



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF December 5, 2005**

### **Tips on energy costs**

Tips to help Iowans deal with expected high home energy costs this winter are contained in a series of booklets currently available from Iowa State University Extension in cooperation with the Iowa Energy Center. The first two Home Series booklets are available now free of charge at the Iowa State University Howard County Extension office in Cresco. The booklets are titled *Home Tightening, Insulation and Ventilation*, and *Home Heating and Cooling*. They are filled with everyday energy-saving tips to help Iowans make a positive impact on family budgets. The average Iowa family spends more than half of its annual household energy bill on heating and cooling. That's significant number, but you can dramatically reduce these costs--up to 30 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy--by properly maintaining your existing heating and cooling equipment (or replacing aging units with high-efficiency models), addressing weatherization and insulation issues at your house and getting into the habit of using energy efficiently all the time.

### **Winter Sheep Program**

Sheep producers should mark their calendars for the next winter sheep ICN programming 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.

### **Extension names new Vice Provost**

Jack M. Payne, vice president for University Extension at Utah State University, Logan, has been named vice provost for Extension and outreach at Iowa State University. He will begin his duties Jan. 15, 2006. Payne also is director of the Utah Cooperative Extension Service, dean of continuing education at Utah State and a tenured professor in the College of Natural Resources. He will succeed Vice Provost for Extension Stanley Johnson, who has held the position since 1996 and will retire in December. As vice provost for Extension and outreach at Iowa State, Payne will serve as director of cooperative extension, which has programs in agriculture and natural resources, communities and economic development, families and 4-H youth development. The vice provost also administers University Extension, which includes business and industry programs and continuing education and communications services that provide delivery of off-campus credit and noncredit courses, conferences and continuing education offerings.

### **Howard County 4-H and FFA Beef Weigh-in**

The Howard County Extension office will hold its beef weigh-in on Tuesday, December 27 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.