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News Release

Contact: Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension dairy specialist, jbentley@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu

Pasture Walk at Haugen Farm on August 17

PROSPER, MN – Management intensive grazing will be featured at the next Northeast Iowa Graziers Pasture Walk on Tuesday, August 17 at the Vance and Bonnie Haugen dairy farm near Prosper, MN.

The discussion emphasis for the day will be on managing summer slump and setting up paddocks to extend the grazing season.

The walk will run from 10:30-12:30 pm and is open to grass-based farmers or "graziers" of all species and at all levels. The Haugen Farm is located at 12620 Deer Rd. Take Hwy 52 in Winneshiek County north through Prosper, MN to the Jct. of Hwy 52 & Hwy 44. Deer Rd. is straight north across Hwy 44. Go north 1.5 miles on Deer Rd. to the farm.

The Northeast Iowa Graziers plan monthly walks to local farms to help producers learn how better pasture management can result in both healthier profits and a healthier environment. The walks are organized by area graziers and supported by Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation.
The next local walk is scheduled for August 17 at the Vance and Bonnie Haugen Farm near Canton, MN where they will talk about managing the summer grazing slump.

For more information about the 2010 Pasture Walks, contact Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist at 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu.

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News Release

Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Register for Fall Master Gardener Training

NORTHEAST IOWA --If you have an interest in gardening and would like to volunteer in your community, consider joining the Iowa Master Gardener program. The Master Gardener program has information for gardening veterans and novices alike.

The program provides selected volunteers training on many aspects of gardening. In exchange for training, Master Gardeners share their time and knowledge on approved projects within their local communities. Training consists of 40 hours of web-based broadcasting and face-to-face instruction at extension offices and on the ISU campus. After training, participants must complete a one-year Master Gardener internship consisting of 40 hours of volunteer service in their community. Additional volunteer hours and ongoing training are required in subsequent years to maintain the Master Gardener status.

Several locations in northeast Iowa will be hosting the classes starting in September. Most of the webinar classes will be held on Tuesday evenings with a few Thursday face-to-face sessions. Contact these ISU Extension offices to learn more about their schedules this fall: Howard County (Cresco); Bremer County (Tripoli), and Cerro Gordo County (Mason City). Office phone numbers are available at www.extension.iastate.edu.

Since 1979, the Iowa Master Gardener program has trained over 9000 people. Master Gardeners are highly visible volunteers in their counties. Master Gardeners may work at local gardens, schools, nursing homes, or other community beautification or education projects. Master Gardeners answer questions on the radio, give presentations at gardening seminars, and discuss plants at local plant sales. You might talk with Master Gardeners on the phone or via email or at booths at a local farmer's market, county fairs, or home and garden shows. The Master Gardener program is unique both for its community emphasis and because it directly utilizes the broad research-based resources of Iowa State University.

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News Release

Contact: Erin Ludwig, ISU Extension Family Resource Management Field Specialist, eludwig@iastate.edu or 563-380-1475.

Learn to Be a Financial Coach

DECORAH -- Iowa State University Extension is offering a new course designed for people interested in helping those struggling with their family finances. This course is designed for volunteers, clergy and others working in nonprofit groups and organizations who assist their clients or members with financial management concerns.

“Sharpen Your Financial Coaching Skills” is a five-week course to teach people how to recognize the causes, complexity and associated stress of financial problems. Participants will learn tools and
strategies to assist clients with various financial problems and apply coaching skills to typical financial situations facing their clients. Participants will also learn to recognize client situations that are not appropriate for a non-professional to address.

The course starts August 24 and will have two face-to-face sessions and 3 weeks of online learning, said Erin Ludwig, ISU Extension Family Resource Management Specialist. The course will be taught by Ludwig and Patricia Swanson, an ISU Extension family resource management program specialist and Certified Financial Planner™ professional.

The kick-off session on will be August 24 at 1 pm the ISUE Extension—Winnesheik County office in Decorah. “This session will provide an introduction to financial coaching, and participants will receive a tool kit to help them,” Ludwig explained.

The three, online sessions begin September 7 and participants may log in at their convenience. Each week a new topic will be introduced: communicating about money, tracking spending and understanding credit. “Students will have the opportunity to complete learning exercises and interact with the instructor and other participants via a weekly chat room and course email,” Ludwig said.

The course will conclude with a face-to-face session on September 28 featuring community resources and role playing of typical financial coaching scenarios.

For more information or to register, contact Erin Ludwig at eludwig@iastate.edu or 641-394-2174.

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News Release
Contact: Bob Hauer, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, (641) 394-2174, bhauer@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

ISU Extension Offers Shade Tree Workshops

As the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to infest and kill native ash species in the upper Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, and now Iowa and Minnesota), homeowners are looking at down the road at their options for shade in their yards.

Proper selection, planting and care of replacement trees is essential to have a tree that will add beauty, shade and value to your property. Planting new trees can be a considerable investment, but provide decades of dividends when done correctly.

Iowa State University Extension is hosting two shade tree selection workshops in August to educate homeowners and alternative shade tree species for their yards. Bob Hauer, ISU Extension horticulturist will discuss common shade trees available in Northeast Iowa along with a few of less familiar species.

He will also talk about the essentials of planting and caring for the trees. Since there are no “perfect” trees, Bob will also answer questions on the advantages and drawbacks of most common shade trees.

The workshop will be held at the ISU Extension—Winnesheik County office on August 26 from 7:30-8:30 pm. The workshop will be repeated at the Gilbertson Nature Center near Elgin on August 28 from 1-3 pm.

The program costs $5 and pre-registration is required by calling Winneshiek County Extension at 382-2949 by Wednesday Aug. 25th.

Pre-register for the workshop by calling the Winneshiek County Extension office at 563-568-6345 for the Decorah site or the Fayette County Extension at 563-425-3331 for the Elgin site. Online registration is
The workshop costs $5. Registration deadline is Aug 26.

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Other Releases

Because of the high demand for information related to flooding issues, the following is a reminder of ISU Extension resources

PUBLIC WEBSITE..... Disaster Recovery – Flood Clean Up has additional resources for

- Crop Concerns http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/cropconcerns.htm
- Financial Concerns http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/financial.htm
- Flood Clean Up http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/flood.htm
- Housing Concerns http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/housing.htm
- Livestock Concerns http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/livestockconcerns.htm
- Resources http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/resources.htm
- Emergency Tips http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/emergencytips.htm
- Tree Damage http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/treedamage.htm
- Wells and Water http://www.extension.iastate.edu/DisasterRecovery/wells.htm

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.

For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:

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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: Bonnie Sorum, 563-382-2949, bsorum@iastate.edu

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Teresa Wiemerslage, Iowa State University Extension
Region 4 Extension Education & Communications Coordinator