

The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

March 2015

81st Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show Review



Table of Contents

3	A Letter from the President -Tim VanLoo, CSFM
4	Iowa Turfgrass Office Update -Jeff Wendel, CGCS
8	Southeast Director Update -Chad Peterson
9	Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show Review - Troy McQuillen
10	Iowa Turfgrass Conference Picture Review
11	Iowa STMA Award Announcements
12	ISTMA Gary Peterson Scholarship Recipients
16	Spring Start "TIPS" -Brent Smith

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For more information regarding articles and advertising rates contact the editor.

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Advertisers

D & K Products	2
Commercial Turf & Tractor	3
Floratine Central Turf Products	3
River City Turf & Ornamental	4
Bush Sports Turf	8
PACE Supply	9
CoverMaster	15
Iowa Athletic Field Construction	17
MTI Distributing	17

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A Letter from the President

Tim VanLoo, CSFM, Iowa State Athletics



For those of you that don't know me, please let me tell you a little about myself. I work for Iowa State University and manage all the Athletic fields and outdoor surfaces that our athletes use. I have been at Iowa State for 5 years and am excited to get my 6th growing season underway. I came to Iowa State from Northwestern University where I was the Athletic Field Manager there for 3 seasons. Before that I had spent nearly 8 years at Michigan State University obtaining a 2 year Turf Certificate, B.S in Turfgrass and an M.S. in Turfgrass. I have been around sports turf maintenance or research since 2000. Sports turf is my passion and I truly enjoy creating safe playing surfaces for the athletes that use the fields that I am blessed to care for.

If you are a new member, please let me welcome you to this wonderful organization. Besides the newsletter that you are currently reading, there are many other benefits. I hope you are able to take advantage of the information on the website; past newsletters, merchandise ordering, membership directory, and awards and scholarship information. Make sure you watch for final workshop dates and try to attend the ones that work with your schedule. I believe our workshops are always full of useful information and I know from experience that you will use some of the information as you return

to your place of employment after attending a workshop.

For those that have been members in the past, thank you for your continued support of our industry. Remember that this organization was started to help our industry continue to grow in professionalism and to educate all our members on the science and expertise it takes to manage playing surfaces for all ages. You continuing to achieve more is what drives this organization to continue to support you. We are here for all members and want know if we are missing anything. Please contact me or any other board member if you have any issues or want more information on a particular subject.

I hope that all your spring seasons can start on time without too many weather delays or issues to try and overcome. If that does happen, I know you will each do everything you can to deliver playing fields that are safe and managed to the best of your ability because that's what a sports field managers does. As we all begin 2015 growing season, don't get frustrated with the difficulties that lay ahead, overcome them with the resources, the desire, and the expertise that you have learned from others or your own experiences. Also, don't hesitate to ask other sports field managers what they are doing; we are all in this together.

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Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

2015 Iowa Turfgrass Conference Evaluations

Thanks to everyone who supported the 2015 Conference. Special thanks to everyone who completed an evaluation form, your feedback is critical to planning and execution of future 'shows.'

The response to The Meadows venue was tremendous; most attendees prefer the easy access and free parking. Please read on for an explanation of how the process for selecting show locations works, along with a few paragraphs that address the most common attendee concerns/comments about the Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show.

Coralville Marriott 2016

You may be aware the Iowa 'show' is moving to Coralville in 2016. We try to avoid conflicting dates with Nebraska, Minnesota and Missouri shows, along with avoiding National shows by STMA and GC-SAA. When we were Downtown Des Moines, we also worked to avoid Iowa Pork as sharing downtown with another convention leads to higher hotel prices, difficult parking and crowded restaurants.

For 2016, neither The Meadows nor Downtown Marriott has space available on dates that would avoid all of these potential conflicts. Coralville has an excellent Trade Show space and much more meeting space than The Meadows and we are excited to have the show in Eastern Iowa. While we are always looking for new opportunities, we do have dates for 2017 and 2018 reserved at The Meadows.

Education Room Setup

The bulk of the negative comments regarding the 2015 Conference were about the lack of tables in the meeting rooms. We always prefer classroom seating (CR), usually two seats per six-foot table. We usually have some theatre style (TS) seating also, which is just rows of chairs with no table. Classroom seating takes a good deal more space than TS. For example, Skinner A at the Meadows is 2090 square feet; it can seat 261 people theatre style or 87 people in CR seating. With 135 people preregistered for the Golf Course Session and a good weather forecast increasing the possibility of on-

site registration, a combination of CR and TS seating was the only option.

It would be great if we had a facility that had easy access, free parking, plenty of hotel rooms, great trade show space and large meeting rooms, but that facility simply does not exist. Turns out, they are not designing event centers specifically to suit our needs. This should not be an issue in Coralville and we will work with The Meadows to improve the amount of table seating for 2017.

Breaks & Lunches

Chef Patty and her staff received an amazing number of compliments on the food. However, evaluation comments included; there was not enough coffee, break ran out of cookies, need coffee for every break, etc. The economics determine what can be done, coffee is \$34.63 per gallon, cookies are \$18 dozen, donuts are \$20 dozen. One attendee wrote, "You need to beef up the coffee and breaks." We can do that, but it will raise the price of attendance and we have never felt like coffee and donuts were the most important thing to attendees.

Lunches for the Workshops and 2 days of Trade Show cost just under \$42 per attendee. The total cost of breaks, lunches, reception food and coffee for our show is a few dollars under 40 thousand and amounts to approximately 81 dollars per three day attendee.

Continued on Page 5...



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Education Sessions & Timing

Evaluations included a good amount of comment regarding the length and format of education sessions. The fifteen-minute break between sessions allows time for attendees to talk with the speaker privately, removes pressure on speakers who may be talking in back to back sessions and reduces problems with A/V. Keeping all sessions with the same time frame avoids having some people on break while other are still in session. This does not always work, but our volunteer moderators do a great job of keeping sessions running smoothly.

Speakers & Program

Many positive comments about the program and speakers for the 2015 Conference! Speaker expense is second only to catering at our show and we have always felt the funds spent on education are most important.

Very special thanks to all the speakers that donate their travel expense and preparation time, Iowa Turfgrass Conference could not survive without your kindness. A few commented that the keynote was great but did not help them improve their business. That is not on Rex Havens, he did exactly as we asked. With many technical talks, we believed a break that was not serious at all was a good fit. Thanks to Rex for the hour of laughs and for fitting his show perfectly to our people!

*Thank you to everyone that attended the
81st Iowa Turfgrass
Conference & Trade Show.*

*We look forward to seeing everyone in
Coralville next January!*



Call to Write

Do you have something you would like to share with the ISTMA?
Please email Sarah at sarah@iowaturfgrass.org with your news or story!

Kirkwood Community College STMA Student Challenge Participation

Kirkwood Community College Turf Management Club placed

4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th in the two-year school

2015 STMA Student Challenge in Denver, Co.

Students in the Golf Course & Athletic Turfgrass Management Program joined the sports turf industry at the 26th Annual STMA Conference in Denver, Co. Students were able to attend student networking sessions, educational workshops, panel discussions, and meet with past, current, and future employers.

A special part of the STMA conference that Kirkwood students study throughout the fall semester is participating in the Student Challenge. The student challenge competition pairs a max of 4 person teams together against other turf schools from around the Nation. Students are tested over live sample identification, general knowledge, sport turf scenarios, and new to this year competition was irrigation assembly. Kirkwood had 4 teams participate consisting of 15 students.

The two-year competition teams consisted of Chris Stillmunkes, Courtney Bransted, and Keith Becker placing 4th. Andrew Raes, Mitchell Countryman, Tyler Olson, and Tanner Kleppe placing 5th. Alex West, Todd McGuire, Keegan Pope, and Grant Mehman placing 6th. The 8th place teams were students, Matt Vos, Justin Storm, Bryan Meyer, and Myles Kelly.

One other special recognition went to student Todd McGuire. Todd received this year STMA's two-year degree scholarship of \$2000.00. Congratulations to Todd!!



Kirkwood students were happy with their performance and look forward to preparing for the student challenge competition next year, in San Diego, CA.

Southeast Director Update

Chad Peterson, City of Cedar Rapids

The 81st Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show has come and gone and I don't know about you but it always gets me excited to get the season started and to put some of the new knowledge I gained to work.

The Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is a very valuable tool for me. I don't have the college degree or the schooling that many of the other men and women in our field have. I was born and raised on a golf course in the Quad Cities. My dad was the superintendent at Palmer Hills and I spent the majority of my free time as a kid either playing golf or working on the course.

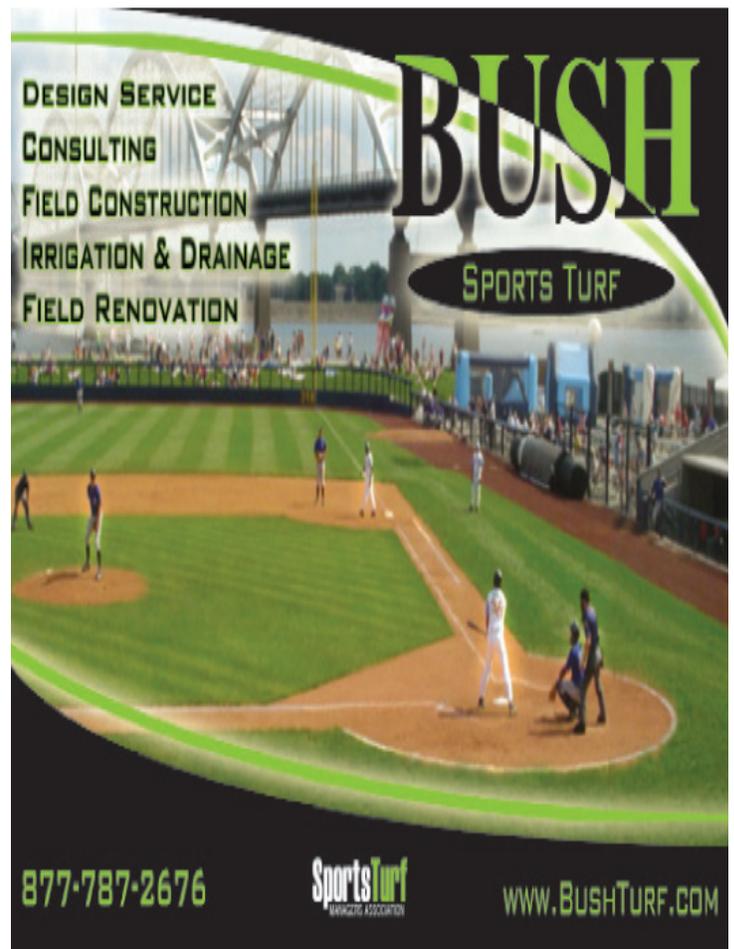
My first hands on experience was when I was 12 and I got to rake bunkers with the sand pro. I thought that was the best thing ever. That's what hooked me. When I was 16, I started at Crow Valley CC and worked there for 7 years. After that, I took a job at Bettendorf High School as the Head Grounds Keeper. I enjoyed it but felt I needed a break, so I moved to the Chicago area with my future wife and worked as a service writer at Saturn of Joliet. I knew I still had the itch since I was the only person at the dealership that would volunteer to mow the lawn.

In 2008, my brother passed away unexpectedly. He was someone I looked up to and was my go to guy for any turf questions. He had a turf degree from Iowa State, interned at Pinehurst #2, was the superintendent at The General in Galena, and then at Freeport C.C. It was a very hard time in my life but it opened my eyes to where I needed to be. The one thing that I loved, felt comfortable doing and came naturally to me was working on turf. I knew I had to carry on the tradition in the family and I was happy to continue that.

In March 2010, my wife got transferred to Cedar Rapids and I was able to get a job with the city as a maintenance worker. In August of 2010, I got the opportunity to take over the Tuma Soccer Complex and I have been there since. After a few years of just managing the complex, my duties have expanded to overseeing our 4 diamond softball complex as well as helping with any turf related issues throughout the parks system.

The reason I have laid my story out for all to read is to let everyone know that it doesn't matter if you have a degree, it doesn't matter if you are just starting out and are learning the trade, what does matter is the heart you put into your craft. You can always learn as you go, there are plenty of people in this field that are willing to help, but if your heart isn't in it you won't get far.

I will leave you with this final statement. A few years ago, a well-known figure in our ISTMA group told me at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show that you get out what you put in. That was the clean version of what he told me, thanks Joe. I strongly agree with this statement and over the last few years I have tried to be more involved with the ISTMA. I encourage everyone to put themselves out there, write an article, attend a few workshops, pick up the phone and talk shop with one of us. I wish everyone a very prosperous and successful season.



81st Iowa Turfgrass Conference Review

Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College

The 81st Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show was held on January 20th-22nd at the Meadows Event Center in Altoona, IA. This year's conference welcomed 500 attendees with 166 exhibitors from 64 different companies. The Iowa Sports Turf Managers group was among the attendees at this year's conference.

The ISTMA education sessions kicked off of Tuesday morning with University educators and researchers Bryan Unruh, PhD, from the University of Florida. Bill Kreuser PhD, from UNL and Jared Hoyle, PhD, from Kansas State University. Each presenter provided an overview of current turfgrass industry research and best management practices for the sports turf industry. The education continued into the afternoon with peer presentations from Sports Turf Manager TJ Brewer, CSFM on reducing your athletic field inputs, Derek York, CSFM with in season field renovations and conversions, Elliott Josephson on the past season's winter damage and Ryan Adams with Poa Annuua control and aerification timing. Following the day's education the ISTMA hosted a membership social for its members and supporters.

Wednesday morning started with ITI scholarship awards presentation. The ITI awarded \$6500.00 in scholarships to 10 two-year and four-year college students enrolled in Turfgrass Management programs in the state of Iowa. The ITI also recognized the 2014 Meritorious Service Award winner, Joe Wagner from the City of Iowa City (needless to say this was the 1st time Joe was speechless). The ITI general session continued with talk from Fred Whitford, PhD and Gretchen Paluch PhD titled: "Making regulations work for you." Following the education, companies provided the participants with new products to look for at the Tradeshow. Rex Havens was the keynote speaker for this year's general session and gave everyone a belly full of laughter.

Following the morning tradeshow and lunch the ISTMA began their afternoon education sessions with remarks for Bryan Unruh PhD. and Jared Hoyle PhD. on their latest industry research in sports field management.

Wednesday afternoon was also the time for ISTMA's

annual meeting and awards presentation. The ISTMA presented three \$1000.00 Gary Peterson Scholarships to Josh Lenz, Brandon Bousema, and Zachary Olinger. All students are studying turfgrass management at Iowa State University. ISTMA also presented its soccer field and softball field of the year awards to Burlington Rec Complex and manager John Newell. The Sports Turf Manager of the year award was given to Chad Peterson of Tuma Sports Complex in Cedar Rapids. The 2014 Golden Cleat Award went to Mike Burt of Grinnell College. Congratulations to all 2014 ISTMA award winners.

The final day of the turfgrass conference started with an ISTMA round table discussion, a presentation from Fred Whitford, PhD on mixing and measuring pesticides, along with Casey Scheidel, CSFM demonstrating drone and time lapse technology for the industry.

At the tradeshow, the ISTMA finalized the silent auction winners and raised \$6700.00 toward the student scholarship fund. A special thank you to all silent auction donors: Arborjet, Bush Turf, Commercial Turf & Tractor, D & K Products, Jeff Bosworth, CSFM, Floratine Central Turf Products, Hunter Industries, Mike Andresen, CSFM, John Deere Landscapes, LaCrosse Seeds, Miller & Sons Golf Cars, PBI Gordon, Elliott Josephson, Otter Creek Golf Course, Redline Golf & Sports Sand, Standard Golf Company, Turfwerks, and Van Diest Supply Company.

The 2016 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show will be held at a Coralville Marriott in Coralville, IA. Hope to see everyone there.

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*81st Annual
Iowa Turfgrass Conference
& Trade Show
Photo Highlights*



AND THE AWARD GOES TO.....

Golden Cleat Award

Mike Burt
Grinnell College



Sports Turf Manager of the Year

Chad Peterson
Tuma Sports Complex



Softball & Soccer Field of the Year

Burlington Rec Plex
Burlington, IA



Iowa Turfgrass Institute Meritorious Service Award

Joe Wagner
City of Iowa City





Josh Lenz

Josh Lenz is a Graduate Student at Iowa State University. He started pursuing a degree in Turfgrass Management when he found a way to combine his love of sports, design and working outside. Josh is currently working on the ISU Athletic Facilities and Grounds crew for Tim VanLoo, CSFM and had an opportunity to work at the 2015 Super Bowl in Phoenix, AZ. After graduation, Josh hopes to get his first job as an assistant in the Sports Turf Industry and work his way up to a manager's position.

Zack Olinger

Zack Olinger is a Junior at Iowa State University. He transferred to Iowa State from the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a degree in Turfgrass Management after completing a turfgrass internship with the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, FL at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. This summer Zack will be interning at the Iowa State University Research Station in Ames, IA and will be helping to build a top sports field research complex. After graduation, Zack hopes to pursue graduate school and extend his knowledge in agronomy and turfgrass management.



Brandon Bousema

Brandon Bousema is a Senior at Iowa State University majoring in Turfgrass Management. He first found interest in Sports Turf Management while working for the City of Sheldon during the summers. Brandon started out mowing and trimming at the cemetery in town before moving onto parks that included a pair of baseball fields that he helped maintained. Upon graduation, Brandon hopes to secure an internship at an NFL stadium in order to gain experience before apply for a assistant position.

2015 ISTMA SILENT AUCTION

The ISTMA Board of Directors would like to Thank everyone that donated items to the 2015 Silent Auction. This year was another huge success that could not have happened without your support. We would also like to thank the attendees for bidding and helping us raise approximately 6,500. That money supports the ISTMA Scholarship Fund. To the left is a list of the generous companies and individuals that donated to the 2015 Silent Auction.



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Mark Your Calendars Now 2015 ISTMA Events

May 5th - ISTMA Spring Workshop - Des Moines

TBA - ISTMA Summer Workshop

July 17th & 18th - IA/MN Chapter Challenge - Ankeny/Ames

July 15th - Field Day Classic - Huxley

July 23rd - Iowa Turfgrass Field Day - Ames

September 16th - ISTMA Fall Workshop - Cedar Rapids

Please visit www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm for more information and events!

**ISTMA would like to welcome our
newest Board Members!**



**Elliott Josephson
Central Director**



**Lee Van Meeteren
Southwest Director**



**Chad Peterson
Southeast Director**

If you would like to be more involved with ISTMA please contact Tim VanLoo, CSFM at vanlooti@iastate.edu to be a part of an ISTMA committee

NEW HORTICULTURE VIDEO ON WEB SITE

The Iowa State University Horticulture Department recently completed a new web site. As part of the web site, there is a new recruiting video on the first page.



Joshua Lenz and Kevin Hansen will tend turf in London for the NFL. Larger photo by Amy Vincattle.

To view the site, go to <http://www.hort.iastate.edu/>

The video is titled
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Spring Start 'TIPS'

Brent Smith, Floratine Central Turf Products

Nothing like throwing some traffic on turf that hasn't even began to grow yet!! There are many factors that influence the plant's ability to get growing coming out of winter, with temperature being the primary one. But there are number of advantages that we can give the grass that can gain us quite a few degrees, and perhaps days and weeks of early season growth that you would not otherwise have gained. That additional growth and recovery time can make a big difference in many areas of performance, from early season traffic, and or when the stresses of summer hit again this season. A couple of extra weeks of spring growth can lead to additional rooting, better density and overall better turf performance throughout the season.

The primary food producing mechanism (Photosynthesis) is still sluggish in early spring: $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{Sun (chlorophyll / color)} = \text{Carbohydrates (food)} + \text{O}_2$
The air temperature is low, as well as the duration and intensity of the sun. The raw materials are quite abundant (CO_2 and H_2O), but the energy source (sun) and chlorophyll (color) are the limiting factors.

The growth generating mechanism (Respiration) has not started either:

$\text{Carbohydrates (food)} + \text{O}_2 = \text{New Growth} + \text{CO}_2$
The soil temperature is too low for Chemical and Microbial activities to take place which limits nutrient availability and chemical reactions. Furthermore, there is little to no activity in the topical portions of the plant as stated above.

The lack of carbohydrate production in Photosynthesis can be supplemented with balanced foliar Amino-acid products that also contain simple and complex carbohydrates. Providing the raw materials (amino-acids) will help the plant achieve the end result, but also providing the end result (carbohydrates) will help get the plant growing in cold conditions. You can literally help jump-start the growth mechanism by supplying the carbohydrates that initiate the respiration (growth) process. Foliar supplements of the key Micro-nutrients (Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Copper, Zinc, among others) for chlorophyll production will also help tremendously with early green-up to capture the limited sunlight that

is available. Energy sources such as Phosphites are also beneficial to drive chemical reactions in the roots. Phosphites are excellent at enhancing the Krebs Cycle and ATP Generation - the energy molecule. Optimum blends of Hormonal Biostimulants and Foliar Nitrogen sources also play key roles in getting the plant growing in colder conditions.

Another great technology to add directly to canopy and soil temperature is the use of Pigments. Darkening the canopy can gain you a quick 5+ degrees of soil temperature and are another great avenue to jump-start early growth beyond nutrition and biostimulant technology.

In my experience the combined use of the above technologies gives you the best opportunity to 'pop' the turf in Spring.... Of course you could always just throw some Ammonium Sulfate (AMS) and watch the turf explode!! Kidding of course! AMS is another good choice for a soil product if used judiciously. It is relatively inexpensive and for those that don't have a reliable spray rig it offers a very soluble/available form of Nitrogen. My concern with the over use of AMS in the Spring is that you really deplete the carbohydrate reserves of the turf. Meaning that the topical growth you are generating is coming at the expense of rooting. The majority of the turf energy and carbohydrate reserves are being put into topical growth. I would always recommend a foliar amino acid/carbohydrate supplement when you are pushing topical growth as to not compromise the rooting. Balanced approaches to turf health will give you the best chance for durable playing surfaces that bounce back quickly from traffic events.

I usually recommend throwing the foliar technologies at a soil temperature of 48-50 degrees in the top 2". Typically the turf won't begin to grow until 58-60 degree soil temps. Better turf response can also be gained by doing those first 2 foliar applications in the afternoon (if the wind allows) when the sun energy is at its highest. You will get better uptake and translocation of the materials and therefore better response. I would also recommend filling the spray rig a day or two

Continued on Page 17...

before the application to allow the temperature of the spray mixture to be at it's warmest. The solubility of water will be much higher and the products will work better. The final factor is pH. Not nearly enough Turf Managers are checking the pH of the tank water prior to the addition of product. Just like temperature, pH had a direct correlation to solubility and product performance, and it's very inexpensive to correct. We should be targeting a tank water pH of 6-6.5, most facilities are 7.5 or higher. Let's face it, product and tank mixes are not cheap and we need to be maximizing our dollar and performance.

I hope you can use some of these tips at your facility to gain an advantage for you turf this Spring!! For additional information contact me any time.

Best Regards,
Brent

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Testing Times: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (You must present a photo ID)

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- IDALS personnel will be on hand to answer your questions
- Study guides are available for purchase at ISU Polk County Extension and Outreach Office
- Testing is FREE at the Polk County Extension and Outreach Location
- Photo identification required for testing

Practice Exam is available on line at:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/pesticide/onlinepesticidetesting.asp>

For questions contact

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