



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



**CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director**

**FOR THE WEEK OF October 31, 2005**

### **Wreath Making Workshop**

A Christmas wreath on the door says “Season’s Greetings” to all who pass by. Make this message even more personal making your own Christmas wreath. Iowa State University Extension will sponsor a wreath-making workshop at Ruppert’s Ace Hardware, 120 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.E. in Cresco on Monday evening, November 14 from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM. You will learn how to, and will make a twelve inch evergreen wreath to take home. Basic materials will be provided, but bring pruners if you have them. Cost for this workshop will be \$10.00 and pre-registration is required. Contact our office at (563) 547-3001 to sign up. This workshop is great fun and it will help make this a special Christmas at your home.

### **Helping You Become Your Best’ Is Focus of ISU Extension Week, Nov. 13-19**

From Nov. 13 to 19, Iowa State University Extension offices located in every county across Iowa will celebrate Extension Week with the focus, “Helping You Become Your Best.”

The business of ISU Extension is helping Iowans. As a part of Iowa State University, our mission is to build partnerships and provide research-based learning opportunities to improve the quality of life in Iowa. In today’s economy, we provide local citizens, businesses and organizations with resources in a number of areas ranging from biotech, renewable fuels and competing in the global economy, to money management, human nutrition and parenting skills. Iowa State University Extension’s business is helping Iowans through its programs in agriculture and natural resources, business and industry, communities, families, 4-H and youth development, and continuing education. For more information, please contact the Howard County Extension office at (563) 547 3001 or

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/howard>.

### **Garden Clean-up**

Why bother with garden cleanup this fall? The answer is that you can do a more effective job now than you can in the spring. Failure to act now allows the fungi to survive the winter in their plant-debris beds, in the middle of your garden. The other problem is that garden-plant debris becomes brittle and crispy over the winter, to the point where it merely crumbles as you try to rake it up in the spring. If you gather up the garden now, on the other hand, the pieces still stick together, and more of the bad stuff can be removed from your garden. Spending time doing garden sanitation now will repay you with weeks and months of disease suppression next year. You’ll save money on chemical fungicides, and enjoy a better-looking and more productive garden. So now is the time to clean up your garden and put it to bed for the winter.