Research Extension Center.

The research topics include:

- Influence of thiamin supplementation on feedlot performance and carcass quality of lambs fed a 60 percent distillers dried grain plus solubles finishing ration
- Effects of arginine supplementation on reproductive performance in Rambouillet ewes
- Ovine progressive pneumonia

- NDSU Extension Service live lamb carcass contest report

The “2009 NDSU Sheep Research Report” is available at <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/hettinger/> by going to the livestock section. A printed or CD copy is available by contacting the Hettinger REC at ndsu.hettinger.rec@ndsu.edu or calling (701) 567-4323.

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Upcoming Events

March

- 17 SCD Meeting
- 18-19 Western Crop Management School-Dickinson
- 20 Farm Bill Training
- 24 4-H Shooting Sports Mtg.
- 31-April 2 Spring Extension Conference - Ashley Gone

Cattlemen Mark your Calendars!!

On May 12th a Livestock Marketing Meeting will be held at LaPlaya Mexican restaurant at 6:30 pm. Speakers include Tim Petry, NDSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist, Jerry Tuhy farm business management educator and Dr. Bill Tidball. Please plan to join us for a evening of livestock marketing strategy and a ND tuberculosis status update.

2009 Pesticide Trainings

The Pesticide Training opportunities have ended in this county as of March 9th. If you missed one of the trainings here please feel free to attend one of the trainings listed below. You must call ahead to preregister. If these do not work for you please contact the Extension Office 872-4332, to see what options are available.

Private General Only

Mar. 17 - Elks, Dickinson
register: 12:30 pm

Mar 25 - Hettinger REC
register: 12:30 pm

General & Fumigation

Mar 24 - Elks, Dickinson
register: 9:00 am

Zonemap continued

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goal. The fertilizer application equipment used for variable-rate fertilization is capable of changing application rates during field operation. Variable-rate fertilization uses a global positioning system integrated with a computer in the tractor cab to signal the fertilizer application equipment to change rates as it moves from one zone to another.

Field zone maps normally are made using a geographic information system (GIS) computer program capable of combining available field information to delineate field areas based on productivity levels. Producers have several options to develop zone maps and fertilizer application maps.

The major farm equipment companies and several GIS computer pro-

grams are capable of making field zone maps. However, these computer programs don't come with the data needed to delineate field zones and most of the programs require a considerable amount of skill to operate effectively. Another option for farmers is to hire crop consultants or agricultural computer consultants to prepare zone maps for a fee.

"ZoneMap users can incorporate their field data with satellite imagery to delineate field management zones, assign fertilizer rates for each zone and then download the fertilizer application maps in a digital format ready for loading into their in-cab computer," Nowatzki says.

The first step in using ZoneMap to develop management zones is delineating the field area or

area of interest. Delineating an area of interest on ZoneMap requires knowing the latitude and longitude of the north, south, east and west boundaries of the field. However, participants in these seminars will learn how to use Google Earth, an interactive, online map, to identify the latitude and longitude for use in ZoneMap.

Computers will be available at the seminars.

However, participants are encouraged to bring their own wireless Internet-enabled laptop computers so they can take all the seminar data with them when they leave.

The Bowman ZoneMap Seminar is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. MDT at the Dakota Room of the Bowman County Courthouse. The Ashley seminar is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. CDT at the Dakota Family Restaurant.

Crop Budgets 2009

The NDSU Extension Ag Economics Department has again put together a series of projected crop budgets. Remember when using these that they are a projection and not an actual accounting of what your farm *will do* but can be used to tell you what your farm *could do*. Also keep in mind that prices used are taken as a snapshot in time in December. Prices have changed since then. Use your own numbers to make these budgets a more accurate prediction for your operation.

The 2009 projected crop budget for SW ND can be found at:

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/agecon/ecguides/sw2009.pdf>

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