

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

\*\*\*\*\*

**Volume 12, #10**

**ANR NEWS**

**September 2008**

*This electronic newsletter from Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) is sent monthly to ANR faculty, field specialists, program staff, and all CEEDs. It is intended to provide current information regarding ANR administration and programs. Please let us know of topics you would like addressed.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **IN THIS EDITION:**

Jerry's Comments

Upcoming ANR Lunch and Learn Dates and Topics

Applying Evaluation Results to Improve Your Programs

Xin Named Director of Egg Industry Center

New Agronomy Faculty Member Researching Miscanthus

New Dairy Team Web Site

Manure Applicator Certification Webcast on December 8

Energy Tip from Agriculture and Natural Resources

2008-2009 Pesticide Applicator Fees

Funding Opportunities

Selected Calendar of Events

ANR Field & State Staff Directory Update

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JERRY'S COMMENTS**

Title II of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) describes the soil and water conservation programs. A powerpoint overview of Title II was presented at a recent State Technical Advisory Committee meeting. This powerpoint and a powerpoint providing an overview of the status of the Conservation Reserve Program in Iowa are posted at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/about/STAC.html>.

There are now 18 Resource, Conservation, and Development (RC&D) areas in Iowa. Each RC&D recently posted a summary of its activities at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/news/RC&Dfactsheets.html>. If you are interested in the programs being implemented by your local RC&D I encourage you to check this website.

Now is the time to remind your clients about safety. As the daylight portion of the day decreases and slow moving crop harvest equipment travels on local roadways, I encourage you to include a safety message in your local newsletters, news releases and radio broadcasts. It is always a good time to remind your clients about safety and especially this time of the year.

Best wishes for a safe and bountiful harvest.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UPCOMING ANR LUNCH AND LEARN DATES AND TOPICS**

The following ANR Lunch and Learn sessions have been scheduled in conjunction with ISU Extension's Bioeconomy Community Conversation II: Food, Feed and Fuel. The purposes of these sessions are 1) to serve as a resource for Extension personnel leading community conversations in November and 2) to brief all ISU personnel on these important topics effecting Iowans and the global community.

### **Friday, October 3 from noon to 12:45 pm.**

- Biofuels and biodiesel creating shifts in Iowa crop production. Presenter: Charles Hurburgh
- Iowa's position in global agriculture and bioenergy. Presenter: Chad Hart

### **Friday, October 10 from noon to 12:45 pm.**

- Factors that determine the cost of food. Presenter: Chad Hart
- Rising energy and food prices: Effects on families. Presenter: Cindy Fletcher

### **Friday, October 17 from noon to 12:45 pm.**

- Renewable energy's place in the high energy cost picture. Presenter: Dan Otto
- From vulnerability to resiliency: Iowa agriculture in the age of biorenewables. Presenter: J. Arbuckle

At meeting time, simply click on the following link or copy and paste it into your browser to participate: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/anr/>

For later reference, these sessions will be archived at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/lunchandlearn.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **APPLYING EVALUATION RESULTS TO IMPROVE YOUR PROGRAMS by Sorrel Brown**

A state program leader once stated that evaluation should be 75% useful to the educator and 25% useful for administrative reporting needs. Do you look at evaluating your programs to see how the results will help you improve, modify, or otherwise transform some aspect when you develop the next round of educational programs?

Making evaluation useful for you, the educator, means using evaluation results in program planning. Implicit in this approach is that input from target clientele should be part of the evaluation process. Being responsive to the needs of your clientele and factoring in their interests with yours when planning educational programs can lead to evaluation results that support your efforts and meet client needs, while providing insight into where program growth and improvements can be made.

In addition to helping people add to their knowledge base by evaluating the outcomes of your programs, you also play a major role in helping people integrate information from various sources to improve their business decisions, evaluate information for its usefulness in their particular situation, and know when and how to use new information...in other words, capacity building of your clientele. Think of program evaluation in terms of determining how to best direct your efforts where they are most needed and effective, and outcomes will support your efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **XIN NAMED DIRECTOR OF EGG INDUSTRY CENTER**

Hongwei Xin, extension agricultural and biosystems engineer in poultry production, has been named director of the Egg Industry Center at Iowa State. The Iowa Egg Council earlier this year made a \$2 million gift commitment to establish the center. More:  
[http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news\\_detail.php?var1=678](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=678)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NEW AGRONOMY FACULTY MEMBER RESEARCHING MISCANTHUS**

Emily Heaton, one of the newest faculty members of the agronomy department, is touting the benefits of the perennial grass miscanthus. And she should know; Heaton is one of a few people in the U.S. to have any published research on the topic. More:  
[http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news\\_detail.php?var1=676](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=676)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NEW DAIRY TEAM WEB SITE**

The Iowa State University Extension dairy team wants dairy producers and agri-businesses and extension personnel working with dairy producers to have the most recent research-based information available. To do that, they have revamped their web site, [www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam) and arranged it for easy navigation.

The site is organized so visitors can easily link to articles, publications, events, videos and news items right from the home page. A line of tabs across the top of the page takes visitors to events, publications, conference proceedings and dairy team contacts. A left-hand column separates information into five categories – business management, buildings and parlors, raising livestock, physiology and closely related issues. Each side-bar category links to subsections that further break down the available information. At the center of the home page, the dairy team places news items that they identify and update on a regular basis.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION WEBCAST ON DECEMBER 8**

A Manure Applicator Certification (MAC) webcast for County Extension Staff (field specialists are invited to participate) is scheduled for December 8 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. MAC personnel will review the administrative procedures and forms required in this program. If you are new to County Extension or are working with this program for the first time, you will find this session to be helpful in explaining the program, the forms, and other issues. At meeting time, simply

click on the following link or copy and paste it into your browser to participate:  
<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/anr/>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ENERGY TIP FROM AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Recently, our extension agricultural engineers suggested the program potential of the 'Kill A Watt Meter' coupled with appropriate energy conservation educational materials targeting the farm and home.

The following website shows how an electric co-op in Northwest Iowa is using the Kill A Watt Meter.

<http://www.ilec.coop/asp/General/ClientPage.aspx?PageID=479>

The Kill A Watt Meter can be purchased on Amazon.com at:

[http://www.amazon.com/P3-International-P4400-Electricity-Monitor/dp/B00009MDBU/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_sr\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1221747619&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/P3-International-P4400-Electricity-Monitor/dp/B00009MDBU/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1221747619&sr=8-1)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **2008-2009 PESTICIDE APPLICATOR FEES**

ISU Extension has adjusted the fee schedule for pesticide applicator training (PAT) for both private (producers) and commercial (custom hire) applicators in Iowa. For the 2008-2009 training session, which starts in November, the major fee adjustments will be:

- a private applicator fee increase from \$15 to \$20 per person
- a \$35 per person fee will apply for commercial applicator training

Please contact Paul Brown if you have questions regarding PAT fees.

Also, please note the Manure Applicator Certification (MAC) program is supported by state funding; therefore, a training fee is not charged for the MAC sessions.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**PURPOSE:** to stimulate long-term environmental education throughout Iowa.

Environmental education teaches children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment, and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can take care of it. Environmental education is taught in traditional classrooms, in communities, and in settings like nature centers, museums, parks, and zoos. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$50,000; the average

grant is less than \$25,000. In carrying out the work of a grant, applicants are strongly encouraged to include public communications as an objective and/or activity of their project. Partnerships and networks are also encouraged. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged. Guidelines are available at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/reap/cep.html>

DEADLINE: November 1, 2008

**North Central Region Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program, CSREES, USDA**

PURPOSE: to support the continuum of research and extension projects to increase the implementation of integrated pest management (IPM)

Projects are limited to 3 years. The maximum for research projects is \$100,000; the maximum for Extension projects is \$80,000; joint research-extension projects are limited to \$175,000. Specific objectives for the FY 2009 grant program are outlined in the guidelines: [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/ipm\\_northcentral.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/ipm_northcentral.html)

DEADLINE: November 17, 2008

**Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants program, CSREES, USDA**

PURPOSE: to enhance the curricula in agricultural education and interest young people in pursuing higher education to prepare for scientific and professional careers in the food and agricultural sciences.

Proposals for a single-institution project are limited to \$35,000. Projects proposed by an applicant and at least one additional partner institution may request up to \$50,000. Matching funds are required on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-federal sources. Additional information is available in the guidelines: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/educationchallengessecondaryhep.cfm>

DEADLINE: December 15, 2008

\*\*\*\*\*

**SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

October 8-9: State Extension Office Assistants Development Conference, ISU Memorial Union, Ames. <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/extensionoa/home.html>

October 13-14: Iowa Pork Industry Center Swine Field Specialists Professional Development, Kildee Hall, ISU, Ames.

October 22-23: Extension Annual Conference, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames. <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/eac08/home.html>

October 23-24: CEED In-Service, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames.  
<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/ceed2008/about.html>

November 6-7: Swine Disease Conference for Practitioners, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames.  
<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/swinedisease/home.html>

November 11-13: Basic Sausage Short Course, Meat Laboratory, ISU, Ames.  
<http://www.ans.iastate.edu/meatcourses/basicsausages/about.html>

December 1-18: Ag Chemical Dealer Updates, statewide.  
<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/homepage.html>

December 10-11: Integrated Crop Management Conference, Iowa State Center, ISU, Ames.  
<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/homepage.html>

ISUE Calendar of Events website: <http://dbs.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANR FIELD & STATE STAFF DIRECTORY UPDATE**

The ANR Field & State Staff directory has been revised and is available at:  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/contacts.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

\*\*\*\*\*

Publisher: Gerald Miller  
Managing Editor: Paul Brown  
Editor: Julie Honeick