

Farm and Home Weekly News

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Agriculture in the 21st Century

A state wide satellite program titled "Agriculture in the 21st Century--Surviving and Thriving will be offered at 28 locations around the state on March 8. The keynote speaker will be Michael Boehlje, agricultural economics professor at Purdue University. Boehlje will talk about the role of producers in a changing agriculture and the policy alternatives that might put them in a better position to compete. The program includes other speakers and discussions. Participation in the program will start at 9 am and last until 3 pm. Registration for the event is \$20 to cover material and meal costs. Right now the program will be offered in neighboring counties, but if there is enough interest it will be offered in Cresco. The registration deadline for the program is March 1.

Crop Insurance Changes

The USDA recently announced the price forecasts that will be used to calculate Multiple Peril Crop Insurance loss payments in 1999. Each bushel of loss will be paid at a maximum rate of \$2.10 for corn, \$5.25 for soybeans, \$1.25 for oats, \$1.95 for grain sorghum and \$3.30 for wheat. Producers can choose coverage based on 55 to 100 percent of these prices. Several types of revenue insurance policies are also available to crop producers. The Extension Office has fact sheets on the various types of crop insurance for farmers.

Beef Programs in Area

On March 5, ISU Extension in cooperation with Farm Bureau will be co-sponsoring a Fed Cattle Market Simulator program. It will be at the Pinicon Restaurant south of New Hampton and last from 9 am until 4 pm. John Lawrence, ISU Extension Economist and Tim Eggers, Extension Farm Management specialist will be speakers. Fee for the program is \$25 and registrations need to be in by March 1. The Minnesota Extension service and Fillmore county have scheduled the Southeast Minnesota Cow/Calf Day for February 25 at the American Legion in Rushford, MN.

Prune Trees Now

Dead branches on trees can be removed any time, but when pruning live branches of both deciduous and coniferous species, certain times of the year are better than others. The pruning time that is favorable to most trees is mid-winter (January to March) before the buds begin to open in the spring. During this time of the year insect and disease causing pathogens are at low levels, and the tree will begin responding to the wounding early in the spring. Pruning should be avoided during the spring from bud break through leaf expansion.

1999 All American Rose Selections

Each year a number of roses are selected as All Americans after they have undergone a two year trial at different sites across the country. The four selections for this year

include, Betty Boop which is a floribunda rose that has yellow flowers edged in lipstick red, Candelabra, a coral and orange flowered grandiflora, Forth of July ,which is a climbing rose that has vibrant patriotic red and white striped flowers, and Kaleidoscope; which is a four foot landscape shrub rose that produces a mixture of colors.