Pat,

Heidi is out this week, so this article is rougher than it should be. I will have another article next week with more details about the course and locations for the introductory meetings. If you have the luxury of making the article format a bit more fancy, the initial quote could be boxed in some way. The Financial Decision Making for Women Managing Farm Budgets (title of the set of meetings) could be italicized in the article to set it off if that would help to make it more readable.

I would appreciate your attendance at the initial meeting in either Shenandoah or Clarinda if it fits your schedule.

A colleague of mine is working on mirrored program in Hardin county.

Tim

Financial Decision Making for Women Managing Farm Budgets

"Yesterday my husband told me that our lease was changing from share to cash, and I want to know what that change means for our family." an Iowa farm wife

Rural women play an important role in farm operations in Iowa. According to the 2001 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, women handle the financial record-keeping tasks on 30 percent of farms. While business aspects of farm enterprises take on increased importance, 53 percent of women work off the farm, leaving them little time to spend on farm finances.

ISU Extension has developed a series of web courses to meet the changing needs of farm families. The Financial Decision Making on-line course increases management skills for farm operators by explaining concepts and providing practical applications. Financial Decision Making for Women Managing Farm Budgets will combine face-to-face meetings of rural women and financial management specialists with 24-hour access to the Financial Decision Making on-line course. The goal of Financial Decision Making for Women Managing Farm Budgets is for rural women to gain confidence in making farm financial decisions in a comfortable learning environment. The end product will be a complete set of farm financial statements.

Financial Decision Making for Women Managing Farm Budgets will meet during the noon hour at sites in Shenandoah and Clarinda, Iowa. At the first meeting, participants will shape the curricula for following sessions depending on their interests. The initial meetings are scheduled for May 29 in Shenandoah and May 30 in Clarinda.

For more information about the course contact the Page county extension office or visit the Web site http://www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/FDM/.

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The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education. -- Einstein