

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Acreage Living

Special Edition

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/webster/acreage>

Summer 2003

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964. Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.



Equestrian Safety

Content provided by the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation



The responsibility of caring for a horse, and the companionship that develops while riding a horse for recreation or work, are promoted as positive growth experiences for youth. The size, speed and unpredictable nature of horses require safety precautions to be practiced.

Key factors to safety around horses:

- Wearing an approved ASTM equestrian helmet.
- Safe riding areas (e.g. trails and riding arenas).
- Adequate motor skills and mature judgment to recognize potential hazards.
- Proper training in riding style and horse safety.
- An understanding of horse behavior.
- Saddle fits the rider.

Safe equestrian activities among youth:

- Supervision based on developmental and skill level.
- Match horse with child's developmental ability and size.
- Utilization of appropriate riding areas.
- Requiring all riders to wear an American Society for Testing Materials approved helmet when mounted and dismounted.
- One rider per horse.

Additional information and links on equestrian safety for youth can be found on the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety - <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/Resources/Equestrian/horses.htm>.



Cool Watermelon

Content provided by Iowa State Extension, Food for Fitness & Fun

Did you know that a watermelon is made up of about 92% water? Watermelon can actually be traced back thousands of years to a desert in southern Africa and is now grown in over 96 countries around the world.

Nutrition: Two cups of watermelon contain only 80 calories with zero fat, very low sodium and no cholesterol. Watermelon is a good source of potassium and vitamins A and C. It contains the phytochemical lycopene, which may help prevent certain cancers.

Selecting: Choose a whole watermelon that is free of blemishes like cuts or bruises. Ideally, it should have a nice yellow spot on the bottom or its belly. It should be heavy for its size.

Storing: Surprisingly, whole watermelon does better when it is stored at room temperature versus being put in the refrigerator. Keep it in a cool dry place in your kitchen until you cut it. After it is cut, it should be wrapped or put in a covered container and refrigerated.

Cutting: Before cutting, be sure to wash your hands and wash the melon under cold running water, using a clean brush to remove excess dirt.

1. Cut in wedges – cut the whole watermelon in half lengthwise and then in half again.
2. Cut in cubes – start by cutting the ends of the melon. Turn the melon on one end and peel off the rind with a sharp knife-cutting all the way

around. Next, cut in round slices, stack a few of them and cut into cubes.

3. Balls – use a melon baler or ice cream scoop to cut the melon into balls. The best way to start is



More Flash than Cash

Content provided by Better Homes & Gardens

Springtime planting can be overwhelmingly expensive. In fact, it may seem just as fruitful to dig a hole and plant your wallet. But take heart. Here are some ways to enhance your garden that offer flash for little cash.

- **Invest your money in a single showpiece plant.** Dollar per dollar, trees and shrubs provide more landscape power than annuals or perennials. Choose a plant with eye-catching attributes, such as spring flowers, interesting texture or branching, or fall color. Position it in a prime spot.
- **Dress gates with color, impressive handles, or an arbor.** Even if your landscape isn't bursting with charisma yet, a grand entrance will help create that impression.



Add "Insurance" to Your Summer Camp Checklist

Content provided by Financial Literacy Center

Before you start packing the socks, swimsuits, and insect repellent for your child's week at summer camp, check to see if your health insurance covers your children while they're away from home. You'll want to make sure you're protected in case something happens that's more serious than a skinned knee or common cold.

Read the Fine Print. Many HMO policies cover only emergency room visits outside of a specified coverage area. You may need to supplement your policy if your child has health issues or you're worried about the cost of transportation home from a remote locale.

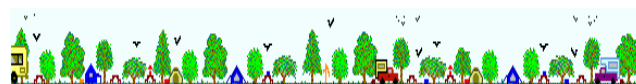
Check with the Camp. Some camps buy accident-and-sickness coverage for all their campers and include that cost in the camp fee. Other camps have arrangements with insurance companies that offer families low-cost policies covering their children while they're at camp. And many camps have on-site centers that provide health services.

to cut the watermelon in half lengthwise then scrape the pulp out with a melon baler. You can use the empty rind as a boat for the watermelon or fruit salad.

- **Choose plants that have several seasons of interest.** Then you won't need to fill in with annuals or other plants.
- **Train a flowering vine.** Using a trellis, encourage the vine to climb the side of a problem shed or garage.
- **Recycle.** Discarded bricks, concrete, or carved stone not only cost less than new, but come with personality.
- **Spruce up a driveway or a concrete patio.** You can use concrete sealers to add tone or a design to driveways or patios, or edge the concrete with another building material. A minor improvement to a big landscape item like this will make a big difference.

Trip Insurance for Teens. You may need to purchase trip insurance when your teen travels. These policies tend to be inexpensive, but read them carefully because there could be a lot of exclusions. If your older child becomes ill while traveling and has to come home, find out if the company sponsoring the teen trip will refund the cost of the unused portion of the trip. Also find out who will pay for an emergency evacuation should that become necessary.

Coverage for College Students. If your child's camp days are over and you're sending him or her away to college this fall, check with your health plan regarding coverage. Many schools offer low-cost health insurance to their students. However, don't assume that everything will be covered. Some plans have high deductibles and policy limits that aren't designed to cover catastrophic illnesses.





Rural Water Safety

Contents provided by the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation

Water is an integral part of the rural landscape used in recreation, agriculture, and sustaining life. However, water attracts young children and each time youth come in contact with water, drowning is possible.

Drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury death among children ages 1-14. It is estimated that for each childhood drowning death, approximately four children are hospitalized for near-drowning.

Drowning rates for all age groups are three times higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. Childhood drowning in rural areas often occurs in non-pool settings, such as lakes, ponds and irrigation canals.

Drowning in canals, pits, ponds etc. is the second-leading cause of childhood agricultural-related deaths.

Dealing With It – Coping When a Pet Dies

Contents provided by an article in The N, Children’s Network

If you ever have to go through the pain and sadness of losing a pet, or you know someone who does, the following advice will help the process.

- Don’t be afraid to cry or show your grief; it’s completely normal and it can make you feel a lot better. If someone doesn’t understand why you’re so upset over a pet try seeking out people who do understand – like members of your family or friends who have pets, too.
- Remembering the positive is a good way to help balance all of the sadness that losing your pet can bring. And making a memorial can be really helpful in dealing with your loss.
- When we can’t stop a pet from dying or bring her back to life, it makes us feel powerless and frustrated. Those feelings sometimes come out as anger – and when you’re angry at yourself it’s called guilt. It’s totally natural to feel this way or even to say something angry to someone else – it’s a normal reaction to death.
- Time is the thing that will eventually turn your sadness about your pet’s death into happy

Key factors to prevent rural youth drowning:

- Responsible adult supervision.
- Abstention from alcohol and other drug use.
- Use of personal flotation device (PFD).
- Provision of rescue equipment near bodies of water.
- Learn to swim.
- Learn basic rescue techniques.
- Recognize that youth can drown in less than two inches of water (e.g. buckets, stock tanks, etc.).

Additional information and links on drowning prevention in rural areas for youth can be found at – <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/Resources/Drowning/drowning.htm>.



memories about his life. If you’re not ready for a new pet yet, you can say so. And if you do want a new pet, you don’t have to feel guilty about “replacing” your pet. You’ll love your new pet in a new way.



If you accept that pets can love us as much as we do them, then the logic is clear and cannot be denied. If you believe that there is a heaven for people, then they must be there, waiting for us, when we cross over. Heaven is love, and pets always share that with us.





Picnics: Make 'Em Healthy!

Contents provided by ISU Extension, Food for Fitness and Fun

Summer is here and picnics are a great way to entertain family and friends. Here are some ideas for items to pack to keep your picnics fun and healthy. Don't forget to pack games and balls to help increase exercise and physical activity at your picnic.

1. **Fruits** – apples, plums, cut melon, grapes, oranges, peaches and nectarines.
2. **Vegetables** – carrots, celery, zucchini, summer squash, broccoli and cauliflower.

3. **Grains and Starchy Vegetables** – 100% whole wheat bread, whole wheat pitas, low-fat potato salad and corn salad.
4. **Beans** – bean salsa, baked beans and bean dip.
5. **Lean Meat** – sliced turkey breast, tuna salad, marinated grilled chicken breast or fish.



Garlicky Corn on the Cob

- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 2 Tbsp. Soy sauce
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Pepper to taste
- 6 ears corn, husked

Combine all, marinate overnight, wrap in foil, and grill 30 minutes. Serves 6.



Ice Cream in a Bag

- In a 1 quart freezer bag mix:
- 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - 2 cups milk

- In a 1-gallon freezer weight bag, mix together:
- 5 cups ice
 - 3/4 cup rock salt
 - 1/4 cup water

Place 1 quart bag inside 1-gallon bag. Agitate 10 minutes or until firm. Cut hole in bottom corner of quart bag and squeeze to serve.



Fresh Peach Chutney

- 4 peaches, pitted and sliced
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar
- Pinch ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ginger

Place sliced peaches in covered microwave safe container and add the rest of the ingredients. Microwave on full power until peaches are soft, approximately 5-6 minutes. Serve this sauce with grilled chicken, fish or veggies.



French Gilled Veggies

- 1 zucchini cut in large chunks
- 1 yellow squash cut in large chunks
- 1 pint whole mushrooms, washed
- 1-cup onion chunks
- 1/4 cups low-fat French dressing

Place vegetables in large covered microwave container. Microwave on high until veggies are still crisp and barely tender, about 3 minutes. Remove from microwave, rinse in cold water and add dressing. Marinate up to 6 hours in refrigerator. Grill veggies briefly on preheated grill until heated through, brushing more dressing as needed. Serve hot.



2003 WEBSTER COUNTY FAIR



2003 FAIR EXTRA ATTRACTIONS:

Wed. – Sun.	All Day	New Machinery Outside Displays
	All Day	Smith Amusement Carnival
	All Day	Staples Petting Zoo/Staples live Monkey Show
Thur. – Sun.	All Day	Pat Doyle – Chainsaw Artist
	All Day	Miniature Golf
	All Day	Des Moines River Valley Antique Tractor Display & Demonstration
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Pre 4-H Open Foods Dept. (aud.)
	9:00 a.m.	Pre 4-H Open Crafts Dept. (aud.)
	5 – 7 p.m.	Sponsor Supper
Friday	2 – 4 p.m.	Kids Day Midway (bike drawings)
	8:30 p.m.	Open Cat Show
Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Open Class Flower Show (east wing)
	8:30 a.m.	Open Class Garden Show (east wing)
	1:00 p.m.	Children's Open Pet Show
	2 – 6 p.m.	Farm Bureau Cookout Contest
	5 – 7 p.m.	Sweet Corn Feed
	5:00 p.m.	Red Cross Ducks for Disaster Fundraiser
	6:00 p.m.	Wood Carving Auction

2003 WEBSTER COUNTY FAIR 4-H / FFA SCHEDULE

Tuesday	All Day	Judge most auditorium exhibits and photography
	3:00- 8:30 p.m.	Swine may enter (all swine need to be in place by 8:30 p.m.)
	3:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Weigh Lambs (7:00 p.m. All sheep in place)
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Scan Lambs
	7:30 – Noon	Rabbits and Poultry in place
	8:00 a.m.	Dog Show
	8:45 a.m.	Sheep Exhibitor Pre-Sheep Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Sheep Show (start with pre-sheep show) - Scanning of Swine immediately following Sheep
	10:30-2:00 p.m.	LOL Dairy Beef enter
	10:30-7:00 p.m.	Beef enter
	6:00 p.m.	Weigh Market Beef
	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Weigh Dairy Beef
	7:00 p.m.	King & Queen Contest, Style Show
Thursday	7:45 a.m.	Swine Exhibitor Pre-Show Meeting
	8:00 a.m.	Swine Show (start with pee-wee show)
	8:45 a.m.	Rabbit Exhibitor Pre-Show Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Rabbit Show followed by showmanship
	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Pre-4-H Open Foods & Pre-4-H Open Crafts
	5:30 p.m.	Poultry Show
	7:00 p.m.	Beef Project - Arena - Showmanship Presentation
	8:00 p.m.	Horses in place
Friday	9:00 a.m.	4-H Horticulture Judging
	9:00 a.m.	Beef Show
	3:00 p.m.	Dairy Show
	6:00 p.m.	Cat Show followed by Open Cat
Saturday	All Day	Working Exhibits
	Noon	Horse Show
	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Sweet Corn Feed
	7:00 p.m.	State Fair Educational Presentations
Sunday	Noon	Horse Show (games classes).
	12:30 p.m.	Pet Show
	1:00 p.m.	Share the Fun
	2:30 p.m.	Open Pet Show
	5:00 p.m.	Parade of Champion Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Parade of Champion arena
	7:15 p.m.	Release of exhibits <u>after</u> Parade of Champion ceremony
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Auction
	8:30- 1:30 p.m	Teen Dance (Doors close at 10 p.m.)



Watering Guide for Home Gardeners

Content provided by Richard Jauron, Dept. of Horticulture, ISU

A deep watering once a week should be adequate for fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens. Apply 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week. A weekly application of 1 to 1 ½ inches of water is also adequate for an established lawn. For modern roses, such as hybrid teas, floribundas, and grandifloras, a thorough soaking every 7 to 10 days should be adequate. The key to watering newly planted trees and shrubs is to check the moisture status of the plant's root-ball or root-mass. The roots of newly planted trees and shrubs are initially confined to the plant's root-ball (balled and burlapped plants) or root-mass (container-grown plants). Since the root-ball or root-mass can dry out very quickly, their moisture status should be checked frequently. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered when the root-ball or root-mass (not the surrounding soil) begins to dry out. To water the root-ball or root-mass, slowly apply water to the base of the plant. The frequency of the watering can be reduced and when the watering area enlarged as the plant's root system begins to grow into the backfilled and surrounding soil. Small trees usually require water for 1 to 2 growing seasons. It may be necessary to water large trees for 3 to 4 years.

Harvesting and Drying Herbs



Content provided by Richard Jauron, Dept. of Horticulture, ISU

Most herbs can be cut and used fresh throughout the growing season. They can also be harvested, dried, and stored for use during the winter months.

Many herbs, such as sage, rosemary, and basil, are grown for their leaves. These herbs should be harvested when their flower buds are just begging to open. The oils in the leaves which give each herb its distinctive flavor and aroma are at their maximum levels at this stage of growth. Remove approximately 1/3 of the current year's growth on perennial herbs. Annual herbs can be cut back more severely. Make the cuts on annuals approximately 4 to 6 inches above the soil surface. The annuals can be cut at ground level when harvesting in the fall before the first frost. Most annual and perennial herbs can be harvested in mid-summer and again in the fall.

Herbs should be harvested in the early morning, after the dew has evaporated but before the sun becomes hot. After harvesting, rinse the herbs in cool water. Shake off excess water and place them on paper toweling to dry for a few minutes.

Air drying is the most popular method to dry herbs. To dry whole branches or stems, gather 8 to 12 stems in a bunch. Tie the ends of the stems together and

When irrigating with a sprinkler, early morning (5 to 9 am) is the best time to water. A morning application allows the water to soak deeply into the soil with little water lost to evaporation. When watering is completed, the plant foliage dries quickly. Watering at midday is less efficient because evaporation is rapid and strong winds may cause uneven water distribution. Strong midday winds may also carry water onto driveways, patios, or streets, wasting considerable amounts of water. Watering lawns and gardens with a sprinkler in the evening or at night may increase disease problems.

In fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens, drip irrigation systems and a soaker hoses are generally more efficient and cause fewer disease problems than sprinklers. Mornings and evenings are excellent times to water gardens when using a drip irrigation system or soaker hose.

Apply mulch around landscape plantings and garden areas to conserve soil moisture. Mulching reduces the rate of evaporation from the soil surface and also limits weed competition.

hang each bunch upside down in a warm (70 to 80°F), dark, well-ventilated location. The herbs should be dry in 2 to 4 weeks. When thoroughly dry, strip the leaves from the plants. Crush or crumble the leaves and store in airtight jars in a cool, dry place.

Another way to dry herbs is to place them on a drying tray. A simple drying tray consists of fine mesh screen or cheesecloth attached to a wooden frame. Place wooden blocks under the corners of the drying tray to insure good air circulation. Place a single layer of leaves or stems on the drying surface and keep the herbs in a warm, dry area until they are thoroughly dry.

A gas or electric oven can also be used to dry herbs. To oven dry, spread a layer of leaves or stems on a cookie sheet or shallow baking pan. Place herbs in a warm (up to 180°F) oven for 3 to 4 hours. Leave the oven door open and stir the herbs periodically until they are thoroughly dry.

Some herbs, such as dill, caraway, and coriander, are valued for their seeds. Harvest the seedheads just before they turn brown. Cut off the entire seedhead and place it in a paper bag. Then place the bags in

a warm, dry location. After drying, shake the seeds loose in the bag. Remove any chaff by pouring the seeds from one container to another outdoors in a

light wind. Additional information on harvesting and storing herbs can be found at the Webster Co. Extension in PM-129 "Growing and Drying Herbs."



FUN AND GAMES

H Y S A F E T Y E P V W F E G
M A H N E S R O H E A H P I A
W J P Q O V W D O T M I P S R
D N R P W B B O E S C G P M D
R X U U Y I B R H E L M C R E
F H P F I B M I R S A A S G N
I A A P W E I Q R C S F P K X
Q R W A L G K R T H Z O H S P
D V T O H D W O T F B B E C I
G E N P O U F M V H A M I I U
R S K Y P J O X O I D I A N U
R T E C N A R U S N I A R C Q
K I H E R B Y X L X K V Y I E
W N B P W P M Q Z W C E S P A
E G Y T E U Z F K T R Z Y X D

CAMPS	CASH	FAIR
GARDEN	HAPPY BIRTHDAY	
HARVESTING	HERB	HORSE
JUDGE	MONKEY	PETS
PICNICS	RECIPE	RIBBONS
WATER	WATERMELON	



Oobleck

- Mix in a plastic container: ½ cup cornstarch with ¼ cup water.
- Pick up a handful and squeeze it. Stop squeezing and see what happens.
- Try to roll some oobleck between your hands. Stop rolling and see what happens.

Gloop

- In a plastic bowl, mix: ¼ cup glue and ¼ cup water.
- In a different bowl, mix: ½ tsp. borax powder and ½ cup water.
- Slowly pour the first mixture in to the second.
- Scoop the gloop out of the water and knead it in your hands until it becomes dry enough to play with.

Oil Pictures

What you will need:

Cooking oil--Newspaper--Powdered tempera paints--Paper cups--Construction paper --Spoons--Rectangular cake pan with 1-2 inches of water

What to do:

1. Mix equal parts of oil and tempera paint in cups with spoon until smooth (each picture will need only a teaspoon of paint). Mix as many colors in separate cups as you like.
2. Drop several drips of oil paint onto the surface of the water and gently swirl with the spoon.
3. Carefully lay a piece of paper on top of the water and paint. Let the paper float for several seconds; then carefully lift the paper off the water.
4. Place the picture on the newspaper to dry. You can make different designs by swirling the paint a different way.

Portable Handwashing Kit

1 gallon plastic milk jug—with lid
1 golf tee or large nail
1 bar of soap
1 discarded pair of panty hose
string—about 18 inches

Tie one end of the string to the golf tee or nail and the other end to the handle of the milk jug. Put the bar of soap into the toe of one leg of the pantyhose. Tie the pantyhose to the handle of the milk jug. Using the nail or tee poke a hole in the side of the milk jug close the bottom edge. Fill the jug with water and use the panty hose to tie it to a tall object. When you need to wash your hands, unscrew the lid and remove the tee or nail from the hole. Replace the tee when finished.



ASK FISH Toll Free Call



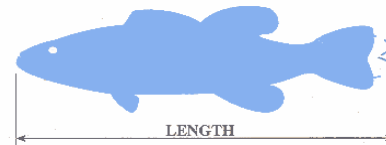
Content provided by the Iowa DNR

Got fishing questions – then call **1-800-ASK-FISH** or **(1-800-275-3474)**. The call is being paid by Iowa's Anglers! You will be able to:

- **Hear current Fishing Reports:** State-wide fishing reports updated weekly April through July by fishery management biologists.
- **Find places to fish:** Pick by entering city name, phone prefix, and selecting the type of water.
- **Hear fishing regulations:** Current regulations based on location and species selected.
- **Find spots with boat access:** Request places to launch a boat.
- **Find campground areas:** Request areas with camping available.
- **Find handicapped-accessible sites:** Request barrier free fishing locations.

HOW TO MEASURE FISH LENGTH

Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.



Sickle Bar Mower Safety

Content provided by Shawn Shouse, ISU Extension FS/Ag Specialist

Sickle bar mowers offer fast and efficient cutting of tall vegetation. However, by design, these mowers present some unique safety hazards. Walk-behind mowers generally have a mounted engine for power. Tractor mounted mowers are almost always powered by a PTO (power take-off) shaft carrying power from the tractor to the mower. Keep the tractor's master shield and the machine's PTO shield in place and in good operating condition. The PTO shaft shield should spin freely when the machine is not operating.

Older mowers may have unguarded power takeoff shafts with little or no shielding or other rotating or moving parts. Lessen your chances of becoming caught by exposed shafts by making sure you don't step next to a rotating shaft to get on or off the tractor. Better yet, guard it!

Cutter bar accidents usually involve severe lacerations or amputations, particularly to the fingers and toes. These accidents happen when the cutter bar plugs up in the field or during maintenance or servicing. To safely unplug the cutter bar, follow these steps: stop and disengage the PTO, raise the cutter bar and back up a few feet. Shut off the tractor and shift into park or set the brakes, then pull hay away from the cutter bar with gloved hands. Check the cutter bar for broken guards or knife sections, start the engine

and engage the PTO at low speed, lower the cutter bar, ease mower into standing hay and resume operation. If a knife section has to be replaced, handle the blade bar only from the rear side. If you can remove the sickle bar by yourself do so. Numerous injuries have occurred when two people did not adequately coordinate their movements.

The process for safely unplugging a walk-behind mower is similar. Disengage the mower, back up, and turn off the engine before carefully removing the plugged vegetation. Wear leather gloves and always handle the cutter bar from the back side.

Sickle bar cutters also pose a serious threat to hidden people, pets and wildlife. Make certain all people are clear of the area to be mowed and restrain pets so they cannot enter the area during mowing.

As with any tractor operation, **NEVER** carry any extra riders. If your tractor is equipped with a roll-over protective structure (ROPS), be certain to wear your seat belt. If your tractor does not have ROPS, consider using a different tractor or check with your local equipment dealer about a ROPS kit for your tractor.





OLESON PARK ZOO

Content provided by Orville O'Connell

Oleson Park is the largest park in Fort Dodge. It is located as South 17th Street and 12th Avenue South. It is also the most used park. In addition to the zoo, it features playground equipment, shelters for picnics, a wading pool and the bandshell where concerts are held each Sunday night during the summer.

The zoo has been in the park for a number of years where it fits in well with the background and history of Fort Dodge and Webster County. This area has been associated with farming and farm animals since it was settled. There is still a lot of interest in animals as we have cattle, horse, hog, pigeon, cat and dog shows throughout the year as well as the County Fair.

Raising and caring for animals and the processing of various animals for food has been a major source of employment. Although businesses such as Hormels, Iowa Beef and Gus Glaser Meats no longer exist in Fort Dodge, others have taken their place. Currently we have Fort Dodge Animal Health, Phoenix Scientific, Friskies and a number of other businesses that supply feed, equipment and veterinary services for the raising and the care of animals.

In the past most residents were familiar with animals but the younger generation is not. Fort Dodge should maintain a zoo for the younger generation so they can view and grasp an understanding of animals.

The Noon Kiwanis Club started the effort to renovate the zoo area and to acquire more birds and animals. Due to reduced tax revenue and budget problems, the city did not consider the zoo essential and that tax funds should not be used to develop and maintain it. Therefore we have to rely on donated funds and volunteer labor.

A nonprofit charitable organization (501c3) called "Friends of Oleson Park Zoo" was formed. The Kiwanis Club and other interested individuals and businesses have contributed to this effort. These funds and volunteer labor were used to renovate the zoo area including the construction of additional pens and a small barn.

Since the zoo is located in the city limits and the size of the area involved our emphasis is on acquiring smaller species of birds and animals. There is room in the zoo for approximately 50 species of birds and animals. Some of these are rotated each year.

The species maintained are basically divided into three groups. One group is birds and animals that are now or have been associated with farming. Examples of these are sheep, goats, horses, cattle, domestic rabbits, ducks, chickens, turkeys, pigeons, etc. These make up a large part of the contact area.

The second group is to acquire unusual and exotic animals from other parts of the world. Examples of these are Muntjac deer for SE Asia (the world's smallest deer), the Capybara from the Amazon Valley in South America (the world's largest rodent), the Rhea and Coarimundi from South America, the Wallaby, Emu, and Black Swans from Australia, and the African Spur Tortoise from Africa.

The third group is birds and animals that are now or once were Native American species. Examples of these are the Ringneck Pheasant, Bobwhite Quail, Hungarian Partridge, Merriam Turkeys, Doves, Raccoon, Foxes, Bobcat, Prairie Dogs, Porcupines, and Black Bears. Our featured animals this year are the two Black Bear cubs.

The petting or contact area hours are from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Many animals were bottled fed and raised as pets and remain tame so children can pet them. Children of all ages can enter the area and have contact with some of the animals.

Future plans for the animal enclosure include the construction of a building to house some of the animals during the winter. Some of the animals are from warmer climates and it is necessary to have heated quarters for them.

If you have any questions or would like more information on Friends of the Oleson Park Zoo, please contact Orville O'Connell at 515-955-3258.



Beat the Summer Heat

Information provided by State Farm Insurance Good Neighbor News

Now that summer is here, you may be spending more time outdoors. But when the mercury climbs above 90°F and stays there for several days, people can become susceptible to heat and heat-related illnesses.

People with chronic diseases such as diabetes, emphysema, heart disease and the elderly are at greater risk of developing problems. Before you have too much fun in the sun, consider these tips from

the National Weather Service.

- Head for a cool, shady or air-conditioned place if you become fatigued or feel faint.
- Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrates your body.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing to help maintain normal body temperature. Wear a hat and sunglasses if you expect prolonged exposure to the sun's rays.
- Get out of the heat for at least a few hours each day. If necessary, head for an air-conditioned movie theater, public library or shopping mall.
- Avoid getting too much sun. Instead, wear a good sunscreen and proper clothing.
- Make sure pets have a cool, shady place in which to rest during the day and be sure they always have a supply of fresh, cool water.



Special Edition

We hope you have enjoyed this special edition of the "Webster Co. Acreage Living" newsletter. With over 2200 rural residents in Webster Co., we hope you find this newsletter useful and timely. The Webster Co. Extension Office always welcomes your comments and/or suggestions for future issues.

If you would like to receive future issues and you have not already subscribed, you have these options: you may pay \$2 for a yearly subscription (6 issues); go on-line at www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/webster/acreage; supply us with your e-mail address; or you may stop in the Webster Co. Extension Office. The next issue available will be the August/September 2003 issue.

ISU/Webster County Extension
108 South 8th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501-4680