



FARM AND HOME NEWS



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF January 31, 2005

Dairy Days Wrap-up

On Tuesday January 25th Extension held its annual dairy day meeting in Elma at the KC Hall. We had a large attendance, nearly 50 people and 4 exhibitors. This year's program was Bringing Profits to life. The program covered the following topic: cow stress, agronomic of alfalfa, updates on salmonella & Cryptosporidia, the national ID initiative, modernizing your dairy, and monitoring reproduction. The program began at 10 AM and ended at 3:30 PM.

Tree pruning time

The late dormant period (February to early April) is an excellent time to prune deciduous trees. The "healing" processes occur most rapidly just prior to the onset of growth in spring. Do not apply wound dressings or pruning paints to the cut surface. The application of wound dressings or paints doesn't stop decay and may actually inhibit or delay the healing of wounds. There is one exception to the no paint recommendation. That exception involves oak trees. Oak trees should not be pruned from April 1 to July 1 to reduce the risk of the spread of oak wilt. If you must prune oaks between April 1 and July 1, apply a dilute latex paint solution to all cut surfaces. Some trees, such as maple, birch and elm, bleed heavily when pruned in late winter or early spring. However, the heavy bleeding causes little damage to trees. For more information on pruning trees go to our web page www.extension.iastate.edu and look for the publication called Pruning Shade and flowering Trees PM 1304.

CHAUTAUQUA II

Attention gardeners! Iowa State Extension will have a Horticulture Chautauqua on Saturday February 19th 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. 26th, 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.