

## Farm and Home Weekly News

*Author: Donald Arendt, County Extension Education Director, Howard County*

### *Experimental Farm Scholarships*

Six \$500 scholarships were awarded in May to graduating seniors at Crestwood and Riceville schools. The scholarships are sponsored by the Howard County Experimental Farm board and are awarded to students enrolled in agriculture. The Dollars for Scholars committee in each school makes the final selections. Those receiving the scholarships at Crestwood included Jayden Burns, Lime Springs; Scott Zeimetz, Elma; and Korwin Schmidt from Elma. The three recipients in Riceville were Jackson Dohlman, Riceville; Mike Lockie, Elma; and Mitch Dvorak, Riceville.

### *Hixson Award*

The Christina Hixson Opportunity Award to attend Iowa State University was awarded to Emily Ries, Cresco. Emily will be majoring in Journalism and Mass Communications. The recipient for Mitchell county was Kelly Morre from Riceville. The award benefactor, Christina Hixson provides a full tuition award of \$2,500 to one incoming freshmen in each of Iowa's counties. This is the fifth year for the award. The award can be repeated for four years to equal \$10,000. The students are selected because of their potential and their personal desire to succeed in higher education.

### *Fair Books Available*

The fairbooks for the junior show for 4-H and FFA is available at the County Extension Office. Open class books can be obtained at the Farm Bureau Office, and at all the area banks. A fair supplement will also appear in the Times Plaines Newspaper in the near future.

### *Rhubarb Culture*

Rhubarb can be transplanted in the fall from mid September through early October, but the best time to transplant is early spring. Established plants can be harvested for 8 to 10 weeks, ending in mid-June. If harvested longer the plant's food supply will be exhausted and next year's harvest reduced. There is a bulletin about rhubarb culture at the Extension Office.

### *Grow Asiatic Lilies*

The Asiatic lilies are probably the most popular landscape or garden lily. Their upward or outward facing flowers are available in a wide range of colors and are frequently "freckled" with dark spots. Flowers of bright and pastel shades of almost every color except blue are available. Asiatic lilies are among the first lilies to bloom in the garden. Many begin in late May or early June. These hybrid lilies are often considered the most durable of the lilies and multiply quickly. Asiatic lilies also are available in a wide range of heights from 2 to 5 feet, making them great for the back, middle or front of the border. Their limitation is their lack of fragrance compared to some other lily types.

### *Lawn Mowing Tips*

Now is a good time to measure lawn mower height. When the weather turns warm there is more stress on our lawns. Never remove more than one-third of the plant height. The mower should be set no lower than two inches and then mowed when the grass reaches three inches. Low mowing can scalp the lawn. If grass clippings are longer than 1.5 inches they accumulate on the mowed surface. A short mowed or scalped lawn thins the lawn canopy, encourages weeds and robs the plant of energy needed to make new grass during the summer.