Jerry's Comments
Farmland Leasing Workshops to Be Held in July and August
Hot Topics in Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension
Upcoming Meetings Highlight Grain Storage and Management Issues for the 2007 Crop
New Soybean Aphid Publication Available
2008-2012 Plans of Work
ANR Extension E-published Newsletters
Review of Programs to Be Evaluated
New Recruitment Web Site Introduces Agronomists
Survey Identifies Top Farm Bill Priorities for Iowa Farmers
New Web Site for Iowa Manure Management Action Group
Viticulture Field Days Start July 28
Agronomy Professor Named Wallace Endowed Chair
Food from Ethanol Byproduct under Study
Aging Farmers to Bring Big Changes
Plant Disease Clinic and the Insect Clinic Merge to Form the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic (PIDC)
Pest Management and the Environment Program Offers Posters on Loan
Bobcat Trapping Season
Why are the Honey Bees Disappearing and What is Colony Collapse Disorder
Leopold Center Seeks Projects For 2007 Funding Opportunities
Selected Calendar of Events
ANR Field & State Staff Directory Update

ANR Extension administration and the Farm and Business Management Development and Delivery team have introduced a new program delivery option titled "Hot Topics" (see the detailed description, below). The seed for "Hot Topics" was planted more than 18 months ago by a County Extension Education Director. The seed that was planted was described as the need to have real time or near real time education activity that could be delivered to the county office and moderated by the CEED. The request included the need for a short 15 to 20 minute...
electronic delivery by a campus subject matter expert followed by a CEED led facilitated discussion with local clients. The activity could be delivered in the county office at 7 a.m. with coffee and pastries or at any other time of day with a focus on current "Hot Topics". Today's technology provides the flexibility to deliver these types of educational activities to clients. "Hot Topics" for delivery to clients and the ANR "Lunch and Learn" for staff professional development are just 2 examples of how ISU Extension can provide timely and relevant educational activities. Both "Hot Topics" and ANR "Lunch and Learn" can be delivered to a collective audience or on an individual basis. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about new and emerging education delivery technologies that result in increased efficiency for staff and visibility of ISU Extension among clients.

As a reminder the ANR "Lunch and Learn" sessions are archived at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/lunchandlearn.html

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FARMLAND LEASING WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN JULY AND AUGUST

ISU Extension farm management specialists are offering 69 farmland leasing workshops in July and August. The workshops are designed to assist landowners, tenants, and other agri-business professionals with issues related to farmland ownership, management, and leasing agreements. Each workshop attendee will receive a set of useful materials about farm leasing arrangements.

Topics covered include:
  • Cash Rental Rate Survey and Land Values Survey
  • Comparison of different types of leases
  • Lease termination
  • Impacts of yields and prices
  • Calculating a fair cash rent
  • Use of spreadsheets to compare leases
  • Available Internet resources

For more information, download the information and registration brochure (pdf).

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HOT TOPICS IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION

‘Hot Topics in Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension’ provides a new educational program delivery option. It is intended to offer ISU clients greater access to timely and highly relevant ANR topics via the internet through archived presentations and linked supplemental resources.

ANR Extension’s Farm and Business Management Development and Delivery team has provided farmland leasing content for the initial pilot. Visitors to this site http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/hottopics.html will find four short presentations and links to supplemental information on the following topics:
  • 2007 Cash Rental Rates for Iowa
  • Iowa Farm Lease Law
• Methods for Determining Rental Charges
• Flexible Lease Agreements

This information will remain posted until September 1. Other ANR Extension teams, centers, or initiatives are invited to utilize this delivery option to maintain a rotation of timely and highly relevant ‘hot topics’ throughout the year.

The convenience of accessing ANR Extension program resources via the home computer is expected to reach an audience in addition to those who prefer traditional delivery methods, who prefer to get their information online, or who live out of state.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT GRAIN STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES FOR THE 2007 CROP

Increased corn acreage in Iowa is expected to yield a higher than average corn crop this fall. As a result, producers and agribusinesses are facing a number of issues in regard to additional grain storage needs and associated management decisions. ISU Extension’s Iowa Grain Quality Initiative has scheduled six workshops across the state intended to address this situation in preparation for the 2007 harvest.

Workshops are scheduled in August; the locations and dates are: August 7 in Lewis; August 8 in Sheldon; August 9 in Dows; August 14 in Newton; August 15 in Independence; and August 16 in Washington. Topics include: keeping grain in good condition (even in temporary storage), grain handling systems that keep up with harvest, what can you afford to spend on storage, and planning for your future system.

Workshop registration fees are $25 per person postmarked by August 1, 2007, which includes coffee, lunch and materials. Registrations mailed after August 1 or at the door are $40 per person.

A registration brochure containing more details is available at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/NR/rdonlyres/CA82517C-452B-4FAB-998B-5422F90042F2/58848/storagebrochure0507.pdf. For more information on the upcoming workshops, call 515-294-4430.

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NEW SOYBEAN APHID PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Marlin Rice, ISU Extension Entomologist, recently announced the release of a newly revised 'Soybean Aphids in Iowa--2007,' SP247 publication. It is currently available in PDF format at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SP247X2007.pdf

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2008-2012 PLANS OF WORK
ANR Extension Development and Delivery teams have submitted their 2008-2012 rolling plans-of-work (POW). They are posted at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/08_12plansofwork.html

Each team has made adjustments in their POW based on discussions held this past spring. Greater emphasis has been placed on the ANR Extension priorities:

- Iowa’s Bioeconomy
- Economic Development: Agriculture
- New Agricultural Enterprises, Opportunities, and Linkages
- Beginning Farmers and the Next Generation of Agriculturists
- Rural/Urban Communication and Relationships
- Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship

For more information about these priorities and how they affect programming, please refer to the March 2007 ANR Program Summit Materials posted at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/summit07.html

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ANR EXTENSION E-PUBLISHED NEWSLETTERS

ANR Extension faculty and staff are asked to review their current e-published newsletters for potential improvements that would enhance the identity and recognition of ISU Extension. Some standard information should be provided prominently on each newsletter:

- Redbar (above – copy and paste) at the top of every newsletter
- Name of Newsletter
- Date and Issue of Newsletter
- Department or Program publishing the newsletter
- Area of Iowa covered
- Name, contact info of author/authors
- Discrimination statement

For more information or assistance, please contact Linda Schultz in Jerry’s office.

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REVIEW OF PROGRAMS TO BE EVALUATED by Sorrel Brown

In light of administrative expectations for Fall Professional Development in-service regarding evaluation, I will be happy to visit with you, as an individual or a team, to review the specific programs that teams have identified for evaluation this year. I’ve created a scatterfile with the list of ANR programs that are slated to be evaluated. To get this file, go to:
http://dbs.extension.iastate.edu/filescatter/fileinfo.cfm?f=5572&s=200106071

The list was compiled from communications with teams or from posted POWs. If you have corrections or modifications, please let me know. Remember, teams are expected to evaluate in depth only 2 or 3 programs.
Tip: The more a team is able to specify measurable objectives for a particular program to be evaluated, the easier it is to develop and analyze evaluation tools to measure those objectives. For example, one of the goals for the Crop Production and Protection Team is: To increase by 5% the number of soybean acres in No-tillage and Conservation systems by farmers between the ages of 30 and 50. This goal clearly defines the amount of increase anticipated, the specific cropping systems to be measured, and the target audience that will be surveyed. Because the goal is so specific, the team won't have much trouble developing and administering a survey instrument that collects data to show how their educational programs have impacted behavior change.

NEW RECRUITMENT WEB SITE INTRODUCES AGRONOMISTS

The agronomy department has launched a new recruitment Web site to accompany its recruitment campaign, "i'm an agronomist." The page, http://www.imanagronomist.net/, features a quiz to help visitors determine if they are agronomists, ISU agronomy student profiles and introductions to the issues agronomists are tackling today. Comments are welcome at agron@iastate.edu.

SURVEY IDENTIFIES TOP FARM BILL PRIORITIES FOR IOWA FARMERS

In a survey coordinated by Iowa State, Iowa farmers ranked "enhancing opportunities for small and beginning farmers" and "renewable energy" as top goals for the next farm bill. Learn more: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2007/jun/061507.htm

NEW WEB SITE FOR IOWA MANURE MANAGEMENT ACTION GROUP

The Iowa Manure Management Action Group (IMMAG) has unveiled a new Web site and a new link to the new site. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2007/jun/071202.htm

VITICULTURE FIELD DAYS START JULY 28

Growing grapes will be the topic at four upcoming field days. They are set for the Horticulture Research Station July 28; the Armstrong Research Farm Aug. 2; the Southeast Research Farm Aug. 10; and the Northeast Research Farm Aug. 11. Grape cultivar research, weed and insect management are among the topics. A wine tasting of experimental cultivars concludes the field day at the Hort Station.

Registration information: http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/events/events.html

AGRonomy PROFESSOR NAMED WALLACE ENDOwED CHAIR

Matt Liebman, agronomy, became the Henry A. Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture July 1. He succeeds former Wallace Chair Lorna Michael Butler who retired Feb. 1. Learn more:
FOOD FROM ETHANOL BYPRODUCT UNDER STUDY

Distillers dried grains (DDGs) aren't just for cattle and pigs any more. U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is working on incorporating DDGs, a byproduct of ethanol production, into human food. ARS scientist Kurt Rosentrater is developing recipes for new foods including cookies, breads and pastas that are low in calories and carbohydrates, but high in protein and fiber. DDGs flour is often more nutritious than regular flour, because ethanol processing tends to concentrate the grain's protein and fiber three- to nine-fold. But the fermentation process used to make ethanol often imparts a bitter off-flavor and odor to distiller's grains. (ARS News Service, June 22, http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070622.htm)

AGING FARMERS TO BRING BIG CHANGES

One in four American farmers is at least 65 years old, according to an article on Forbes.com. It expects that "within the next decade those older farmers will be looking for someone to take over their operations and selling millions of acres of land." The trend will also impact companies that supply farmers. More: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/07/01/ap3875040.html

PLANT DISEASE CLINIC AND THE INSECT CLINIC MERGE TO FORM THE PLANT AND INSECT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC (PIDC)

Christine Engelbrecht, head diagnostician, ISU Extension Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic, recently announced the merger of the Plant Disease Clinic and the Insect Clinic to form the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic (PIDC). The new clinic is housed in the Department of Plant Pathology, represents collaboration between the Departments of Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture, and Agronomy.

Extension personnel and the general public are invited to an open house in the Clinic on Wednesday, July 25, 2007, 2-4 PM. This will be an opportunity to meet the diagnosticians and staff, see the clinic facility, and enjoy light refreshments.

PIDC services are outlined as follows:

Fees:
- Diagnosis of plant problems (plant disease, or insect feeding damage) will cost $10.
- Weed, insect, plant and mushroom ID and herbicide damage assessment will be at no charge.

Where to send samples:
- All plant and insect samples should be sent to:
  Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic,
  327 Bessey Hall
Ames, IA 50011

- Form: An integrated sample submission form is currently being developed; in the meantime, please use old forms but send samples to the Clinic.

**Who to call:**
- Plant disease questions: PIDC at 515/294-0581
- Insects questions: Entomology Department at 515/294-1101
- General horticulture questions HortLine at 515/294-3108.

**Where to send e-mail with questions or digital images:**
- Plant disease sickplant@iastate.edu
- Insect questions to insects@iastate.edu

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**PEST MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM OFFERS POSTERS ON LOAN**

The Pest Management and the Environment (PME) Program has four different posters and one display available for loan. These posters are perfect for office displays, open houses, field days, workshops, fairs, training sessions and many other activities and events. The posters (7ft. x 3ft.) are made out of plasticized vinyl and are waterproof and UV resistant. The following is the title and a brief description of each poster:

1. **Emerald Ash Borer - Understanding the Threat** -- This poster contains information on the larval and adult stage of the Emerald ash borer (EAB), symptoms of an EAB-infested ash tree, as well as additional information.

2. **The Emerald Ash Borer Dilemma- Knowing Your Insects and Trees** -- This poster contains information on native borers of ash trees, insects often mistaken for emerald ash borers, ash tree characteristics and tree species resembling ash. It is a good “partner” with the previous poster.

3. **Soybean Aphids- Know Your Competition** -- This poster contains information on the identification and biology of soybean aphids, the damage they cause, scouting for them and management options.

4. **European Corn Borer- The Billion Dollar Insect** -- This poster contains information on Western corn rootworms, Northern corn rootworms and a summary of their behaviors.

An excellent glove safety display also is available. This display consists of 11 laminated panels with Velcro® backing. It contains an EPA chemical resistance category chart, precautionary statements, information on choosing the correct gloves and what to do after wearing, along a picture and graphics.

Please reserve the poster or display at least 2 weeks prior to the date that it is needed. They are loaned on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you send your request through email we ask that you include the dates you would like the poster/display, a phone number where you can be reached at and a shipping address for the posters. The maximum loan time is 3 weeks. Outbound shipping
is free, but the return postage is the responsibility of the borrower. Return instructions will be included with the poster.

If you are interested in reserving any of these posters or the glove display or if you have any questions, please contact Alexis Bryant at Abryant@iastate.edu or call 515-294-8946.

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BOBCAT TRAPPING SEASON

Earlier this month the Iowa Department of Natural Resources announced an Iowa trapping season for bobcats. Since 2003, William Clark, professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology at Iowa State, has been conducting research on bobcat population ecology in cooperation with the Iowa DNR. The goals are to document the population of bobcats that are recolonizing southern Iowa, so that conservation options could be defined; and better understand the dynamics of the population of bobcats. Using ISU data, the Iowa DNR can make decisions on conservation and management of bobcats and other carnivore species. Other states benefit from the regional analyses of genetic origins. For more information on the ISU research: http://www.eeob.iastate.edu/faculty/ClarkW/html/bobcat.html

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WHY ARE THE HONEY BEES DISAPPEARING AND WHAT IS COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER by Donald Lewis

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is the name that has been given to the recent, and serious, die-off of honey bee colonies across the United States that was first reported in late 2006. CCD is characterized by sudden and complete disappearance of the honey bees from an otherwise healthy colony. The colony appears to be healthy with brood and stored food; just the adults are missing in action.

Beekeepers, vegetable and fruit growers and the general public are justifiably concerned and seek information and answers to their questions. Foremost among the questions is, "why?" The short answer is that nobody is certain of the cause, though it appears that stress and diseases, especially among migratory bees, may be what's happening. Early theories that CCD was being caused by cell phone towers, GMO crops and extraterrestrial aliens have all been discounted.

ISU Extension Entomologists advise keeping up to date with the latest CCD developments by checking the CCD Working Group web site http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html The CCD Working Group is an active group of state and federal Departments of Agriculture honey bee specialists, land grant university researchers and private industry.

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LEOPOLD CENTER SEEKS PROJECTS FOR 2007

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State wants to work with Iowans who have innovative ideas for sustainable agriculture alternatives. The 2007 Request for Pre-proposals has been issued for possible projects in the center's three initiative areas - ecology,
marketing and food systems, and policy. Details:  

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**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**National Extension IPM Special Projects Program**, CSREES, USDA

PURPOSE: to advance the goals of the National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management by addressing priority national needs associated with the design, development, implementation and evaluation of Extension integrated pest management programs.

Proposals should be relevant to current needs of Extension IPM programs for production agriculture, residential and public areas, and/or recreational environments. Projects can address management needs for any class of pests including weeds, insects, plant diseases, or vertebrates. Proposals must be relevant to Extension education efforts on a regional or national scale. About $490,000 is available; CSREES has not committed to funding a particular number of projects. Cost sharing is not required. Examples of activities are given in the guidance:  
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/nationalextensionipmspecialprojectsprogram.cfm

DEADLINE: July 20, 2007 (Grants.gov submission)

**Before/After School Grant Programs**, Iowa Department of Education

PURPOSE: Expand availability of before and after school programs to improve student achievement and to be enhanced by and sustained through community partnerships beyond the term of the grant.

Up to twelve (12) building site grant awards will be made to successful applicants that can demonstrate effective school-community partnerships and collaborations to establish before and after school programs. Successful applicants will provide a 20% match and show evidence that the program can be sustained after the grant funding has been expended. The maximum grant awards will be $75,000 per site and a maximum of $300,000 per school district or agency application. A school district may participate in only one application.

See the guidelines for more details and application requirements.  
http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/957/1113/

DEADLINE: July 20, 2007

**Small, Minority Producer Program**, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA

PURPOSE: to provide technical assistance to small, minority agricultural producers in rural areas.
This program is not available to ISU or County Extension Districts but may be of interest to selected Extension clients.

Applicants must be a minority cooperative or a minority association of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority agricultural producers and whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75% minority members. ”Minority” includes individuals who have been subject to racial, ethnic, gender prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. Minority groups are Women, African Americans not of Hispanic Origin, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The maximum award amount is $175,000. Approximately 6 awards are anticipated. The project period is one year. Guidelines are available at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/

DEADLINE: July 30, 2007

Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program, CSREES, USDA

PURPOSE: to address health and access needs of rural Americans, with a focus on the aging population.

Projects in 2007 will focus on issues related to aging in one or more of three areas: 1) population aging in rural areas; 2) eldercare and its impact on rural and farm families; and/or 3) related issues of rural health care access to provide individuals and families with information and education related to good health in an era of population aging. The assistance provided by the programs should be coordinated with and delivered in cooperation with similar services or assistance by Federal agencies or programs for rural residents.

Projects will be one year in length; no matching funds are required. Project budgets must not exceed $360,000; the program will likely fund five (5) or more projects. Application is through Grants.gov. Guidelines are available at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/ruralhealthandsafetyeducation.cfm

DEADLINE: August 1, 2007

USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I Grants CSREES, USDA

PURPOSE: to support research and development projects containing advanced concepts related to important scientific problems and opportunities in American agriculture and natural resources that could lead to significant public benefit.

Applicant eligibility is limited to science-based small businesses having strong research capabilities. ISU can be involved as a subcontractor. The purpose of Phase I grants is to prove feasibility of the project concepts. Note that the application must be submitted via Grants.gov; applicants should register a few weeks before the deadline.
Research topics include:
Forests and related resources
Plant production & protection
Animal production & protection
Soil & water resources
Food science and nutrition
Rural development
Aquaculture
Biofuels and biobased-products
Marketing and Trade
Animal manure management
Small and mid-sized farms
Plant production & protection engineering

Projects dealing with agriculturally-related manufacturing and alternative and renewable energy technologies are encouraged across all topics areas.

Guidelines are available at:  
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm

DEADLINE:  September 5, 2007

Blue Skyways Collaborative Clean School Bus USA

PURPOSE: The Blue Skyways Collaborative, in conjunction with EPA's Clean School Bus USA program, is excited to announce $1.36 million available for grant funding within the Blue Skyways Collaborative states of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

This grant is aimed at improving air quality in the region by addressing diesel exhaust from school buses. Information regarding the program and eligibility requirements are included in the press release below. The Request for Proposal (RFP) application can be found at http://blueskyways.org/Funding/bsc_csb_FY07.htm.

DEADLINE:  September 21, 2007

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SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July-August:  Farmland Leasing Workshops, multiple locations around the state.  

July-August:  Research and Demonstration Farm Viticulture Field Days.  
http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/events/events.html

July-September:  Research and Demonstration Farm Field Days.  
http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.php
July 16-20: 29th Annual Sausage and Processed Meats Short Course, ISU Meat Laboratory. 
http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/processedmeats/home.html

July 18-19: Crop Diagnostic Clinics, Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/cdc.html

July 19: Producer Training for New PQA Plus Program, 10:00 a.m., NICC, Sheldon. 

July 19: Producer Training for New PQA Plus Program, 7:00 p.m., AEA Building, Storm Lake. 

July 31: Midwest Strip-Tillage Expo, Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo. 
http://wrc.umn.edu/outreach/striptillageexpo/midwest/

August 1-2: Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, Best Western Midway Hotel, Dubuque. 
http://www.cias.wisc.edu/uppermidwest/

August 7: Soybean Cyst Nematode Clinic, Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/scn.html

August 7-16: Grain Management and Storage Strategies Workshops, multiple locations around the state. 


August 20-24: Soybean Rust First Detector Update and Training. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/rust.html

August 23: Producer Training for New PQA Plus Program, 1:00 p.m., County Extension Office, Cherokee. 

August 28-29: Manure Management Clinic, Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/manure.html

September 5: Alfalfa Production Clinic. Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/alfalfa.html

September 5-7: ProBeef 07 Conference at Scheman Bldg., ISU campus, Ames. 

September 6: Late-Season Crop Disease Clinic, Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/disease.html

September 18: Soils Clinic, Field Extension Education Laboratory. 
http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/soils.html

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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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.

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