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News Release

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Local Dairy Days Feature New Dairy Practices

EASTERN IOWA -- Iowa dairy producers will have the opportunity to hear Iowa State University Extension Specialists share information on emerging dairy industry issues at the 2011 ISU Extension Dairy Days scheduled at seven eastern Iowa locations between January 18 and February 15.

The ISU Extension Dairy Team conducts this workshop each winter to help producers make herd management decisions based on the latest research. This year producers will learn about manure management from Angie Rieck-Hinz. Brian Lang will discuss alfalfa production and tips on quality and yield. Dr. Lee Kilmer will present on the economics of feed decisions and feed substitutes.

After lunch, Jennifer Bentley, Extension dairy specialist will look at some new technology and management practices in the state. Larry Tranel will look at the livestock gross margin dairy program, and veterinary science staff will discuss quality assurance practices for dairy beef.

Dairy Days will be offered at seven locations: Jan. 18 in Elma, Jan. 19 in Calmar, Jan. 20 in Waverly, Jan. 31 in Bloomfield, Feb. 1 in Kalona, Feb. 14 in Holy Cross and Feb. 15 in Ryan. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the program will conclude by 3 pm. Details about each date are available from your county ISU Extension office.

A $10 registration fee covers the noon meal and proceedings costs. Pre-registration is requested by the Friday before each event to reserve a meal. Vouchers may be available from local ag-service providers or veterinarians.
Producers may also take advantage of free feed testing by bringing a ziploc bag of TMR, silage or grain samples (approx. one quart) for particle size analysis.

For more information contact your local county ISU Extension office or Dr. Leo Timms at 515-294-4522.

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**News Release**

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**Tri-State Beef Day set for January 27**

POSTVILLE -- Local beef producers will have the opportunity to receive the latest beef industry information at the 2011 Tri-State Beef Day on January 27. The meeting will be offered at two different times and locations: the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien and the Postville Community Room in Postville.

The Prairie du Chien session will run from 10 am to 3 pm and the Postville session will run from 4-9 pm. Registration will start one half hour before each meeting.

This year, producers will enjoy three general sessions featuring timely topics. Denise Schwab, beef program specialist from the ISU Extension will discuss the results of the 2010 Iowa Beef Center forage testing project and issues related to forage quality. Dr. Amy Radunz, UW Extension Beef Specialist will discuss strategies to combat the high corn prices. Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW Extension Livestock Specialist, will provide her outlook on cattle prices into 2011.

Two breakout tracks will give producers the choice of several topics. Cow-calf producers will learn how to extend the grazing season from Jim Munsch, and managing health issues from Dr. Larry Moore, DVM. Feedlot producers will learn about decision-making tools available from the University of Wisconsin, and strategies for feeding Holsteins from Dr. Dan Loy, ISU.

Registration includes a meal and materials and is $25 per person and $15 per additional person from the farm if received by January 24. After that date, add $5 per person. Walk-ins will be welcome the day of the event, but meals will not be guaranteed.

Tri-State Beef Day is an annual event sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and University of Wisconsin Extension. Together, the planning team strives to deliver the latest in research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact ISU Extension in Allamakee County at 563-568-6345 or Denise Schwab at 319-721-9624.

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**News Release**

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**ISU Extension Offers Farm Employee Management Workshop**
CALMAR – Effective management of farm employees takes many skills, but there are usually not enough hours in the day to make it a priority. ISU Extension is offering employee management workshops to help managers and supervisors learn and adopt tools and techniques to manage employees in their operations.

The three-part workshop series will help farmers improve employee management skills to increase employee satisfaction and productivity. This workshop is designed for farms with a small number of employees (5 to 15) and don’t have a background or training in employee management.

The workshop location in northeast Iowa will be at the NE IA Dairy Foundation Center in Calmar on Feb. 2, 9 and 16 from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

This is a hands-on workshop that will allow time to actually work on adopting some of the resources for your operation. You can also learn from other participants. Job descriptions, communications, legal issues, and performance evaluations are just a few of the items to be covered.

The workshops are funded in part by a grant from the North Central Risk Management Education Center. There will be a $30 fee for meals during the workshops and that is payable at the door. Preregistration is needed to plan for materials.

To learn more about the workshops or to pre-register contact Jennifer Bentley, Extension Dairy Specialist, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu or Mark Storlie, Swine Field Specialist, 563-425-3331 or mstorlie@iastate.edu.

News Release

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Latest Information on Sulfur in Cattle Diets to be Shared through Web Program

AMES, Iowa -- As corn and other grain prices continue to rise, cattle producers seek ways to maximize economic and production efficiencies in their operations. One way to deal with increasing corn prices is to feed less corn and more distillers grains. However, producers and scientists alike know that the amount of distillers grains that can be fed safely depends on the sulfur level in feed and drinking water. Recent research by Iowa State University (ISU) and University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) faculty members has provided some welcome news in this area.

Dan Loy, interim director of the Iowa Beef Center at ISU, said scientists from the two universities have worked together to evaluate their independent study results and determine how those results can be used to the best advantage by cattle producers.

“ISU folks have worked on developing a model for sulfur toxicity in cattle, so we can study the effects of elevated dietary sulfur on animals,” Loy said. “At UNL, research over the past several years has included feeding trials of varying levels of sulfur and distillers grains with thousands of cattle.”
Loy said UNL beef specialist Galen Erickson and others are cooperating to share findings of the independent studies they’ve done and to offer new dietary recommendations for producers. Erickson said the updated recommendations on sulfur inclusion rates might surprise some people.

“We’re prepared to recommend higher levels of dietary sulfur, and therefore higher levels of distillers grains, than producers are used to working with,” Erickson said. “Because of these higher levels, we also are incorporating slightly different management guidelines that include proper diet and feed bunk management.”

In addition to Erickson, ISU beef nutrition specialists Stephanie Hansen and Mary Drewnoski will present research-specific information and recommendations, and Steve Ensley of ISU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Diagnostic Lab will answer participant questions on sulfur toxicity diagnosis and treatment.

The information and recommendations will be shared through a web-based program beginning at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2011. The Web address for the program is http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/sulfur

“There’s no cost to participate in the web program, but it is important to check your computer system prior to attempting to connect to this program,” Loy said. “We want everyone to be able to connect to the site without difficulty.”

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Other News Releases

Ask the ISU Extension Garden Experts About Winter Damage to Trees and Shrubs

Homeowners often wonder how to care for small shrubs and trees when the snow and cold temperatures of winter arrive in Iowa. The ISU Extension experts have answers.

Crop Advantage Series Provides Latest Crop Production Information
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2010/1214pringnitz3.htm

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