Farmland Leasing Workshops Scheduled for August

NORTHEAST IOWA - Landowners, tenants and other agri-business professionals with an interest in farmland ownership, management and leasing agreements should plan to attend one of more than 50 farmland leasing meetings scheduled for July and August. The workshops are facilitated by Iowa State University Extension farm management specialists and held all across the state.

“I’ve had numerous contacts this year from persons who have questions about farmland values and rental rates,” said Kelvin Leibold, ISU Extension farm and agribusiness management specialist. “Due to the increases in land values and cash rents, there is definitely a heightened interest in farm leasing arrangements.”

Leibold said ISU Extension research indicates that the average age of farmland owners continues to rise; with 55 percent of Iowa’s farmland owned by people over the age of 65 and 28 percent of the land owned by individuals over age 75. The research also indicates that children and surviving spouses of farmers are less likely to continue operating the farm themselves. That’s a major reason why farmland leasing continues to increase, according to Leibold.

The workshops are approximately three hours in length and provide each workshop attendee with a set of useful materials about farm leasing arrangements. The topics to be covered during the 2011 workshops include cash rental rate survey and land values survey, comparison of different types of leases, lease termination and calculating a fair cash rent.

Four meetings have been scheduled in northeast Iowa: Aug. 16, 1:30 pm at the Borlaug Learning Center in Nashua; Aug 18, 1:30 pm at the Fayette County Extension office; Aug. 24, 9 am at the Howard County Fairgrounds and Aug. 24, 1:30 pm at the NE IA Dairy Foundation Center. The AgDM leasing meetings page www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html lists meeting dates, locations and links to more information.
Registration is required. Contact the host county ISU Extension office or register online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek).

The leasing section of AgDM also provides useful materials for negotiating leases, information on various types of leases, lease forms and newly updated Decision Tools. ISU Extension farm management specialists believe having the latest information and knowing where to find the best resources will make decisions easier for those involved with farmland leases.

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**News Release**
Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, [wiemer@iastate.edu](mailto:wiemer@iastate.edu)

**Garden Natives and Invasives Webinar Series Offered**

NORTHEAST IOWA - The Iowa Master Gardener program is once again offering a series of summer webinars. The 2011 series titled “Garden Natives and Invasives” will be hosted by Iowa State University Extension county offices on the fourth Tuesday of the month, May through August.

Participants will discover the history and reach of the Tallgrass Prairie Center during the third session on July 26. The Tallgrass Prairie Center develops research, techniques, education and source-identified seed for restoration and preservation of prairie vegetation. Daryl Smith, from the Tallgrass Prairie Center and University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, is the presenter.

The webinar series is being offered at the ISU Extension offices in Howard and Fayette counties. Call the county office to pre-register: Howard, 563-547-3001 and Fayette, 563-425-3331.

The final session on August 23, "Native Friends and Invading Forces," will highlight the importance of native species and discuss the problems and related issues with invasive species in Iowa.

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**Other News Releases**

**New Publication Illustrates Energy Efficient Farm Lighting Options**
[http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/new-publication-energy-efficient-farm-lighting](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/new-publication-energy-efficient-farm-lighting)

Many farm facilities use incandescent bulbs in a variety of settings, but the upcoming phase-out of incandescents among U.S. retailers demands consideration of energy efficient lighting alternatives. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension compares some of the indoor and outdoor lighting options and their features.

**New Publication Helps Farmers Use Data for Tractor Selection**

Tractor operations represent a significant portion of annual on-farm fuel costs. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension discusses tractor test data to consider when leasing or purchasing a tractor.

**Agricultural Marketing Resource Center Assists Producers Applying for USDA Value-added Grants**
Producer groups can receive assistance from the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center in gathering information for use in applying for the USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service value-added producer grants.

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

For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:

- **Allamakee**: Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu
- **Chickasaw**: Mary Lynch, 641-394-2174, mjlynch@iastate.edu
- **Clayton**: Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu
- **Fayette**: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteege@iastate.edu
- **Howard**: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
- **Winneshiek**: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, court@iastate.edu

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