



Agricultural and Natural Resources Southeast Iowa

September 2007

Agricultural Extension Specialists, in partnership with Iowa State University and the 23 counties in the Southeast Iowa Area, build partnerships and provide research-based learning opportunities to improve the quality of life in Iowa.

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Helping women on the forefront of agriculture in Iowa

Rural Women wanting to improve farm business skills and learn more about risk management strategies along with other human resource risks was the purpose of creating the Overall Women Conference in Southeast Iowa. The **Overall Women Conference** is a 2-day conference to provide information in value-added agriculture, farm business practices, marketing, financial planning, and information to improve the quality of life of their families. In a 6-month follow-up survey participants report increasing their involvement in farm operations, record keeping and farm business decisions, as well as, reviewing their estate plans as a result of the conference. Participant comments have included, "I feel it is very important to "arm" ourselves with the true facts and understand many aspects of farm production – from corn to beef. Only then can I stand up and support our business of choice" and "This conference is a vital connecting point for women in Ag. I look forward to these conferences as a way to keep a "finger on the pulse" of what other farm wives are doing out there." The 2008 conference will be held at the Marriott in Coralville January 25th and 26th. For more information contact Linda Fisher at (319)472-4739.

Over 630 Jackson County women own, operate, or manage farms either individually or in partnership. As more married men have gone to work off the farm, women have had to take on more responsibility with the farming operation. Women need to understand and comprehend farming concepts and procedures in order to make informed decisions. The **Women, Land, and Legacy Program** was identified to help increase the skills and knowledge of these women to make them feel comfortable and competent in making farming decisions. This program is a partnership between ISU Extension, Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Limestone Bluffs RC&D in Jackson County. These agencies work with a core group of women to plan the events. The Women, Land, and Legacy Program has been a successful program in the first year of implementation and will continue to improve the lives of farm women in the future.



Iowa State University Vice President for Extension, Jack Payne was the featured speaker at the SE Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm Spring Field Day in Crawfordsville. He presented on "Celebrating 150 Years of ISU". Participants also took part in tours around the farm on a variety of timely topics.

Selected 2007-08 Southeast Educational Opportunities

Integrated Crop Management Conference

November 28-29 – Ames

Iowa Illinois Fruits and Vegetables

November 29 – Bettendorf

Overall Women Conference

January 25-26 – Coralville

Cornbelt Cow Calf Conference

February 23 – Ottumwa

Manure Applicator Certification

Local Extension Offices

PQA Plus Certification Trainings

Local Extension Offices

For information about these and other agricultural and natural resources programs, check online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>

SE Iowa Ag Extension Specialists deliver

Farmland Leasing remains *hot* topic for Iowans

Agriculture today is full of optimism and excitement mostly due to the development and expansion of the ethanol industry. This "so called" new era of agriculture brings with it many questions and challenges as crop production, marketing, and utilization practices differ from the past. A key topic for this new era is the rental value of farmland. As farms continue to increase in size, farm operators are increasingly finding themselves renting out more and more of the land that they farm. Farmland ownership is also becoming increasingly scattered as investors purchase farmland and other land passes to non-farming children of former farmers at the farmers' death. These new landowners often have little connection to or knowledge of current agricultural practices. ISU Extension has held numerous leasing workshops throughout the Southeast Iowa Extension Area. These meetings were held at over 14 locations and were attended by 651 people. Extension specialists have also been fielding individual questions over the telephone and internet and have averaged over 10 calls per day during the last 60 days. Extension has prepared a detailed *Leasing Booklet* on various leasing topics and offers sample forms that can be used in managing farmland.

Tiling Field Day at Southeast Research Farm

Concern surrounding the environment and a desire to maintain agricultural production has prompted research activity at the ISU Southeast Research Farm near Crawfordsville. The University, in cooperation with area tiling companies and national tiling suppliers has created a tile research plot. It is used to monitor nutrient losses through the tile water and keep excess water from leaving the field during periods of heavy precipitation to be used later in the year during drier periods. The plots allow various innovative practices to be studied under a controlled situation. Financing for the project came from grants and private donations. Over 150 farmers and contractors attended the field day during the installation of the tile plots. Future field days will be held as data is collected on various farming practices. A wetland was also constructed to help minimize the problem of nitrates entering the ground water. This research is leading the way to a more efficient agricultural production system. One farmer was so impressed with the idea that he saw that he has already installed one of our new practices in a new 80 acres piece of land that he recently purchased.

Keeping ahead of Asian Soybean Rust

Because of the speed with which Asian Soybean Rust can devastate a soybean field, it is essential for Iowa to have a large network of individuals trained to quickly and accurately identify Asian Soybean Rust so that appropriate management strategies can be quickly implemented. This network of over 700 agricultural chemical dealers and independent crop consultants has received specialized training from Iowa State University Extension and, upon completion of the training; the individuals are called First Detectors.

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Helping Iowans become their best.

... and justice for all

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Our Mission - ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.