



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF November 14, 2005**

### **Winter Sheep Program**

Sheep producers should mark their calendars for two winter sheep ICN programming dates, November 29 and December 13. The programs will start sharp at 7 PM at the Cresco location of Northeast Iowa Community College. Please plan to come at 6:50 PM so we can get you signed in and in your seat when the program begins at 7 PM. The Winter Sheep program is a cooperative effort between ISU Extension and the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board. Producers do not need to pre-register, but there is a \$10 per session fee that you will need to pay at the door. Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of Minnesota sheep veterinarian will be the featured presenter for the first session on November 29.

### **WEATHER UPDATE**

#### **Soil Temperatures for Fall Applied N**

In case you haven't been checking the web link below... average soil temperatures are now decreasing below 50 degrees and should remain below 50 degrees. Daily soil temperatures can be found at:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/>

### **ISU Extension sponsors Amish/Mennonite Horticulture Workshop in eastern Iowa**

Iowa State University Extension faculty, area specialists, and county extension directors will conduct a workshop on commercial vegetable growing and greenhouse crops during November 2005. Funded by a grant from the North Central Risk Management Education Center, the workshops will be held at locations in eastern Iowa that are close to Amish and Mennonite population centers. Workshop will begin at 9 am and end at 3 pm, with a 1-hour lunch break from 12 to 1. Presenters will be ISU specialists in horticulture, plant pathology, entomology, and pesticide safety. Even though Amish and Mennonite producers are the primary target audience, the sessions are free and open to the public. The workshop will have a greenhouse theme, including greenhouse environmental management, pot crops management, crop scheduling, and pesticide safety. Date and location for this workshop is November 21 at Elma (Cedar Valley Produce Auction 18072 Addison Ave.) The project team will develop some long-term educational products, too. Those attending workshops receive notebooks with the latest extension bulletins and web guides for all relevant crops and management technologies. In addition, guidebooks and other reference works for small-scale growers of high-value crops to the reference shelves of nine ISU Extension county offices in eastern Iowa. For more details on these workshops, contact Mark Gleason, ISU extension plant pathologist (phone: 515-294-0579; email: [mgleason@iastate.edu](mailto:mgleason@iastate.edu))

### **Holiday Turkey**

When buying turkey you will find that the younger the turkey the more tender and mild flavor it will have. Young turkey is usually 4-6 months of age. There is no significant difference in quality between a fresh or frozen turkey. Thawing your turkey in the refrigerator is the preferred method for safety reasons, but you can also thaw it in cold water. The thing to remember with both methods is to keep the turkey cold while thawing. Thawing time in the refrigerator is 24-hours for each 5 lbs of turkey. Thawing time in cold water is 30 minutes per lb. However you will need to change the water every 30 minutes to assure safe thawing. If you have questions about cooking turkey you may call the Butterball Turkey Talk Line at 1-800-288-8372.