



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF November 7, 2005**

### **Extension Week Nov. 14-18**

November 14- 18 is Iowa State University Extension week and we hope you will all stop by our office at 132 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West in Cresco and enter our (free) drawing to win an autographed ISU Men's Basketball. We will pick the winner on Friday, November 18 at 4 PM. Also if you have not been to our office lately it is a good reason to stop by and see what programs we have to offer. Please check out our new signs on the outside of the building, they are bright red and make our office easy to find. If you are wondering what ISU Extension is doing and can not stop by, please check out our web-page at [www.extension.iastate.edu/howard](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/howard)

### **WINTER TRAVEL**

Are you ready for travel in winter road conditions? Have you talked to your teenagers about the dangers of driving under winter road conditions? This is the time of the year that winter conditions come up quickly and we are not prepared. Now is the time to put the winter survival items back in all of you vehicles. Items to include are a flashlight and extra batteries, a blanket, extra gloves, a stocking cap, candy, ice scrapper, a small shovel, and a coffee can with sand in it. Also it is a good idea not to let your gas tank fall below one-half full. Keep your windshield washer full and replace old windshield wiper blades. Also before you travel check on road conditions by going to [www.iowaroadconditions.org](http://www.iowaroadconditions.org) or call 1-800-288-1047 for the latest report.

### **Indoor Plants Dropping Leaves?**

If you are like us, you brought your plants in a week or so ago from outdoors, and you're probably starting to notice some leaf drop. Plants that spent the summer outdoors are used to a higher light intensity than we can provide them indoors, so they'll drop their high-intensity leaves and replace them with low-intensity leaves. But new leaves should develop and the plant will recover. As the plant starts to drop leaves, cut back on watering. The plant will need less moisture until it starts to put out new leaves.