News Releases specific to NE Iowa:

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- Workshops Provide Environmental Issues Update for Medium-Sized Beef Feedlots and Dairies
- Local Food Directories Available

News Release
Contact: Larry Tranel, ISUE Dairy Specialist, 563-590-7025 or tranel@iastate.edu
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Dairy Hosts Field Day on Sand Bedding and Handling
FARLEY, Iowa -- Dairy producers interested in learning about sand bedded freestalls versus other freestall types and two stage sand manure handling systems are invited to a field day at the Gene Duschner farm on June 29.

Duschner feels the increased milk production and quality factors made it a very worthwhile investment. He recently converted his mattress-based freestalls to sand and incorporated a modified Kansas State design for his two stage sand manure system.

Larry Tranel, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist, believes discussions of the best freestall types and related manure storage systems are important topics to dairy producers. The field day will be from 10 am to 2 pm with formal presentations at 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to share research on various freestall bedding options.

Various contractors of the project will also be on hand to help answer questions on the design. To get to the Duschner dairy, from Farley, go east on 7th Avenue and continue as it turns into Cemetery Road and then to 25364 Duschner Lane.

For more information, contact Larry Tranel, ISU Extension at 563-590-7025 or tranel@iastate.edu.

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News Release
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Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599
June Field Day to Highlight Elwynn Taylor and Crop Development

NASHUA - ISU Extension specialists will highlight in-season crop development and pest problems on Wednesday June 29 at the Annual June Field Day of the Northeast Iowa Ag Experimental Association (NEIAEA).

The afternoon program runs from 1:00 to 4:30 and will feature five speakers. Ken Pecinovsky, ISU Research Farm Superintendant will review crop progress. Elwynn Taylor, Climatologist, will discuss weather and crop yield predictions. Alison Robertson, Plant Pathologist, will talk about corn and soybean diseases. Matt Helmers, Ag Engineer, will cover tile and field drainage issues. Greg Tylka, Nematologist, will explain nematode pest management in corn and soybeans.

The field day is free and open to the public. It starts at the Borlaug Learning Center on the Northeast ISU Research Farm near Nashua. Directions: From Nashua at the Jct of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. For more information about the event, call Brian Lang at 563-382-2949.

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

No-Till Field Day Scheduled for June 28 near Decorah

DECORAH, Iowa — With today’s high fuel prices, cash rents and land costs, there has never been a better time to explore reduced tillage options. Farmers are invited to a No-till Field Day at the Terry Elsbernd farm near Decorah on Tuesday, June 28 to see energy and money saving practices first hand.

Visit the Elsbernd farm to see how no-tillage works and learn from a local farmer who is experienced with this practice. Talk with Terry and visit his spring no-tilled acres. A complimentary lunch will be provided by Winneshiek Soil and Water Conservation District, Winneshiek Cooperative and the Iowa Farm Energy Working Group.

The field day will feature fellow farmers and other resource professionals as they discuss the benefits of a no-till cropping system including changes to soil tilth, moisture, fuel costs and profitability. Nitrogen management is the greatest single cost and energy input; hear what farmers are doing to manage that cost. Take a big picture look at energy breakdown in the field: where it’s going, realistic saving potential, energy audits and incentives.

The field day will be from 10:30 am to 2 pm. The field day is sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Winneshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District, Iowa State University Extension and Winneshiek Energy District.

The field day will be held at a field north of Decorah. From Decorah, take Hwy 52 north to North Winn Road. Go 1/4 mile and turn east on Colonel Taylor Road for 1/4 mile. Watch for signs.

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News Release
Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu
Workshops Provide Environmental Issues Update for Medium-Sized Beef Feedlots and Dairies

NORTHEAST IOWA — Iowa State University Extension will offer four workshops in northeastern and eastern Iowa featuring environmental issues for feedlots and dairies that are medium-sized concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

“Medium CAFOs are defined by a combination of size and pollutant discharge conditions,” said Angie Rieck-Hinz, ISU Extension program specialist. “If you meet the size threshold, you are defined as a CAFO if you discharge pollutants to waters of the U.S. by direct contact of the animals with the waters or by discharging through a man-made ditch, flushing system or similar man-made device.”

Each workshop will cover the following topics: definition of a medium-sized CAFO; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements; design criteria for manure and effluent handling and storage; operation, maintenance and nutrient management plans; and resources for technical and financial assistance.

Staff from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will present information on the permitting process and Iowa regulations. Consultants and companies from Iowa and surrounding states are sponsors for the workshops and will be available to discuss engineering services, manure plans and technical assistance.

Workshops will be offered at the following dates and locations: June 27 at the NE IA Dairy Foundation Center in Calmar; June 28 at the Country Junction Restaurant in Dyersville; June 29 at Buzzy’s Restaurant in Welton and June 30 at Moose Lodge in Charles City. All workshops will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact the ISU Extension county office associated with the site to be attended: for the Calmar workshop, call 563-382-2949; for the Dyersville workshop, call 563-583-6496; for the Welton workshop, call 563-659-5125; or for the Charles City workshop, call 641-228-1453. Payment may be made at the door, but pre-registration is required to plan for meals and materials. Please register by June 22.

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News Release

Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu

Local Food Directories Available

NORTHEAST IOWA - The Northeast Iowa Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter announces the 2011 Local Food Directory is now available. The directory has been connecting consumers with direct marketing farmers for five years. Buying local products from farmers keeps money circulating our communities.

This year’s directories were printed in a unique partnership with Inspire(d) magazine, a local publication based out of Decorah, Iowa. Inspire(d) covers positive news in the Driftless Region – Northeast Iowa, Southeast Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin and can be picked up for free at more than 100 locations across the region.

Directories are also available online at www.iowafreshfood.com – click on Finding Local Food. The Northeast Iowa Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter is part of the Northeast Iowa Food & Farm (NIFF) Coalition and the Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI). Together, they are working to create community environments that support access to fresh, locally-grown food. More information about these programs can be found at www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

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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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