

Howard County conducts 4-H and FFA Beef Weigh-in

The Howard County Extension office held its (count/state fair) beef weigh-in on December 28th in Cresco. Both 4-H and FFA members presented their animals for the beef weigh-in. We had 18 youth weighing in 42 animals of which there will be 3 pens of three and 8 heifers for the county fair in June. We want to THANK the Cresco Veterinary Clinic for the use of their excellent facility and the vets that were standing by that day lending a helping hand.

Dairy Day in Elma

The area dairy day will be in Elma at the KC Hall on January 25 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Dairy Days program is designed to bring dairy farm families and dairy professionals information on current topics. This year's topics include cow stressors, producing quality forages, herd health issues, dairy modernization and animal ID. Speakers will include Dr. Leo Timms, ISU Extension State dairy specialist; Larry Tranel and Dale Thoreson, ISUE dairy specialists, and Brian Lang, ISUE crops specialist.

Thinking about Spring Flowers?

Now that the holidays are behind us it is time to start thinking about spring. One of the best parts about winter is the arrival of the new 2005 seed catalogues. Iowa winters are cold and long and a great time to plan and dream about what to do when spring finally gets here. If you do not get garden catalogues, go to ISU's Horticulture and Home Pest Newsletter at www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/ and in the search box type in seed Catalog. This will give you the address of 16 mail-order companies. So say good-bye to winter blues and start planning your spring garden.

Statewide ICN Broadcast To Feature Sheep Health, Annual Meeting

Sheep producers are invited to a statewide Iowa Communications Network (ICN) broadcast on Jan. 11, beginning at 7 p.m. at NICC Cresco. The focus for the meeting will be a 'Sheep Health Update' by Dr. Suelee Robbe-Austerman, veterinary medical official from the USDA's National Animal Disease Center (NADC). The meeting is sponsored by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board.

The presentation by Dr. Robbe-Austerman will include the topics of the success and failure of sheep vaccinations and quality assurance dos and don'ts, followed by a question and answer period. "Dr. Robbe's expertise is unmatched when it comes to sheep health issues," says Dan Morrill, professor of animal science at ISU.

A registration fee of \$10 per person is payable at the door. For more information, contact Charlie Baier Howard County Extension Director at 563-547-3001 or Dan Morrill at (515) 294-2904.