June 30, 2010

IN THIS EDITION

News Releases specific to NE Iowa:
- 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction Benefits Communities
- ISU Extension Offers Ag Drainage School (Region)
- ISU Extension Offers Succulent Workshop (Elkader)
- Organic Gardening Webinar Offered (Fayette)
- Extension Council Offers Candidates Opportunities to Educate and Serve (Region)

News Release

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

4-H/FFA Livestock Auctions Benefit Communities

The county fair is an annual summer tradition for many Iowa families. The livestock shows are the culmination of months of work by the young exhibitors as they cared and prepared their livestock exhibits. In four counties in northeast Iowa, the 4-H & FFA Livestock Auction is the last event of the fair for those youth and their animals.

The livestock auctions in Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw and Winneshiek counties offer livestock projects for sale to the general public. The animals at the sale often sell at or above market price—a reward for the blood, sweat and tears expended to raise that animal. The auctions are a great opportunity to make an investment in the education of the next generation of farmers and to make a difference in the life of a young person.

The auctions are also a great source of locally raised meat for your freezer. In 2009, buyers at the four fairs spent over $150,000 for animals that were sent to the local meat lockers. With processing costs estimated at $25,000, the fair livestock auctions circulate local dollars in the rural communities and sustain jobs.

Most auctions deliver the animals to a locker or sale barn for resale at no charge. Top quality, home-grown beef, hogs, lamb, rabbits and poultry are available. Ask your neighbors if they are interested in splitting a side of beef or pork with you.

The county fair auction in Winneshiek will be July 10 at 10 am; the Chickasaw auction will be July 9 at 9:30 am; the Allamakee auction is July 11 at 5 pm and the Clayton auction is August 9 at 9:30 am. For more information, contact your local ISU Extension office.

-30-
News Release

Contacts : Kapil Arora, Extension Agricultural Engineering program specialist, (515) 382-6551, pbtiger@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599

ISU Extension Offers Ag Drainage School

NASHUA -- Agricultural drainage is becoming increasingly important due to the critical role it plays for Iowa's emerging bio-economy. Drainage systems that are properly designed and operating are essential to achieving excellent agricultural production capability.

The Iowa Drainage School is being offered to address these issues on July 27-29 at the Borlaug Learning Center on the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua, Iowa.

"People looking to install a new drainage system or retrofit an existing system will want to attend this school," said Matt Helmers, ISU Extension agricultural engineer. "The workshop will focus on drainage design, economics of drainage, water management and legal issues related to drainage."

The Iowa Drainage School offers training on agricultural drainage concepts, planning and laying out drainage systems including surveying a profile, calculating tile line sizes and spacing, regulatory considerations and fixing common drainage system issues.

Drainage contractors, landowners, professional engineers and consultants, NRCS professionals, county administrators and others who are involved in making drainage design decisions within their respective businesses and organizations are invited to attend.

This is a three-day school with each day including a combination of hands-on training, lecture and discussion, and problem solving using examples. By attending this school, participants will be able to plan and layout subsurface drainage systems and work out project costs.

Registration fees for this three-day school are $300 per person if registered by midnight, July 16. Late registration is $350 and must be received by July 23. Class size is limited to 40 participants and pre-registration is required. Registration fees include meals indicated on the agenda, refreshments and handouts.

Additional information, a detailed agenda, and online registration are available at www.aep.iastate.edu/ids.

--30--

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 Succulent Workshop

ELKADER -- Most container gardens focus on flowers, but what if you could create a container that featured unique and architectural plant forms? Succulent plants offer that possibility.

Succulents are water-retaining plants adapted to drier climate or soil conditions. They store water in their fleshy leaves, stems, and roots. Examples of succulents include hen and chicks, sedum, moss rose and cacti. Outstanding displays can be created by combining the bold leaves of hen & chicks with the fine texture of a dwarf sedum.
Succulent container gardens are also very forgiving. They require less water and can be planted outside in the fall or over-wintered in the pot for a better display next year. The sides of the container can also be planted for more interest.

Learn how to create a succulent container garden hosted by Iowa State University Extension on July 19. Bob Hauer, ISU Extension horticulturist, will talk about different succulent plants and container arrangements. The hands-on workshop will be held at the Elkader Greenhouse from 6:30 - 7:00 pm. Plants and containers will be available.

Pre-register for the workshop by calling the Clayton County Extension office at 563-245-1451. Online registration is also available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/clayton](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clayton). The workshop costs $8. Registration deadline is July 15 and is limited to 10 participants.

-30-

**News Release**

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

**Organic Gardening Webinar Offered**

FAYETTE - Disease and pest control can be challenging for gardeners. Managing pests without the use of chemicals can be even harder. ISU Extension is hosting a webinar on July 27 to outline the basics of managing your landscape organically. Pest control for vegetable gardening and ornamentals will be discussed.

Dr. Kathleen Delate, Departments of Horticulture and Agronomy, Iowa State University will present this session which is part of the *Summer Webinar Series: Gardening Green 2010* brought to you by the Iowa Master Gardener program. The host site in northeast Iowa is the Fayette County Extension office in Fayette. The live, interactive webcast will be held on July 27 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Pre-registration is required. Contact Ben Lewis at Fayette County Economic Development to register, 800-477-5073 or register online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/fayette](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/fayette).

The final installment of this series will be about Rain Gardens in Iowa and will be offered on Aug. 24 at the same time and place. Rain gardens are a great way to manage storm water in your landscape. This topic will be covered by Dr. Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University. Master Gardener education credit is available for both programs.

-30-

**News Release**

Contact: Sherry Glenn, Director of Field Operations, (515) 231-0755, [sglen@iastate.edu](mailto:sglen@iastate.edu)
Brenda Ranum, Regional Extension Education Director, 563.382.2949, [ranum@iastate.edu](mailto:ranum@iastate.edu).

**Extension Council Offers Candidates Opportunities to Educate and Serve**

The process to fill seats on the County Extension Councils in the region will begin shortly, says Brenda Ranum, Region 4 Extension Education Director for Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties.

The council, like the hundreds of other extension councils across the country, is the grass roots governing body for the nation’s Cooperative Extension System. Candidates for the council will appear on the general election ballot in November.
In Iowa, extension programming is a cooperative effort involving local citizens, Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ISU Extension has 100 field offices, providing local access to extension programs in all 99 counties.

“If you would like to help with your County’s Extension program, we have started the nomination process,” says Ranum. The duties of a council member include hiring county staff, managing the county extension budget and helping select programming.

The first step in the nomination process is the appointment of a four-member nominating committee. By law, the current council appoints two men and two women to the committee and it cannot include any current members of the council. The committee must be appointed by Aug. 2, 2010.

The committee is charged with nominating candidates for the council, and geographic distribution of the nominees is one factor that they consider. After nominees have been selected, each nominee must turn in to the county elections commissioner a petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters by 5 p.m. on Aug. 25, 2010. Individuals also may be placed on the ballot through a self-nomination process by turning in a petition signed by 25 qualified voters. Petitions are available from the county auditor and at the local county Extension office.

Each nine-member council may have four or five vacancies for four-year terms this year. Newly-elected council members will take office in January 2011.

The Cooperative Extension Service provides informal educational opportunities on a variety of topics to the people of Iowa. For more information on becoming a council member, contact your county ISU Extension office.

-30-

Other Releases

Specialists from three state universities will present at the second annual Iowa Grazing Conference to be held in West Des Moines at the Iowa Farm Bureau headquarters.

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:

Allamakee: Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu
Chickasaw: Mary Lynch, 641-394-2174, mjllynch@iastate.edu
Clayton: Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu
Fayette: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, kstege@iastate.edu
Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winneshiek: Bonnie Sorum, 563-382-2949, bsorum@iastate.edu

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.
Teresa Wiemerslage, Iowa State University Extension
Region 4 Extension Education & Communications Coordinator
PH: 563-568-6345, Cell: 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu
www.iowafoodandfitness.org  www.iowafreshfood.com
www.extension.iastate.edu