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News Release

Farmland Drainage Workshop to Be Held Jan. 30

NEW HAMPTON – A January workshop will examine various aspects of farmland drainage. The workshop will be offered Jan. 30 at Big Ed’s Firehouse in New Hampton. The program begins at 9 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

“We are offering this farmland drainage workshop due to the overwhelming interest in a December workshop on this topic,” said Kapil Arora, an agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The morning session will focus on drainage design concepts, economics and the long-term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on drainage maintenance issues, compliance with USDA-NRCS requirements, discussions on controlled drainage, bioreactors and managing drainage water quality with wetlands.

Speakers include Iowa State University Extension Ag Engineering Specialist Kapil Arora, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialists Kristen Schulte and Kelvin Leibold, ISU Associate Professor of Ag Engineering Matt Helmers, USDA-NRCS Specialist Bruce Atherton and John Baker, attorney for the Iowa Concern Hotline.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, industry partners and the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, sponsor the program.

Registration information is available online, or call ISU Extension and Outreach in Chickasaw County at 641-394-2174.

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News Release

Contact: Russ Euken, ISU Extension Beef Specialist, reuken@iastate.edu

Risk and Margin Management Workshop for Cattle Feeders
NEW HAMPTON -- A risk and margin management workshop will be held for cattle feeders on Jan. 24 at the Pinicon Restaurant in New Hampton from 9:45-3:00 pm.

The workshop being conducted by Iowa State University Extension uses actual market prices in a simulation over a two year period during which participants will market fed cattle marketing and feeder cattle and corn purchase decisions.

Producers decide whether to use cash market, futures, options, or livestock insurance products to manage risk while keeping an eye on the “margin” available to the producer before or during the actual feeding period. Those decisions are tracked via a computer and net returns are calculated at the end of a two year period. During the workshop the use of and pros and cons or risk management tools such as futures, options, and livestock insurance will be discussed. Also the concept of locking in a margin between the selling price of fed cattle and the cost of corn and feeder cattle will be explored.

The workshop is free due to co sponsorship by Five Star Coop and Land O Lakes Purina Feed. Those interested in participating need to contact their local county extension office, Russ Euken, Extension Livestock Specialist at 641-923-2856 or reuken@iastate.edu or Terry Wicks with Five Star Coop at 860-641-1177 to reserve your spot and meal.

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News Release

Ultrasound Pregnancy Exam Demonstration Featured

POSTVILLE -- Ultrasound has been used in the livestock industry for over 25 years, however its use for pregnancy examinations has grown recently. A 20-28 day-old embryo can be visible to a trained veterinarian, however most prefer to wait a little longer to be able to both age the fetus and determine the sex.

A demonstration on using ultrasound pregnancy exams and determining the age and sex of the beef fetus, will be featured in the ISU Extension heifer development programs on Feb. 7 at the Postville Vet Clinic and Feb. 9 at the Jackson County Extension office. Both programs start at noon and will be done around 4 pm. Registration is due Feb. 1 by calling 319-721-9624.

For the average commercial cattleman raising his own replacement heifers, just knowing the heifer is bred may be enough, but for those producers selling bred females knowing the age, sire and sex of the developing fetus is important information that can result in increased sale value. Knowing the age of the developing fetus can also be useful in planning for calving time.

Co-sponsors of the program include the Postville Vet Clinic and Maquoketa Embryos, along with the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association, ABS Global, Accelerated Genetics, Genex Cooperative, Select Sires, and Land of Lakes/Purina.

The drought in the southwestern cow states has resulted in the sale of a significant amount of the US beef cow herd, meaning there will be opportunities for entrepreneurs who have bred heifers or cows for sale whenever range country gets enough rain to grow grass. Attend one of these programs to find out how you can be prepared when this opportunity arises.

For more information contact Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist at 319-721-9624, or your county ISU Extension office.

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ISU Extension Offers Estate Planning Workshop

FAYETTE - Talking about estate planning can be difficult, and implementing an estate plan can be even harder. ISU Extension and Outreach is hosting a workshop called “Evaluating Your Estate Plan” to provide an opportunity for people to learn about options in transitioning assets to the next generation.

Estate planning isn’t just for older people. There is a need for a plan at every stage in life. An estate plan helps the farm family to provide for the next generation. If you want to learn how to build a plan for transferring farm assets, you should attend this workshop.

The day-long workshop will discuss the language of estate planning, the role of estate and inheritance taxes, and many other areas like substitute decision-making that are vital to creating a good estate plan. Participants will use stories with hands-on activities to evaluate tools that they can take home and use on their own farms.

Presenter Melissa O’Rourke brings a wealth of experience to the program. She is an attorney who practiced in northwest Iowa for 18 years before joining Iowa State University Extension in 2010. Co-presenter Kelvin Leibold has helped farm families explore options in estate planning and other farm management decisions in his 24 years with Iowa State University Extension.

According to O’Rourke, “The program applies to everyone - town and country, families, couples, and individuals.”

The workshop will be held on February 16 from 9 am – 4 pm at Upper Iowa University in Fayette. Advance registration is required and space is limited to the first thirty people to respond. For registration information, contact the Fayette County Extension Office at 563-425-3331 or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/fayette.

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Corn Rootworm Resistance a Featured Topic at Crop Conference on January 25

WATERLOO -- Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist, is the keynote speaker to discuss corn rootworm resistance at the Iowa State University Extension Crop Advantage Conference on January 25 at the Hawkeye Community College – Tama Hall, Waterloo, IA. Also featured is Elwynn Taylor on crop weather for 2012, Mike Owen on herbicide resistant weeds, and Alison Robertson on Goss’s wilt. Other topics of interest to farmers and agricultural providers include grain marketing, soil fertility and liming, corn production, soybean insects, grain quality issues, alfalfa management, planter equipment issues, and much more.

“With 15 topics in breakout sessions during the day, you can choose what most interests you and your operation, says Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist in northeast Iowa. “However, every year attendees tell me they wish it was a 2-day event, or that they would have brought along a friend to catch the topics that they couldn’t get to.”
The conference is one of 13 scheduled around the state. Certified crop advisors can earn up to 5 credits at the conference in Waterloo and private pesticide applicators can become re-certified.

Advance registration for each location includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. An additional fee is charged for CCA credits and private pesticide applicator recertification. Registration materials are available at www.cropadvantage.org or from your local ISU Extension and Outreach office.

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News Release
Contact: Kristin Schulte, ISU Farm Management Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu, 563-547-3001.

Program Teaches Farm Women to be Better Business Partners

CALMAR - ISU Extension and Outreach will offer a nationally renowned farm business course for northeast Iowa women in February. Annie’s Project empowers farm women to be better business partners through peer networks. The program includes critical decision making and information topics on production, marketing, financial, legal and human resources risk management.

Named after Annie Fleck, a farm wife from Illinois, Annie’s Project recognizes that the unique learning preferences of women often are not served through traditional farm management education programs. Annie’s Project is a six-week course is designed especially for farm women to help them develop their management and decision making skills for the farm operation they are involved in.

Annie’s Project gives farm women the opportunity to learn from female agricultural professionals and network with other women in similar situations. Organized by a local committee and ISU Extension staff, the topics include personality and communication assessment, understanding market terminology, interpreting financial statements and understanding estate planning.

Annie’s Project will meet at the Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation in Calmar for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6-9 pm starting February 16. Participants receive software programs, access to ISU Extension online courses, handouts and an Annie’s Project portfolio. A light dinner is included. Course size is limited.

Annie’s Project is being funded by a grant from the USDA/FCIC Risk Management Agency. Sponsors of the Annie’s program include Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Farm Credit Council, Farm Credit Services of America, and the American Farm Bureau. Local sponsors of the Calmar site include Asgrow, DEKALB, Farmers Union Coop, and Winn Coop.

For more information and to register, call Winneshiek County Extension office at 563-382-2949, or online at http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/annie/home.html.

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News Release
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Food & Farm Expo Set for Feb. 4

CALMAR – Mirroring the growing national movement in regional food production and healthier living, northeast Iowans have shown an increased interest in purchasing locally produced food. Farmers interested in growing or producing food for these growing local markets should make plans to attend the
Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Expo on Saturday, February 4 at the NE IA Dairy Foundation Center in Calmar from 10 am to 2 pm.

The Expo will have a wide variety of exhibitors covering educational information, materials, equipment, seed and supplies. Two educational sessions will be offered on food safety and the Sharing Spaces Kitchen in Prairie du Chien, WI.

Admission is free and lunch will be available to purchase on site. For more information about the expo or to have a display, call Teresa Wiemerslage at (563) 794-0599 or visit www.iowafreshfood.com.

The expo is hosted by the Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition which is part of the Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative—a partner of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food & Community program. The coalition is creating opportunities for farmers to engage in the local food system through production, processing, distribution, storage and market opportunities.

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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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