Jay's Comments

First of all I want to say thank you for all those that attended ANR Spring Inservice. I heard many great comments. The program was built based on input from you! I especially want to thank the planning committee, the speakers and everyone else that played a role in making it successful. I believe the final number on registration was 217, which is the highest for the last few years.

I always enjoy watching people reconnect. In many ways it’s like a family reunion. One of the great comments that I received from a county director was that we made county people feel like we wanted them there and involved. That pleased me because I take all facets of the extension partnership seriously. My intent is to listen intently to county personnel, field specialists, regional directors, and state specialists to see what they need from our ANR training. I value every member of our team, no matter where they are based. That’s what the Land Grant Mission is all about; working together on many levels to impact the people. We will be surveying participants so please give us your honest feedback that we can use for next year.

In case you missed ANR Spring Training, you can check out the ANR by the Numbers handout as well as one on the top programs from each POW team. This wasn’t intended to be an all-inclusive list, just up to three programs that teams offer to help you understand each program area a bit better. I urge you to reach out to the contact listed if something peaks your interest, either in
hosting programming or in collaborating in some way. Also… thanks to Traci Knight we have a few photos. Check out the photos from ANR Spring Training! Password is: isuanr

**ANR Update**

**Congratulations to the ANR Award Winners!**

- *County Council Excellence in ANR Programming*
  - Bremer County ISU Extension Council
- *County Professional Excellence in ANR Programming*
  - Lauren Petersen, Marion County
  - Darwin Miller, Hardin County
- *ANR Extension Team Award – “Boots in the Barn”*
  - Holly Loan, Clayton County
  - Danielle Day, Dubuque County
  - Jade Hargrafen, Delaware County
  - Denise Schwab, Beef Field Specialist
  - Jenn Bentley, Dairy Field Specialist
- *ANR Extension Programming Innovation Award*
  - Susan DeBlieck, Growing Together Project, Master Gardener Program

**Natural Resources Stewardship Professional Development Day**
The Natural Resources Stewardship Professional Development Day is a one-day training and networking event for extension professionals to come together from across Iowa and a broad swath of program areas and disciplines to discuss, network, and learn about natural resource issues, educational needs, and programming opportunities. The afternoon session will be spent outdoors exploring our natural resources. May 1<sup>st</sup>. [http://www.aep.iastate.edu/naturalresources/](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/naturalresources/)
New Extension Publications: The following publications were added or updated in the ISU Extension Store during March:

- **2019 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey** (FM 1698) by Alejandro Plastina and Ann Johanns
- **Poultry External Parasite and Pest Control** (ASR 0001) by Yuko Sato, Darrin Karcher, and Jim Arends
- **Ensuring Food Safety: Wineries** (FS 0031) by Angela Shaw, Smaranda Andrews, Shannon Coleman, Jennie Savits, Melanie Ivey, and Jacques Overdiep III
- **Toxicity of Common Lawn, Garden, and Ornamental Pesticides in Iowa** (PSEP 0060) by Mark Shour, Adam Thoms, and Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca
- **Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy 2017-18 Annual Progress Report** (INRC 0016) by Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

April Staff Spotlight: Leo Timms

ANR Communications

Chris Kick joined ANR Communications April 1, as a communications specialist. An Ohio native, Kick was raised on a crop and beef farm and spent the last 12 years working as an ag and rural affairs reporter in the newspaper industry. He spends his free time at antique tractor shows and county fairs, and is looking forward to working with the people of Iowa and Iowa State. In addition to agriculture, he is passionate about writing and has participated in a number of literary conferences across the country.

New Name - VAA/LF becomes FFED

The Value Added Ag team and the Local Foods team have restructured under one team name with three subgroups. The new name is the Farm, Food, and Enterprise Development team. The team is led by Craig Chase. The subgroups include: agri-tourism/Small Farms (led by Christa Hartsook), Community Food Systems (led by Courtney Long) and Business Development
Services (led by Brian Tapp).

**Personnel Changes/Updates**

Current Searches:

- Extension Ag Engineer state specialist. Interviews underway.
- Extension Forester state specialist. Interviews soon.
- Assistant Director, Iowa Nutrient Research Center. Interviews soon.
- Behavioral Health State Specialist (HSEO) – will coordinate mental health programming

New:

- Prashant Jha, will begin as the weeds extension specialist on April 21st.
- David Brown, Behavioral Health State Specialist (HSEO).
- Chris Kick, ANR communications specialist started on April 1st.

**Professional Development from ISUEO**

[https://www.extension.iastate.edu/professionaldevelopment/](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/professionaldevelopment/)

**New Staff Orientation** – April 18

**Mental Health First Aid:** Atlantic – April 25th, Iowa City – May 23rd, Storm Lake – September 26th, Waterloo – November 7th.

**Navigating Difference:** Boone Co. – May 15-17, Marshall Co. – September 11-13