Last Issue in 2005

We are living in interesting and exciting times in agriculture. Much has changed since I started my career in Illinois in 1979—both crop protection and crop production have evolved significantly, with changes in each affecting the other. The interrelationships among crops, pests, the environment, and agricultural technologies have never seemed more evident than they were in 2005, a year to remember in Illinois agriculture. We always expect that each year will be different from the previous one, and our expectations were met in spades in 2005. We all learned a lot, but learning always raises new questions. Consequently, the issues we will face in 2006 and beyond and the manner in which we address them will say much about our agricultural stewardship.

The ways in which we deliver educational materials and programs related to pest management and crop development also are changing. It’s probably fair to say that we are in a period of significant transition. Use of the Internet for delivery of information has increased exponentially over the past few years. There is so much information available on the Internet that people have the opportunity to make informed choices about the sources of the information they use. Obviously, we hope that one of your primary sources is the Bulletin and the other pages on the University of Illinois IPM Web site (http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu). To that end, we will continue to do our best to bring you the most timely, enlightening, and thought-provoking information to be had.

Educational programming in agriculture also is changing. Over time, we have made adjustments to the Illinois Crop Protection Technology Conference, and we continue to offer new programs with unique formats. The Corn & Soybean Classics and the Regional Crop Management Workshops are two examples of educational programs that were developed to fulfill specific needs. (Read more about all three of these programs in the next article.) In the near future, we expect to link these and other educational programs more closely as a curriculum, as well as to explore more fully the delivery of educational programs via distance education technology.

As dramatic changes continue to occur, we invite your input. The educational materials and programs we develop are intended to meet your needs and meet or exceed your expectations. Therefore, your input and feedback are essential. So keep the “cards and letters” coming.

Although this is the last official issue of the Bulletin in 2005, we will provide some alerts between this issue and the first issue of 2006. If you are an electronic subscriber, you will receive automatic notification of these alerts. If you do not receive these automatic e-mail messages, subscribe now at http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/subscribe.html (click on “sign-up”) so that you will always know when the most recent issue of the Bulletin or between-issue alerts have been posted.

As always, on behalf of all of the authors and other contributors to the Bulletin, I thank you for your continuous support and for your interest in our activities. We all look forward to working with you again in 2006. Happy holidays to you and your families.—Kevin Steffey
Another Reminder to Register for the 2006 Illinois Crop Protection Technology Conference, the Corn & Soybean Classics, and/or the Regional Crop Management Workshops

Planning continues for the Crop Protection Technology Conference, the Corn & Soybean Classics, and the Regional Crop Management Workshops, and registrations are “pouring in” (to quote a knowledgeable source) daily. We think we have some excellent educational programs planned for these events in 2006, and we hope you take the opportunity to attend one or more of them.

Lots of information about the conference and the Classics is available at http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/conferences. You can register for either program online, or you can download a printable form and register by mail. The early-registration deadline for the conference is December 16. The early-registration deadlines for the Classics are December 23 (for phone, fax, and mail-in registrations) and January 4 (for online registrations). Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits for each program have been established. Check the Web site for more information.

Learn more about the University of Illinois Regional Crop Management Workshops by contacting one of the following individuals:

- Northern Illinois Crop Management Workshop, Kishwaukee College Convention Center, Malta, February 28–March 1: Dave Feltes, Quad Cities Extension Center, dfeltes@uiuc.edu.
- Southern Illinois Crop Management Workshop, Rend Lake Resort and Convention Center, Whittington, February 7–8: Dennis Epplin, Mt. Vernon Extension Center, depplin@uiuc.edu.

The workshops will feature opening and closing sessions for all attendees, with concurrent sessions focused on the most important regional crop management issues.

If you attend any of these programs, please take the opportunity to visit with the coordinators and speakers to offer feedback about the value of the program or to provide suggestions for future versions.—Kevin Steffey

Upcoming Programs in Fruit and Vegetable Production and Pest Management

For those whose interests include pesticides, pest management, soil fertility, and marketing for fruit and vegetable crops, University of Illinois Extension organizes or co-organizes several winter educational programs, as do nearby states. Here is a partial list of what is slated in and around Illinois for the 2005–2006 winter season.

January 5 Illinois Vegetable Growers School

Teibel’s Restaurant, Schererville, Indiana, at the junction of routes 41 and 30. The program begins at 8:00 a.m., and the registration fee is $20. For details, contact Liz Maynard (219-785-5673, purduenwhort@pnc.edu). The program agenda will be posted online by early December at http://www.hort.purdue.edu/fruitveg/events/events.

January 11–12 Illinois Organic Production Conference

Interstate Center, 2301 West Market Street, Bloomington, Illinois. The program runs from 1:00 p.m. on January 11 through 3:30 p.m. on January 12, and the early registration fee (until December 20) is $85. The agenda includes a general session and breakout tracks focusing on field crops, specialty crops, livestock, and miscellaneous issues. For more information, contact Dan Anderson at (217-333-1588, aslan@uiuc.edu). Program information is available online at http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/asap/orgconf/ConfSchedule.htm.

January 17–19 Illinois Specialty Crops Conference

Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Illinois. This statewide conference is organized by University of Illinois Extension and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association. The program will begin at 9:45 a.m. on January 17; there will be two days of general sessions and concurrent tracks on fruits, vegetables, and herbs, as well as a fourth track on cross-cutting issues including farm marketing, insurance, liability, labor, food safety, and irrigation. A full-day postconference workshop focusing on tomato and sweet corn production and pest management is scheduled for January 19. The program is available online at http://www.specialtygrowers.org/, click on the “More” link under the Convention Update heading on the right side of the page. For more information, contact Diane Handley at the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (309-557-2107, handley@ilfb.org).

January 23–25 Indiana Horticultural Congress

Adam’s Mark Hotel near the Indianapolis airport. The program includes sessions on farm marketing, agritourism, and fruit and vegetable production and pest management. Topics on the vegetable program include greenhouse diagnostics, downy mildew of cucurbits, pumpkin production, vegetable herbicides, sweet corn and melon varieties, and beneficial insects. For details, contact Danielle Sheese (765-494-1301, dlinback@purdue.edu). The program will be posted at http://www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/hortcongress.

January 26 Illinois Horseradish Growers School

Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, Illinois. The program will include updates on breeding efforts, tissue culture for maintaining germplasm, research on disease-free propagation, hydroponics, soil amendments, postharvest storage, insect scouting,
an IPM survey, and variety trial evaluations. For more information, contact Elizabeth Wahle (618-692-9434, wahle@uiuc.edu).

**February 7 and 8**  
**Southern Illinois Tree Fruit Schools**

Mount Vernon on February 7, Hardin on February 8. For more information, contact Elizabeth Wahle (618-692-9434, wahle@uiuc.edu), or as the dates approach check for information at “News for Southern Illinois Growers” at http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/hort/.

**February 9**  
**Kankakee Area Vegetable Growers School**

Location to be announced. For more information, contact Maurice Ogutu (708-352-0109, ogutu@uiuc.edu).

**February 16**  
**Southern Illinois Vegetable School**

Mount Vernon Holiday Inn. For more information, contact Elizabeth Wahle (618-692-9434, wahle@uiuc.edu), or as the dates approach check for information at “News for Southern Illinois Growers” at http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/hort/.

**March 7–8**  
**Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools**

Mount Vernon Holiday Inn. For more information, contact Elizabeth Wahle (618-692-9434, wahle@uiuc.edu) or Browwn Aly (618-695-2444, baly@uiuc.edu). As the dates approach, check for information at “News for Southern Illinois Growers” at http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/hort.

—Rick Weinzierl

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**Regional Report**

**West-Central Illinois**

Many producers took advantage of the early harvest and favorable fall conditions to complete a majority of their fall tillage. Dry fertilizer applications and lime spreaders were busy for much of the fall. Producers weary of volatile fuel and fertilizer prices may be holding out until spring.

According to Mike Roegge, University of Illinois Extension Crops Systems Educator in Adams and Brown counties, soil moisture remains low down to 5 feet as tiling installers and construction projects reach the subsoils levels.

The wheat appears to be in good condition going into the winter. Most fields were planted near the fly-free dates and have developed ample root systems and top growth for overwintering.

Soil moisture conditions improved for some of the area during late November when 1 to 3 inches of rain fell in some parts. This left drainage ditches full and water standing in poorly drained areas of some fields.

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