

ADAIR COUNTY EXTENSION AG NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 7

December 2009

Special points of interest:

Adair County 4-H Youth Council is hosting a soup supper on Sunday, January 3, 5-7 pm at the 4-H/FFA Center. Proceeds will help buy meat certificates for needy families.

Darrell Busby, Extension Livestock Specialist will be retiring the end of January. Clint McDonald will replace Darrell as beef specialist for Adair County.

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4 State Beef Conference January 12

Make plans to attend the 26th Annual 4-State Beef Conference. The program is set for Tuesday, January 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the ISU Armstrong Research Farm near Lewis.

Speakers and their topics :

Dr. Richard Randle, Associate Professor, Vet & Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska – *“Whole Herd Health: Common Health Problems”*

Dr. K.C. Olson, Associate Professor, Cow-Calf Nutrition and Management, Kansas State University – *“Mineral Nutrition”*

Karl Harboth, Extension Livestock Specialist, Kansas State University – *“Factors Affecting Sale Barn Prices”*

Dr. John Lawrence, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist, Iowa State University – *“Replacement Heifers: Buying vs. Raising”*

The registration fee is \$25.00 per person and reservations are requested by Friday, January 8, 2010. The fee includes a beef meal and a copy of the conference proceedings. To keep registration fees affordable in the future, please help us by calling in your reservations. For more information or to register for the conference, contact Clint McDonald, ISU Extension Beef Specialist at 712-644-2105, clint@iastate.edu or visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef/.

High Tunnel Workshop - January 5 & 6

Current commercial fruit or vegetable growers, and gardeners interested in expanding into commercial production and traditional farmers interested in diversifying can learn more about high tunnel production. An in-depth workshop is set for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Jan 5 and 6 from 6-9:30 p.m. at the Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm near Lewis.

High tunnels are inexpensive, simple, passive-solar greenhouses in which crops are grown directly in the soil. They allow growers to extend the season and produce high yields of quality produce earlier than field-grown crops, thus commanding a higher price at market.

Topics to be covered at the workshop include site and high tunnel selection, construction, soil management,

irrigation, pest management, bed design and cropping systems and business plan development.

Pre-registration is required by calling Linda Naeve at (515) 294-8946 or e-mailing her at lnaeve@iastate.edu. Fees for the workshop are \$30/person or \$50/couple, which includes a training manual/workbook and refreshments.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

Farm Succession Conference

Beginning Farmer Center

The 13th Annual Ag Link is for families who are looking at a multiple generation farm business. This program is offered in Ames in two two-day sessions on Jan. 15-16 and Feb. 12 and 13.

Issues to be discussed during this conference include: How to address major issues that can lead to failure in a multiple generation farm business; Determining whether an existing operation is profitable enough to support another generation; The basics of estate planning; Alternatives for transfer of farm assets; and Developing a farm family business succession plan.

ISU students attending this year's conference are able to earn up to two ISU credit hours. For additional information on credit hours go to www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/credit.htm

The cost is \$200 for a family group of four or fewer and \$40 for each additional attendee. Meals, breaks, and a resource packet are included in the registration fee. Registration deadline is Jan. 6. For additional information and on-line registration visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/Aglink/ or contact the Beginning Farmer Center at (877) BFC-1999.

January 7 Crop Fair - Guthrie Center

A crop fair will be January 7 at the Guthrie Center Activity Center from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with PPAT (Private Pesticide Applicators Training) following from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Featured presentations include “Marketing Outlook for 2010” from Tom Olsen, ISU Economist farm management specialist; “Managing Stored Grain to Protect Quality,” by Shawn Shouse, ISU Extension Ag Engineering Specialist; “Exporting Opportunities to Cuba,” by Don Mason, Iowa Corn Director of Grower Services.

“With today’s market volatility and quality issues this year, it is important to have up-to-date information,” says Brian Peterson, ICGA/ICPB grower service representative. “This program should give local growers access to information that can really help their bottom line.”

There is no cost for the crop fair or lunch. Reservations are requested for meal count. Contact Erica Tunink at the Guthrie County Extension office by January 4th at 641.747.2276 or e-mail emtunink@iastate.edu

A crop fair is also being planned in conjunction with the Private Pesticide Applicator Training set for March 2nd in Orient. Watch this newsletter for more details.



Land Values Down

The average value of an acre of farmland in Iowa declined in 2009 for the first time in a decade, according to an annual survey conducted by ISU Extension. Mike Duffy, ISU Extension farm economist who conducts the survey, said the statewide average as of Nov. 1 this year was \$4,371 an acre, down 2.2 percent or \$97 from the 2008 figure of \$4,468. The average value of land reported for Adair County was \$3321, down 2.33 percent from a year ago.

The last time the statewide average dropped was in 1999, when the survey reported the average was \$1,781 an acre, or \$20 less than in 1998. In the decade since 1999, owners of Iowa farmland have watched their holdings increase in value by 145 percent on average.

Duffy said the slight decrease in 2009 in the ISU survey may contain some good news compared to other surveys that look at land values in Iowa “The decrease in land values appears to have stopped,” Duffy said. “The situation has stabilized but for how long is unknown.” Recent trends in the value of Iowa land are not surprising given the relative change in the value of crops produced in Iowa over the past few years. The value of corn production in Iowa increased 64 percent from 2006 to 2007, but decreased 15 percent from 2007 to 2008, based on year-end summaries by the U.S.D.A. The value of the soybean crop increased 40 percent two years ago and then decreased 9 percent last year. Year-end reports are likely to show additional declines in total crop income, based on crop prices and the difficult harvest.

The survey also found a major decrease in the amount of land sold during the past year. The trend toward greater demand for higher quality land continued, and there also was an increase in the percentage of land being purchased by existing farmers, correlating with a decline in investor land purchases.

Additional information on the 2009 survey and an archived version of Duffy's news conference announcing the results are available online at www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/. Free copies of the survey results are also available at the Adair County Extension office.

Feedlot Forum 2010



Plan now to attend one of the feedlot forums. Presentations at each workshop will include Dan Loy, ISU Extension beef specialist: feed management; Dr. Grant Dewell, ISU Extension veterinarian: keeping compromised cattle out of the marketplace and cattle health; John Lawrence, Iowa Beef Center director and ISU Extension livestock economist: market outlook for 2010; and Brian Waddingham, Iowa Beef Industry Council: IBIC feedlot animal welfare assessment tool.

Area beef program specialists will provide info on the management and performance of cattle in hoop and mono-slope barns.

Meetings in our area include:

- Feb. 1 (1-4 p.m.) – Armstrong Research Farm, Lewis, Clint McDonald 712-644-2105, clint@iastate.edu
- Feb. 11(1-4 p.m.) – Union County Extension Office, Creston, Joe Sellers, 641- 774-2016, sellers@iastate.edu

To register for either of the meeting, contact the program specialist in charge of the location or download the registration form at www.iowabeefcenter.org. Registration for each meeting location is \$20 if pre-registered three days before (January 26 and February 5). Late registration fee or at the door is \$30.

Cow-Calf Producers

Watch for more details about a cow-calf seminar to be held in Greenfield on Monday, February 8th from 10-2.



at the
**Adair County
Extension Office**

- **Better Farm Accounting**
Yes, we have the popular orange farm record books for \$6.00.
- **Growing Green Garden Calendar** \$6.00
Learn about earth-friendly gardening all year long with calendar. Also get details on "green" topics like compost, rain collection, beekeeping and houseplants.
- **Healthy Homemade** 2010 Nutrition & Fitness Calendar \$2.00 Great recipes and fitness tips for each month.
- Call the office to reserve your accounting book or calendar.

Manure Applicator Training Workshops Planned

Training dates have been set for commercial and confinement site manure applicators.

Commercial Manure Applicator Training

Wednesday, January 6 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Adair County Extension office in Greenfield. For applicators wishing to recertify and those wanting to certify for the first time.

Confinement site manure applicators and anyone interested in learning about applying manure

Monday, January 25 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at City Hall in Adair.

Commercial Manure Applicator Training designed for dry manure applicators.

Tuesday, February 23 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Chamber of Commerce meeting room.

There is no fee to attend these workshops, but certified applicators will need to pay certification fees to complete certification requirements.

If you have questions about any of the commercial/confinement site applicator training meetings contact the Adair County Extension Office at 641-743-8412 or go to <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>

Flu Update

Do you still need your seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccination? Adair County Home Care can now give both vaccinations to any person over the age of 6 months. They have two additional clinics scheduled at their office located at 117 NW Hayes Street in Greenfield: Tuesday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 29th from 4-6 p.m.

H1N1 Vaccine is free to everyone
Seasonal Vaccines: \$25/adult, \$10/child under 18
Private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Hawk-I accepted.

Up-to-date information can be obtained by calling the Flu Hotline at 641-743-7266 or at www.adaircountyhealthsystem.org

PPAT Trainings Scheduled

Private pesticide continuing education training is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at the Adair County Extension office in Greenfield. One session will be offered from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and another session from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Additional private pesticide classes are slated for Wednesday, February 17th at the Adair City Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, March 2nd at the Orient United Methodist Church at 1:30 p.m. A crop fair will be held in conjunction with the March 2nd training.

You must attend a class each year to be eligible to renew your license using the training option. If you have not attended classes, you are required to take and pass a test every three years for licensing.

There is a \$20 class enrollment fee, payable on-site to ISU Extension. If your license expires December 31, 2009 there is an additional \$15.00 licensing fee due to IDALS.

Current license holders who have attended classes on an annual basis will get a reminder post card prior to the first training. If you would also like to receive a reminder text message the day prior to the trainings, you can sign up for text message reminders by calling the Extension office or e-mailing powella@iastate.edu with your cell phone number.

If you need to obtain a license for the first time or will be renewing through the testing option IDALS offers local testing on Monday, December 21, from 10 am-2 pm at the Adair County Extension Office meeting room. Adair County libraries have the study manual available for check-out.

2010 Crop Production Costs

As you put together crop budgets for 2010 take advantage of the work done by Mike Duffy, extension economist. You can find his estimates at www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html

He has everything set up in a worksheet format so you can plug in your own data such as land costs to get a better picture of your own situation.

While you're at the Ag Decision Maker website, you can find the corn price basis and soybean price basis reported by crop districts. It is a great website to bookmark.



Crop Advantage Series

The Crop Advantage Series has something to offer everyone involved in crop production and protection in Iowa. These meetings feature workshops presented by over 40 different experts. Crop Advantage meetings provide usable information that you can apply to your operation. Corn and soybean management, soil fertility, conservation tillage, grain marketing decisions, insects and weeds are just a few of the

many topics presented at these meetings. Providing the latest information available from research conducted at Iowa State University and other research institutions. Discuss the findings with the individuals that conducted the research instead of reading about it later. Topics selected for growing conditions and management decisions in southwest Iowa.

Osceola will host the series on Wednesday, January 6 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds.

The Cass County Community Building in Atlantic will be the site of the Thursday, January 28 session. Each meeting starts with 8:30 registration, the general session ends at 3:00 p.m. Private pesticide applicator training ends at 4:45.

Registration is \$35 if received by December 30 for Osceola or January 21 for Atlantic or \$45 at the door. Register online at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas/registration.html>

Help Needed to Endow Scholarship Fund

Each year Adair County 4-H'ers are recognized for their community service work with college scholarships. The scholarships are named in honor of the late Kelly Laughery. The goal is to raise \$20,000 by December 31 to endow the scholarship program. According to Michael

Cooley, Adair County Extension Council member and one of the drive's organizers, the group is closing in on the goal, but needs just a little more help to fully endow the program.

From now until December 31, 2009 an anonymous donor has agreed to match all gifts made


to the fund dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$2,500. All gifts are fully tax deductible and Iowa residents can also qualify for a 20% tax credit.

Checks can be made payable to Kelly Laughery Adair Co 4-H Scholarship Endow Iowa Fund and dropped off at the Adair County Extension office.

*EO-Extension Office

*FSB-Family Rewards Building
(formerly Crook's Clothing)

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Extension Council 6 pm, *EO	14	15	16 Healthy Holiday Food 6:30-7:30 pm, *FRB	17 Extension Council Budget Committee 2:00 pm, Orient	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25  Extension Office Closed ←→	26
27 SOFA Planning Committee 2:30 pm, *EO	28 Beef Weigh-in 8:30-11:30 am Adair County Fairgrounds	29 Uncommon Student 9-10 am,*EO Aiming High 10am-noon, *EO Sr. Year Boot Camp noon-2 pm, *EO	30 Winter Wonder- land Camp 9am-3:30 pm, 4-H/ FFA Center	31 Extension Office closing at 12:00 noon		

*EO-Extension Office

*FSB-Family Rewards Building
(formerly Crook's Clothing)

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day Extension Office Closed	2 Clover Kids 10-11:30 am, *EO
3 Youth Council Soup Supper 5:00 pm 4-H/FFA Center	4 Youth Action Committee 6:30 pm Extension Council 7:30 pm 4-H/FFA Center	5 High Tunnel Workshop 6:30 - 9:30, Lewis Ask Your Physician 6-7 pm, *FRB	6 Commercial MAC 9am-12, *EO High Tunnel Workshop 6:30 - 9:30, Lewis	7 Crop Fair 8:30 am-1, Guthrie Center	8	9
10	11	12 4 State Beef Conf. 9:30 am, Lewis Book Club for Family Storyteller Graduates 6-7 pm	13	14	15 Book Club for Storyteller Graduates 10-11 am, *FRB	16
17	18 Happiest Toddler on the Block 6-7 pm,*FRB	19 Healthy Iowa Kids 100 day program begins	20 Private Pesticide Training, 9:30-11:30 am and 1-3 pm, *EO	21	22	23
24	25 Confinement Manure Applicator training 1:30 pm, Adair City Hall	26	27	28 Crop Advantage, 9 am, Atlantic	29	30 31