



FARM AND HOME NEWS



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF November 21, 2005

To Salt or Sand?

To salt or sand your walkways this winter, that is the question. Both are good at helping make your walkways a little safer for people. The problem is that salt can be hard on your flowers or other garden plants. I would suggest using sand or some other product next to your flower beds that is not harmful to plants. I use sand on my walkways that are next to flowers or plants. As always read the label on any product that you buy and follow the directions to be sure you use it correctly and safely.

Snow blowers

A snow blower can be a wonderful tool when it comes to removing snow from a long driveway like mine. It also can be a hazardous if you do not follow safety procedures. Here are a few tips to help prevent snow blower accidents. Children should never be allowed to operate a snow blower. The machine should be stopped before an attempt is made to clean foreign objects or snow from the machine. (A close friend of mine lost the tip of two of his fingers trying to remove snow jam without first stopping it.) Wearing proper clothing and footwear is also important. About one-fifth of injury victims lost their footing and stuck their hands into the discharge chute. Debris needs to be cleared from the area before starting snow removal. Some machines can throw rocks or wood chips up to 75 feet. Also remember to take a break now and then, as it is hard work, not as hard as shoveling, but still hard work. We all know someone, who had a heart attack after doing snow removal, so please be careful out there.

Howard County 4-H and FFA Beef Weigh-in

The Howard County Extension office will hold its beef weigh-in on December 27th in Cresco. Both 4-H and FFA members will present their animals to be weighed-in for county/state fair at the Cresco Vet Clinic between 9 AM and 11 AM.