

AG newsletter

ISU Extension Johnson County
3109 Old Hwy 218 South
Iowa City, IA 52246
319-337-2145

February 2012

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The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension ANR Program."

... and justice for all

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HEIFER DEVELOPMENT CLINIC FOCUSES ON REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

With the cow herd at its lowest level since 1973, drought in the southern range states and optimism for increased export demand, the stage is set for heifer retention increases into the next few years. To aid in this process, Iowa Beef Center (IBC), Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Cattle-men's Association are working together to host a series of heifer clinics over the next few weeks.



The series focuses on currently available technologies and management to increase productivity and longevity of heifers. Specific topics include health protocols, ration recommendations, heifer development budgets, AI practices and synchronization recommendations, and reducing calving difficulties. Ultrasound fetal examination will be discussed as well as time for Q&A.

Locally the heifer clinic will be held **February 7 in Richland at the Keokuk County (formerly Richland) Veterinary Clinic at 6:00 p.m.** Preregister by February 1 to ensure adequate material and meal count. Register by calling Byron Leu at 641-472-4166 or email at bleu@iastate.edu. Cost is \$15 per person which includes resource materials and meal.

Sponsors are ABS Global, Accelerated Genetics, Elanco Animal Health, Genex, Hawkeye Breeders Service, Innovative Ag Services, Land O'Lakes-Purina, Nichols Cryo-Genetics, Pfizer Animal Health, Quality Liquid Feeds, Select Sires and Stuart Veterinary Clinic-Ultrasound Services. Site specific sponsors are Collison Embryo, Collison Veterinary Services, Innovative Ag Services, Maquoketa Embryos, Novartis Animal Health, Postville Vet Clinic, Spencer Ag Center LLC, Spencer Livestock Sales, and Valley Veterinary Center, PLC.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY REMINDERS

2010 SURE (Disaster) Sign up is underway for the 2010 SURE program. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. In 2010 Johnson County received a disaster declaration. Deadline for 2010 SURE is **June 1, 2012.**

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN UP BEGAN JANUARY 23rd Sign up started on January 23, 2012 for the 2012 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program. The deadline for the 2012 DCP sign up is **June 1, 2012.**

2012 ACREAGE REPORTS DUE BY JUNE 30th All 2012 crops and land uses must be reported by **June 30, 2012** on farms enrolled in DCP and ACRE programs. All CRP acreage must be reported on an annual basis to be eligible for the annual CRP rental payments.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2011-2012 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk 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. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration is not required.

February 15	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 16	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 16	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension
March 13	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 13	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension

MANURE 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. 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:

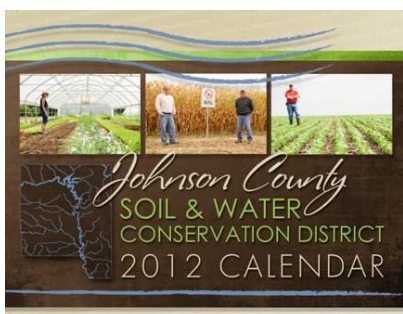
- Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Washington Co. Extension
- Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Monday, February 20, 2012, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Washington Co. Extension



For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at gregb@iaststate.edu or 319-337-2145; Tom Miller, Program Specialist, tmiller@iaststate.edu or 319-653-4811 or Terry Steinhart, Swine Specialist, tsteinha@iaststate.edu or 641-622-2680.

“FARMER’S OF JOHNSON COUNTY CALENDAR”

Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) would like to introduce the first ever "Farmers of Johnson County" 2012 Fundraising Calendar. The calendar features non-traditional and traditional farmers. Calendars are \$15 or \$8/each for 10 or more. Calendars can be purchased at the JCSWCD office (51 Escort Lane Iowa City, IA 52240). Proceeds will benefit conservation efforts in Johnson County. **Farmers in the Calendar:** *Jim & Cathy Sladek, Susan Jutz, Sarah Wall, Bob Roller, Kate Edwards, Tom Wall, Earlis & Lucy Rohret, Mary & Kevin Somerville, John Rummelhart Jr., Dave & Ben Schmidt, Dave Hahn, Bobby Bulechek.* **Interested?** Contact Kate Giannini at cswcd@yahoo.com or 319-337-2322 ext. 3



ANNIE'S PROJECT— AG MANAGEMENT FOR WOMEN

Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise and to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. Annie's Project develops peer networks of local practitioners that have experience and information on the topics of production, financial, legal and human resources risk management.

ISU Extension and Outreach offers this nationally renowned farm business course throughout Iowa to address the unique learning preferences of women often are not served through traditional farm management education programs.

Donnellson: Classes start on Wednesday, February 15, and end on March 28, 2012 at Lee County Extension & Outreach Office. Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 9 p.m. on February 15, 22, 29 and March 7, 14 & 28th. For more information, call Cathy Holtkamp at 319-835-5116 at the Lee County Extension and Outreach office. (Facilitator Jim Jensen, 319-385-8126).

Grinnell: Classes start on Monday, February 6th and will be held at Iowa Valley Community College in Grinnell located at 123 6th Avenue West. Classes meet Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Cathy Lents at the Poweshiek County Extension, 641-623-5188. (Facilitator Cathy Lentz, 641-623-5188).

EASTERN IOWA FORAGE PRICES

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets.

Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended. Released 1/4/12

Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa & Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$6.00-8.00/bale; Grass : SmSq \$3.50-6.50/bale; Straw: SmSq \$2.50-4.25/bale; Cornstalks: SmSq \$2.00/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa : SmSq \$10.00/bale; Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$5.20-7.00/bale; (LgSq \$51/bale; LgRd \$22-137.50/bale Nov); Grass: (SmSq \$4.40/bale Nov); LgSq \$56-67.50/b; LgRd \$70-140/bale; "Baleage" (forage type and bale type not stated) \$30/bale; Straw: SmSq \$2.75-.50/bale; Cornstalks: LgRd \$25-40/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) (SE IA) 1st Weds, 11:30AM (winter 1st & 3rd Weds Oct-) Alfalfa: SmSq \$4.30-8.75/bale; LgSq \$90 -97.50/bale; LgRd \$105/bale); Mixed Leg/Gr : (LgSq \$82.50/b Nov); LgRd \$67.50-84/bale; Grass: SmSq \$4.00-5.10/bale; (LgSq \$46-72

KALONA DAIRY DAYS TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 8

Iowa dairy producers will have the opportunity to hear Iowa State University Extension Specialists share information on emerging dairy industry issues at the 2012 ISU Extension Dairy Days scheduled at seven eastern Iowa locations.

This year the agenda includes: Maximizing Cover Crops' Value in Dairy, Calf Housing and Environment, Dairy Outlook for First Half of 2012, Robotic Milking Systems-A Deal or No Deal for your farm?, Dairy Quality Assurance – Perspective from the Iowa Beef Industry Council, and Precision Feeding for Productive Cows. Dairy Days will be offered in Washington County at the Kalona Chamber of Commerce in Kalona on February 8. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the program will conclude by 3 pm. Dairy Days is sponsored by Freedom Security Bank in Kalona. For more information contact the Washington County ISU Extension office at 319-653-4811.



PQAPLUS™ TRAINING SESSION SET IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington, Iowa -- The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension are teaming up to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (PQAPLUS™) program. One certification session has been set for February 7th in Washington County. Washington County administrative assistant Nancy Adrian said the session will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250th St. Washington, and will be taught by ISU Extension swine field specialist Tom Miller. "The PQAPLUS™ session is set for 7 to 9 p.m.," she said. "Anyone who plans to attend should let us know as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate materials for everyone." Cost for this certification program is \$25 per person and is payable at the door. To preregister, contact the Washington County Extension office at (877) 435-7322 or (319) 653-4811.

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/ COORDINATORS

Serving Region 15

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ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR FARM FAMILIES

Talking about estate planning is often difficult and implementing an estate plan can be even harder. Farmers are unique in that there is not a distinct moment where they just walk out the door to retirement as someone in a regular wage earning job might do. There are options they can consider such as phasing out or transitioning to another generation, and this program helps them plan for that. The "Evaluating Your Estate Plan" workshop will answer estate planning questions and help prepare you for future farm transitions and estate planning. "The program applies to everyone- town and country, families, couples, and individuals" according to Melissa O'Rourke, Iowa State University Extension Farm & Agribusiness



Management Specialist and one of the speakers at the event. Kelvin Leibold, Iowa State University Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist will be the other featured speaker at the workshop.

The workshop will discuss the language of estate planning, gift, estate & inheritance taxes, calculating retirement costs, and many other areas vital to creating a good estate plan. If you are confused on how to build a plan for transferring farm assets or unsure what options are best for your farm operation and family, you should attend this workshop.

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach is offering the workshop on February 23, 2012, with registration starting at 9:00am and adjournment at 4:00pm at the Linn County Extension Office, 3279 7th Ave., Ste 140 in Marion, Iowa. Advance registration is required and space is limited to the first twenty- four people to respond. The Evaluating Your Estate Plan workshop costs \$50 per person and includes lunch. To pre-register call the Linn County Extension Office at 319-377-9839

FARMLAND DRAINAGE CLINIC-JAN. 30

A January workshop will examine various aspects of farmland drainage. The workshop will be offered Jan. 30 at Big Ed's Firehouse in New Hampton. The program begins at 9 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

"We are offering this farmland drainage workshop due to the overwhelming interest in a December workshop on this topic," said Kapil Arora, an agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The morning session will focus on drainage design concepts, economics and the long-term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on drainage maintenance issues, compliance with USDA-NRCS requirements, discussions on controlled drainage, bioreactors and managing drainage water quality with wetlands. Speakers include Iowa State University Extension Ag Engineering Specialist Kapil Arora, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialists Kristen Schulte and Kelvin Leibold, ISU Associate Professor of Ag Engineering Matt Helmers, USDA-NRCS Specialist Bruce Atherton and John Baker, attorney for the Iowa Concern Hotline. Registration information: www.extension.iastate.edu/chickasaw/news/Farmland+Drainage+Workshop.htm or call ISU Extension and Outreach in Chickasaw County at 641-394-2174.

GRAIN MARKETING & RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Local crop producers are invited to attend a grain marketing meeting on Monday, February 6, featuring Iowa State University Economist, Chad Hart. The meeting will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in the basement of the new building. Hart will share his thoughts about the grain markets of 2011-12, the impact of world grain supplies, trade conditions and potential shifts in 2012 planting intentions. Corn prices over the past nine months have remained in excess of \$6 dollars per bushel. This meeting will examine potential tools which could be utilized by producers in minimizing market exposure to price risk as well as what insurance tools are available to reduce production risk. The meeting will also include a federal crop insurance update detailing changes. Soup and refreshments will be served from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by Washington County Extension and Fulton Insurance. There is no charge to attend.

PROGRAMS FOR SHEEP PRODUCERS

Sheep producers and agri-business staff are invited to attend two programs focusing on sheep nutrition and production. The programs will be February 15 in Washington and rural Keota.

NUTRITION WORKSHOP

The afternoon program, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., is a hands-on computer workshop that features BRaNS, ISU's new computer program for developing sheep rations. It will be held at the Washington County Extension Office. Software developers, Garland Dahlke and Dan Morrical, will lead participants through the new software program and how to use it for ration balancing. Computers will be supplied for the first 20 participants to use in the workshop, but participants may also bring their own laptop computers.

LAMBING TIME WORKSHOP

The evening program will be a lambing time workshop, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Ted Greiner farm. The Greiner farm is 13 miles west of Washington on 250th St. and approx ½ mile south on 330th St. at 25517 300th St., Keota, IA.

Dr. Dan Morrical, ISU Extension Sheep Specialist, will be the key speaker and will discuss lambing time management, baby lamb processing and feeding ewes. He will also discuss using corn co-products to reduce the costs of production in a ewe flock. Greiner and Morrical will also discuss tips for troubleshooting problems. Participants should come dressed for the weather and plan to meet in a lambing barn.

Sponsors for the sheep programs include Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Sheep Industry Association, and the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board. Advance registration for the afternoon program is due February 10 at the Washington County Extension Office by calling 319-653-4811. Fees are \$10 for computer program and \$10 per person for the lambing workshop and may be paid at the door. For more information about the programs, contact Byron Leu, ISU Extension beef program specialist, at 641-472-4166 or e-mail bleu@iastate.edu.



FARMERS' INTERNET USE DETAILED IN 2011 RURAL LIFE POLL

AMES, Iowa — As Internet coverage and access improve in rural areas, more Iowa farmers are making use of this information source in their farming operations, according to the 2011 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll. The 2011 poll included several questions on whether farmers have access to and use high-speed Internet service, the types of information they access and the sources of that information. Results from the annual poll are available in the 2011 Summary Report, PM 3016, which can be downloaded at no cost from the ISU Extension and Outreach Online Store, www.extension.iastate.edu/store/.

Internet use for farm information Eighty-four percent of farmers who use the Internet have used it to get information on the weather, and 72 percent do so at least weekly. Most farmers who use the Internet also access market information (78 percent), general agricultural news (75 percent) and information about crop production (68 percent), and many do so on a fairly regular basis, Arbuckle said. Fifty-five percent of farmers reported that they use the Internet for information on farm financial management, as well as pest management. Fifty-one percent reported that they seek information on soil and water conservation. However, farmers use the Internet for these types of information less frequently, with most reporting that they access these types of information less than once a month, Arbuckle added. "Only 39 percent of farmers accessed livestock production information. However, as you would expect, among farmers who raise livestock the percentage was higher, with 71 percent reporting using the Internet for livestock-related information," he said. Farmers also were asked to indicate how often they access information online from several agencies and organizations that provide information and technical assistance on agricultural production and conservation. ISU Extension and Outreach was selected by more Internet users than any other option, with 47 percent of farmers indicating that they use Extension and Outreach at least periodically.

2012 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar

**Monday
Feb. 13, 2011**

CHANGE OF LOCATION

****Johnson County Extension Office**
3109 Old HWY 218 S**

11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Jim Fawcett

ISU Extension Agronomist

Greg Brenneman

ISU Extension
Ag Engineer

Steve Carson

Executive Director,
Farm Service Agency

Gringer Ag, Inc.

Market Update

Gringer Ag, Inc., in cooperation with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach will host the 2012 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar. The program will be held at the Johnson County Extension Office, on Monday, Feb. 13, from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch is provided.

Production Management Decisions in 2012

Jim Fawcett, Iowa State University Extension Agronomist, will provide management tips for 2011 to reduce costs and optimize yield. He will provide a look into the high cost of NPK with application suggestions plus take your questions. www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops

2011-2012 Field Drainage

Greg Brenneman, Iowa State University Agricultural Engineering Specialist, will review subsurface and surface drainage principles and research.

2012 Current FSA Farm Programs

Steve Carson, Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, will provide an update on the current FSA programs.

Grain Market Update for 2012

Gringer Ag, Inc. will provide an update on the grain markets, including a review of the most recent USDA reports and current issues influencing the markets.

Contact Melissa Swartzendruber, Gringer Ag, Inc. 319-338-2280 or gringerag@yahoo.com or the Johnson County Extension Office 319-337-2145 to pre-register. There is no charge to attend this program and lunch

This program is brought to you by  and

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Johnson County.

2012 Weather & Market Outlook Seminars

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 (2 Locations)

Breakfast Seminar: Hills Bank and Trust Company, 3905 Blairs Ferry Road NE, (lower level)

Cedar Rapids Parking at River of Life Church
Breakfast 7:30-8:00 a.m. Program begins at 8:15 a.m.

Lunch Seminar: Johnson County Extension Office

3109 Old HWY 218 S, Iowa City
Lunch from 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Program begins at 12:30 p.m.

“2012 Weather Outlook”

Dr. Taylor’s amazingly accurate weather predictions will give you insight as to what we can expect in 2012 and what caused the 2011 season. Additionally, Dr. Taylor’s ability to accurately predict final crop yields for both corn and soybeans will help you plan for the year ahead. Not only will you get a prediction of crop yields and weather, Dr. Taylor will also show you how to gather information to make better informed decisions. www.extension.iastate.edu/weather



Elwynn Taylor
ISU Extension
Climatologist

“2012 Grain Market Outlook”

Chad Hart, ISU Extension Economist, will provide insight into the volatile grain markets of 2011-12, the impact of world grain supplies, trade conditions and potential shifts in 2012 planting intentions. Chad Hart will provide his forecast on grain prices for 2012 and beyond. The opportunity to ask questions will provide us all with an interesting dialogue. www.econ.iastate.edu/~chart/



Chad Hart
ISU Extension
Economist

“Top 10 Agricultural Law Developments” (Iowa City site only)

Roger McEowen, Professor of Ag Law, Center for Ag Law & Taxation, will address the biggest developments in agricultural law and taxation from 2011 in terms of their impact on agricultural producers, agribusinesses and the agricultural sector as a whole



Roger McEowen
Professor of
Ag Law

Pre-register: Cedar Rapids - RSVP to Elaine Blythe at 319-866-7022 or Elaine_Blythe@hillsbank.com;

Iowa City- RSVP to Carrie Ebel at 319-358-2272 or Carrie_Ebel@hillsbank.com by Monday, February 20



**Latta, Harris, Hanon &
Penningroth, L.L.P.**



and **Iowa State University Extension - Regions 10 & 15**
Serving Benton, Linn, Jones, Iowa, Keokuk, Johnson & Washington

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Extension and Outreach

Legal Strategies of Land Acquisition & Transfer for Beginning Farmers, Feb. 4, 2012 Iowa City, IA - Johnson Co ISU Extension - 1 - 4 pm

Are you a beginning farmer trying to find land to start a new farming business or just expand a existing business? Come and listen to Matt Russell from the Drake Ag Law Center. The workshop will cover different forms of purchasing, leasing, and renting land. Land transfers and financing opportunities will be discussed as well.

Creating a Food Safety Plan for Your Farm, February 11, 2012

Grinnell, IA - Location to be Determined - 9 am - 3 pm

Come and learn about a farm's food safety plan and how to begin creating one for your new farm. Food safety plans are important when creating a product that will be sold as food to customers. Many institutions and other food buyers require certification of Good Agricultural Practices and creating a food safety plan for your farm is the first step towards completing a GAP audit. Whether you are going to get audited or not a food safety plan is still important to have in place. At this workshop, part of the day will be in the classroom and the other part will be at a local farm where participants will be able to do a mock audit of a farms packaging facility and record keeping procedures. Contact Jason Grimm if you are a beginning farmer to learn more about funds to help cover your workshop registration.

Capturing & Organizing Data for Organic Certification, GAPs Compliance, and Other Endeavors, March 17, 2012 Marion Public Library - Marion, IA - Noon - 4 pm

Paperwork can be the bane of the certified-organic, GAPs-audited, and financially-aware farmer. Learn how to capture information, get on top of your paperwork, and wow your inspector, auditor, and banker. Rock Spring Farm's Chris Blanchard will provide an overview of the basic techniques he and his crew use to gather information and keep it organized for easy access with a minimum of effort.

Contact - Jason Grimm, Cell: [319.270.3890](tel:319.270.3890) jason@ivrccd.org to register for any of these programs.