



FARM AND HOME NEWS



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF October 24, 2005

Organic Farmer forum

The Howard County Extension office is hosting an organic farmer information exchange meeting on November 17, 2005 at the Extension Office at 132 1st Ave. West, Cresco, IA. The meeting is open to anyone currently farming organically or thinking about changing over to organic farming. There is no cost, no agenda, just a free flow of information between people who want to learn and share information with each other. The meeting starts at 7 PM and ends when people are ready to go home around 9 or 9:30. Bring your ideas for an organic workshop that will be held here in March 2006. I am working with Jerry DeWitt from Iowa State University and we want to develop a workshop that will address subjects of interest to you. If you would like to join us for the next meeting, please call my office at 563-547-3001.

How do I over-winter cannas?

I got a call this week from a lady asking me just this question, so here is the answer. Cut the plants back to within 4 to 6 inches of the ground a few days after a hard, killing freeze. Then carefully dig up the canna clumps with a spade or garden fork. Leave a small amount of soil around the cannas. Allow them to dry for several hours. Afterwards, place the cannas in large boxes, wire crates, or in mesh bags. Store the cannas in a cool (40 to 50F), dry location.

Get to Know 4-H

4H knows that your family is important to you. We also know how difficult it is to fit work, family, and home life into a demanding schedule. Often, parents spend time driving their children from one activity to another and miss out on time spent together. 4-H works to solve this problem. We encourage family involvement in 4-H. It's not just a youth organization, it's a family organization. That's one of the reasons we are one of the largest national youth organizations in the country for boys and girls ages 5 - 19.

You and your family can take part in 4-H by joining on of the clubs located throughout Howard County or forming a new club. 4-H clubs are young people having fun with friends and learning new skills. Call the Howard County Extension office at 563-547-3001 to find out how you can be a part of one of the largest youth organizations. 4H is open to all youth regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or disabilities.