Normal? New Normal? Or NOT?
(From Human Science’s Community Chat – 7/31/20 – by Donna Donald – Human Sciences Specialist – Field Operations)

My reaction was so instant that I knew there was more here than just an offhand remark. Normal and “new normal” are words used frequently these days. I hear people, including our community members, expressing a desire to get back to normal. Or, there are comments about being ready for the “new normal” whatever that will be.

Here’s why I don’t like to use normal or “new normal.” Normal can be a noun or an adjective. When used as a noun, normal is the usual, average, or typical state or condition. Some synonyms are: standard, predictable, unexceptional, par for the course, expected. Normal as an adjective is conforming to a standard, usual, typical or expected. Additional synonyms are common and ordinary.

Bingo! There’s the reason I don’t like to use normal or “new normal.” Normal can be a noun or an adjective. When used as a noun, normal is the usual, average, or typical state or condition. Some synonyms are: standard, predictable, unexceptional, par for the course, expected. Normal as an adjective is conforming to a standard, usual, typical or expected. Additional synonyms are common and ordinary.

The months ahead will bring exciting opportunities. I’m not looking for normal or a “new normal.” Instead, I embrace the concept featured on the Human Sciences Extension and Outreach overview document. “Imagine Life’s Journey – What if you could change the world?” We will serve Iowans by: addressing local needs, forming partnerships, offering educational resources, and providing research-based solutions from trusted experts. This doesn’t call for normal – this calls for passionate educators Empowering People. Growing Lives.

We will help Iowans by being bold, innovative, and unconventional. If someone uses a noun to describe Human Science Extension and Outreach community members, I want them to see us as progressives and changemakers. Who’s with me in seeing our future as anything but normal and “that’s a good thing.”

NW Area Extension Virtual All Staff Meeting
The next upcoming NW Area Extension (Region’s 1, 6, and 7) all staff meeting will be held virtually Monday, September 21st from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. For more information and to register for Area meetings see this link:
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vp/area-wide-quarterly-meetings

Please hold the date of Monday, November 30th for the second NW Area meeting to be held at the Aurelia Community Center.
Due to the drought conditions in Region 7, Sac and Calhoun Co.’s hosted corn stalk nitrate testing. Dr. Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Specialist was on hand to conduct the tests. When a corn plant is stunted, or not growing normally, nitrates can build up in the plant. Typically, nitrogen that is taken up by the corn plant is converted to amino acids, but in the stressed plant this conversion does not occur. "The nitrate level can be high enough in stunted plants that if harvested as silage the nitrate can be toxic to livestock that consume the silage," says Steve Ensley of the Iowa State University's Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM) department. "The most common problem is when drought-stressed corn is green chopped and fed to livestock without going through ensiling."

Paul Kassel, ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist being interviewed by KTIV after the meeting in Sac City concerning drought conditions in various parts of Western Iowa.

**Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame Inductees**

- **Buena Vista** – Pat Murphy
- **Calhoun** – Jeremy and Amy Westcott
- **Cherokee** – Denny and Stephanie Spieler
- **Ida** – Gordon and Shirley Morrice
- **Sac** – Anita Hamm
Ida, Sac and Calhoun Hosting Virtual Coffees

Leasing Meeting in Sac Co.

Tim Christensen, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Specialist sharing information at a recent land leasing meeting in Sac City.

Council Training for New & Current Members

Newly elected Extension council members as well as current members are invited to training meetings in December and January. While the meetings will be held throughout the state, two of those meeting dates and locations include:

- **Tuesday, January 5th** – 5:00 p.m. – ISU Ext. and Outreach, Plymouth Co., 251 12th St. SE, Le Mars.
- **Thursday, December 10th** – 6:00 p.m. – ISU Ext. and Outreach, Humboldt Co., 727 Sumner Ave., Humboldt.

For more information contact me at: tjans@iastate.edu or (712) 261-0423.

New Banners in Sac Co.

Mary Tuttle, Cherokee Co. Program Coordinator, along with Lori Korthal Hayungs, Human Sciences Specialist, Family Life and others provided the program Elevate online. Covid-19 has dramatically increased the number of educational programs Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers online.

**Elevate Online Training**

**New Banners in Sac Co.**