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ANR NEWS

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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.

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JERRY'S COMMENTS

The 2008 Farm Progress Show is scheduled to return to Iowa during August 26-28. I encourage you to hold these dates on your calendar. Last year a group of central Iowa community leaders established the Central Iowa Expo organization and purchased a 116-acre site east of Boone. The site is situated northeast of the junction of U.S. Highway 30 and state highway 17. This site provides the Farm Progress Companies a permanent site in Iowa over the next 20 years during the even-numbered year for hosting the Farm Progress Show that alternates between Iowa and the Illinois site at Decatur. A major advantage of a permanent or 20-year site in Iowa is the opportunity for Central Iowa Expo group to invest in infrastructure that will help "weather

proof" the site with drainage, paved roads, and sewage facilities. In addition the Central Iowa Expo group has access to adjacent land for field demonstrations and parking.

ISU Extension along with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Human Sciences established a planning committee late last fall. The committee developed an overarching theme for the 2008 event titled "Iowa State University: Providing Opportunities for Iowa's Future". The theme is designed to focus on current and emerging topics such as the bio-economy, student recruitment, rural communities, economic development in agriculture and preparing the next generation of Iowans. The ISU planning committee is in the initial stage of planning for potential exhibits and educational activities. If you have suggestions for exhibits and educational activities don't hesitate to let me know.

Congratulations to Dr. Nolan Hartwig on the occasion of his retirement scheduled for March 3, 2008. Dr. Hartwig has served as an Extension Veterinarian for Beef Cattle for more than 25 years. Those of you that have had the opportunity to work with and collaborate with Nolan are aware of his many contributions to the Iowa animal industry, veterinary medicine, ISU Extension and Iowa State University. During his career with ISU Extension Dr. Hartwig served as Extension to Agriculture program leader and as interim Vice Provost for Extension. Join me in wishing the very best to Dr. Hartwig in his retirement. Dr. Hartwig, thank you for your service to Iowa agriculture.

UPCOMING ANR LUNCH AND LEARN DATES AND TOPICS

The following ANR Lunch and Learn session dates and topics have been scheduled:

March 7 – What is the New Century Farm? (Joe Colletti, Senior Associate Dean, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences)

April 4 – Population Change in the Countryside: What Does It Mean for Rural Iowa? (J. Arbuckle, ISU Extension Rural Sociologist and Andrea Rich, Sociology Research Assistant)

Both sessions are offered via Adobe Connect from noon to 12:45 pm and are designed to address the following points:

1. An outline of the opportunities, potential economic impacts, and/or challenges associated with the topic.
2. A review of new or available resources.
3. A discussion of programming implications.

Previous ANR Lunch and Learn sessions are archived at:

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

ANR EXTENSION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM SUMMIT

On March 26, the second ANR Extension Professional Development and Program Summit will be held in Ames. All ANR faculty, field specialists, and program staff will meet in the ISU Memorial Union, South Ballroom starting at 8:50 a.m. with comments by Gerald Miller. A complete agenda is available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/summit.html>

The primary purposes of the event are to review ANR Extension priorities, discuss new opportunities for ANR Extension programming, and to update 2009-2013 plan-of-work objectives, outputs, and outcome measures. All County Extension Education Directors are invited to participate.

We are requesting pre-registration to aid in arranging activities, meals, and refreshments. To pre-register, please complete the following information and send to agdir@iastate.edu.

Name: _____

Wednesday, March 26 attendance ___ Yes ___ No

NEW ACREAGE LIVING NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

The new edition of the Acreage Living Newsletter is on-line at: www.extension.iastate.edu/acreage. It will be published monthly in a web-based format and offered to the public at no charge with an available notification option. County Extension Offices may print the newsletter from the web and make it available to the public on a subscription basis.

Please watch the late-February transmittal for a postcard that can be distributed at events or used as a mailer to promote the newsletter. Quantities of the postcard will be available for order at EDC. Also, a news release will be posted on the ISU Extension homepage soon.

Contact newsletter editors, Shawn Shouse and Paul Brown, with comments, questions, or suggestions.

EXTENSION SMALL FARMS SPECIALIST

Andrew Larson will begin work as an Extension Small Farms Specialist on Monday, May 19 after graduating from ISU's College of Business with an MBA and graduate minor in Sustainable Agriculture. His Professional and Scientific appointment will be based on campus, but his work will focus on applying research-based science and strategic business concepts in the field to help small farmers, new farmers, and food/ag entrepreneurs progress towards operational and ecological sustainability. Programming will target small scale producers/entrepreneurs and will be developed and delivered in collaboration with Extension and partnering agency personnel.

A federal appropriation designated for programming that targets small scale agricultural producers/entrepreneurs is funding 75% of the position through ANR Extension. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is funding 25 percent of the position to coordinate the Center's new Grass-based Livestock Systems Team. The new team will work with farmers and a

wide array of organizations that are focused on the production, marketing, and environmental/policy issues for Iowa's grass-based livestock enterprises.

Andy was raised on a 50-Holstein dairy farm near Pecatonica, IL and was valedictorian of his graduating high school class. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with bachelors degrees in anthropology and environmental sciences in 2002. Andy received his Master of Science degree in natural resources and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois in 2004. His thesis was titled "Surveys Regarding the Practices and Perceptions of Organic Growers and Consumers in Illinois." Before coming to Iowa, Andy served two years with University of Illinois Extension working in agricultural entrepreneur development. He and his wife Katie, who also will graduate from ISU in August with a Master of Arts in Teaching, reside in Ames.

BIOECONOMY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR EXTENSION STAFF

Newly created bioeconomy educational materials, designed for extension personnel to use with various client groups throughout the state, were introduced during an ANR Lunch and Learn session on February 8. You can view the archived version of this session at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/lunchandlearn.html>.

The 2008 PowerPoint presentation contains 59 slides that can be selected to develop presentations of different time lengths and topic depths. To assist in preparing for presentations, most slides contain a notes section. Also, it would be helpful to view the February 8 ANR Lunch and Learn session archive as previously mentioned. The slides can be accessed on the ANR Extension webpage at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/bioeconomyeducmaterials.html>.

Please contact Paul Brown if you have questions or need assistance.

COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS UNIT: DATA DASHBOARD

The Extension Communications and External Relations unit has implemented a new Data Dashboard that will allow faculty and staff to initiate a Product Request form (previously referred to as a 123 form) in an electronic format. The Product Request form itself is a one page document that will queue your project for assignment to an Extension Communications and External Relations unit staff member. Once complete, you will notify the ANR Program director by choosing 'ANR' from a drop down menu, and then simply click a 'Send' button. An email will be automatically sent to the ANR Program Director and chosen backup (similar to the GoldSheet process). To access the Data Dashboard, visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/dashboard . Log in using your standard ISU Net-Id and Password.

Please feel free to contact one of the Database Administrators, Chris Johnsen at: johnsen@iastate.edu should you need technical assistance in using the form.

EVALUATING SERIES-TYPE ANR PROGRAMS by Sorrel Brown

I found an article in the 2005 Journal of Extension that describes how to evaluate a series-type program. Several of the ANR teams have designed series-type programs so I thought it was worthwhile to bring this to your attention. Because there is repeated interaction with the same client over a period of time, it is thought that series-type Extension programs may be more effective than one-off programs in achieving significant impact. These programs focus on tracking the participants' behavior changes as they move toward the anticipated direction. By their very nature, series-type Extension programs demand more time than short-term Extension programs. Thus, ANR teams may want to focus on evaluating the impact of series-type programs to justify the time investment and stakeholder support.

I've adapted the steps outlined in the article to fit ANR purposes and can help you with designing them for a specific program.

- Program Objective: X percentage of participants will (describe desired change or adoption of practice as a result of program)
- Evaluation Steps
 1. Identify the major behavior changes needed to achieve the objective.
 2. Design an instrument to record the extent to which participants practice each of the identified behaviors.
 3. Record and compare each of the participants' responses at the beginning and end of the series to assess the number of individuals that change their behavior or adopt a practice.
 - 4.

A Likert-type scale can capture the participant's process of change. For example:

1. Not Important to me
2. I'm considering this
3. I'm doing this occasionally
4. I'm doing this regularly

Or

1. not ready to (name of change or practice)...
2. considering ...
3. have a plan to ...
4. have taken action to ...

The results can be summarized as a percentage of participants who improve their practices and a comparison of pre- and post-test means.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE FACT SHEETS FILLED WITH STATE DATA

USDA Economic Research Service state fact sheets contain frequently requested data for each state and the entire country. These include current data on population, per-capita income, earnings per job, poverty rates, employment, unemployment, farm and farm-related jobs, farm characteristics, farm financial characteristics, top agricultural commodities, top export commodities and the top counties in agricultural sales. More: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts>

NATIONAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE FEB. 25-27, 2008

Iowa State University's Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are offering a national Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Development Course Feb. 25-27 in Louisville, Ky.

Registration for the course is open. Information about the course, lodging and registration is available at: <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/cnmp/home.html>. Those interested in becoming a CNMP Technical Service Provider can learn more at: <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/cnmp-curriculum.html>

NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

The 2008 National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference is set for April 1 and 2 in Oklahoma City with a pre-conference seminar scheduled for March 31. The number of women either taking over as the principal operator or beginning new farming and ranching enterprises continues to increase. Educators are seeing a demand for specialized farm management and risk management training focusing on the woman owner/operator. More: <http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/wia/Conferences/WIA2008/default.aspx>

NATIONAL LINERS AND COVERS FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE STORAGE, MARCH 25-27, 2008

Iowa State University's Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering department in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and industry specialists is offering a national Liners and Covers for Agricultural Waste Storage Short Course March 25-27 in Fresno, CA. The Liners and Covers course is designed for engineers, consultants, regulators, educators, and others who are involved in the selection, specification, design, installation, or testing of liner and cover systems for manure or waste storage systems.

Registration for the course is open, and those who register before March 10, 2008 will receive an early registration discount. Information about the course, lodging and registration is available at: <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/linersandcovers/home.html>.

MORRILL ACT COMING TO CAMPUS

The original Morrill Act of 1862, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, will highlight an exhibition on "the people's college" opening next month in the Christian Petersen Art Museum as part of sesquicentennial events. See <http://www.museums.iastate.edu/MorrillAct.html>

PEASE TALKS MIGRATING BIRDS IN NORTHEAST IOWA (Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, Feb. 17)

Iowans must really love their birds -- they spend \$45 million every year on bird food alone, according to Jim Pease, associate professor at Iowa State University and extension wildlife specialist. He spoke at the Hurstville Interpretive Center near Maquoketa recently on migrating birds and birding in Iowa to about 100 avid avian fans. Some migrating birds come from the north to winter locally. They consider Iowa as their "tropics," Pease said. Other species migrate from this area south, some flying thousands of miles in both directions. They all face the same dangers and challenges in their annual journeys. In Iowa, nearly all the glacial potholes, which covered the state in the early 1800s, have been drained, so migrating waterfowl have few natural resting sites. But Iowa has made progress since 1985, with 100,000 acres of woodland restored, a million acres of trees replanted and twice as much cropland converted to grassland, Pease said. "People look at woodlands and grasslands as biofuels now, and the potential consequences for birds is dire," he said. "We could lose another half a million acres this year again." Pease was on hand to help open a traveling exhibit, "A Salute to Songbirds," which will be at the center until April 7. In early September, it will move to the Osborne Conservation Nature Center near Elkader. The exhibit will tour sites in Iowa for four years, sponsored by a coalition of businesses and agencies.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY PROGRAM ARCHIVED

On February 14, the Heartland Regional Water Coordination project hosted a workshop (via Connect) to summarize the opportunities for funding under the National Integrated Water Quality Program. This webcast is archived at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p31819371/>.

NEW SWINE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS AND RESEARCHERS

A newly developed searchable web-based database can be used to quickly locate published information regarding environmental management practices on US pork production facilities. The database was developed by a team lead by Dr. Robert Burns, a faculty member in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at Iowa State University and was funded by the National Pork Board. The searchable database is available at <http://www.pork.org/environmentalmanagement/>.

The database provides a fast and convenient method to identify papers published from 1960 through 2006 regarding environmental management options and information specific to the pork production in the United States. It also provides a basic summary of each paper as well as the paper abstract and citations.

eXtension PROPOSAL ON DRINKING WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH

A proposal on drinking water and human health is being prepared for eXtension. The due date for submission of the proposal is March 1, 2008. If you have expertise in drinking water and human health and are interested in participating in the proposal you are encouraged to contact

Elaine Andrews, University of Wisconsin, eandrews@wisc.edu by February 25, 2008. Elaine is coordinating the writing of the proposal.

The proposal writing team is looking for participants with expertise in the following areas:

Source Water Assessment

- Bacteria and pathogens
- Inorganic contaminants

Source Water Protection

- Onsite waste water treatment
- Nutrient and pesticide management
- Riparian management
- Wetland restoration

Drinking Water Treatment

- Water testing
- Water purification
- Control of nuisance contaminants

Drinking Water Policy and Economics

- Improving water quality and farm profit
- Irrigation technology
- Water transfer and use
- Water marketing

This eXtension proposal is being submitted on behalf of the North Central Extension Region. It is one of the four regionally led eXtension proposals approved by the Extension Directors across the U.S.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) Regional Grants, U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

PURPOSE: to carry out projects that address pesticide risk reduction, integrated pest management (IPM), IPM in schools, children's health issues related to pesticides, and research methods for documenting IPM adoption or the reduction of risks associated with changes in pesticide use.

EPA specifically seeks to build IPM capacities or to evaluate the feasibility of new IPM approaches. The agency anticipates funding about 20 projects (2 per EPA Region), with a maximum funding level of \$50,500 per project. The project period is limited to two years. Guidelines are available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/peps/>

DEADLINE: March 17, 2008

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

PURPOSE: to build the capacity of communities to understand and take effective actions at the local level to address existing environmental concerns.

The CARE program will provide funding, information, training, technical support and help to build collaborative local partnerships, improved access to voluntary programs and address environmental concerns. This is the fourth CARE solicitation. Information on previously funded projects is available on the web at www.epa.gov/care. Informational sessions for potential applicants via a national web cast seminar will be available on 1/18/08, 2/11/08, and 2/27/08 (p. 12 of the RFP). For detailed information, see:

http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0802

DEADLINE: March 17, 2008

USDA Risk Management Agency announces 3 grant programs. The deadline for all three programs is: March 24, 2008. Complete information is available at:

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/agreements/>

1. Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education

PURPOSE: to deliver training and information in the management of production, marketing, and financial risk to U.S. agricultural producers. Priority is given to reaching producers of priority commodities and specialty crops. Grants of up to \$75,000 are available; projects will be one year in length. The agency expects to award up to 50 cooperative partnership agreements, with no more than 5 awards in each of the ten RMA Regions.

2. Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions

PURPOSE: to deliver training and information in the management of production, marketing, and financial risk to U.S. agricultural producers. The agency expects to award up to 50 cooperative partnership agreement, with no more than 5 awards in each of the ten RMA Regions; each is limited to \$10,000.

3. Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program

PURPOSE: to provide limited resource, socially disadvantages, and other traditionally underserved producers of priority commodities with training, informational opportunities and assistance to understand risk management tools and make sound risk management decisions. Projects will be funded for one year. No maximum or minimum funding levels have been established for individual projects or geographic locations.

Section 319 Grant Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

PURPOSE: to implement nonpoint source pollution control programs and help protect or improve water quality.

The State of Iowa submits an annual application to EPA for Section 319 funding. As a part of this application, the Iowa DNR invites proposals from Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other organization for nonpoint source pollution control projects. The projects can be statewide, regional, county or watershed based. The approximate start date for Section 319 projects is March 2009. For more information on eligible activities and application information, see: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/app.html>

DEADLINE: April 1, 2008

National Integrated Water Quality Program, CSREES, USDA

PURPOSE: To contribute to the improvement of the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources through research, education and extension activities.

Projects funded through this program will address water quality issues in agricultural, rural, and/or urbanizing watersheds. Projects are encouraged that explore the linkage between surface water and groundwater availability and quality. Projects must be conducted at the watershed or equally-appropriate geographic scale, and may be 1 to 3 years in length. Project focused on instruction may request up to \$60,000 per year; extension projects may request up to \$80,000 per year; integrated projects may request up to \$220,000 per year.

This is a highly competitive program. Extension field specialists with project ideas should collaborate with campus faculty. See the guidelines for specific priorities and abstracts of previously funded projects:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/waterqualityicgp.cfm>

DEADLINE: April 29, 2008

SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2008: Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops, county extension offices around the state. <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/08confdates.html>

February 25-27: National Nutrient Management Plan Development Course, Louisville, Kentucky <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/info/nrfeb08.html>

February 25-27: 2008 Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames. <http://www.water.iastate.edu/>

February 26-27: Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/071302.htm>

February 29: Ag Drainage Workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Jefferson County Extension Office, Fairfield <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/070102.htm>

March 1: From Boots to Heels, Cass County Community Center, Atlantic. For more information contact the Shelby County Extension Office at 712-755-3104

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cass/news/boots+to+heels.htm>

March 5: Ag Drainage Workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Butler County Extension Office,

Allison <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/070102.htm>

March 7: Ag Drainage Workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Greene County Fairgrounds, Clover

Hall, Jefferson <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/070102.htm>

March 8: Crop Scout School, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., ISU Campus, Ames.

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/scout/homepage.html>

March 11-12: Shade Tree Short Course, Iowa State Center, Ames.

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/shadetree/home.html>

March 14-15: Siouxland Garden Show, Marina Center, South Sioux City, NE.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/060502.htm>

March 15: Visit Iowa Farms Agritourism Conference, Scheman Bldg., Ames.

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/iowafarms/home.html>

March 18: Ag Drainage Workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Calhoun County Extension Office,

Rockwell City <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/feb/070102.htm>

March 26: ANR Professional Development, ISU Memorial Union, Ames.

March 25-27: National Liners and Covers for Agricultural Waste Storage Short Course, Fresno,

CA <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/info/nrmar08.html>

March 25-27: SARE's 20th Anniversary New American Farm Conference, Kansas City, MO.

<http://www.sare.org/2008Conference/registration.htm>

March 28-29: Women Around Ag, Best Western Motor Lodge, Clear Lake. For more

information contact the Winnebago County Extension Office at 641-584-2261.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winnebago/>

May 19-21: Mitigating Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations, Hotel Fort Des Moines,

Des Moines. <http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/mitigation.html>

June 10-12: Midwest Composting School, Field Extension Education Laboratory (FEEL),

Ames. <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/compost/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>

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