

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

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**Volume 13, #1**

**ANR NEWS**

**February 2009**

*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**

ISU Extension recently distributed the 2008 Annual Report "Healthy People, Healthy Environments, Healthy Economies". This report highlights outcomes for all Extension program areas including ANR Extension. If you did not receive a copy I encourage you to access <<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communications/extension2008/>> and review the outcomes listed. The report includes excellent examples of program outcomes. These examples can serve as a guide for each ANR Extension program development and delivery team as teams finalize their respective 2009 annual report.

The annual ANR Extension Program Planning event is scheduled for March 25 as announced at the conclusion of last year's workshop. The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for each program planning and delivery team to update their 5-year rolling plan of work and to review current objectives and activities being evaluated and adjust evaluations as appropriate. I look forward to seeing all faculty and campus based staff budgeted on Extension funds as well as all Extension field specialist on March 25th. Information regarding registration and the agenda is described in an item listed below.

The State of Iowa and ISU Extension are participating in the "Live Healthy Iowa" initiative. ISU Extension currently has 27 teams enrolled involving 179 individuals. If you are interested in joining a team or starting a new team the following procedures are provided courtesy of Patty Gibler, administrative assistant, office of the VPE.

To register your team on-line go to [www.livehealthyiowa.org](http://www.livehealthyiowa.org) . The Team Leader must do the registration for the team. You will need t-shirt size and email address for each team member you register. They will require the team leader to pay for the whole team when you register. If you go to Hy-Vee and purchase \$15 worth of items listed at [http://www.hy-vee.com/health/livehealthy\\_detail.asp?artID=1604](http://www.hy-vee.com/health/livehealthy_detail.asp?artID=1604) you will get a coupon code to enter that will discount each registration by \$8. **Important note** -- register your team as part of Group LHISTATE. When you register as part of ISU group you receive an additional \$5 discount. With both discounts you pay only \$5 per person. Register on-line at [www.livehealthyiowa.org](http://www.livehealthyiowa.org) and enter your Group ID: LHISTATE to register your team. If you need assistance contact Patty Gibler at [gibler@iastate.edu](mailto:gibler@iastate.edu)

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**ANR EXTENSION PROGRAM PLANNING DAY – March 25**

On March 25, the annual ANR Program Planning day will be held in Ames. All ANR faculty, field specialists, and program staff are asked to gather at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center starting at 8:50 a.m. for opening 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, to discuss new opportunities for ANR Extension programming, and to update 2010-2014 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](mailto:agdir@iastate.edu).**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, March 25 attendance** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

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

**Dr. Eugene Takle**, ISU Climate Science Initiative Director; Professor of Agricultural Meteorology, Department of Agronomy; and Professor of Atmospheric Science, Department of Geological & Atmospheric Sciences, will present **Climate change and Iowa: Understanding and adapting** on Friday, **February 13** from **noon to 12:45 p.m.**

Evidence is mounting that global climate change is upon us and that our everyday lives are, and will continue to be, impacted by its regional consequences. It is especially important for a rapidly evolving topic like climate change that we develop a clear and effective pipeline for flow of information from frontline research to practical applications. It is equally important that agricultural producers, agribusiness providers, and other local decision-makers as well as families and communities communicate needs for climate information to the university.

Dr. Takle will provide a brief overview of global climate change and its consequences for the Midwest as they relate to agricultural landscapes. Recent trends in precipitation, temperature, and other agriculturally relevant variables will be evaluated in comparison with projected future climate changes for our region.

**Mr. Jason O'Brien**, Interim Extension Wildlife Specialist, will discuss the **NatureMapping Program** on Friday, **March 6** from **noon to 12:45 p.m.**

NatureMapping is a citizen-based wildlife monitoring program designed to collect and map location and habitat data for Iowa's common wildlife (birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians). NatureMapping volunteers attend a one-day workshop and are trained in the "basics" of wildlife monitoring. By helping to monitor wildlife numbers and locations, NatureMappers assist with much needed data collection and function as partners with wildlife professionals and land managers who are charged with managing Iowa's game and non-game species.

Mr. O'Brien will discuss how extension educators can become key partners in implementing NatureMapping throughout the state and facilitating landowner engagement.

To participate in these Adobe Connect sessions, simply click on the following link or copy and paste it into your browser at meeting time: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/anr/>

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**OBTAIN A 'STATE RATE' ON HOTEL ROOMS WITH SPECIAL ID**

Extension personnel can obtain a discount 'state rate' on hotel rooms with an Iowa Department of Transportation Special Identification. To get the ID:

1. Go to your local driver's license station and ask for a State of Iowa ID form. (ANR faculty and staff can obtain a form by contacting 109 Curtiss Hall)
2. Complete the information. Use your office address on top, and it's suggested that you use your office address on the bottom part as well (a proof of where you actually have your office instead of a generic Ames address).
3. Leave the expiration date and ID number blank. (When you take the form to the DOT, the date will automatically be taken to 4 years and a number will be inserted for you at random)

4. Have your supervisor sign the form. (For ANR Field Specialists, forms obtained from 109 Curtiss Hall will be pre-signed)
5. Take your completed form, \$1, and driver's license to an Iowa driver's license station.
6. You'll have your photo taken and within minutes have a brand new ID card.

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**BEGINNING FARMER NETWORK TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Beginning Farmer Network, an ISU student organization supporting beginning farmers, will hold its fourth annual conference on Feb. 7 at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. The student-organized conference will feature speakers on topics ranging from livestock marketing, tax management and expanding or maintaining the farm operation. Speakers include Loren Kruse, editor-in-chief of Successful Farming magazine, and Brian Gossling, a U.S. Department of Agriculture farm loan program director. More:

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

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**RISK MANAGEMENT SESSION FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS**

ISU's Iowa Beef Center and the Iowa Pork Industry Center are hosting a webcast on risk management Feb. 16. Interested individuals can view the webcast from their homes or they can watch it at a nearby host site. More: <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/News-Publications/2009/News%20Releases/January/PR-riskwebcast.pdf>

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**IOWA CLIMATE CHANGE BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION – FEBRUARY 16, DES MOINES**

The University of Iowa Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research and a variety of co-sponsoring organizations invite you to a climate change briefing and discussion to highlight the recent report of the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council.

The briefing and discussion will take place on **Monday, February 16**, from **6:00-7:30 pm** at the Iowa State Historical Building Auditorium, 600 East Locust in Des Moines.

The meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about climate change science and its potential impacts on Iowa, to learn about options detailed in the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council report, and to participate in an informal discussion about climate change and next steps.

For more information or questions contact Joe Bolkcom, Outreach and Community Education Director, UI Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at [joe-bolkcom@uiowa.edu](mailto:joe-bolkcom@uiowa.edu) or 319-353-2681.

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**VISIT IOWA FARMS AGRITOURISM CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR MARCH 7**

The second annual Visit Iowa Farms conference will be held March 7, 2009, at the new Honey Creek Resort near Lake Rathbun, Moravia, Iowa. The conference agenda will focus on becoming

a popular agritourism destination and is geared towards individuals involved in agritourism or those interested in agritourism.

Sessions will target safety considerations for agritourism operations, county regulations and legal issues, attracting visitors and bus groups, increasing on-farm sales farm signage and more. Partial funding for the conference is provided by the North Central Risk Management Education Center and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

The event is supported by the Value Added Agriculture Program and other departments within Iowa State University Extension, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, Iowa Winegrowers Association, Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau, Des Moines Chapter of Buy Fresh, Buy Local and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

For complete agenda and registration information, visit [www.visitiowafarms.org](http://www.visitiowafarms.org) or call the ISU Extension Value Added Agriculture office at 515-294-9483. Producers are also encouraged to register their operation online. This website was designed to promote Iowa's agritourism industry – registration is free and allows consumers to find agritourism operations by location or type.

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**MAKING SURE BEHAVIOR CHANGES OCCUR AS A RESULT OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** by Sorrel Brown

As we continue to make advances in our efforts to evaluate ANR Extension educational programs, we may want to shift our focus from increasing awareness and/or knowledge to the more forceful goal of bringing about desired changes of behavior in clientele. Programs that teach best practices, such as conservation strategies, cost-effective fertilizer application, efficient livestock feed management, or economical pesticide application, are good candidates for evaluating behavior change. Incorporating a few principles of behavior change into these programs can increase the odds that clients will actually make the changes you want.

Principle 1: Target and build specific knowledge and specific skills.

Programs that identify the specific knowledge and skills needed to support new behaviors increase the likelihood of participants actually making changes. For example, a livestock program may present facts about more healthful diets, but when participants also learn specific ways that diets could be managed through well thought-out choices, it increases the probability that they will adopt that practice.

In the next newsletter, I'll provide more principles that contribute to increasing your chances of creating behavior changes in your clientele.

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**IOWA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN MARCH**

Gene Mohling, Johnson County Extension Education Director and current president of the Iowa Agricultural Extension Association (IAEA), is asking the membership to hold the evening of

March 25 for a spring business meeting. This meeting will coincide with the Agriculture and Natural Resources program planning day scheduled in Ames during the day on March 25. More details will be forthcoming from Gene.

New and prospective members are always welcome to attend.

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### **PME HELPS DESIGN COURSE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS**

ISU Extension's Pest Management and the Environment (PME) Program and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) present a new course titled, "Worker Protection Standard: Train the Trainer," is available online. The course was developed by Linda Naeve, Betsy Buffington, and Robin Brekke with funding support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IDALS. More: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/WorkerProtection>

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### **ENTOMOLOGY RELEASES CORN ROOTWORM REPORT**

A report summarizing entomology's 2008 corn rootworm evaluations is available on the department's website. The PDF report outlines the performance of insecticides and plant-incorporate protectants on corn. More: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/sites/all/files/2008EVAL.pdf>

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### **WEED SCIENCE FIELD TRIALS REPORT ONLINE**

Agronomy's weed science demonstration field trials report for 2008 is available on the weed science web site. The PDF report is titled "Weed Control Results - 2008." More: <http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/reference/herbtrials/WCR2008/start.pdf>

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### **SOCIOLOGIST DEVELOPS ETHANOL PROFITABILITY CALCULATOR**

David Peters, sociology, developed a tool to determine what market conditions are needed for ethanol producers to make a profit. He had been getting questions about the profitability of ethanol plants under current market conditions and decided to create a spreadsheet that would allow anyone to figure it out for themselves. More: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscenral/news/2009/jan/ethanol.shtml>

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### **CROP PERFORMANCE REPORTS ON THE WEB**

Crop performance tests from ISU and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association are available online through ISU Extension. PDF reports can be downloaded from the Web for corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, triticale, oats and barley. More: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListCategories.aspx?TopicID=2>

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### **NEW FEDERAL AGENCY TO OVERSEE EXTENSION**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (also known as the 2008 Farm Bill) means several changes to research, education and extension administration, organization and funding structure at the federal level. The first, establishing an agency within the Department of Agriculture called the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will happen soon. Along with that, all authorities of the current CSREES will be transferred to this new agency by Oct. 1 of this year. CSREES stands for Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, and is the federal home of extension. There's been some concern about the future funding and implied lessening importance of extension because the new agency doesn't specifically mention extension. As with all changes of this magnitude, public comment is being sought. Following the notice in the Federal Register on Jan. 2 (you can read it here in pdf version <http://sn.im/9160j>) written comments on the establishment of the new institute are being accepted and must be received by the close of business Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 to be considered. See this page on the USDA-CSREES Web site for more information <http://sn.im/9162b>

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### **IOWA STATE ECONOMISTS ASSESS IOWA ECONOMY**

Liesl Eathington, director of ISU's Regional Capacity Analysis Program, says when she watches indicators -- such as the level of unemployment or the rate of foreclosures -- compared to national averages, Iowa doesn't look as bad as other parts of the nation. More: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2009/jan/IAeconomy.shtml>

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### **SCN RESISTANT SOYBEAN VARIETY TRIALS REPORT RELEASED**

The 2008 SCN Resistant Soybean Variety Trials Report is available on-line. The SCN Variety Trails are conducted to assist growers with SCN resistant soybean variety selection by providing them with information about SCN resistant soybeans, including yield and in field SCN reproduction data. More: <http://www.isusentrials.info/>

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### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Biomass Research and Development Initiative**, US Department of Energy in partnership with CSREES, USDA

**PURPOSE:** to carry out research on and development/demonstration of (A) biofuels and biobased products; and (b) the methods, practices and technologies for the production of biofuels and biobased products.

DOE and USDA/CSREES anticipate funding 5 to 25 awards. Projects may be up to 4 years in duration, with awards ranging from \$1 million to \$4 million in total for a project. Technical areas defined for this solicitation are: feedstocks development, biofuels and biobased products development, and biofuels development analysis. Cost sharing is required. Guidelines are available at:

<https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/UNID/4AEB086E28EB0B208525754E007294C3?OpenDocument>

DEADLINE: Pre-application (required) due 3/6/2009  
Full application due 6/11/2009

**Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, CSREES, USDA**

PURPOSE: To solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research and extension activities.

Proposed projects should enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. The types of proposed projects include: integrated project (1 to 3 years for \$50K to \$3,000K); conference projects (1 year and up to \$50K); and research and extension planning projects (1 year and up to \$50K).

Extension field specialists should collaborate with campus staff. Priorities for 2009 are outlined in the guidelines. See:

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

DEADLINE: March 9, 2009

**Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI), US EPA, Region 7**

PURPOSE: to promote transition to reduced-risk pest management practices in agriculture within the area served by Region 7.

Funding in the form of grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Up to 3 projects are anticipated. Projects must address one or more of the national SAI program priorities. Guidelines are available at:

[http://www.epa.gov/region07/economics/r7\\_grant\\_opportunities.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region07/economics/r7_grant_opportunities.htm)

DEADLINE: March 13, 2009

**Drug-Free Communities Support Program, HHS, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration**

PURPOSE: to support efforts of community coalitions to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth; to reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

Grants of up to \$100,000 per year for 5 years are anticipated. Iowa has several active projects funded by this program. Guidelines are available at:

[http://samhsa.gov/Grants/2009/sp\\_09\\_002.aspx](http://samhsa.gov/Grants/2009/sp_09_002.aspx)

DEADLINE: March 20, 2009

**Section 319 Watershed Improvement Grants**, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

PURPOSE: to help Iowans make changes on the land in order to improve the quality of water entering the state's rivers, streams and lakes.

Funding is through Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. The IDNR uses federal EPA funds to support the state watershed improvement programs and to fund grants for watershed improvement projects throughout the state. Proposals are invited for projects that will target improvement of impaired waters, target priority areas, measure the amount of pollution reduced in the watershed, reduce the amount of pollutants reaching waters, implement watershed management plans, and implement conservation practices based on water monitoring and/or a watershed assessment. Priority will be given to projects that fall within the priorities identifies in Iowa's Nonpoint Source Management Program, 9/2000. Projects can start in the spring of 2010. Extension field specialists are encouraged to collaborate with state specialists in developing applications. Guidelines are available at:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/app2.html>

DEADLINE: April 1, 2009

**Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity**, Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)

PURPOSE: stimulate disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure related to the consequences of hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters of 2008.

EDA will funds a second round of strategy and implementation investments that generate new employment opportunities for regions suffering economic distress related to the 2008 natural disasters. The Economic Adjustment Assistance program provides a wide range of technical planning and infrastructure assistance. Eligible applicants may apply to the regional office. Cost share in the amount of 25% of the project cost is required.

Evaluation criteria are to (1) be market-based and results driven; (2) have strong organizational leadership; (3) advance productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship; (4) look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversity the local and regional economy; and (5) demonstrate a high degree of local commitment. There is a category for University and Research Institution Grants. Guidelines are available at:

<http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml>

Several cities in Iowa received grants in the fall competition. See:

<http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/PressReleases.xml>

DEADLINE: Ongoing review of applications

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**SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

February 7: Beginning Farmers Conference, Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames.  
<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/beginningfarmer/home.html>

February 17-18: Soil Fertility & Nutrient Management Short Course, Knapp-Storms Dining Complex, ISU, Ames. <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/winter/soils.html>

March 7: Iowa Farms Agritourism Conference, Honey Creek Resort, Moravia.  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/visitiowafarms/>

March 9-10: Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames.  
[http://www.water.iastate.edu/news\\_events.htm](http://www.water.iastate.edu/news_events.htm)

March 25: ANR Professional Development, Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames.  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/marchagenda2009.pdf>

March 27-28: Women Around Ag Conference, Best Western Holiday Lodge, Clear Lake.  
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winnebago/news/Women.htm>

April 21-22: BIGMAP Symposium – Food and Fuel Crops: Issues, Policies, and Regulation, Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames. <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/bigmap/home.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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