

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

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**Volume 12, #9**

**ANR NEWS**

**August 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.*

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### **IN THIS EDITION:**

Jerry's Comments

Upcoming ANR Lunch and Learn Date and Topic

Farm Financial Planning Assistance

ANR Extension Calendar Reporting

2008 Farm Bill Side-By-Side

Special RFSWG Call for Proposals

Grass-Based Livestock Working Group Formed

The Connection between Objectives and Outcomes by Sorrel Brown

Turning Waste into Ethanol

Extension Communications and External Relations: Data Dashboard

2007-08 Leopold Center Research Results Now Online

Iowa Beef Center Has New Online Newsletter

The Iowa Farm Disaster Relief Coalition

New Budget Model - Administrative Fee

Webcast to Outline Impact of Mandatory Meat Labeling

Corn Estimates in Line with Five-Year Averages

Economist Shows Iowa's Population Becoming More Diverse

Funding Opportunities

Selected Calendar of Events

ANR Field & State Staff Directory Update

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### **JERRY'S COMMENTS**

The Class of 2012 arrived in Ames this past week along with their returning upper classmates and are ready to start classes. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as well as the university, anticipates a significant increase in enrollment for the fall semester. My sincere "thank you" to those of you that help recruit these new students.

As the summer of 2008 comes to a close most of the county fairs are complete for another year. The final hurdle to the Fall season is the 2008 Farm Progress Show. ISU Extension, along with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Human Sciences, is prepared to

showcase our research and extension efforts. More than 30 exhibits will be displayed and staffed at the ISU facility located at the show site. And "thank you" to those of you that signed on to help staff the displays. In addition to the exhibits a series of presentations by ISU Extension specialists will be conducted in the ISU facility. Presentations are scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. each day.

Although the Floods of 2008 have long since receded the devastation that occurred on farm land, in homes and communities, and across urban floodplains have not disappeared. As an example, approximately 1.0 million acres of land planted to corn and soybeans are fallow and will not produce a crop this year. In some parts of the state scars remain on the landscape as a result of widespread soil erosion. In some locations animals were lost and facilities destroyed by flood waters. Families and businesses continue to cope with rebuilding and re-starting their lives. ISU Extension continues to maintain an active web site <  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecovery/>> listing current topics related to flood recovery to include upcoming educational events. I encourage you to check the disaster recovery web site for updated information.

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### **UPCOMING ANR LUNCH AND LEARN DATE AND TOPIC**

The following ANR Lunch and Learn session has been scheduled:

**September 19 – Managing High Livestock Feed Costs** by Dr. John Lawrence, ISU Extension Economist. The session is offered via Adobe Connect from noon to 12:45 pm and 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>

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### **FARM FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

ISU Extension is pleased to announce that the services of the Farm Financial Planning Associates will temporarily be provided at no charge. Farm families in disaster affected counties are invited to use this program to evaluate their farm business in response to flooding, delayed planting, and/or rising livestock feed costs. Farm Financial Planning is Iowa State University Extension's farm financial analysis program. It consists of one-on-one financial counseling, a computerized analysis of the farm business, and referral to other extension programs or outside services that may be useful. Farm Financial Planning helps answer three basic questions of sound business management. Where am I today? Where do I want to be in the future? How do I get there? For more information on the associates serving your county, visit our web site at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/farmanalysis/>

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**ANR EXTENSION CALENDAR REPORTING**

Extension personnel can expect to see some structural changes to the Extension Calendar that will make ANR Extension reporting easier and more complete. Instead of encountering a long list of reporting numbers the next time you attempt to enter ANR Extension meeting contacts, you will encounter the program area headings 100 through 180:

- 100 Corn and Soybean Production and Protection**
- 110 Dairy Team**
- 120 Farm and Business Management**
- 130 Horticulture: Commercial and Consumer**
- 140 Iowa Beef Center**
- 150 Iowa Pork Industry Center**
- 160 Natural Resources and Stewardship**
- 170 Pesticide Applicator Training**
- 180 Other ANR Programs**

Then under each appropriate heading the 2009-2013 plan-of-work reporting categories will drop down. For example, under the heading **140 Iowa Beef Center**, the reporting categories 141-145 will drop down for selection.

- 140 Iowa Beef Center**
- 141 Reduced feed cost for beef producers
- 142 Improved environmental stewardship by beef producers
- 143 Increased market access and relative price for Iowa beef
- 144 Improved beef cattle production efficiency
- 145 Expand intergenerational transfer of beef cattle operations

The reporting categories are the current plan-of-work priorities set by the respective ANR Extension development and delivery teams under the revolving five-year plan-of -work.

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**2008 FARM BILL SIDE-BY-SIDE**

ERS has released its side-by-side comparison of the new Farm bill with previous legislation. Public Law 110-246, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, was enacted on June 18, 2008. This legislation governs federal farm programs for 2008-12. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008>.

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**SPECIAL RFSWG CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Are you currently involved in a local or regional food system project that covers one or more of your counties and involves multiple organizations, agencies, producers, and community leaders? If so, you may be interested in a special call for proposals put out by the Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG), a special community of practice coordinated by the Leopold Center. Proposals must meet a certain set of criteria (such as the group must already be up and running)

and must be received by **Wednesday, September 10**. The Regional Food Systems Working Group currently sponsors four geographic-based Iowa groups and hopes to add one or two more local groups through this special call. For more details go to:

<http://www.valuechains.org/rfswg/RFSWG%20Special%20Call%202008.pdf>

Contact Leopold Center Associate Director Rich Pirog for questions ([rspirog@iastate.edu](mailto:rspirog@iastate.edu) or 515-294-1854).

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### **GRASS-BASED LIVESTOCK WORKING GROUP FORMED**

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture has made a three-year commitment to support a new Grass-Based Livestock Working Group coordinated by Andy Larson, extension's new small farms specialist. Learn more:

[http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/071808\\_GBLWG.html](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/071808_GBLWG.html)

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### **THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES by Sorrel Brown**

As we approach ANR professional development sessions, we'll be looking at how to gather data to show the impact of your educational programs. Here's a short review on the relationship between the POW objectives your team wrote and the outcomes you want to document from attaining those objectives. Before development of a useful evaluation tool that measures the effect of a specific program, a clear articulation of outcomes is required. For example, one objective may be that X % of participants who attend a particular series of educational programs will apply techniques presented at those programs. A logical outcome to measure might be the amount of money they saved by applying those techniques, or additional profit as a result of applying those techniques. If measuring savings or profit isn't feasible, other outcomes to measure may be significant behavior changes, important decisions made, or recommendations adopted -- based on information you presented -- that will impact their operations. I'm available to work with all the ANR teams to help you think through these relationships and develop the evaluation tools your team will need in the coming months.

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### **TURNING WASTE INTO ETHANOL**

Ames Laboratory and ISU researchers have developed a method for converting crop residue, wood pulp, animal waste and garbage into ethanol.

<http://www.ameslab.gov/final/News/2008rel/syngas.html>

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### **EXTENSION COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS: DATA DASHBOARD**

The Extension Communications and External Relations unit's 'Data Dashboard' is the means faculty and staff use to request assistance in producing news releases, publications, displays, and related materials. Through the Data Dashboard, a Product Request form is generated that will queue a project for assignment to an Extension Communications and External Relations unit

staff member. Once the user completes the Product Request form on-line, it is sent to ANR extension by choosing 'ANR' from a drop down menu, and then sent by simply clicking 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](http://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](mailto:johnsen@iastate.edu) should you need technical assistance in using the form.

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**2007-08 LEOPOLD CENTER RESEARCH RESULTS NOW ONLINE**

Summaries of 25 research projects that completed their work appear in the 2008 Center Progress Report, recently published by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Summaries are condensed from final reports submitted by principal investigators from each research project. Learn more: [http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/072908\\_cpr.html](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/072908_cpr.html)

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**IOWA BEEF CENTER HAS NEW ONLINE NEWSLETTER**

The Iowa Beef Center has released the first issue of its new newsletter. The monthly publication will focus on a topic in each issue, offering producers information on relevant research and advice on a topic they're likely to be handling in the near future. More: [http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter\(AUG\).pdf](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/IBCNewsletters/newsletter(AUG).pdf)

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**THE IOWA FARM DISASTER RELIEF COALITION**

Through the Iowa Farm Disaster Relief Coalition, fourteen Iowa farm, faith and rural organizations including the Center for Rural Affairs are collecting donations and making emergency funds available for Iowa's family farmers who suffered losses due to storms, rain and flooding in Iowa earlier this year.

Farmers may apply for up to \$500 in relief to help offset household expenses, which in turn will free up finances for replanting, clean up, repair, and related on-farm assistance. Application instructions and grant guidelines and donation instructions are available on the Coalition's website at

[https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2715/t/7173/shop/custom.jsp?donate\\_page\\_KEY=3737](https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2715/t/7173/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=3737)

Applications will be reviewed as quickly as possible by a committee of representatives of the state's membership based sustainable agriculture groups. The deadline for the first round of applications is Sept. 30, 2008. Additional rounds of grants will be made available as funding allows.

For more information, contact John Crabtree at 402-687-2103 extension 1010, or by email at [johnc@cfra.org](mailto:johnc@cfra.org).

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**NEW BUDGET MODEL - ADMINISTRATIVE FEE**

A 3% administrative fee will continue to be collected for all external revenue deposited in the 2xx account group. The new budget model will distribute the administrative fees back to the Resource Responsibility Center (RRC) to partially offset new allocated expenses (i.e. University Leadership, Facility Services, Business Services, IT Services and Admin Support Programs). The FY09 budget shows that Extension will need to generate \$535,953 from the 3% Administrative Fee to balance this year's budget. It is important that for external customers the full 3% administrative fee is included in the contract prices.

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### **WEBCAST TO OUTLINE IMPACT OF MANDATORY MEAT LABELING**

In light of mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) taking effect Sept. 30, Iowa State livestock experts are coming together to help producers understand how they will be affected. "There's no need for producers to panic, but we should pay attention and be prepared," said John Lawrence, Iowa Beef Center director. Lawrence, along with other Iowa State livestock experts, will be speaking at a COOL webcast Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. Details: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/aug/061103.htm>

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### **CORN ESTIMATES IN LINE WITH FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES**

The government yield estimates released Aug. 12 had positive news predicting an above trend line yield for corn. Iowa State agronomists say the estimates are in line with the five-year average. But those interested in the report need to understand what the report is measuring. "This is a measure of the number of corn plants and ears per acre," said extension corn agronomist Roger Elmore. "This report does not measure ear development." Details: [http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news\\_detail.php?var1=670](http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=670)

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### **ECONOMIST SHOWS IOWA'S POPULATION BECOMING MORE DIVERSE**

Analysis of census data by ISU's Regional Capacity Analysis Program (ReCAP) found that Iowa is becoming more diverse -- particularly among young people. Liesl Eathington, an ISU economist and director of ReCAP, is the author of a new report on the 2007 population data. Details: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/aug/census.shtml>

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### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Research on Ammonia as an Alternate Fuel, Iowa Energy Center**

Pre-proposals are invited on topics including (but not limited to) synthesis, storage, distribution, utilization (in engines, fuel cells, gas turbines, burners, etc.), safety and use of renewable sources. Guidelines are available at: <http://www.energy.iastate.edu/Funding/gp-focused.htm>

DEADLINE: September 8, 2008

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

PURPOSE: to teach people of all ages about their environment and how to make intelligent, informed decisions to protect the environment.

Projects are generally one year in length. Funded projects provide curricula, program materials, educator stipends, and other methods to increase environmental awareness and understanding of stewardship, and to enhance natural resources. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$50,000, with most awards under \$25,000. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged. In 2007, REAP funds provided about one-fourth of total project costs for the awards given. Guidelines are available at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/reap/cep.html>

DEADLINE: Grant applications are reviewed two times annually. Applications must be emailed by November 1 to be eligible for funding.

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**SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

August 26-28: Farm Progress Show, Boone. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/shows/fps08/>

September: 2008 Research and Demonstration Farm Field Days.  
<http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.php>

September 5-6: Aronia Berry Festival, Sawmill Hollow Organic Farm, Missouri Valley. For more information, contact Dr. Eldon Everhart, everhart@iastate.edu, 712-249-3868.

September 7-9: Growing the Bioeconomy – 2008 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference, Iowa State Center, Ames. [www.bioeconomyconference.org](http://www.bioeconomyconference.org)

September 9-11: Iowa Drainage School, Field Extension Education Laboratory (FEEL), Ames.  
<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/ids/homepage.html>

September 17-19: Corn and Soybean Production and Protection Professional Development, ISU, Ames.

September 17-19: Natural Resources and Stewardship Professional Development, Davidson Hall-ISU, Ames.

September 25: RUSLE2 and Iowa Phosphorus Index Workshop, Marshall County Extension Office, Marshalltown. <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/rusle2/home.html>

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 Professional Development, Kildee Hall, ISU, Ames.

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

October 23-24: CEED In-Service, Ames <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/october.htm>

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/basicsausage/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/>

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**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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