



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF January 10, 2005**

### **CHAUTAQUA II**

Attention gardeners! Iowa State Extension will have a Horticulture Chautauqua on Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Roseville School gymnasium (about 10 miles SW of Charles City on Highway 14) from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. The morning session will feature three speakers who will talk about Landscape Design, Buck Roses and New & Unusual Plants for Northeast Iowa. A sack lunch will be served at noon with an opportunity for people to look at a variety of displays like 101 Myths of Lawn and Garden Care as well as vendor and other displays. Following lunch, participants will have an opportunity to attend two smaller breakout sessions where ISU staff and friends will present a variety of topics such as Ponds, Macho Plants, Gardening for Wildlife, Guarding Against Wildlife, Daylilies, Grasses & Vines and Hardscapes. The cost to attend this event is \$20 if registered in advance and \$25 at the door. A snow date has been set for one week later, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, same time and same place. To find out more about the Horticulture Chautauqua, contact the Howard County Extension office 563-547-3001 or contact Bob Hauer at the Chickasaw County extension office at (641) 394-2174 or email to [bhauer@iastate.edu](mailto:bhauer@iastate.edu).

### **Winter Emergency**

Now that we have had our first real winter storm how many of you had to run to the store to get an emergency food supply? An emergency food supply means having food so you won't go hungry when transportation, weather, health or other problems prevent you from getting your usual supply of groceries or meals. Having extra food available is very important for anyone who may find him or herself and their family isolated due to weather. An emergency food supply is stored in a separate location or in a separate part of your cupboard. This is food you select and set aside for emergencies, not your day to day meals. You should select food that have a long shelf life and can be eaten (if need be) without being cooked. Items such as cereal, peanut butter, crackers, canned stew, pork and beans and other precooked meats or fish canned fruits and vegetables. It is also important to have something to drink like individual containers of juice and water. Do not forget to have some snacks such as nuts, dried fruits, pudding, or cookies in your emergency supply. It is important to check expiration dates on these items and replace them as needed. It is a good idea to have around a three-day supply of food in your emergency section.

### **Danger on rural roads**

Winter brings a lot of danger to our rural roads and we all need do our part to make them as safe as possible. At this time of year we need to be on the watch for deer and other animals. The weather is another danger, snow, rain, ice, and fog. At this time of year we need to be more alert to our environment, slow down a little, and watch the ditches and roadsides for dangers. The other thing we need to do is turn on our headlights when visibility is poor! It is unbelievably the number of people who drive in fog with their lights turned off. Turning on your headlights in fog will not help you see any better, but it helps everyone else on the road see you. So please, remember to turn on your headlights whenever you drive in fog, heavy rain, and anytime visibility is poor.