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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 2007 ISU Extension annual conference "Strengthening Our Extension Family Through Realism, Optimism, and a Shared Vision" is scheduled for October 10-11, 2007. Information about the annual conference is posted at <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/eac07/home.html> If you have not registered you are encouraged to complete this task prior to close of business, September 28. A late fee is charged for registrations received after the 28th. All faculty and staff that have all or part of their salary and benefits paid by ISU Extension funds are expected to register for the conference.

Congratulations are extended to all ANR Extension faculty and staff recognized during the University Convocation on September 10. Those recognized include:
- Dr. Jerald DeWitt, Distinguished Service in Extension
- Dr. Daryl Strohbehn, Outstanding Achievement in Extension or Professional Practice
- Dr. Matthew Helmers, Early Achievement in Extension or Professional Practice
- Dr. Michael Owen, Regents Award for Faculty Excellence
In addition, ISU Extension county staff recognized during the University Convocation include:
- Terry Torneten, Shelby CEED, New Professional Award
- Jack Van Lear, Decatur CEED, R.K. Bliss Extension Award
- Holle Smith, Emmet CEED, R.K. Bliss Extension Award

The September 21 ANR Lunch and Learn presentation by Dr. Matt Liebman titled "Ethanol, the next generation: Biomass/bioenergy cropping systems" is available for viewing at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/lunchandlearn.html. If you missed the September 21st presentation you are encouraged to review the archived material. Dr. Liebman shares an insight into the cutting edge research on bio-energy crops that potentially will add value to corn grain produced for alcohol. The research described is being conducted by scientists in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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LEOPOLD CENTER SURVEYS CONSUMERS ABOUT LOCAL FOODS

A survey shows that American consumers are skeptical about the safety of the global food system and many believe local foods are safer and better for their health. These are the views of a nationwide sample of 500 consumers who participated in a web survey conducted by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in July. Details: http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2007/consumer_091107.htm

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MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEGINNERS, ON THE FARM OR MAIN STREET

From an article written by Jeff Ward, executive director, Iowa Agricultural Development Authority, that appeared in the Sept. 8 Iowa Farmer Today: "Thoughts about beginning farmers can take a couple of directions. One being negative -- it can't be done -- or, there are numerous opportunities for Iowa's aspiring beginning farmers. Over the past six years, I have seen many success stories and continue to believe there are numerous opportunities for those young people who choose a career in production agriculture . . . Today, there are many more avenues available for those young people that want to think outside the box . . . Currently, the Beginning Farmer Center at Iowa State University is matching aspiring beginning farmers with older producers, thus creating a transition plan for the retiring farmer and access to much needed resources for the beginning farmer. This method of transition allows the asset owner to continue in the operation, mentor the beginning farmer and begin the transfer of assets in an orderly cost-effective manner . . . I feel it is an exciting time for aspiring beginning farmers in Iowa. While challenges exist, there are challenges for anyone wishing to start a business, whether it is a farm or on Main Street. Numerous resources, from financial to advisory, exist for those desiring to enter farming and choose to utilize those resources. I would encourage anyone who desires production agriculture as a career to take advantage of all the resources available and realize your goal of helping feed the world."

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COLLEGE STUDENT NUMBERS UP FOR FALL SEMESTER

The College added 158 undergraduate students this semester for a total of 2,697 compared with 2,539 for last fall. The increase in undergraduate students is a combination of several factors,
said Tom Polito, student services, including a boost in new students, graduating smaller classes and a continued positive balance in the number of students who change majors into the College. Graduate student numbers also were up to 677, from 646. There are 1,520 male undergraduate students this fall and 1,177 female.

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RURAL YOUTH SUMMIT TO HELP REVITALIZE RURAL AMERICA

The Rural Youth Summit to be held next month will connect young people from rural communities around the country to exchange ideas on the challenges and opportunities of living in rural areas. The “Rural Youth Summit: Revitalizing Rural America” will be held on October 26-27 in Ames, Iowa.

In every decade from 1950 to 2000, rural communities have lost large numbers of young adults to urban areas. Rural youth face a number of challenges, particularly related to jobs, access to capital, and training and education. In addition, young people in rural areas have expressed that they haven’t felt valued as part of the community and lack social opportunities.

Youth participants, defined as 35 and younger, and rural youth advocates are encouraged to submit presentation and workshop proposals at the Summit. University students, beginning farmers, new Americans, technical college students, young professionals, high school students, entrepreneurs, rural youth advocates, and young people who dream of living in rural areas are invited to participate.

Highlights of the Summit include:

· Forum with 2008 presidential candidates to discuss rural youth issues in conjunction with the 2nd National Forum on Agriculture and Rural Life;

· Leadership training and youth round-table discussions;

· Presentations by and for rural youth;

· Opportunities to network with other rural youth.

Planning team members include: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Gustavus Adolphus College, Sustainable Farming Association of MN, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (MN), Honor the Earth, Northern Great Plains, Renewing the Countryside, League of Rural Voters, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and Iowa State University. You can find more details on the Rural Youth Summit at: www.iatp.org

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WEB FEATURE: MEAT EXPERTS GATHER FOR ISU SHORT COURSE

This summer, ISU Extension offered its annual Sausage and Processed Meats Short Course to meat processing professionals from around the world. Plant managers, chefs and research and
development technicians in the meat processing industry were among the participants. Animal science professor Joe Cordray has been leading the course since 1995.

This year, 75 participants from six countries joined 27 instructors for the 2007 course. Animal science professor Bob Rust held the first short course in 1979. View photos and read more about the short course and the "wurstfest" that followed: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/wurstfest.

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NATIONAL FARM TRANSITION NETWORK AT ISU GOES GLOBAL

The National Farm Transition Network, coordinated from Iowa State, has recently broadened its circle to include members from around the world. Under its new name, the International Farm Transition Network will continue to assist farm succession organizations and hold annual conferences to provide international forums for member organizations. Details: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=356

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RESEARCHER STUDIES SUSTAINABILITY OF BIOECONOMY

Robert Anex, agricultural and biosystems engineering and associate director of Iowa State's Office of Biorenewables Programs, is working to answer questions about the transition to an agriculture that produces biomass as well as food and fiber. Learn more: http://www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2007/aug/sustain.shtml

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DEMAND UP FOR ORGANIC FEED GRAINS

"We desperately need more production of (organic) feed grains. The organic livestock industry is exploding. The guys who are successful say their yields are similar to conventional yields. You're getting twice the price for the product and not spending as much on inputs."
--Roger Lansink, Odebolt organic producer who serves on the Iowa Organic Advisory Council (Des Moines Register, August 12, in a story that mentions a study on the economics of transitioning to organic production conducted by Kathleen Delate, agronomy and horticulture; Craig Chase, ISU Extension field specialist; and Mike Duffy, economics)

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U.S. PORK CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW WEB FEATURE - PIG OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Pork Center of Excellence has launched a new program, PIG Opportunities, within the Pork Information Gateway (PIG) Web site at http://isu.porkgateway.org

PIG Opportunities is designed to encourage individuals to pursue a career in the pork industry. It will provide one location for individuals from around the U.S. to learn about community colleges and universities that offer swine science courses, careers in the pork industry and available internships.

There are four components to PIG Opportunities. Careers in Pork is a list of careers in the pork industry including experience needed, duties of the position and skill requirements.
The Community College and the Swine Science Four-year College and Institutions sections provide lists of educational institutions that offer swine science courses within their curriculum.

The final component of PIG Opportunities, Internships, provides a listing of internships available in the pork industry.

Employers, universities and community colleges are invited to share their opportunities in the swine industry free of charge by contacting Sarah Beaman at sbbeaman@iastate.edu.

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2007 EVALUATION FOCUSES ON OUTCOMES by Sorrel Brown

The focus of 2007 evaluation is on Outcomes and Impact. The aim is to document change in learning or awareness (short-term), change in action or behavior (mid-term), or change in conditions (long-term). Because we are at the beginning of our efforts to provide evidence of impact, these changes are likely to be short- or mid-term, rather than long-term. To demonstrate that you are making progress toward your ideal long-term outcomes, you could report on any changes that occurred due to your programming efforts before the desired condition is reached.

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SOIL & PLANT ANALYSIS LABORATORY PRICES AND INFORMATION SHEETS

Reminder that the price for soil fertility analysis will increase as of October 1 by $1 per sample.

ST8 and ST11 information sheets should be available on the lab website http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting and the Extension Distribution Online Store https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ by the end of the week.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Diversity Research & Education Grant Program, North Central Region SARE

PURPOSE: to reach and work with underserved audiences to improve agricultural sustainability in the North Central Region (NCR).

"Underserved" in this program means individuals and groups who have not participated in or received benefits from USDA programs which may improve their quality of life and/or the environment. Examples of historically underserved audiences are farmers/ranchers and landowners/operators with limited resources, minority groups, women, and the physically challenged. Underserved farmers may also include small farmers, organic farmers, and other farmers with production practices that are different from most farmers in the area.

The NCR-SARE program has a specific interest in 1) identifying barriers or current modes of operation that prevent NCR-SARE from being more effective at reaching specific audiences, 2) plans of action to remove barriers, and 3) methods for monitoring progress toward NCR-SARE's
diversity goal. Grants are limited to a maximum of $100,000 over a maximum of 2 years. Guidelines are available at: http://ncr.sare.org/diversity.htm

DEADLINE: November 30, 2007

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SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2-3: Iowa Pork Industry Center Professional Development, Kildee Hall, ISU, Ames.


October 11-12: Dairy Team Professional Development, Ames.


October 11-12: Dairy Team Professional Development, Ames.


November 1: Tri-State Agricultural Lender's Seminar, Midway Best Western Hotel, Dubuque. To register, contact Larry Tranel at ISU Extension in Dubuque County at 563-583-6496 or e-mail tranel@iastate.edu for registration information.


December 4-5: CEED In-Service.

December 13: Pork Quality Assurance Plus Advisor Training, Kildee Hall, ISU, Ames. Applications are due November 29. Download the two-page application form. For more information, contact Jane Runneals at IPIC by phone at (515) 294-4103.

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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