



FARM AND HOME NEWS



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF March 21, 2005

Garden Clean-up

Did you forget to clean-up your vegetable garden last fall before winter and snow moved in? In a perfect world, all of us would cleanup our gardens in the fall. Sometime after the growing stopped in late September or October. Since we do not live in that world, we can still reap most of the cleanup benefits by catching up now. Plant debris from last years garden could be protecting disease fungi that are waiting for your new plants. Within the next week or so, uproot all the dead plants from the garden, rake the soil surface clean of all plant debris and then turn over the soil. It would be prudent to burn, bury or dispose of the disease-infested garden leftovers. This is also a good time to decide how you will rotate the location of your vegetables for this year. It is a good idea not to plant the same vegetables in the same location year after year.

Soybean Rust

Would you like to keep up on the last information from on Asian soybean rust? Log on to the following web for information <http://www.plantpath.iastate.edu/soybeanrust/>. This site contains information about identifying, confirming, and managing soybean rust. This will be a good place to check on the status of rust over the next several months as we enter the soybean-growing season in Iowa.

Pruning and Grafting Workshop

On April 2 ISU Extension will hold a pruning and grafting Apple tree workshop in Cresco. Extension staff will provide all the training and materials. Gardeners who sign up for the grafting workshop can also attend a pruning workshop free of charge. The cost of the pruning workshop is \$5. The cost of the grafting workshop is \$25. Participants will receive two dwarfing apple rootstocks they will graft to a popular apple variety. For more information call Bob Hauer at 641-394-2174.

Iowa Community Philanthropy Academy set for April 22

Community leaders and citizens interested in learning more about utilizing community foundations as a mechanism to enhance the quality of life and vitality of Iowa communities are invited to the state-wide Iowa Community Philanthropy Academy on Friday April 22, 2005. The theme this year is *Creating Effective Community Philanthropy Networks*. It will be held in Ames at the Hotel at Gateway Center. Among the topics that will be covered include how to organize a grant-making process; assessing county-wide needs and setting strategic development priorities; identifying the principles for building endowments; creating collaboration among local foundations, nonprofits, and local governments; and how to be an effective board leader and establishing priorities. To learn more about philanthropy and community foundation educational efforts, go to the Community Vitality Center web-site at www.cvcia.org.