



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF December 12, 2005**

### **Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT)**

Private Pesticide Applicators must be certified to buy and apply restricted use pesticides on their own farms. Initial certification or renewing a certification that has lapsed is achieved by passing an examination administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The next training session in Howard County is on December 15 at the Community Center in Riceville, Then January 13 at Prairie's Edge Nature Center. The last training program in the county will be in Protivin on March 10, 2006 at The Mint. For more information call our office at 563-547-3001.

### **Dads and Children**

The holiday season is a time for families and for spending time together. Research tells us that children with active dads receive benefits that kids without involved fathers do not get. Children with active dads have better grades, develop positive problem solving skills, and develop closer friendships. Children who have involved fathers become adults with higher sense of satisfaction with life and stronger and longer marriages. If you would like to learn more about how you can be a more active dad visit our web page at [www.extension.iastate.edu/dads](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dads). It has great suggestions for all of us dads even if your children live with your ex-wife you have an important part to play in your child's life. So even if you can not be with your children this holiday season take the time to call them and let them know you are thinking about them. Happy holidays dad, and keep up the good work.

### **WINTER SURVIVAL**

Are you ready to be in your car on the side of the road for hours in freezing weather waiting for help? 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. Your winter survival kit could save your life or the life of a loved one. So if you do not have a survival kit in all your vehicles now is the time to do so. Also it is a good idea not to let your gas tank fall below half full. If you have a cel-phone, make sure it has a full charge so you can call for help. 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.

### **4-H Foundation**

Did you know that there is a foundation in Iowa that was designed to give people the opportunity to support the future of 4-H? It is true, it is call the 4-H foundation and you can learn more about it by going to our web page [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu) and click on the 4-H youth development section. The great part about this foundation is that you can designate your donation to go into the general 4-H fund or you can earmark it to the Howard County 4-H Foundation. Donations designated to the Howard County 4-H foundation will go to help fund future 4-H programming here in our county