



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



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

**FOR THE WEEK OF March 7, 2005**

### **IS IT SPRING YET?**

Well not yet, but according to the calendar Spring will be here on March 20<sup>th</sup>. I know my wife and I have been checking out fishing tackle, in fact we just went to the store and got our new fishing license for the year. We also went to the garden center in search of starter trays and plant seeds. Yes, it is time to start planning and planting for that garden you have been dreaming about all winter. Here in Howard County the first week in March should be a good time to start some of your vegetables (indoors) like onions, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower. Most of the flower seeds will have to wait until late April or early May to start. Now is a good time to prune your trees and bushes that are in need.

### **Swine Weigh-in**

Before we know it summer will be here and it will be time for the Howard County Fair. In preparation for the county fair, swine weigh-in for 4H and FFA members will be held on Friday, March 11 in Riceville from 4-6 PM and in Cresco on Saturday, March 12 from 10 to 12 Noon. For more information you can call our office at 563-547-3001.

### **Boxelder Bugs and Lady Beetles are back**

Many homeowners are noticing an increase in the number of boxelder bugs and lady beetles in their homes at this time of year. These accidental invaders found inside entered last fall through cracks and openings, and spent the winter hibernating behind exterior siding and in attics, and similar protected areas. With the onset of warmer weather, the bugs become active and emerge from their over-wintering sites. As they attempt to escape to the outdoors, some move into living areas, emerging from beneath baseboards, behind windows and around light fixtures. The best way to dispose of the bugs appearing indoors is with a vacuum cleaner.

**High Dairy Cows: Februarys summary of Howard County DHIA records.** Here are the top five cows for fat-corrected milk as reported by the Howard County DHIA.

<b>Herd Owner</b>	<b>Barnname</b>	<b>Milk</b>	<b>Fat Protein</b>	<b>Fat Corrected Milk</b>
Burnikel, Darin Sonya	ooMARLA H	35882	2474	37282
Malven, Tony & Bonnie	ooLYNAE H	31371	2387	36177
Malven, Tony & Bonnie	TIFFANY H	36825	2228	35530
Martin, Mervin	55 H	31566	2252	34151
Martin, James	EMPRESS H	30545	2100	33791

### **ISU Ag Research Center Annual Meeting**

Dr Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Meteorologist at Iowa State University will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association (NEIAEA). The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16 at the ISU Northeast Iowa Research Farm southwest of Nashua.

The educational program at the annual meeting will include Dr. Elwynn Taylor who will speak about Weather Implications for 2005 Crop Production and Marketing. Dr. Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Plant Pathologist will address the topic of Preparing for the Possibility of Soybean Rust and other Soybean Diseases. Ken Pecinovsky will finish the morning with a review of current research projects being conducted at the farm. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with the business meeting from 9:30-10:00 and the educational program from 10-12. A dutch treat lunch and the Board of Directors meeting will follow the educational program.

All activities will be held at the ISU Northeast Research Farm, 3321 290<sup>th</sup> St., located one mile west of Nashua on Hwy B60 and one mile south on Windfall Avenue. The NEIAEA owns the ISU Northeast Research Farm and leases it to Iowa State University to conduct research of interest to the 2200 members. Additional information on the meeting is available by contacting the Howard County Extension office at 563-547-3001.