



FARM AND HOME NEWS



CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director

FOR THE WEEK OF February 14, 2005

Machinery Management Seminar Set

Machinery management decisions are an important part of the farm business. Sorting out all of the options for acquiring the use of newer machinery can be a challenge. Should I own, rent seasonally, lease or share ownership of a single machine or a line of machinery? How can a group of people own machinery together and make it work? What are your current machinery costs? These and other important questions about machinery economics will be covered (insert local info here) Robert Tigner, ISU Farm Management Field Specialist will present a Farm Machinery Management and Economics seminar covering the above topics using the newest ISU Extension Machinery Management publications series along with a set of computer decision aids. Attendees will take home a book with the publication series and a CD. The book includes worksheets for those who would prefer to hand calculate costs and lease versus ownership options of machinery acquisition. The CD includes several Microsoft Excel templates to do the calculations and comparison. If attendees don't have an office suite, the suite will include Open Office, which will run or open most Microsoft files. The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person. The training will be held at Windridge Implements in Cresco on March 10 from 8 AM-11AM. To register for this program call the Extension office at 563-547-3001.

Following the program Windridge Implements will be providing a free lunch.

Ag Templates & Decision Aids Workshop

Iowa State University Extension we will hold a 2 hour program to familiarize people with the use of spreadsheet templates as decision aids and analysis. On February 23 **from 1:30-3:30 PM** at Cresco NICC. A CD with a range of templates and Open Office is given each attendee. Open Office is a public domain office suite with word processor, presentations and spreadsheet capabilities. Templates included on the CD include all of the usual Iowa commodities and alternative enterprises: Fruit, horticultural production, Meat goats, on-farm dairy processing The templates allow cost of production calculation, cost of machinery per acre, custom rate charge, Sweet-16 financial analysis, partial budget decision-making. Attendees must pre-register and a fee of \$10 per person will be charged. Attendees will get a CD of software they can use on their home computers. To register for this workshop call Howard County Extension office at 563-547-3001 by February 18th.