Jay's Comments

This year the video that opened annual conference resonated with me. “I serve Iowans” was the theme they presented in a humorous way. Benton Auditorium held more than 400 people that had something important in common, and it wasn’t our employment. Our commonality is the belief that “I serve Iowans” that binds us together. I’ve always felt there is an extension mindset that makes our work special. I don’t know if it’s the job that creates the mindset or if people with that mindset just gravitate toward Extension. It’s what makes me proud of “us”. “We serve Iowans… We make a difference in Iowans lives”.

Two of the basic beliefs I grew up with were to show appropriate appreciation and to encourage people when you can. That’s something I try to bring into my current position every day. With us all serving others, it can draw down our inner “well” at times. You can’t be a giver all the time so that well needs to be replenished from time to time. I felt like annual conference was very encouraging this year. While I tried to encourage and show you appreciation, many of you encouraged me as well. I wasn’t really expecting that, but your kind words and words of encouragement helped to refill my well a bit at a time when it feels drawn down. Sometimes, it’s just important to take a minute to prop each other up, showing care and concern, putting disagreements and differences aside, and knowing that together “We serve Iowans”. Thanks for all you do! Thanks for your encouragement!
Please Join Us! **ANR Spring Professional Development** is April 4-5! It’s **FREE!**

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**ANR Update**

**ANR Spring Professional Development**
Registration is open for ANR Spring Professional Development.  
[http://www.aep.iastate.edu/prodev/](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/prodev/)

Our goal is to give you a variety of “big picture” things as well as things that are useful in your daily work. Here are a few highlights:

- Meet special guests:
  - Dean Dan Robison – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
  - Amy Mayer – Iowa Public Radio Reporter on “When is an ag story NEWS?”
  - Lie Tang and his robotic weed control system

- A sampling of topics:
  - Who owns, rents and buys farmland in Iowa?
  - Tariff impacts
  - Intersection between wildlife habitat and water quality
  - Lightning talks on bees, agro-tourism and hemp… to name a few!
  - Being more effective… with social media.. and how to measure impact
  - Community based approach to Pest Resistance Management

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**Interest in “Contemplating Retirement Coffee”?**

As part of our strategic plan, goal 4, we are exploring the possibility of holding
another “Contemplating retirement coffee hour” in April or May. The focus would be to let people thinking about retirement get together to talk about concerns and thought processes (other than the money side). Attendance will be kept confidential between the participants and Don Broshar. If you have interest, please email Don Broshar and we’ll set up a date. His email is: donbrosharconsulting@gmail.com. This is open to anyone in extension.

New Extension Publications: The following publications were added or updated in the ISU Extension Store during February:

- **2019 Driftless Region Beef Conference proceedings** (AEP 1024-19)
- **Custom Farming: An Alternative to Leasing** (FM 1823) by Alejandro Plastina and William Edwards
- **Understanding the Opioid Crisis in Rural and Urban Iowa** (SOC 3088) by David Peters, Peter Miller and Andrew Hochstetler

March Staff Spotlight: Kelvin Leibold

ANR Expertise Directory
After careful consideration, the ANR Expertise Directory will no longer exist after March 31. The expertise directory served as a great internal resource prior to the ANR website redesign in 2016. Since that time, the information available in the expertise directory has also been available through the ANR online staff directory. Contact information, areas of expertise, websites, newsletters, social media accounts and more can all be found on each staff members profile. If there are changes or additions needed to your profile, email Traci Knight.
Personnel Changes/Updates

Current Searches:

- Extension Ag Engineer state specialist. Search underway.
- Extension Forester state specialist. Position is being advertised now.
- Assistant Director, Iowa Nutrient Research Center.
- Behavioral Health State Specialist (HSEO) – will coordinate mental health programming.

New:

- Beth Reynolds has started as a specialist in the Iowa Beef Center.
- Dr. Prashant Jha, will begin as the weeds extension specialist on April 1st.

General Updates from Extension & Outreach

ISU Extension and Outreach Professional Development unit offerings:
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/professionaldevelopment/

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