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JERRY'S COMMENTS

Dean Wendy Wintersteen and I would like to extend our thanks to all our ANR Extension field staff for your help and support in recruitment efforts on behalf of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and for Iowa State University as a whole. Your continuing efforts are making a difference. Last fall, CALS increased its total undergraduate numbers by nearly 160 students, and the number of graduate students also is trending upward. And we know that more than 10 percent of all freshmen who enrolled at ISU last fall were 4-H'ers, a great indicator of our strong 4-H programs around the state. It's a pleasure to be able to talk about these increases with our alumni,
friends and stakeholders around Iowa. Recruitment will remain a top priority and we must continue strong efforts in attracting young people to our programs. It's also a continuing success story to share that more than 98 percent of our recent graduates are on the job or in advanced degree programs shortly after being handed their diplomas. For Iowa, we're also proud to say that about 70 percent of our new graduates begin their careers right here in the state. As you all well know, there are opportunities here and our alumni are helping make life better for the whole state. Again, thank you for all you do in helping to recruit for Iowa State and for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It's very much appreciated. Let us know if there are ways to help you in your efforts.

Paul and I extend our thank you to each of you that contributed to your plan-of-work (POW) team 2007 annual report. Review of the annual reports suggests that each team is experiencing significant and relevant outcomes through comprehensive program planning, development and delivery. These documented outcomes demonstrate that the team organization provides a structure for faculty and staff integration to plan, develop and deliver educational programs. This is what the POW teams are designed to do and the first year results show that you are being successful. We will let you know when the 2007 annual reports are posted on the web.

Each POW team made strides in updating their plans for 2009 - 2013 during the recent ANR Extension professional development workshop. As discussed during the workshop, teams are asked to finalize their 2009 - 2013 POW by May 31, 2008. Don't hesitate to contact Paul, Sorrel, or me if you have questions regarding your team POW and appropriate evaluation of a few key objectives within each plan. Thank you for your participation in the March workshop.

The 2009 ANR Extension professional development workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

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ISU EXTENSION CROP PRODUCTION NEWS NOW ONLINE

The Integrated Crop Management (ICM) News web site was launched in mid-March at www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews. The site replaces the printed version of the Integrated Crop Management Newsletter, and it builds upon the reputation that the newsletter developed over the past 19 years. Crop producers and ag professionals can turn to ICM News for the latest research-based crop production information in Iowa.

Some of the new features of the site include:

- Weekly or daily e-mail notification of new articles
- Quick access to crop production sites at Iowa State University
- Easy-to-print single articles and weekly compilations
- Timely advice on how to deal with rapidly changing crop and weather conditions

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UPCOMING ANR LUNCH AND LEARN DATE AND TOPIC

The following ANR Lunch and Learn session has been scheduled:
May 30 – New Directions in Extension Forestry by Dr. Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester.

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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HELPING SMALL IOWA MEAT PROCESSORS EXPAND, UPGRADE, OR BUILD NEW FACILITIES

A shortage in small-scale meat processing capacity is a common problem cited by Iowa livestock producers. A group of ISU researchers, Extension staff, development professionals, small meat processors, and producer groups has come together to try to address this issue. Operating under the name of the Small Meat Processors Working Group (SMPWG), the group has produced a Resource Guidebook which explains the resources available at the local, state and national levels to assist small Iowa meat processors who seek to begin, upgrade, or expand their businesses. The guidebook also explains the necessary business and regulatory steps, and where to find guidance for each step. Copies of this guidebook can be downloaded for free from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development: www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/pubs/contents/189.htm

The SMPWG is also supporting an upcoming series of costing analysis workshops for small meat processors:

April 22, 2008 – Iowa Lakes Community College, Spirit Lake
May 15, 2008 – Iowa State University, Ames
June 11, 2008 – Hawkeye Tech Center, Cedar Falls

For more information about the SMPWG or the costing workshops, contact Arion Thiboumery, (515) 294-2882 arion@iastate.edu or visit the website:
http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/meatprocessors/index.html

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NATIONAL AIR EMISSIONS CONFERENCE MAY 19-21 IN DES MOINES

Increased non-farm population in traditional farm areas and environmental concerns have created a more immediate need to reduce odor and air emissions from animal feeding operations. A national conference exploring the advantages, limitations and economics of mitigation technologies will be held May 19-21 at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines. The conference, Mitigating Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations, is being coordinated and hosted by the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and University Extension. It is designed to provide practical information about prevention, capture and
treatment, masking and dispersal of air emissions from animal feeding operations. Additional information about the conference, lodging and registration is available at: http://www.abe.iastate.edu/wastemgmt/mitigation/

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APRIL ACREAGE LIVING NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

The April edition of the Acreage Living Newsletter is on-line at: www.extension.iastate.edu/acreage. It is 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.

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

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MORE SOYBEANS, LESS CORN EXPECTED IN 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that Iowa farmers will plant 1.25 million more acres of soybeans in 2008 and 1 million fewer acres of corn. And that Iowa, along with Nebraska, will have the largest increases in soybean production nationwide. Iowa State University Extension soybean agronomist Palle Pedersen agrees. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/120401.htm

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PUBLICATIONS REPORT IOWANS' VIEWS ON RURAL LIFE ISSUES

Four new publications are available that report on the findings of the 2007 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll. The poll is designed to monitor changes in Iowa's agricultural and rural life and is a cooperative project of Iowa State University Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, ISU Extension, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/060201.htm

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PORK CENTER, UNIVERSITIES OFFER ADVICE FOR STRUGGLING HOG FARMERS

The U.S. Pork Center of Excellence, Pork Checkoff and experts from universities around the country have created a tip sheet addressing current challenges facing the industry. The tip sheet, "Practical Ideas to Address High Feed and Production Costs," is available on the Iowa State and Iowa Pork Producer's Pork Information Gateway (PIG) at http://isu.porkgateway.org.

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IOWA EGG INDUSTRY PRODUCES NEARLY 14 BILLION EGGS IN 2007

Iowa leads the nation in egg production and processing, accounting for over $1.8 billion in total sales and $475.7 million in annual value-added activity. Nearly 7,600 jobs and $281 million in personal income were attributed to the egg production and processing sector, according to an
Iowa State University report. The "Economic Importance of the Iowa Egg Industry" was written by economists John Lawrence and Dan Otto, and Shane Ellis, an extension program specialist. More: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=405

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SEC. NORTHEY ANNOUNCES HIRING OF NEW STATE APIARIST

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey recently announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has hired Andrew Joseph as the State Apiarist for Iowa. In this position Joseph will oversee apiary registration and inspection, conduct beekeeper education courses and conduct public outreach on bees and beekeeping.

Joseph received his Masters in Science in Entomology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. While there, he was an active member of beekeeping organizations on local, state, and multistate levels. Andy’s research at UK focused on bees as pollinators in monoculture – looking at the role of nectar foraging in relation to overall foraging activity and, ultimately, plant pollination. In addition to the research, Andy also cared for Kentucky State University and University of Kentucky’s bees including managing the annual honey sales.

The Department has three part-time apiary inspectors that examine hives across the state. They serve the beekeepers and growers of Iowa by providing identification and control of bee diseases, pests and parasites as well as facilitate the interstate movement of bees. Funding for a State Apiarist was provided by the Iowa Legislature during the 2007 session. The position was suspended in 2001 due to budget constraints faced by the Department. Joseph will be based at the Department’s laboratory facility in Ankeny and can be contacted by phone at 515-725-1481 or by email at Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov.

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TURKEY REPORT SHOWS PRODUCTION HAS ROOM TO GROW

Iowa turkey production increased between 1996 and 2006 and has the potential for more growth, according to a report on the industry produced by the Iowa State economics department. More: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=404

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ISU DEVELOPS NEW SWINE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DATABASE

A searchable database on the web developed by the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering can quickly locate published information regarding environmental management practices on U.S. pork production facilities. More: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/aginfo/news_detail.php?var1=400

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NEW MASTER EQUINE MANAGER WEB SITE

The ISU Extension Master Equine Manager program just launched a new web site with expanded capabilities to serve program graduates and staff, market the Master Equine Manager program, and provide information to members of the horse industry.
NEW CALF AND HEIFER HOUSING NEEDS REFLECTED IN NEW PLANS BOOK

Penn State Housing Plan for Calves and Heifers provides more than 74 specific plans for calf and heifer housing with the aim of increasing the comfort, productivity and longevity of dairy cattle. The plans show all dimensions except the dimensions of load bearing components. These must be sized based on local conditions.

The book provides for individual housing for the baby calf with liquid feed, solid feed, and water usually delivery to the pen twice a day. When a calf is successfully consuming sufficient solid feed, plans provide for transferring her to group housing beginning with a small weaned-calf group and graduating up through a variety of group housing situations based on her size and the number of animals kept in a group. The plans provide for a clean, dry living environment that accommodates health and management needs and convenience of moving an animal form one age or size group to the next. Four plans show housing needs from birth to breeding age can be met in a single housing system. Drawn for specific numbers, most plans provide guidelines to accommodate the actual number of calves and heifers on a farm. Growth charts and space requirements for Jerseys and Holsteins from birth to pre-fresh are also included.

The 279 page, coil-bound Penn State Housing Plans for Calves and Heifers, is published by NRAES and is available through Midwest Plan Service for $35 plus shipping and handling. There are several other dairy-related resources available from Midwest Plan Service. For more information or to order, go to www.mwps.org, email mwps@iastate.edu, or call 800-562-3618.

MASTER GARDENER SUMMER SESSION

The ISU Extension Master Gardener Program will host its first Summer Session on July 11 and 12 on the ISU campus. This intensive 2-day event will feature numerous hands-on learning activities and volunteer service ideas. The program will close with a capstone address by John Ball titled ‘Diagnostics for Master Gardeners: It’s Not All CSI.’

Registration information is provided as follows:

Discount coupon for lodging at AmericInn or County Inn and Suites http://www.college-coupons.com/-Coupons/ames/country.html

Visit the Iowa Master Gardener website for registration information http://mastergardener.hort.iastate.edu/

ISU AND ISA’S SOYBEAN DISEASE & PEST MANAGEMENT POCKET FIELD GUIDE AVAILABLE

Iowa State University and the Iowa Soybean Association have developed a comprehensive soybean resource titled “The Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide.” The field
The guide contains the latest science-based recommendations on planting tips to increase yield, including the most profitable plant population for today’s seed varieties, row spacing recommendations, and planting date recommendations. The guide also includes a section on identifying soybean diseases that limit yield. The insect identification section includes images that will enable the user to easily identify insects that damage the crop, as well as beneficial insects that help keep other insects under control. The pocket-sized book is designed to fit conveniently in a pocket or a glove compartment. The field guide pages are laminated so the user can take it to the field without worry of damage.

The guide is available as publication “CSI 0010” through the Iowa State University Extension Distribution Center, (515) 294-5247 or https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/. The publication is offered at no cost by Iowa State through a partnership with the Iowa Soybean Association and the soybean checkoff.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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: May 15 and November 1

**Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) 2008**, EPA Region 7

PURPOSE: to build partnerships through grants and outreach to reduce risks and use of pesticides in agriculture.

Projects must address one or more of the national SAI goals as listed in the guidelines. SAI’s emphasis is on minor food crops; but other agricultural commodities including turf and ornamentals will be considered. The program is not intended to support basic research. Grants will range from $20,000 to $100,000; the number of projects to be funded is small. Cost share is encouraged but not required. Guidelines are available at:
http://www.epa.gov/region07/economics/pdf/epa-r7wwpd-08-003.pdf

DEADLINE: May 16, 2008

**Professional Development Program (PDP) Competitive Grants**, North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)

PURPOSE: Provide professional development training to agricultural professionals and educators in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, and other governmental agencies serving the food and fiber system.

The program is accepting pre-proposals in any area relevant to sustainable agriculture professional development. The funding cap for an individual grant is set at $75,000, with a project duration up to 3 years. Faculty and staff who have project ideas are strongly encouraged to talk with Jerry DeWitt, Iowa’s state PDP coordinator.

Guidelines are available on the NCR-SARE web site at:

DEADLINE: May 26, 2008 for pre-proposals (electronic submission)

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

PURPOSE: to address the health and access needs of rural Americans.

The FY 2008 program will focus on issues related to aging in one or more of three areas: population aging in rural areas; eldercare or caregiving and its impact on rural and farm families, and related issues of rural health care to provide older individuals and families with a variety of
education and services. Project are encouraged that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension.

Priority will be given to applicants with a demonstrated history of training and educating nurses and allied health professionals committed to rural practice. ISU Extension could partner with one or more organizations to meet this priority. The project period is 1 year in length; the award ceiling is $350,000. Matching funds are not required. Field Specialists with project ideas should collaborate with campus faculty. Guidelines are available at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/ruralhealthandsafetyeducation.cfm

DEADLINE: June 2, 2008

**Agricultural Prosperity for Small and Medium-Sized Farms**, USDA, National Research Initiative, Topic 66.0

**PURPOSE:** to foster interdisciplinary studies to improve our understanding of the interactions between the economic and environmental components important to the long-term viability, competitiveness, and efficiency of small and medium-sized farms.

This is a highly competitive program. Please review the complete program description, current priorities and abstracts of previously funded programs. Awards range up to $500,000 for multi-year projects. The guidelines list specific priorities for integrated proposals in 2008.

Field specialists are encouraged to collaborate with campus-based faculty. Guidelines are available at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/smallfarmsagriculturalprosperitynri.cfm

DEADLINE: June 5, 2008

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**SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

April 25: Fourth Annual Iowa Women's Leadership Summit, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Scheman Bldg., ISU, Ames. http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/womensleadership/home.html

May 7: Webinar for Farm Management and Family Consumer Science Extension Professionals, 3:00 p.m. http://www.extension.iastate.edu/webcast/studio.asx


June 12: New Perspectives on Bioenergy webcast. (More information to come in the next newsletter.)


August 7-17: Iowa State Fair, Des Moines. http://www.iowastatefair.com/


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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