Rain, rain and more rain! For many Iowans this spring weather is a reminder of previous experiences that resulted in economic losses, natural resource degradation, and personal hardships. Hopefully, in the very near future the weather will shift to a normal seasonal pattern. My compliments to ISU Extension faculty and staff that have allocated time and effort to ensure that our science-based information and resources are available to Iowa citizens. Prompt and timely assistance is being provided by ISU Extension.
The occurrence of tornados and severe weather across Iowa provides an opportunity to remind ourselves to take a few minutes and review the Homeland Security Plan for ISU Extension Field Offices <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ofcguide/Section4a.htm#4a14>. As stated in the first paragraph of this guide "Homeland security covers natural disaster events such as a flood, drought, or winter storm as well as terrorist events from a physical, economic, or biological attack". As outlined in this plan, all of us, campus, field, and county staff, have responsibilities or potential responsibility for implementing and supporting provisions of the plan. In addition, ISU Extension is a participant in the State of Iowa Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) located at the Joint Forces Headquarters, Johnston, Iowa. ISU Extension has a designated work station in the SEOC. Drs. Charles Schwab and Mark Hanna, Extension Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers, are the team leaders for ISUE and have sufficient members on each team to support 24/7 operations.

ANR Extension Lunch and Learn webcasts were initiated in October 2006. Currently, 18 sessions have been delivered to ISU Extension staff. The purpose of the ANR Extension Lunch and Learn series is to provide professional development for Extension staff. All completed sessions are archived at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/staff/lunchandlearn.html> I encourage you to review the list of topics presented and provide suggested topics that you are interested in learning about the science-base and available Extension resources. I look forward to hearing from you.

The 2009 ANR Extension Professional Development Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT NEWS PROMOTIONAL ITEM

The Integrated Crop Management (ICM) News web site was launched in mid-March at: www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews. A promotional ‘business card’ has been prepared that extension personnel and partners can use to market the new web site. SP 324 is now available from the Extension Distribution Center. County Extension Offices and Extension Field Agronomists will receive a quantity of 50 and 500 respectively in the June 2 transmittal. This item is intended to be handed directly to potential users or placed on counters for clients to pick-up.

2008 FARM PROGRESS SHOW

Plans are taking shape to have a strong Iowa State University presence at the 2008 Farm Progress Show on August 26, 27, and 28 at the Central Iowa Expo Grounds near Boone. ISU Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have selected “Iowa State University: Providing Opportunities for Iowa’s Future” as the major theme for the event. Over 30 exhibits are being developed that connect with six subthemes. These are:

1. Bioeconomy
2. Adventure (student recruitment)
3. Food and Human Health
4. Rural Communities
5. Economic Development (through agriculture)
6. Next Generation of Iowans (youth preparedness)

More specific information will be available in early July about the exhibits; faculty, staff, and student participation; and opportunities to volunteer for staffing the various exhibits. In the meantime, contact Paul Brown if you have questions or need more information.

***************************************************************************

EVALUATING YOUR OWN PROGRAM EFFORTS by Sorrel Brown

During the past few months, ANR teams have been busy reviewing their Plans of Work and making adjustments for next year’s objectives. We’ve used our professional development time to gain some insight into the relationship between objectives, outputs and outcomes. We know that evaluating outcomes that result from team programming activities can range from raising awareness and improving knowledge to changing attitudes, acquiring skills and adopting practices. The same principles hold for individual specialists. You want to show evidence of the difference you’ve made as a specialist. Basic evaluation techniques can help. Whether it’s collecting data through participants' registration forms, a pre-program questionnaire, session feedback forms, or post-program follow-up, I’m available to help you build a bridge between your objectives and the evaluation tools you can use to document achieving those objectives. Preparing these tools ahead of time puts you in a position of strength when it comes time to show how your efforts have made a difference.

***************************************************************************

ISU EXTENSION BOOK RECEIVES ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AWARD

"The Forest Where Ashley Lives," a children's book published by Iowa State University Extension and developed by former ISU forestry program staff, has received an Education Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/122101.htm

***************************************************************************

IOWA STATE GRAD HIRED AT IOWA PORK INDUSTRY CENTER

Terry Faidley, the new Quality Management Systems (QMS) program coordinator at the Iowa Pork Industry Center, credits his educational experiences at Iowa State as an important factor in his eventual return as an employee. Faidley said instructors throughout his academic career at ISU were major influences on his career. Learn more: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/152301.htm

***************************************************************************

IOWA FARMER TODAY CROPWATCH BLOG

Again this year, Iowa Farmer Today is operating their CropWatch Blog in cooperation with ISU’s Corn and Soybean Initiative. Regular contributions are featured by Extension Agronomists, Extension Field Agronomists, and Corn and Soybean Initiative partners. The CropWatch Blog can be directly accessed at: http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/blog/
Or it can be accessed via Integrated Crop Management News -- see link in upper right side-bar: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews

***************************************************************************

IN THE NEWS: SUGAR BEETS FOR ENERGY PLANTED AT ISU FARM

The Muscatine Journal recently reported on sugar beet planting at ISU’s Muscatine Island Research Farm. Heartland Renewable Energy has proposed building a plant in Muscatine to produce ethanol from sugar-based feedstock. More: http://www.muscatinejournal.com/articles/2008/04/17/news/doc48076ae209c73942653875.txt

***************************************************************************

SURVEY SHOWS INCREASE IN ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

Ornamental horticulture is one of the fastest growing segments of the Iowa's agriculture industry, according to a newly released ISU Extension survey. The estimated value of sales and services directly related to Iowa's green industry in 2004 was $311.5 million. Add the allied sectors associated with the industry, and the economic impact climbs to $538.2 million. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/123002.htm

***************************************************************************

SENSITIVE CROPS AND APIARIES

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has created a registry for producers to list the locations of their pesticide sensitive crops and for beekeepers to list the locations of their apiaries. This registry will be used to create an on-line directory for use by pesticide applicators to identify the locations of sensitive crops and apiaries and minimize the potential for pesticide drift damage.

Sensitive Crops
The Sensitive Crops Directory will provide pesticide applicators with the locations of those crops that are most susceptible to pesticide drift damage. The intended crops for inclusion in the registry are vineyards (minimum one acre), orchards (minimum one acre), certified organic crops (minimum one acre), and fruit and vegetable crops (minimum ½ acre). The crops at each registered location must be intended for commercial use, be susceptible to pesticide drift damage, and meet the minimum acreage requirements. The registry will accommodate the registration of multiple sensitive crop locations under one producer. If multiple crops are located in the same location, only the primary crop for that location need be listed.

Apiaries:
The Sensitive Crops Directory will help protect honey bees from exposure to chemicals that are toxic to bees. By adding the locations of your beehives to the registry, pesticide applicators will be required to notify you at least 24 hours and not more than 72 hours prior to applying these pesticides. This will make it possible for beekeepers to take appropriate measures to protect their bees. See the “Pesticide/Bee Rule” of the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 21-45.31(206).

Annual Registration
Producers and beekeepers, who have previously registered, will be required to confirm their registration information between January 1 and April 1 each year in order to keep the directory current from year to year. To become part of the Sensitive Crops Directory, producers and beekeepers must complete the Producer Registration Form and fax it to 515-242-5015 or mail it to Paul Ovrom, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Horticulture and Farmers Markets Bureau, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

***************************************************************************

RESEARCH SHOWS LOW-INPUT FARMING SYSTEMS BENEFIT FARMERS, ENVIRONMENT

Iowa State researchers are investigating the potential of diversified, low-input farming systems to benefit both farmers and the environment while reducing on-farm energy use. Results from an ongoing research project funded by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture show that certain systems can be productive and profitable. Details: http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/051208_LEI.htm

***************************************************************************

IOWA STATE TO HOST 2008 BIOBASED INDUSTRY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE


***************************************************************************

RESEARCH FARMS FIELD DAYS BEGIN JUNE 19

The Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will kick off the summer field day schedule June 19. Crop related topics will be on the program at most of the early summer field days. More: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.php

Research Farm Field Days-2008
June 19.................Nashua
June 25....................Sutherland
June 26....................Crawfordsville
June 27....................Lewis/Armstrong
July 1......................Kanawha
August 20...............Greenfield, Neely-Kinyon
August 26...............Sutherland
September 3..........Kanawha
September 4.............Nashua
September 10...........Crawfordsville
September 16...........Newell/Allee - 50th Anniversary
September TBA.........Castana
September TBA.........Chariton/McNay

***************************************************************************

IOWA STATE AGRICULTURAL FILMS, PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS ON THE WEB
The Special Collections Department has digitized some of its documents, images and films and placed them on Internet social networking sites, also known as Web 2.0 sites. Among the films placed on YouTube are 14 agricultural movies, some of which were produced by Iowa State University's Film Production Unit. "The Pig and the Public" and "When We Farmed with Horses" are available as well as "Agronomy at Iowa State College," a silent film dating from 1941. The films are available for viewing at http://www.youtube.com/ISUSpecialCollection. More than 800 photographs have been placed on Flickr, including campus scenes and images of rural Iowa life during the 1880s-1910s, at http://www.flickr.com/photos/isuspecialcollections. There are 10 documents that have been placed on Scribd, including Joseph L. Budd's horticulture lecture notes from 1897-1898 and Ada Hayden's scrapbook of Iowa prairies at http://www.scribd.com/people/view/319030.

***************************************************************************

ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED FOR AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FORUM

Abstracts are now being accepted for research, education and outreach presentations at the Midwest Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health Forum, to be held Nov. 20-21, 2008 in Davenport, Iowa.

This conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, and agricultural producers to communicate on rural and agricultural needs, services, research, and methods for research to practice implementation. Information regarding sponsorship, exhibit opportunities, and abstract application forms are available at http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icas/ or by calling 319-335-4224. The deadline for abstracts is July 1.

***************************************************************************

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR THE 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Even though it's well past the original deadline of Feb. 4, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schaefer says farmers who haven't already done so should still complete and submit their 2007 Census of Agriculture form. Not only is a response required by law, but the number and answers supplied will help create a more accurate picture of the current American agriculture scene. In addition to a second mailing to those who haven't responded, representatives from the National Agriculture Statistics Service's field offices are now calling and visiting those folks. You can complete your form on paper or online. If you have questions or need assistance, call NASS toll free at 888-424-7828 or go to the specific Web site here www.agcensus.usda.gov

***************************************************************************

FOOD FACTS AVAILABLE IN NEW LEOPOLD CENTER RESOURCE

A new resource from the Leopold Center offers local food for thought. "Food Facts: Results from Marketing and Food Systems Research" summarizes findings of the Leopold Center's research, demonstrations, studies and surveys in this rapidly growing area. Learn more: http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/041508_resource.htm

***************************************************************************
AGRITOURISM PRODUCERS CAN REGISTER ON WEB SITE

Agritourism producers interested in increasing the number of visitors to their farms can list their agritourism operations on a central Web site hosted by Iowa State University Extension. Details: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2008/apr/visitiowafarmsrelease041708.htm

***************************************************************************

THE LEOPOLD LETTER

The spring issue of The Leopold Letter highlights new projects launched with Leopold Center support and a partnership with a New York sustainable ag center. See http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/nwl/2008/2008-1-leoletter.pdf

***************************************************************************

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Community Partnership-Unfunded Counties, Iowa Department of Public Health

Eligible Counties:
Boone, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clay, Dickinson, Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Iowa, Johnson, Marshall, Muscatine, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, Van Buren

PURPOSE: to establish community partnerships and provide effective tobacco control initiatives and activities that have outcomes focused on policy or systems change and that are consistent with the initiatives recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and those included in Iowa’s Tobacco Control Strategy.

The funds available range from $20,000 to $62,723, with a maximum determined for each eligible county. A 25% match is required. Guidelines are available at:
National Integrated Water Quality Program --Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), CSREES-USDA

PURPOSE: to evaluate the effects of grazing land conservation practices and their biophysical setting on watershed health at the watershed scale and evaluate social and economic factors influencing implementation and maintenance of practices.

The Sponsor anticipates awarding up to 3 projects. The project budget is limited to $220,000 per year for up to 3 years. Through research, education and Extension activities, the project should lead to science-based decision-making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation’s surface water and groundwater resources in the watershed. Projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension are encouraged. See the guidelines for detailed research questions and requirements for watershed data.

DEADLINE: June 17, 2008

Harkin Wellness Grants for Local Health Improvement, Iowa Department of Public Health

PURPOSE: to provide coordinated programs at the local level to encourage healthier lifestyles, promote wellness, and prevent the health and financial consequences of chronic diseases that are often lifestyle related.

Applicant eligibility is limited to local boards of health that represent a community coalition. A County Extension District can be part of the local coalition and could be a subcontractor to carryout elements of the work plan. Projects are up to 2 years in length. Matching funds are required. The Year 1 match is 15% of the Year 1 cost; the Year 2 match is 25% of the Year 2 cost.

Grants will range from under $35,000 to a maximum of $125,000. The agency expects to issue about 35 contracts, with the majority in the under $35K range. Guidelines are available at:

DEADLINE: June 19, 2008

Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA 2) Partnership Grants, Environmental Protection Agency

PURPOSE: to advance partnerships that focus on pesticide risk management issues with a special focus on integrated pest management (IPM) approaches.
The maximum award level is $250,000 for up to 2 years. Four (4) awards are anticipated. Awards are intended to support a diverse set of project types, including, but not limited to, demonstrations, transfer of innovative IPM technologies, outreach, and education. Guidelines are available at: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/grants/

DEADLINE: June 19, 2008

*******************************************************************************

**SELECTED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**


July 8: Basic Wine Analysis Workshop, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., CCUR Theatre, Food Sciences Bldg., ISU Campus, Ames. http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Events.htm


July 30-31: 2nd Annual Iowa Women in Ag Conference, Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Riverside. http://www.iowawomeninag.org/

August 5: Soybean Cyst Nematode Clinic, Field Extension Education Laboratory (Feel), Ames. http://www.aep.iastate.edu/feel/scn.html

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

ISUE Calendar of Events website:  http://dbs.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/

***************************************************************************

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

***************************************************************************

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.

***************************************************************************

Publisher: Gerald Miller
Managing Editor: Paul Brown
Editor: Julie Honeick