

AG newsletter

ISU Extension Washington County

2223 250th St.

Washington, IA 52353

319-653-4811

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www.extension.iastate.edu/washington

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

... and justice for all

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GRINGER AG TO HOST AG PRODUCTION PROGRAM

Gringer Ag, Inc., in cooperation with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach in Johnson County will host the 2012 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar. The program will be held at the Johnson County Extension Office on Monday Feb. 13, from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Speakers and topics include: Jim Fawcett, ISUE Agronomist, providing management tips for 2012 to reduce costs and optimize yield. He will provide a look into the high cost of NPK with application suggestions plus take your questions. Visit this site for more information www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/eccrops; Greg Brenneman, ISUE Agricultural Engineering Specialist, will review subsurface and surface drainage principles and research; Steve Carson, Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, will provide an update on the current FSA programs. Gringer Ag, Inc. will provide an update on the grain markets. Call Melissa Swartzendruber, Gringer Ag, Inc. 319/338-2280 or gringerag@yahoo.com or the Johnson County Extension Office 319-337-2145 to pre-register. There is no charge to attend this program and lunch will be provided courtesy of Gringer Ag, Inc.



KALONA DAIRY DAYS - FEBRUARY 8



Iowa dairy producers will have the opportunity to hear Iowa State University Extension Specialists share information on emerging dairy industry issues at the 2012 ISU Extension Dairy Days scheduled at seven eastern Iowa locations.

This year the agenda includes: Maximizing Cover Crops' Value in Dairy, Calf Housing and Environment, Dairy Outlook for First Half of 2012, Robotic Milking Systems-A Deal or No Deal for your farm?, Dairy Quality Assurance – Perspective from the Iowa Beef Industry Council, and Precision Feeding for Productive Cows.

Dairy Days will be offered in Washington County at the Kalona Chamber of Commerce in Kalona on February 8. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the program will conclude by 3 pm. Dairy Days is sponsored by Freedom Security Bank in Kalona. A \$5 fee per person will be payable at the door **For more information contact the Washington County ISU Extension office at 319-653-4811.**

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2011-2012 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration is not required.

December 19	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension
December 19	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
January 5	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, 1240 Lafayette Ave.
February 15	1:30 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 15	7:00 p.m.	Keokuk	Sigourney	Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall
February 16	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 16	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Conference room
February 21	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Iowa City	Johnson County Extension
March 13	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 13	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension

MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. “My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season,” says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist.

Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service. Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:



- Commercial manure applicator certification is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk and Washington County Extension Office.
 - Confinement site certification - Thurs., Jan. 19 2012, 9:30 a.m.-Noon, Expo Building, Sigourney Fairgrounds
 - Confinement site certification - Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7:00-9:30 p.m. , Washington Co. Extension
 - Confinement site certification (Dry Manure) - Monday, Feb 20, 2012, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Washington Co. Extension
- For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at gregb@iastate.edu or 319/337-2145; Tom Miller, Program Specialist, tmiller@iastate.edu 319-653-4811 or Terry Steinhart, Swine Specialist, tsteinha@iastate.edu 641-622-2680.

CCA EXAM REVIEW COURSE OFFERED

Individuals planning to take the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) exam can attend a two-day Extension and Outreach course to prepare for taking the certification exam. During the CCA Exam Review Course, ISU Extension specialists will cover the performance objectives for the exam and focus on areas where students may need additional assistance.

The CCA Exam Review Course will be held Jan. 9 and 10 in room 150 of the Scheman Continuing Education Building on the ISU campus in Ames. Registration opens at 8 a.m. with classwork beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 10. Registration is limited to 60 participants and pre-registration is required. The program brochure and registration form are available at www.aep.iastate.edu/cca.

The cost of the course is \$250. Registration and fees must be received by midnight, Jan. 4. Registrations will not be accepted at the door. The fees include lunches, breaks and the Crop Diagnostic Notebook.

Registrations can be completed online with a credit card (MasterCard or VISA only) at www.aep.iastate.edu. Registrations may be faxed with a credit card to (515) 294-1311 or be mailed along with a check or credit card information to: ISU ANR Program Services, 2101 Agronomy Hall, Ames 50011-1010. Questions, call (515) 294-6429 or email anr@iastate.edu.

CORNBELT COW-CALF CONFERENCE 2012

The Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference (CCCC), a premier educational event for cow-calf producers, will offer a comprehensive package of information on Jan. 21 at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. “The Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference has been, and will continue to be, successful because it provides information and access to speakers that beef producers have come to expect,” Leu said. This year’s program focuses on topics designed to help producers recognize ways to make their operations more efficient and profitable. From maintaining competitiveness in light of high corn prices to applied approaches to genetics, experts from universities and private industry in the Midwest will lead sessions and give producers valuable information to put into practice on their farms. “Darrell Peel, from Oklahoma State University, will talk about current economic conditions and staying competitive; Bruce Anderson, from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, will present information on strategies for forage production and successful forage-seeding methods; and Bob Weaber, from Kansas State University, will speak on using genetics and practical steps in achieving efficiency,” Leu said. “Other speakers are Art Brownlee, from JHL Ranch in Ashby, Neb., Nick Hammett, from Circle A Angus Ranch in Ashland, Mo., and Chad Hart and Bob Wells, from Iowa State.” This year’s conference at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa begins with registration at 8 a.m. The official welcome is at 9:30 a.m. followed by two general session speakers, and a break-out session with four choices. After lunch and exhibit viewing, there’s an afternoon general session, and one final break-out session with three choices. Admission is \$15 which includes lunch and a copy of the conference proceedings. No preregistration is necessary. You can see and download the conference brochure at www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2011CCCC.pdf.

FARMLAND VALUE REACHES HISTORIC \$6,708 AVERAGE

AMES, Iowa — Average Iowa farmland value is estimated to be \$6,708 per acre, an increase of 32.5 percent from 2010, according to results of the Iowa Land Value Survey conducted in November. This is the highest percentage increase ever recorded by the Iowa State University annual survey. The increase matches results of other recent surveys of Iowa farmland value -- the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank’s estimated 31 percent increase in Iowa land values and the Iowa Chapter of the Realtors Land Institute’s 12.9 percent increase estimated for six months of 2011. The 2011 values are historical peaks. Read the entire article at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/2011land-value-survey>

EASTERN IOWA FORAGE PRICES

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets.

Auctions were chosen to reflect prices across Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa & Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$5.00-7.00/bale; Grass: SmSq \$3.75-6.50/bale Straw: SmSq \$3.00-3.75/bale Cornstalks: SmSq \$2.00-2.75/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.20-10.50/bale; LgSq \$51/bale; LgRd \$22-137.50/bale Grass: SmSq \$4.40/bale Straw: SmSq \$1.25-3.20/bale Cornstalks: LgRd \$20/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) (SE IA) 1st Weds, 11:30AM (winter 1st & 3rd Weds Oct-) Alfalfa: SmSq \$5.10-6.20/bale; (LgSq \$60-70/bale; LgRd \$115-127.50/bale Oct) Mixed Leg/Gr: LgSq \$82.50/b; LgRd \$97.50-120/bale Grass: (SmSq \$3.30/bale Oct); LgSq \$46-72/bale; LgRd \$67.50-77.50/bale Straw \$2.90-3.20/bale Cornstalks: LgRd \$26-337/bale

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/ COORDINATORS

Serving Region 15

Agriculture

Ag Engineering

Greg Brenneman 319-337-2145
gregb@iastate.edu

Beef Livestock

Byron Leu 641-472-4166
bleu@iastate.edu

Commercial Horticulture

Patrick O'Malley 319-337-2145
omall@iastate.edu

Agronomy

Jim Fawcett 319-337-2145
fawcett@iastate.edu

Farm Management

Jim Jensen 319-385-8126
jensenjh@iastate.edu

Bob Wells 641-673-5841
wellsjb@iastate.edu

Swine

Tom Miller 319-653-4811
tmiller@iastate.edu

Terry Steinhart 641-622-2680
tsteinha@iastate.edu

Community Economic Dev.

Himar Hernandez 641-682-5491
himarh@iastate.edu

Business & Industry

Sean T. Galleger 515-290-0181
galleger@iastate.edu

Families

Family Life

Kristi Cooper 319-377-9839
kcoop@iastate.edu

Nutrition & Health

Patty Steiner 319-394-9433
psteiner@iastate.edu

Jan Temple 319-337-2145
mjtemple@iastate.edu

Resource Management

Phyllis Zalenski 319-462-2791
zalenski@iastate.edu

Mary Weinand 641-472-4166
mweinand@iastate.edu

Youth

Janet Martin 319-337-2145
jmmartin@iastate.edu

Connie Cunningham 319-642-5504
conniec@iastate.edu

Marisue Hartung 641-752-1551
mhartung@iastate.edu

County Youth Coordinator

Johnson Co.-Dianna Colgan 319-337-2145

Iowa Co.-Mary Veatch 319-642-5504

Keokuk Co.-Shelly Koehn 641-622-2680

Washington Co.-Amy Green 319-653-4811

External Relations

Amber Bisinger 319-377-9839
bisinger@iastate.edu

Regional Ext. Edu. Director

Gene Mohling 319-337-2145
mohling@iastate.edu

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

The Iowa County Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) local planning team is announcing the upcoming learning session on January 10, 2012 on the topic of Estate Planning. The event will take place from 2:30 – 4:30 pm at the Williamsburg Recreation Center. Registration begins at 2pm. The guest speaker will be Myron Freisen with Farm Financial Strategies.

Iowa County WLL began its work in August 2011 with a listening session at the Lake Iowa Nature Center that was attended by approximately 70 women. The January learning session will be the first and is based on the input provided by the women that attended the August listening session. Future learning sessions for 2012 tentatively include a follow up to the Estate Planning session that will cover sub topics more thoroughly and a session on farm lease agreements that will be conducted in the summer.

Mr. Freisen's goal with the January session is to provide general estate planning information as it relates to farm families, including information such as trusts, wills, financial planning, and distribution of farmland. Attendees are encouraged to bring family members, tenants or whoever else might benefit from understanding the legalities of estate planning.

Please RSVP by Friday January 6, 2012 by calling the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office at 319-668-2010 or by emailing Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at tanya.meyer@ia.usda.gov.

ELWYNN TAYLOR FEATURED AT CROP CONFERENCE JANUARY 26

Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist, will be the lead-off speaker at the Iowa State University Extension Crop Advantage Series at 9:00 a.m. on January 26 at the Highlander Conference Center in Iowa City. Also featured at the conference are topics on a new corn disease in eastern Iowa, and increasing problems with glyphosate resistant weeds in Iowa. Alison Robertson, ISU Extension Plant Pathologist, will present "Goss's wilt: Get the facts" and Mike Owen, ISU Extension Weed Specialist will present "The resistance race: Where are we at?"

The conference is one of 13 scheduled around the state, where crop producers can choose among a variety of topics, including pest management, precision agriculture, soil conservation, soil fertility, and grain marketing. "Each year attendees tell me they wish there were more breakout sessions during the day. They are interested in so many of the topics and can't be at every workshop. The topics are in demand. It's a great problem to have," says Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist in eastern Iowa.

Certified crop advisors can earn up to 5 credits at the conference in Iowa City and private pesticide applicators can become re-certified. Advance registration for each location is \$35 and includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. An additional fee is charged for CCA credits and private pesticide applicator recertification. Registration less than one week prior to the meeting or at the door is \$45. Other sites in eastern Iowa include the Catfish Bend Casino in Burlington on January 6 and Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo on January 25. Registration materials for all sites are available at www.cropadvantage.org or from your local ISU Extension office.

GRAIN MARKETING & RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Washington County Extension in cooperation with Fulton Insurance is sponsoring a grain marketing and risk management seminar on Monday, February 6, at the Washington County Extension Office (downstairs). Chad Hart, ISU Economist and featured speaker, will share his grain market outlook for 2012 including ethanol, exports, and pricing. Rick Fulton, Fulton Insurance, will provide an update on Federal Crop Insurance including several new changes for 2012. Soup and Refreshments 4:00 – 5:00. Meeting to begin at 5:30 There no charge to attend, RSVP by calling 319-653-4811 or email nadrian@iastate.edu

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR FARM FAMILIES



Talking about estate planning is often difficult and implementing an estate plan can be even harder. Farmers are unique in that there is not a distinct moment where they just walk out the door to retirement as someone in a regular wage earning job might do. There are options they can consider such as phasing out or transitioning to another generation, and this program helps them plan for that. The “Evaluating Your Estate Plan” workshop will answer estate planning questions and help prepare you for future farm transitions and estate planning. “The program applies to everyone- town and country, families, couples, and individuals” according to Melissa O’Rourke, Iowa State University Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist and one of the speakers at

the event. Kelvin Leibold, Iowa State University Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist will be the other featured speaker at the workshop.

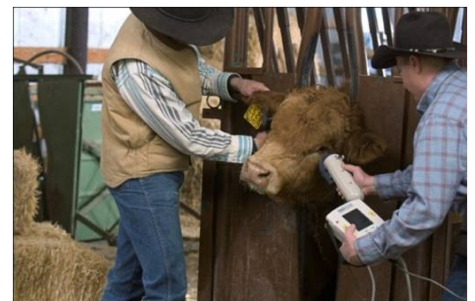
The workshop will discuss the language of estate planning, gift, estate & inheritance taxes, calculating retirement costs, and many other areas vital to creating a good estate plan. If you are confused on how to build a plan for transferring farm assets or unsure what options are best for your farm operation and family, you should attend this workshop.

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach is offering the workshop on February 23, 2012, with registration starting at 9:00am and adjournment at 4:00pm at the Linn County Extension Office, 3279 7th Ave., Ste 140 in Marion, Iowa. Advance registration is required and space is limited to the first twenty- four people to respond. The Evaluating Your Estate Plan workshop costs \$50 per person and includes lunch. To pre-register call the Linn County Extension Office at 319-377-9839

PROPOSED RULES RELATED TO YOUNG FARM WORKERS

For the first time since the 1970’s, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is proposing amendments and additions to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)¹ in an attempt to increase safety requirements for young workers employed in agriculture. The proposed rules do not attempt to make changes or limit the current exemption for youth workers employed on farms owned or operated by parents- the new rules would only apply to hired workers.

The FLSA currently bars young workers from certain tasks, but the rules have traditionally allowed more flexibility with respect to the employment of young workers employed in agriculture. According to the DOL, the proposed rules would “increase parity between agricultural and nonagricultural child labor provisions.” According to the Secretary of Labor, “children employed in agriculture are some of the most vulnerable workers in America.”



The DOL is proposing rules prohibiting hired workers (under age 16) from working with certain animals, handling pesticides, working in timber operations, and working in or around manure pits and storage bins. Further, the new rules would prohibit farm workers under the age of 16 from participating in the cultivation, harvesting and curing of tobacco and from using electronic devices while operating power-driven equipment. The department is also proposing a new non-ag hazardous occupations (non-ag HO) order that would prevent children under the age of 18 from working in grain elevators, feed lots, stockyards, and livestock exchanges and auctions.

This overview was provided by Roger McEowen and Erin Herbold-Swalwell from the Center for Agricultural Law & Taxation. The complete article can be found at www.calt.iastate.edu

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Washington County Extension
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Washington, IA 52353

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HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN EARLY 2012

AMES, Iowa — Current commercial fruit or vegetable growers, gardeners interested in expanding into commercial production and traditional farmers interested in diversifying can learn more about high tunnel production at one of two upcoming workshops sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

On Jan. 18, a workshop will be held at the Cherokee County ISU Extension and Outreach office in Cherokee and a Feb. 4 workshop will be at Ellsworth Community College in the Ag and Renewable Energy Building, Room 110, in Iowa Falls.

“Like all farmers, fruit and vegetable growers attempt to get the greatest yields of high quality crops from their land,” said Linda Naeve, program coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach's Value Added Agriculture program. “This requires careful planning and using the right tools and strategies. Producing high value crops in high tunnels is one way growers can increase their production in a limited space.”

High tunnels are inexpensive, simple, passive-solar greenhouses in which crops are grown directly in the soil. They allow growers to extend the season and produce high yields of quality produce earlier than field-grown crops, thus commanding a higher price at market. Topics to be covered at the workshop include site and high tunnel selection, construction, soil management, irrigation, pest management, bed design and cropping systems and business plan development. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by calling Joe Hannan at 515-993-4281 or e-mailing at jmhannan@iastate.edu. Fees for the workshop are \$55 per person or \$90 per couple and include a training manual/workbook, lunch and refreshments.