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News Release

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Northeast ISU Research Farm Field Day Set for June 30

NASHUA -- The annual field day featuring the latest ISU research will be June 30 at the Northeast ISU Research Farm. Topics include: weed management, foliar fungicide for corn and soybeans, nitrogen fertilizer, biofilters and aphid resistant soybean varieties. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Borlaug Learning Center.

The event starts at 1:00 pm. The Riverton Lucky Clovers 4-H Club will serve refreshments. The program is free and open to the public. CCA credits are available.

The Northeast ISU Research Farm is located one mile west of the Highway 218 and B60 intersection in Nashua, one mile south and a quarter mile east.

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News Release

Contact: Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension dairy specialist, jbentley@iastate.edu
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Riniker Hosts Pasture Walk on July 6

STRAWBERRY POINT – New paddocks for dairy heifers will be featured at the next Northeast Iowa Graziers Pasture Walk on Wednesday, July 6 at the Chris Riniker farm near Strawberry Point.
Riniker has been using a grazing system for over sixteen years. In 2006, they completed their transition to organic. The higher milk prices have been helpful to Riniker’s son who has been slowly buying into the dairy operation.

In addition to the tour, Larry Tranel, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist, will briefly talk about Millionaire model dairy farms and low cost parlors. The Rinikers have incorporated some of the low cost strategies in their swing parlor.

The walk will run from 10:30 am to noon and is open to grass-based farmers or “grazers” of all species and at all levels. The Riniker Farm is located at 32351 Evergreen Road. From Elkader, take Hwy 13 south to CSX (Emblem Rd, the Mederville turn-off), go to Mederville, turn south onto Evergreen Rd., the farm is the 2nd place on the right.

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.

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: Eric Hatling, MOSES, 715-778-5775, eric@mosesorganic.org

Organic Crop Field Day at Koschmeder Farm

RICEVILLE – A farm field day focusing on producing organic feed crops for organic livestock will be held July 15, 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the John Koschmeder Farm in Riceville, IA. The free event is organized by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES).

Farmers wishing to learn more about organic production of field crops and livestock feed, as well as soil preparation, will find this field day invaluable.

Organic corn, soybeans, oats and clover have been successfully grown in rotation for many years on the Koschmeder Farm, which will be toured during the event. Bob Yanda, of Midwestern Bio-Ag will discuss soil balancing, timing of soil preparation, adding amendments, planting, cultivating and harvesting; each of which contributes to the production of a successful crop.

“The organic market is growing, offering a great opportunity to those who want to transition to organic,” says Harriet Behar, MOSES organic specialist. “While growing organic can be challenging -- what farming isn’t? -- balancing soil fertility and building organic matter are the foundations for producing good yields and high quality crops in an organic system.”

Also featured will be information on the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which provides cost share payments for farmers to adopt or improve conservation practices on their farms. Eligible practices include diversification of crop rotations, use of cover crops, protection of stream riparian areas, and planting windbreaks, among others. These payments are available to producers in the Cedar Creek watershed and across the state of Iowa.

The field day is sponsored by MOSES, with partial funding from the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program.
Based in Spring Valley, WI, MOSES works with farmers, farming organizations, and government agencies to organize its organic farm field days. Sessions are free and open to all farmers, agriculture professionals, and those interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. Free resources on organic production will be available to all attendees and refreshments will be served.

To pre-register and for directions to the Koschmeder Farm, call or email the MOSES office at 715-778-5775 or info@mosesorganic.org. For more information, you can also go to the MOSES web site at www.mosesorganic.org and click on our calendar of events.

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News Release

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ISU Extension Offers Grafting Workshop

CALMAR - Grafting or splicing together two different plants is sometimes the only way to produce a particular variety of fruit and is common in the nursery industry. Grafting is a beneficial skill for orchardists as well as home gardeners.

If the specific variety of fruit you want does not grow from a seed, then grafting is the solution. Don’t have room for a pollinator tree? Bud graft a pollinator variety onto one of the branches. Have an old tree you’d like to save? Bud it onto another tree.

Iowa State University Extension is hosting a grafting workshop on July 12 to show people how to graft a fruit tree. Bob Hauer, ISU Extension horticulturist, will demonstrate several grafting techniques that can be used while trees are dormant. He will also demonstrate a T-bud graft that can be done during the summer.

The hands-on workshop will be held at the NE Iowa Dairy Foundation Center in Calmar on July 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Dwarfing apple rootstocks will available. The Bud 9 rootstocks keep the tree about one-third size of a standard tree and yet have full-sizes apples. The trees need be staked for the life of the tree. No special tools are needed for the workshop and all supplies will be provided.

Pre-register for the workshop by calling the Winneshiek County Extension office at 563-568-6345. Online registration is also available at www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek. The workshop costs $5. Registration deadline is July 9 and is limited to 20 participants.

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News Release

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

Iowa State Expands Investment in Regional Food Systems Work

AMES, Iowa — Mirroring the growing national movement in regional food production, Iowans have shown increased interest in the availability of locally produced fruits and vegetables. Work in the state to develop regional food systems is providing new farming and community development opportunities, while improving access to healthy foods.
Iowa State University has a long history of research and extension efforts related to fruit and vegetable production across the state. Now steps are being taken to enhance those efforts.

“Even in these difficult financial times, we’ve found a way for Iowa State to continue its investment in an area that is critical to Iowans,” said Wendy Wintersteen, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dean. “By coordinating our efforts among the College, ISU Extension and the Leopold Center, the economic viability of regional food systems in the state will improve.”

Wintersteen said faculty members in several departments conduct research, demonstration and educational programs in food crop production, food safety and nutrition, and the economics of producing and selling food crops.

Yet the recent retirements of Henry Taber, a horticulture professor who specialized in commodity vegetable production, and Eldon Everhart, horticulture extension field specialist, combined with budget cuts, reduced Iowa State’s capacity to continue this important work.

“For Iowa fruit and vegetable producers to expand on their current success, they need a coordinated effort that promotes research, education and cooperation between growers, marketers and the end user,” said John Lawrence, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences associate dean and director of agriculture and natural resources extension.

Lawrence said the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture has been a national leader in moving fruit and vegetable production from a hobby to a viable business. New funding from the Leopold Center of $80,000 per year for three years will help support two positions. The funds come from an anonymous gift received by the Leopold Center.

The positions will work closely with the Leopold Center in local food systems research and education statewide and be actively involved in fruit and vegetable and regional food systems work groups supported by the Leopold Center.

In the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, a state specialist will be hired to conduct an applied research and extension program in vegetable and small fruit crop production.

The College already has two horticulture professors who work in commercial fruit production — Gail Nonnecke and Paul Domoto. In addition, there are six positions involved in fruit and vegetable research and demonstration at the Muscatine Island, Armstrong and Horticulture Station research farms.

ISU Extension will hire a field specialist for central and western Iowa to focus on vegetable and small fruit production and handling. That person will join Patrick O’Malley, a food crops horticultural specialist who works in eastern Iowa.

One current extension employee’s focus will shift. Craig Chase, a farm management specialist with experience in food crops, niche markets and community kitchens, will move more fully into regional food systems work by this fall.

The process to fill the two open positions is underway. Once the three-year bridge funding from the Leopold Center ends, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and ISU Extension will take over full funding of the positions.

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News Release

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

“If you walk into a bank with a budget in hand, showing how you plan to repay what you want to borrow, most lenders would be impressed,” says a local banker. “Most lenders are willing to work with you IF you are willing to improve your money management skills,” he adds.

“When we have sound information and strong skills for managing money and making financial decisions, then we can use our money effectively to live out our highest priorities,” says Erin Ludwig, ISU Extension Family Resource Management Program Specialist.

Iowa State University Extension offers a personal financial management series each month to share strategies for tracking expenses as well as other tips to help people gain control of their finances. The online class called “Budget Basics” is offered one hour a week for three weeks.

Week one will cover setting goals, managing unexpected and periodical expenses, and savings. Week two will talk about tracking spending, creating a budget, decreasing expenses and increasing income. The third week shows different methods of tracking spending, managing risk, managing credit, and saving for retirement.

The class is offered on Mondays from Noon - 1:00 p.m. or 5:00 - 6:00 p.m on July 12, 19, 26. Participants need a computer with internet access to take the class. The class is live and interactive. Participants can see the instructor and ask questions via the chat box. If you miss one class, or would like to review a session, participants will receive information on how to view the recorded class. Upon registration, participants will receive a web link to class materials and log-in instructions by email.

This program is part of ISU Extension’s commitment to healthy people, healthy environments and healthy economies. For more information or registration forms, contact your local Family Resource Management Specialist, Erin Ludwig, at 563-380-1475 or email eludwig@iastate.edu.

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Other Releases

(FAYETTE COUNTY) 2010 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Winners Announced


The Fayette County Senior Dairy Quiz Bowl Team placed first in the annual 4-H Youth Dairy Quiz Bowl June 15. The team will represent Iowa 4-H at the National 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl in November.

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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