

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

[www.extension.iastate.edu/washington](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington)

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# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

JANUARY 2008

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## FORAGE/BEDDING PRICES

Recent auctions in east central and southeast Iowa have resulted in the following forage/bedding prices being paid: Walcott (EC IA) 2nd Sat Dec-Mar; Noon; Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A; Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.50-4.25/ale; Grass : SmSq \$1.85-2.50/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.00-3.25/bale Kalona (SE IA) 1st Thurs, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Thurs Oct-winter) Alfalfa & Mixed Legume/Gr: SmSq \$3.00-4.80/b \$190/T; LgSq \$50-73/bale \$85-127.50/T; LgRd\$82/bale; Grass: (SmSq \$3.00-3.60/bale; LgSq \$115/T Oct); LgRd \$62/bale; Cornstalks: LgRd \$20-25/bale; Soybean 'straw': (LgRd \$35/bale Oct)

## 4<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL OVERALL WOMEN CONFERENCE SET FOR JANUARY

Women involved in agriculture are invited to attend the annual Overall Women Conference, designed for today's rural women. Entering its fourth year, the conference is located at the Marriott Hotel in Coralville, Iowa. The conference, coordinated by Iowa State University Extension, will be held January 25-26, 2008.

Jolene Brown, one of the premiere professional speakers for agriculture and an honored recipient of the highest earned designation of professional speaking achievement from the National Speakers Association, brings her laughter-filled presentation with insight into rural life to the conference as the Friday evening keynote speaker and workshop presenter. She will share her vision of the characteristics of successful trailblazers and how Iowa agriculture can benefit from the fast-paced changes taking place.

Overall Women is for women involved in agriculture, whether they manage their own farm operation, are impacted by the farm economy, or just want to learn more about today's cutting edge agriculture.

Over 30 break-out sessions will be offered focusing on topics related to farm business, value-added agriculture, “on the farm,” and personal development. Workshop presenters include Dr. Roger McEowen, Iowa State University Professor of Ag Law; Lee Zieke Lee of Willowglen Nursery; Ruth Hambleton, University of Illinois Extension Farm Business Management and creator of the Annie’s Project; Gale Mote of Gale Mote Associates, and Beth Collins, a commodity broker with VBI Company. There will be personal development sessions on reflexology, landscaping, women’s health, and aging with dignity.

The entire conference program and registration information is available online at <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html> or from your Iowa State University County Extension Office. Early bird registrations are due January 12. There are full-time and one-day registration options available.

## **IOWA CATTLE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

For cattle producers, risk is inevitable; it’s a factor in almost every decision they make but it can be managed with the proper tools and insight. Iowa State University Extension and the Department of Economics is co-sponsoring cowherd and feedlot workshops around the state January through March 2008. Locally a “cowherd workshop” will be held Monday, January 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office located on the county fairgrounds in Washington.

The workshop focuses on management and marketing decisions pertaining to calves and stockers. Speakers include James Mintert, Kansas State University; John Lawrence, Iowa State University; Shane Ellis, Iowa Beef Industry Center; Kevin Dhuyvetter, Kansas State University and Vicki Wray, graduate student at KSU. Participants will learn how “livestock risk protection, livestock gross margin insurance, forward cash contracts as well as CME futures and options can help manage risk.

The cost per participant is \$25 payable at the door. A meal is included. To pre-register, contact the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 or email Gene Mohling at [mohling@iastate.edu](mailto:mohling@iastate.edu). For a complete listing of workshops go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/washington](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington) or contact Gene Mohling at [mohling@iastate.edu](mailto:mohling@iastate.edu). The program is sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau, USDA Risk Management Association, Iowa Beef Center, ISU Extension & the Dept. of Economics, Kansas State University, and the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association.

## **APPLYING MANURE THIS FALL? CHECK YOUR APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. “My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season,” says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist. Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service.

“Although manure applicators sometimes complain about having to take annual training, they also say that the training has helped them respond quickly and well to a spill, or learn about law changes that affect their business,” said Jen Christian, DNR environmental specialist. Commercial and confinement

site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:

- **Confinement site certification is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to Noon at Stutsman, Inc., Hills, Iowa.**
- **Confinement site certification is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2008, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Washington County Extension Office**
- **A special commercial and confinement site applicator certification program will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Washington Extension Office for poultry and feedlot producers managing dry manure applications.**

For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at [gregb@iastate.edu](mailto:gregb@iastate.edu) or 319/337-2145 and Tom Miller, Program Specialist, [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu) or 319/653-4811. You may also visit the Manure Applicator Certification Web page at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html> or contact the regional DNR field office.

## **PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PROGRAMS SCHEDULED**

The 2007-2008 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam to recertify. There is a \$15 fee per person. A licensed private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration to attend a class is not required.

Date	Time	County	City/Area	Location
February 7	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg.
February 7	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg.
February 20	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Stutsman's Inc., Hills
February 20	7:00 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Stutsman's Inc., Hills
February 25	7:00 p.m.	Iowa	Victor	KC Hall
March 5	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 5	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 31	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington Co. Extension/webcast
April 15	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington Co. Extension/webcast

## **2008 GARDEN CALENDAR AVAILABLE**

The 2008 Iowa State University Garden Calendar is now available at your local Extension Office. The calendar is full of information for the gardening enthusiast in your home. The calendar is \$8 and makes a wonderful birthday or holiday gift. Stop by while supplies last!

## **SE IOWA RESEARCH FARM ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 6**

The annual meeting for the SE Iowa Research Farm will be held March 6 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in the Exhibition Hall. The agenda will include presentations on weed and insects issues in 2007 along with data from this year's research plots. Please watch future newsletters for more information. The annual meeting is sponsored in part by West Chester Savings Bank, Washington.

## **WINTER SHEEP PROGRAM OFFERED**

The Iowa State University (ISU) Extension sheep program will be offered in 28 counties in Iowa. Locally the programs will be held at the Washington County Extension Office located on the Washington County Fairgrounds. The session will be held Jan. 10, and will provide an overview of the British Sheep Industry

travel tour. Please call the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 to pre-register. The \$10 per person registration fee can be paid at the door.

## **IOWA'S NEXT TOP INVENTOR: \$3,000 AT STAKE**

Competition to benefit beef industry; entries due Jan. 25

**Ames, Iowa** — The stakes have just gotten higher. The Iowa Beef Center announced today that \$3,000 in cash prizes are up for grabs in the Iowa's Next Top Inventor competition. The winner of the competition will receive \$2,000, while second place will receive \$1,000. The prizes are being sponsored by 104.3 KRKN New Country, 1240 KBIZ AM, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association and the Iowa Beef Center.

The Iowa Beef Center and Iowa Farmer Today are conducting Iowa's Next Top Inventor to try and find a solution to a problem facing many producers in today's beef industry: the storing, handling and feeding of wet distillers grains. "Necessity is the mother of invention, and the producers who face these challenges on a daily basis have likely found a better way of doing things," said John Lawrence, director of the Iowa Beef Center. "Here is an opportunity to showcase your idea."

Wet distillers grains, a byproduct from the production of ethanol, are in great supply and can help save farmers money in feed costs. They are typically cheaper than forage resources, which are declining in availability, and they are a good source of protein, energy and minerals for cattle. However, the nature of these wet distillers grains can prove challenging, as they spoil easily and have a soupy, gooey texture that makes using conventional delivery and handling systems difficult.

Iowa's Next Top Inventor kicked off in November and is open to everyone. The competition seeks inventions that effectively store, handle or dispense corn co-products, especially wet distillers grains. Participants can build new inventions or modify existing ones. The options are endless; the Iowa Beef Center is just looking for best invention. Official rules and an entry form are available online at [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org) or by calling 515-294-BEEF. The contest deadline is Jan. 25, 2008. There is no entry fee. The top three finalists will compete at the Ottumwa Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference on Feb. 23, 2008.

The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University was established in 1996. Its goal is to support the growth and vitality of the beef cattle industry in the state. As part of Iowa State University Extension, the Iowa Beef Center also serves as a central access point for all Iowa State programs and research related to the beef industry. For more information about the Iowa Beef Center, visit [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).

## **2008 WEATHER, GRAIN & LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Weather, Grain & Livestock Outlook program will be held Tuesday, January 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds at the Exhibition Hall. Featured speakers are Elwynn Taylor, Robert Wisner and John Lawrence. This program is free of charge due to sponsorship from Hills Bank & Trust, Stutsman, Inc., and Latta, Harris, Hanon & Penningroth, L.L.P. Please call Don Wilson, Hills Bank, 319-679-2271 or Steve Meyerholz, Stutsman, Inc., at 319-679-2281 to pre-register.

## **INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT WEBSITE**

The integrated crop management website at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/> contains the latest research on corn foliar fungicides, soybean fungicides, N-Hibit seed treatments and corn rootworm treatments. The site also contains an archive of past articles.

## **AVERAGE IOWA FARMLAND TOPS \$3,900 AN ACRE IN 2007 SURVEY**

AMES, Iowa -- The average value of an acre of farmland in Iowa increased by just over \$700 during the past year, to an all-time high of \$3,908, according to an annual survey conducted by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension. The land boom is being driven by the developing biofuel economy, according to Mike Duffy, ISU Extension farm economist who conducts the survey. Duffy said the 22 percent increase recorded this year is the greatest one-year increase since 1976, and marks a new record for the fifth year in a row. Since the year 2000, Iowa land values have increased an average of \$2,051 per acre, more than a 100 percent increase over the 2000 average value of \$1,857.

The increases in values were reported statewide, with the survey recording averages above \$5,000 an acre in five counties, and between \$4,000 and \$5,000 an acre in 51 counties. Nineteen counties reported increases of more than 25 percent, and 59 counties had increases between 20 and 25 percent.

Of the nine crop reporting districts in the state, northwest Iowa reported the highest average value at \$4,699 per acre. The lowest average in the state was in south central Iowa at \$2,325 per acre. north central Iowa was the leader in percentage increase at 25.3 percent, while east central Iowa had the lowest percentage increase at 14.7 percent. The highest county average in the state was Scott County at \$5,699 per acre, while Decatur County was lowest at \$1,828 per acre. Sioux County led the state with the largest dollar increase at \$1,142 per acre, while Floyd County had the largest percentage increase at 30.3 percent.

Low grade land in the state averaged \$2,655 per acre, an increase of \$460 or 21 percent over the 2006 survey. Medium grade land averaged \$3,666 per acre, a \$655 increase or 21.8 percent. High grade land averaged \$4,686 per acre, an increase of \$851 or 22.2 percent.

Data on farmland sales has been collected by Iowa State University annually since 1941. About 1,100 copies of the survey are mailed each year to licensed real estate brokers, ag lenders, and others knowledgeable of Iowa land values. Respondents are asked to report values as of Nov. 1. Average response is 500 to 600 completed surveys, with 499 usable surveys returned this year. Respondents provided 668 individual county estimates, including land values in nearby counties if they had knowledge of values in those counties.

Additional detail on the 2007 survey is available on the ISU Extension web site at

[www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/landvalue/)

### **GRAIN MARKETING PROGRAM-JANUARY 23, WILLIAMSBURG**

“Winning The Game” grain marketing program will be offered Wednesday, January 23, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Iowa County Farm Bureau Office, 212 West State St., Williamsburg. This program is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and Iowa State University Extension. Participants will gain a better understanding of carrying charges, seasonal price patterns and the risk of holding un-priced grain. The program is free of charge; call Bev Arp at 319-668-1331 to pre-register.

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