

ISU Extension in Johnson County

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In This Issue:

- 1 | Inaugural Women in Ag Farm Crawl in Washington, Henry Counties
- 2 | Foreign Animal Disease Preparation Workshops Planned for Iowa Pork Producers
- 2-3 | Learn to Identify Plant and Insect Issues Found in Iowa Crops
- 3-5 | Yard and Garden: Create Great Shade Gardens
- 5-6 | New 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Number Available Nationwide
- 7 | Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association to Hold Open House and Field Day
- 8 | Summer Annual Forage Field Days Set in Eastern Iowa
- 8-9 | Agritourism Bus Tour Set for Aug. 31 in Central Iowa
- 9-10 | Fruit and Vegetable Crop Budgets Available for Specialty Growers
- 10 | Beef Quality Assurance Sessions Set in Eastern and Northeastern Iowa
- 11 | Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day near Melbourne
- 11-13 | Seed Science Center Helps Growers Obtain and Plant Quality Seed
- 14 | Farmland Leasing Meetings
- 15 | Carpenter Ants Can Be a Sign of a Bigger Problem

Inaugural Women in Ag Farm Crawl in Washington, Henry Counties

By: Rebecca Vittetoe, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

WASHINGTON, Iowa – The inaugural [Women in Ag Farm Crawl](#) is set for Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Washington County and the Washington County Women in Agriculture Advisory Board are planning the event.

The farm crawl will feature four tour stops in the Washington County and northern Henry County area. The purpose of the farm crawl is to provide a fun networking opportunity for women and also a learning opportunity.

The following destinations are on the tour:

- **Hilltop Dairy.** A fourth-generation family dairy farm, this will be the first stop on the farm crawl. Doug Roth is the current owner and manager of Hilltop Dairy, along with his daughter, Madi. They will share more about their operation along with where their milk goes after it leaves the farm. This stop will include some taste testing of dairy products as well.
 - **Geode Forestry.** Located in northern Henry County, Geode Forestry serves landowners in Southeast Iowa and west-central Illinois. Learn more about Iowa's forest and timber industry and get an overview of managing timber acres, including new plantings, timber management, upkeep, and marketing and selling.
 - **Iowa State's Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm.** Located near Crawfordsville, this farm is one of the outlying research farms that Iowa State has around the state. The Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association owns the farm, but the farm is managed by Iowa State. Learn more about the research farm and some of the local research projects being conducted while enjoying lunch. Following lunch, there will be a tour of some of the research projects.
 - **Revasser Winery.** The last stop will be at the Revasser Winery, which will include an optional wine tasting for those 21 years or older who are interested in participating for \$10. Learn more about this winery, viticulture and winemaking.
- Participants will meet at the ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County office between 8-8:20 a.m., and the tour bus will leave for the first stop at 8:30 a.m. The bus will return to the extension office by 3 p.m.



Registration is \$30. Register by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County office at 319-653-4811 or [register online](#).

Foreign Animal Disease Preparation Workshops Planned for Iowa Pork Producers

By: Sherry Hoyer, Iowa Pork Industry Center

AMES, Iowa – The recent spread of African Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic emphasizes the importance of foreign animal disease preparedness, including proper biosecurity measures to aid in reducing the risk of introducing a foreign animal disease. The Iowa Pork Industry Center, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Iowa Pork Producers Association have teamed up to provide five workshops throughout the state.

ISU Extension and Outreach swine veterinarian Chris Rademacher, who also is the Iowa Pork Industry Center interim director, said the Foreign Animal Disease Preparation for Pork Producers workshops focus on the “next steps” in FAD preparedness at the farm level.

“We’ll introduce and explain how to use programs and tools to be prepared for an FAD outbreak and subsequent investigations, including enrollment in US-SHIP, AgView and Secure Pork Supply,” he said. “We’ll also talk about available resources for contingency planning for sites located within control zones, and potential mitigation strategies for feed shortages during the initial movement standstill.”

Updates on ASF in the Dominican Republic, ASF vaccine and the Certified Swine Sample Collector program also will be shared. Following the presentations, all speakers will be available for a Q&A session on any aspect of FAD awareness and preparation.

The program will be delivered collaboratively by Rademacher, the extension swine specialist for each respective location, and depending on schedule, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship staff member Amanda Chipman and state veterinarian Jeff Kaisand.

All workshops run from 1-4 p.m. and are free to attend. Preregistration is requested. [To preregister complete this form.](#)

For more information, contact the specialist listed by the location you wish to attend.

Wednesday, Aug. 31: ISU Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office, 400 Central Ave. NW, Suite 700, Orange City. Contact Dave Stender at dstender@iastate.edu or 712-261-0225.

Thursday, Sept. 1: ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. Contact Matt Romoser mromoser@iastate.edu, 319-430-7533.

Monday, Sept. 12: Heartland Acres Agribition Center, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence. Contact Mark Storlie at mstorlie@iastate.edu or 563-425-3331.

Tuesday, Sept. 13: ISU Extension and Outreach Hancock County Office, 325 W. 8th St., Garner. Contact Russ Euken at reuken@iastate.edu or 641-231-1711.

Wednesday, Sept. 21: ISU Extension and Outreach Marshall County Office, 2608 South 2nd St., Suite E., Marshalltown. Contact Colin Johnson at colinj@iastate.edu or 515-291-9287.

Learn to Identify Plant and Insect Issues Found in Iowa Crops

By: Ed Zaworski, ISU Extension Program Specialist and Plant Pathologist & Erin Hodgson, ISU Department of Entomology

AMES, Iowa – Identifying what type of insect or plant disease is affecting your crops is a critical part in forming a response. Making the wrong decision can be costly, and may have little to no effect on the issue at hand.

To help growers improve their identification skills, plant disease and insect diagnostic specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will have displays of common insects and plant disease issues at this year’s Farm Progress Show, Aug. 30-Sept. 1 in Boone.

The samples, which will be based on the current growing season, are still being determined.

Microscopes will be available and visitors can get a close-up view, while interacting with specialists who study the same insects and diseases on a daily basis.

“Every year is variable as to what we will actually see,” said Ed Zaworski, plant pathologist with the [Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic](#) at Iowa State. “Certain diseases like certain conditions so we always talk to people about the disease triangle in plant pathology. You need three parts of a triangle to have a disease: the susceptible host, a pathogen and an optimal environment.”

While farmers have many choices that can help prevent insect and disease issues, no system is ever foolproof. Good scouting is still key, followed by a prompt response plan when an issue is detected.

“When it comes to crop protection, you want to be proactive instead of reactive, but when something emerges, the next best thing is your response,” said Erin Hodgson, extension specialist in entomology at Iowa State. “You want to identify what’s going on, how widespread it is, and make a timely treatment that’s going to protect your yield.”

Zaworski and Hodgson will both be at the show helping producers identify plant health issues and answering questions.

Although experienced farmers usually have a basic understanding of how to identify different pests, the display will allow them to test their skills and learn more about new and emerging pests.

Hodgson said every farmer’s situation is different. Some may farm land in multiple parts of the county or state, and rely on crop consultants to diagnose plant health issues. Others do their own scouting or scout cooperatively with family members. No matter the situation or the size of the farm, it’s beneficial for everyone to know what to look for and how to accurately identify the issues affecting plant health.

This is the first year for the plant health display at the Farm Progress Show, and the specialists are excited to bring this critical component to the public’s eye.

“We’re hoping to spread the word and the expertise of what we have here at Iowa State,” said Hodgson.

Along with face-to-face time with specialists, show visitors can also learn more about extension publications related to plant health and the [Crop Protection Network](#) – a website devoted to recent publications, tools and educational resources about current crop health issues.

Yard and Garden: Create Great Shade Gardens

By: Aaron Steil, ISU Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist

AMES, Iowa – Shade gardens are great places to be on hot summer days. Many plants are well-suited for shady gardens – and hostas aren’t the only options. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists answer common questions about selecting the best plants to grow in the shade and the care recommendations you need to create great shade gardens.

Which perennials grow well in shady locations?

Perennials are great choices for creating an attractive garden that comes back year after year. Be sure to select a variety of species that bloom at different times of the year to provide season-long color. Perennials that are good choices for partially to heavily shaded locations include black snakeroot (*Actaea racemosa*), red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), lady’s mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*), astilbe (*Astilbe* spp.), Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium niponicum* var. *pictum*), heartleaf brunnera (*Brunnera macrophylla*), bleeding heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*), Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra*), hosta (*Hosta* spp.), crested iris (*Iris cristata*), creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), Jacob’s ladder (*Polemonium caeruleum*), lungwort (*Pulmonaria* spp.), celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) and toad lily (*Tricyrtis* spp.).

What are some good native perennials for a shady site?

When selecting plants for the shade garden, one group of plants that is often overlooked are native woodland wildflowers. Since they are native to the state, woodland wildflowers are well adapted to the area. They are easy to grow and perform well when given a favorable environment.

Native woodland wildflowers that make good additions to the home landscape include wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Canadian wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), trillium (*Trillium* spp.), merrybells (*Uvularia grandiflora*) and others.

Obtaining plants is easy. Woodland wildflowers are readily available at garden centers and mail-order nurseries. Do not remove plants from natural woodland areas.

Which native ferns are suitable for the home landscape?

Ferns are great additions to shade gardens and they pair nicely with woodland wildflowers and spring flowering bulbs. As these plants bloom early in the spring and often disappear by midsummer, they leave empty spaces for ferns to expand into during the summer months. Ferns are often fine-textured perennials that also combine nicely with other more coarse-leaved plants like hosta. Most ferns perform best in moist soils in partial to heavy shade.

Iowa native ferns that are good additions to shady locations in the home landscape include lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomeum*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*) and northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*).

What are some good annuals for shady garden areas?

Annuals are a great way to introduce color to a shade garden. Annuals that can be successfully grown in shady areas include wax begonia (*Begonia × semperflorens-cultorum*), impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*), lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*), coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*), wishbone flower (*Torenia fournieri*), polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*) and pansy (*Viola × wittrockiana*).

Which shrubs will grow in shade?

Shrubs are a great way to give height and structure to shade gardens since most perennials and annuals grown in shady locations tend to be shorter than 2 feet tall. Woody shrubs do best in partial shade locations that receive two to four hours of direct sun a day. Shrubs that can be successfully grown in partial shade include fothergilla (*Fothergilla* spp.), smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), Japanese kerria (*Kerria japonica*), alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*), arborvitae (*Thuja* spp.), hybrid yew (*Taxus × media*) and Russian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*).

Iowa native shrubs that can be successfully grown in partial shade include serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), common witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), American cranberrybush viburnum (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*) and Canadian yew (*Taxus canadensis*).

What are the challenges for growing plants under shade trees?

Often the most prevailing challenge in shade gardens is the competition from trees. When gardening under trees, the soil can be quite dry, especially compared to the soil in shady areas created by buildings, fences or other structures. The roots of established trees compete with other plants for moisture and nutrients. This can limit their growth or require you to provide supplemental irrigation during dry periods. In addition, it can be

difficult to plant around the tree roots. Often shifting the planting location a few inches allows you to plant without disturbing roots. Never sever tree roots to create a planting hole. If digging is too difficult or is causing damage to tree roots, consider growing shade plants in a container.

New 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Number Available Nationwide

By: Demi Johnson, ISU Extension Human Sciences Specialist



AMES, Iowa – Beginning July 16, the 988 dialing code will be available nationwide for anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis. The new three-digit dialing code connects people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline via phone call, text or chat.

In 2020, Congress designated the 988 dialing code to work in conjunction with the previous 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, creating a highly accessible line that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis can call and receive appropriate assistance nationwide. This number will be activated on all devices across the United States on Saturday, July 16.

“A primary goal of 988 is to be easy to remember and highly accessible for anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis,” said Demi Johnson, behavioral health program specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

SAMSA offers guidance

Iowans can find the most up-to-date information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. [SAMHSA 988 guidance](#) includes the following:

- **What happens when I call 988?** Starting July 16, when calling 988, you will first hear a greeting message while your call is routed to the local Lifeline network crisis center based on your area code. A trained crisis counselor will answer the phone, listen to you, work to understand how your problem is affecting you, provide support and share resources if needed. If the local crisis center is unable to take the call, you will be automatically routed to a national backup crisis center. The Lifeline provides live crisis center phone services in English and Spanish and uses Language Line Solutions to provide translation services in over 250 additional languages for people who call 988.
- **What happens when I text 988?** Text (English only) will be available through 988 by July 16. When you text to 988, you will be responded to by someone from a group of Lifeline crisis centers that respond to chat and text. This service will expand over the next few years to increase local and state level response. Once connected, a crisis counselor will listen to you, work to understand how your problem is affecting you, provide support, and share resources that may be helpful.
- **Do these hotlines really work?** Yes, crisis lines like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline work. Numerous studies have shown that most callers are significantly more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed and more hopeful after speaking to a trained crisis counselor.
- **If I call 988 will first responders (police and EMTs) be automatically dispatched?** The primary goal of 988 is to provide support for people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress in the moments they most need it and in a manner that is person-centered. The vast majority of those seeking help from the Lifeline do not require any additional interventions at that moment. Currently, fewer than 2% of Lifeline calls require connection to emergency services like 911. While

some safety and health issues may warrant a response from law enforcement and/or Emergency Medical Services (namely when a suicide attempt is in progress), the 988 coordinated response is intended to promote stabilization and care in the least restrictive manner.

How is 988 different than 211? In most states, the 211 system provides health and social service assistance information and referrals. At the same time, 988 crisis counselors will provide support for people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress in the very moments they need it most. While generally being different in scope, these systems need to be aligned, and in many cases, local Lifeline centers also respond to 211 contacts. We envision that 988 crisis centers will need to continue to coordinate with 211 and other warmlines. This will help ensure an all-inclusive approach regardless of which number a person may use first.

Iowa Concern continues

“The reality of 988 is that it's not yet perfect, but there is a major shift in crisis response organizations across the state and country working to provide better care for those in need. We are living in a transformational time for mental health care, and I suspect that we will see many changes in the upcoming years,” stated Johnson.

However, [Iowa Concern](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/), 800-447-1985, continues as ISU Extension and Outreach's primary line to help provide stress counseling related to legal, crisis/disaster, financial or mental health questions or concerns. When Iowa Concern receives a crisis call, they will work to help decrease the crisis and then connect the caller with a service that can provide continuation of care.

Iowa Concern provides confidential access to stress counselors and an attorney for legal education, as well as information and referral services for a wide variety of topics. With a toll-free phone number, live chat capabilities and a website, Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week at no charge; language interpretation services are available. Or visit the website, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern/>, to live chat with a stress counselor one-on-one in a secure environment. Or email an expert regarding legal, finance, stress, or crisis and disaster issues. For more information about Iowa Concern, contact Tammy Jacobs at trjacobs@iastate.edu.

Other resources

[Project Recovery Iowa](https://www.Projectrecoveryiowa.org) offers a variety of services to anyone affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or other natural disasters. Virtual counselors and consultants provide counseling, family finance consultation, farm financial consultation, referral information and help finding resources for any Iowan seeking personal support. Iowans of all ages may join groups online for activities and learn creative strategies for coping with the effects of the pandemic. Project Recovery Iowa will announce upcoming programs on the website and via social media to help Iowans build coping skills, resilience and emotional support. To request support, go to <https://www.Projectrecoveryiowa.org>.

[Mental Health and Disability Services Regions](https://www.iowamhdsregions.org/) are community-based, person-centered mental health and disability services systems providing locally delivered services that are regionally managed within statewide standards. Local access to mental health and disability services for adults and children with severe emotional disturbances are provided by established mental health and disability services regions to residents of Iowa regardless of the location of their residence. To find your local providers, go to <https://www.iowamhdsregions.org/>.

Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association to Hold Open House and Field Day

By: Rebecca Vittetoe, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Iowa – Farmers and farm businesses in southeastern Iowa are invited to join the Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach on Sept. 8 at the [Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm](#) for an open house and ribbon cutting for their new Research and Learning Center building and to celebrate the Southeast Research Farm's 35th anniversary. The event will start at noon with a complimentary lunch, which will include hamburgers grilled by the Washington County Cattlemen.

Following lunch there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Research and Learning Center building with some comments from special guests from Iowa State University, including President Wendy Wintersteen; John Lawrence, vice president for extension and outreach; Dan Robison, endowed dean's chair in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Kendall Lamkey, agronomy department chair; and Steve Harris, chair of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, and the Department of Entomology.

There will also a presentation looking back at the 35-year history of the Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association and the Southeast Research Farm by Tim Goode, Iowa State research farms manager, and a farm update provided by Cody Schneider, Southeast and Muscatine Island Research Farms superintendent.

The day will end with networking, informal discussions, field plot tours and dessert.

The association was founded in 1983 by local farmers from a 21-county area to collaborate with Iowa State on locally relevant research for southeast Iowa. An elected board of directors manages the association, with Iowa State staff coordinating research and demonstrations on the farm.

Anyone can be a member of the association. Membership fees are \$25 for five years. Members receive notice of meetings and events and contribute to continuing support of agricultural research in southeast Iowa.

While there is no cost, for those who plan to attend, RSVP by Sept. 6 to help with the headcount for food either by going to <https://go.iastate.edu/RWZOHU> or by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach Johnson County office at 319-337-2145.

The Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm is located at 3115 Louisa-Washington Road, Crawfordsville, Iowa. To reach the farm, follow U.S. Highway 218 one-and-three-quarter miles south of Crawfordsville, then two miles east on County Road G-62, then three-quarters of a mile north. Signs will be posted near the farm.

Project sponsors included the Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Committee for Agricultural Development, local extension councils and others. If you are interested in contributing to the new Research and Learning Center, contact Ryan Drollette, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach and treasurer for Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association, at 319-337-2145 or sejara@iastate.edu. For more information, contact Schneider at schn145@iastate.edu.



Summer Annual Forage Field Days Set in Eastern Iowa

By: Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist



VINTON, Iowa — Incorporating a summer annual into a crop rotation provides much needed summer slump grazing while utilizing minimal row crop acres. Denise Schwab, beef specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, explained that a winter annual/summer annual forage rotation disrupts the standard corn/soybean rotation, which in turn provides these three benefits.

"One, it provides agronomic benefits such as reduced pest pressure, ability to rotate herbicides, and help scavenging soil nutrients; and two, it provides whole farm enterprise flexibility," she said. "Also, it provides feed during three critical seasons when perennial pasture production is limited."

Schwab has organized two forage field days in eastern Iowa that will demonstrate annual forage rotations and share the results of Iowa State research plots. Both feature producers utilizing summer annual forages and are free to attend.

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 6 p.m., Damien Matt farm at 3738 Birch Rd, Clermont.

Craig Kleve from Hall Roberts' & Son Feed & Seed will discuss annual forage traits and species selection, Eric Bro from Fayette County NRCS will discuss cost share opportunities, and Schwab will discuss utilizing annual forages in beef operations and the economics of an annual forage system. The Matts have a mixed stand of sorghumXsudangrass, millets, brassicas, clovers and sunflowers. See the [event flyer](#).

Thursday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m., Lori Schnoor farm at 15351 79th Ave., Maquoketa.

Schnoor will discuss NRCS cost share opportunities, Karl Dallefeld from Prairie Creek Seed will discuss seed selection and forage options, and Schwab will discuss utilizing annual forages in the grazing system. Also, Schnoor will share her newly established watering and fencing system for rotationally grazing her pastures and annual forages. See the [event flyer](#).

The public is welcome to attend either or both of these field days to learn about the selection, production and economics of an annual forage rotation, and consider how these options might work for their operation. Pre-register to ensure materials and refreshments no later than Aug. 22 by calling ISU Extension and Outreach Benton County at 319-472-4739 or emailing dschwab@iastate.edu.

For more information, contact Schwab at dschwab@iastate.edu or 319-721-9624.

Agritourism Bus Tour Set for Aug. 31 in Central Iowa

By: Kendra Meyer, ISU Extension Agritourism Specialist

AMES, Iowa – Small farmers and acreage owners who want to learn more about agritourism and specialty crops can register to attend a bus tour on Aug. 31.

The inaugural event will feature four operations in central Iowa, with presentations by farm and agribusiness owners and specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The first stop is Brewer Family Farms, in Dallas Center, where Emily Wynn and family will explain how they produce and market value-added meats. From there, the tour goes to Wills Family Orchard, of Adel, where the Maury Wills family will explain their orchard and fall festival activities.



The final two stops include Upstream Gardens and Orchard, of Altoona, where Chris and Laura Gorman will discuss their u-pick farm and the fruits and vegetables available. Lastly, the tour will visit the Iowa Flower Farm, of Maxwell, where Ross and Cheri Sorensen will discuss their u-pick flower farm and special face creams that are made from their flowers.

“The tour is designed to provide people the chance to see different ways of diversifying within the agricultural landscape,” said Kendra Meyer, program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach's Farm, Food and Enterprise Development program. “The tour will provide on-farm demonstrations from farmers who represent a wide array of agriculture and agritourism.”

Resources discussed will be financial sustainability through on-farm business and marketing, on-farm conservation practices, community engagement and risk management best practices.

The tour bus will leave Ames at 8:30 a.m. and will return to Ames at 4 p.m. Seating is limited to one bus, so participants should register as soon as possible by visiting <https://www.visitiowafarms.org/register>.

The bus tour is based on work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through a grant received through the North Central Region SARE program.

For more information, Meyer can be reached at 515-294-9483 or ksmeyer@iastate.edu.

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Budgets Available for Specialty Growers

By: Olivia Hanlon, ISU FFED Extension Education Specialist

AMES, Iowa – Specialty crop growers can get a better handle on their production costs and returns by using fruit and vegetable production budgets developed by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The budgets cover all major costs and returns for common fruits and vegetables grown in Iowa, for both annual crops and perennials.

“Growers are often looking for ways to diversify their farm or acreage, or they are looking to start fruit and vegetable production,” said Olivia Hanlon, education extension specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach’s Farm, Food and Enterprise Development program. “These enterprise budgets use numbers that can be expected with each enterprise, and producers can update the numbers to reflect their own situation.

The budgets track the sales of food products sold and the cost of the land where they are grown. They also look at the costs of planting and growing the product, harvest and packaging expenses, ownership costs (land, machinery, irrigation equipment), and the summary of returns.

Because specialty crop growers often grow a wide variety of crops, Hanlon said it makes sense to prioritize budget keeping with the bigger, more expensive crops, which offer the most opportunity for profit or loss.

Budgets can be as comprehensive as the producer chooses, and the Excel document can be modified to each producer’s preference.

Hanlon said one cost specialty crop producers often overlook is the cost of their own labor. They should consider how much time they spend for each task, including weeding and crop maintenance, and whether their earnings are commensurate with what they could earn doing something else.

In addition to labor, the budgets help producers track costs for supplies like seed, fertilizer, plants and mulch; and costs related to longer-term ownership, such as machinery, irrigation equipment and land.

The publications and accompanying budgets are as follows:

[Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Production Budgets: Annual Crops](#)
[Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Production Budgets: Perennial Crops](#)

The publications were prepared by Hanlon, along with Craig Chase, program manager for Farm, Food and Enterprise Development with ISU Extension and Outreach. Both authors note that the budgets are intended to be used as estimates of what a particular crop could average over time and location. Individual farm results will vary based on soil types, location to markets and management decisions.

For more information, Hanlon can be reached at 515-296-0586 or phanlon@iastate.edu.

Beef Quality Assurance Sessions Set in Eastern and Northeastern Iowa

By: Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist



VINTON, Iowa – Producers and haulers who need to renew or obtain their certification in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) or Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) can preregister for in-person trainings in eastern and northeastern Iowa. Offered by the Iowa Beef Center, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and the Iowa Beef Industry Council, the sessions will be held Aug. 9 through Sept. 21 and are available at no cost thanks to sponsors.

BQAT. Aug. 8, 1-3 p.m. Dewitt, at the ISU Extension and Outreach Clinton County office, 400 East 11th St. Advance registration is required and the training will be cancelled if fewer than 10 people preregister. RSVP to Schwab at dschwab@iastate.edu or the ISU Extension and Outreach Benton County office at 319-472-4739. [See this BQAT session flyer.](#)

BQAT. Aug. 29 4-6 p.m. Tama, Tama Livestock Auction, 1908 E. 5th St. Advance registration is required and the training will be cancelled if fewer than 10 people preregister. RSVP to Schwab at dschwab@iastate.edu or the ISU Extension and Outreach Benton County office at 319-472-4739. [See this BQAT session flyer.](#)

BQA. Aug. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tama, Tama Livestock Auction, 1908 E. 5th St. Preregister by Aug. 22 by calling Tama Livestock Auction at 641-484-3465. [See this BQA session flyer.](#)

BQA. Sept. 21, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Decorah, Decorah Sales Commission, 2123 Madison Road. Preregister by calling Decorah Sales Commission at 563-382-4203. [See this BQA session flyer.](#)

For those unable to attend a training, BQA and BQAT [certifications are available online](#). For more information, contact Schwab at 319-472-4739 or dschwab@iastate.edu.

Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day near Melbourne

By: Liz Ripley, Iowa Learning Farms and Water Rocks!

AMES, Iowa—[Iowa Learning Farms](#), Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and the [Iowa Land Improvement Contractors Association \(LICA\)](#), will host a cover crop and soil health field day Thursday, Aug. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the LICA Farm near Melbourne. The free event is open to farmers and landowners and includes a complimentary meal.

Cover crops continue to gain popularity in Iowa due to their many benefits, including reduced soil erosion, weed suppression potential, reduced nitrogen and phosphorus loads entering water bodies, and increased organic matter in the soil. When paired with no-tillage, additional benefits include increased water infiltration and reduced erosion during heavy rain events. This field day aims to equip attendees with best management practices for establishing cover crops and maintaining yields during the transition to a higher residue system of no-tillage and cover crops.



Fayette County farmer Loran Steinlage has been experimenting with different cover crop species on his farm over the past few years utilizing the longer establishment window provided by harvesting winter cereal rye for seed. He also has experience with companion/relay no-till cropping and currently produces corn, soybeans, cereal rye, winter wheat, malt barley and buckwheat. Attendees will be able to hear from Steinlage about his experiences.

Marshall County NRCS will offer some hands-on soil health demonstrations that farmers can utilize in their own fields. Liz Ripley, Iowa Learning Farms conservation and cover crop outreach specialist, will share results from on-farm cover crop demonstration trials and best practices for establishing and managing your cover crops.

The field day will be held at the LICA Farm, located at 1723 290th St., Melbourne, rain or shine. The farm is located on the north side of the road and field day signs will mark the driveway to enter.

The event is free and open to farmers and landowners, though reservations are required to ensure adequate space and food. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, contact Liz Ripley at 515-294-5429 or ilf@iastate.edu. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for Iowa State Prairie Strips honey.

Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit www.iowalearningfarms.org

Seed Science Center Helps Growers Obtain and Plant Quality Seed

AMES, Iowa – Farmers have many options for improving and increasing yields throughout the growing season, but the most important factor is arguably to start with quality seed.

There are roughly 800 private seed companies in the United States and about 75 within Iowa – all that make claims about the quality of their seed and how well it will perform for the producer. Many of these companies rely on sound science, much of which is based on tests conducted by the [Seed Science Center](#) at Iowa State University.



A world-renowned center for testing seed, the Seed Science Center has provided objective, research-based information for the United States and countries around the world for more than 100 years.

“Seed is the foundation of agriculture. It’s the beginning and the renewal of agriculture,” said Manjit Misra, director of the Seed Science Center. “To have good agriculture we must have good seeds.”

With 194 affiliates, including graduate students, the center tests over 45,000 seed samples annually, from 300 species, and has helped improve seed access and distribution in more than 79 countries.

Global outreach

Unlike the United States, where seed businesses are privately owned and operated, the governments in many countries produce, distribute and market seeds as well as regulate the seed industry. One of the center’s goals is to help other countries re-examine their seed laws, which in some cases are antiquated and in need of an update.

“We first go and help them to look at the big picture, assess their seed system, how seed is produced, improved and marketed, who is doing this and how,” said Misra. “Then, we help them to make any improvements and updates that will benefit their system and their people.”



In the U.S., certified seed for exports are required to follow the [National Seed Health System](#) – which provides standardized phytosanitary tests so that all accredited labs use the same methods of testing. The Seed Science Center administers this program on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture. Certification is required to export seeds internationally, and the U.S. exports about \$1.7 billion in seed annually.

Although they have a global footprint, the center is committed to farmers in Iowa and across the Midwest. Farmers and other individuals can bring seed in for testing at their leisure, or send it through the mail, in properly packaged bags.

“We help people all over the world, but we are very Iowa-centric,” said Misra. “When Iowa needs something, we are here.”

Helping farmers

Cynthia Hicks, communications specialist for the center, said seed testing was especially active during the COVID pandemic, because the center was one of the few testing sites that remained open.

“We stayed open during the pandemic, when a lot of other seed labs shut down,” said Hicks. “Our business during that time probably doubled, because we were still open to our farmers in Iowa.”

The center operates an extensive laboratory that can test for seed purity, germination and vigor, with more than 350 tests for pathogens. If a test is needed but does not exist, the staff at the center can develop one. There is a fee for such testing and it varies by the seed type and the test. Customers can call the seed laboratory on how to sample, pack and send for testing.

The center also provides training and educational opportunities for seed producers and companies, including for those who clean, condition and bag seed. About 30 workshops are provided annually (in-person and online) in the United States and around the world.

A newsletter called the “Iowa Seed and Biosafety News” is also available and is emailed to subscribers annually in more than 50 countries.

Seed programs are also available for undergraduate and graduate students, including a unique [Seed Technology and Business master’s program](#), which is offered online to students around the world.

“The students are our ambassadors,” said Manjit. “They take Iowa State to the world, helping to feed and nourish the world.

Making a difference

Misra estimates that as many as 80% of the world’s farmers do not plant quality seed. His goal is to bring that number down, so that quality seed will become more available.



In 2019, the Seed Science Center worked with filmmakers to produce a six-part video documentary called [“Seeds! The Diversity of Wonder.”](#)

The video shows the importance of quality seed with visits to farmers and seed experts from around the world, including African nations and women farmers from Africa.

It’s all part of the Seed Science Center’s mission of improving production and use of quality seed around the world.

“Our goal is to increase access to quality seed by the farmers in as many parts of the world as possible,” said Misra. “Whether that’s in Iowa or east Africa, our staff is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.”

2022 FARMLAND LEASING ARRANGEMENTS



Topics include:

- Discussing results of recent Iowa cash rent and land value surveys
- Improving tenant and landowner communications
- Understanding flexible cash farm lease arrangements
- Properly writing and terminating a farm lease
- Determining a fair cash rent with crop economic uncertainty
- ISU Extension web-based and other resources



8 Meetings in East Central Iowa*

Meetings are 2 1/2 hours in length with a 100-page *Farmland Leasing Arrangements* book provided, one per registrant.

JULY - AUGUST 2022

Ryan Drollette
drollett@iastate.edu
319-853-8624

Preregister at least two days before the meeting you plan to attend.

Register by calling the County Extension Office hosting the meeting at the phone number listed for that location.

Registration Fee
\$25 per individual. Walk-ins or late registrations may have an additional fee.

*More locations available across the state.

Visit the Ag Decision Maker webpage for details.
www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Cedar Rapids - Linn County - 6:00 pm
Call 319-377-9839
ISU Extension, 383 Collins Rd NE

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Iowa City - Johnson County - 12:00 pm
Call 319-337-2145
ISU Extension, 3109 Old Highway 218 S

Bettendorf - Scott County - 6:00 pm
Call 563-359-7577
ISU Extension, 875 Tanglefoot Lane

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Washington - Washington County - 6:00 pm
Call 319-653-4811
ISU Extension, 2223 250th Street

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Muscatine - Muscatine County - 1:00 pm
Call 563-263-5701
ISU Extension, 1601 Plaza Place

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Sigourney - Keokuk County - 6:00 pm
Call 641-622-2680
ISU Extension, 400 220th Ave

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Maquoketa - Jackson County - 1:00 pm
Call 563-652-4923
ISU Extension, 201 West Platt Street

DeWitt - Clinton County - 6:00 pm
Call 563-659-5125
ISU Extension, 400 East 11th Street

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

Statewide Webinar - 9:00 am

For out-of-state landowners or those who were not able to attend in-person sessions. \$25 fee, with access to the *Farmland Leasing Arrangements* book. See Ag Decision Maker website to register.



The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Program.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext. Updated: 5/2021

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Would you like to receive the Ag Newsletter electronically?

Call 319-337-2145 or email bschn@iastate.edu
and provide your email address!

Carpenter Ants Can Be a Sign of a Bigger Problem

By: Donald Lewis, ISU Extension Entomologist & Professor in Entomology

AMES, Iowa – Among the largest ants commonly found in Iowa, the “carpenter ant” is usually considered the most destructive.

Varying in lengths of 1/4 inch to 3/4 inch, these pesky insects are best known for what they destroy – not what they build.

In a recent publication called “Carpenter Ants and Their Control,” Donald Lewis, professor and extension entomologist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, explains how to identify and control these ants.

Carpenter ants chew into wood in order to build tunnels and cavities for nesting. They prefer soft and decaying wood and are commonly found inside stumps, hollow trees, landscaping timbers, roofs, decks and fence posts.

“If found outside, the carpenter ant may not be an issue, but if you start seeing them indoors or you see an unexplained accumulation of sawdust, you may need to investigate,” said Lewis.

Although these ants can cause extensive damage, more damage is often caused by the moisture intrusion and softening of the wood that invited the ants in the first place.

Treatment options include do-it-yourself products that can be applied to ant nests, or if nests cannot be found, room edges, cracks and crevices can be treated. Commercial options are also available, depending on the severity of the infestation.

Lewis notes that finding a carpenter ant in the home does not necessarily mean the ant lives in the home or that there is an infestation. The ant may have escaped a piece of firewood or is coming indoors for warmer weather, or for food scraps.

On the flipside, he says ants that are causing damage do not always leave a trail in open sight. The damage could be in the dark places of the attic or in the basement – wherever moist wood is present.

He offers the following basic tips for prevention:

- Correct moisture problems such as a leaky roof or plumbing, poorly attached flashing and sagging rain gutters.
- Ventilate crawl spaces to reduce wood decay.
- Replace rotted, water-damaged wood within the structure.
- Eliminate wood-to-ground contacts that lead to wood rot of lower siding boards and sill plates.
- Remove dead stumps and trees. Remove board piles and old firewood.
- Store firewood off the ground and away from the house.
- Trim trees and shrubs that touch the house.
- Patch and seal points of entry such as cracks and gaps in the foundation, loose-fitting windows, doors and shrunken, loose caulking.