News Releases specific to NE Iowa:

- Photo: Food Safety on the Farm
- Photo: School Teams Tackle School Wellness
- Photo: Local Food Establishments certified in food safety
- ISU Extension Offers Container Gardening Workshop

Other Releases from ISU Extension

Link to Past Region 4 News

Photo & Caption

Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599

Download photo here

Food Safety on the Farm

CLERMONT – Dr. Sam Beattie (left) recently visited with Larry Reiling of Clermont (right) and several other local vegetable producers to discuss food safety standards and to review their packing facilities. Beattie is the Iowa State University Extension Food Safety specialist and consulted with the farmers as he went through a “mock inspection” to review the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) used by those producers. The implementation of safe production and handling methods of produce on the farm reduces the risk of microbial contamination and food borne illness. For more information about on-farm food safety, contact Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension at 563-794-0599.

Photo & Caption

Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599

Download photos here In addition to general photos, the following schools have team photos: Central, Clayton Ridge, Decorah, Howard-Winn, New Hampton, Oelwein, Postville, Waukon, S Winn, Starmont, Turkey Valley, West Central.

School Teams Tackle School Wellness

CALMAR – Over 80 adults and youth from sixteen school districts recently met at the Dairy Center in Calmar to make plans to engage and support their school wellness teams.

“We believe that active and engaged school wellness teams are essential in order for us to see changes in the health of students in northeast Iowa schools,” said Ann Mansfield, co-convener for the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI).

School representatives included a diverse mix of youth, teachers, principals, coaches, food service staff and community members. Funding from the FFI and W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food & Community program was used to reimburse the schools for the expenses to bring the teams together.

Every school district is required by the 2004 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act to have a school team that oversees the district’s wellness policy. The school policies are locally controlled and vary by district.

“Schools play a critical role in curbing the epidemic of childhood overweight and obesity,” says Mansfield. “School wellness teams can create environments conducive to healthy lifestyle choices.”

For more information about role of school teams in the Food & Fitness Initiative, visit www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

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Local Food Establishments certified in food safety

DECORAH - Fifteen area food service professionals recently completed a day-long ServSafe® training and passed an exam to become a certified food safety professional for the next five years.

“A 100% pass rate is something to celebrate,” said Cindy Baumgartner, ISU Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist. Baumgartner was the instructor for the eight hour class.

ServSafe® teaches participants how to create a desirable and safe foodservice operation throughout the entire flow of food. Participants also learn about food allergens, regulatory requirements, and employee training.

ServSafe® is a food safety program of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Classes are coordinated by Iowa State University Extension Specialists in cooperation with the Iowa Restaurant Association.

Additional ServSafe® classes have been scheduled: May 26 - Waterloo; June 2 - Dubuque and June 8 - Waukon. For more information or to register, contact Baumgartner at cbaum@iastate.edu or at (563) 608-0868.

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Ask the ISU Extension Garden Experts: Planting Trees, Blooming Rhubarb and Spraying Apple Trees
Get expert advice on how large a hole needs to be for planting trees, what to do when rhubarb plants are blooming and a timeframe for spraying apple trees to prevent insect damage.

Iowa State University Extension news releases are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/.

This information has been sent to you by Teresa Wiemerslage, Regional Communications Coordinator for Region 4 ISU Extension, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599.

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