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News Release

Contacts:
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Retirement Open House for Bonnie Sorum is March 19

DECORAH -- Iowa State University Extension invites the public to join them as they bid farewell to Bonnie Sorum, administrative assistant Winneshiek County Extension after 37 years. There will be an open house March 19 from 1-4 pm at the Danan Lansing Building, Winneshiek County Fairgrounds, Decorah. The event is free and open to the public.

Bonnie started with ISU Extension in September 1969 as a part-time receptionist. She has seen many changes in extension over the years and has worked for four extension directors including John Rodecap, Dick Horne and Brenda Ranum.

In 1997, Bonnie received the Pride of Extension Award for Office Management. Bonnie has also been recognized by many local farming and youth organizations for her support.

There will be a short program at 3:00 pm for Bonnie's retirement open house. Bonnie wishes to spend the majority of her time visiting with the public and friends. Cards, letters of memories/appreciation, can be sent to Brenda Ranum, ISU Extension – Winneshiek County, 911 S. Mill Street, Suite 1, Decorah, IA 52101. If further questions, contact (563) 382-2949.

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News Release

Contact:
Calving Season Tips for Producers

As calving season begins, producers are keeping one eye on the weather and the other eye on the cows. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension beef veterinarian Grant Dewell shares five tips on helping calving season be as successful as possible for producers, regardless of the weather conditions.

Be ready. This is likely the most important aspect of the whole process. Clean calving areas, make sure plenty of bedding is available and gather supplies, including calf chains, calf puller, bucket, disinfectant, lubricant and heat lamps.

Watch females closely. You should be checking females on a regular basis — at least every four hours — for evidence of parturition. Losing a calf at calving because the cow was not assisted in time is like throwing away $600.

Milk colostrum from dystocia cows for immediate feeding. Dystocia calves, those born from difficult labor, will have a prolonged time before they stand and nurse so it is imperative to have colostrum available immediately. Milk some colostrum from the cow while she is caught up to have it ready for that calf.

Segregate cows. Segregate cows into at least three groups – pregnant cows, neo-natal calves and cows, and older calves and cows. Calves between one and 21 days of life are most at risk of disease, so keeping these high-risk calves separate from the others in the herd can decrease disease incidence. If you have a disease outbreak, be prepared to keep this youngest group of calves isolated from all other calves.

Consider calving later in the year. Calves do better when calved in the clean, dry and warm environment of June rather than March. Also, green grass will better meet cows’ energy needs during peak lactation.

For more information, producers can contact their ISU Extension beef program specialist or the Iowa Beef Center website at www.iowabeefcenter.org.

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News Release

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

Iowa State University Extension Week Is March 21-25

Iowa State University Extension will celebrate Extension Week throughout the state March 21-25, 2011.

“It’s one way we can say ‘thank you’ to the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support ISU Extension work in Iowa,” said Gerald Miller, interim vice president for ISU Extension and Outreach.

County extension offices will be holding open houses and other activities throughout the week, and Cy, the Iowa State University mascot, will be making special appearances. Iowans may contact their ISU Extension county office for details about local events.

“As a land-grant university, Iowa State was founded on three big ideas: to open higher education to all, to teach practical classes and to share knowledge far beyond the campus borders,” Miller said. “When it comes to providing education that makes a difference in Iowans’ everyday lives, it starts with Extension.”
Extension is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments and the United States Department of Agriculture. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how local tax dollars are spent to support ISU Extension educational programs at the county level.

“County extension council members help keep ISU Extension relevant and engaged with Iowans,” said Terry Maloy, president of the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils (IACEC). “We keep track of local issues so ISU Extension can address them with research-based information and education to help people make better decisions in their personal, community and professional lives.”

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**News Release**

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

**Training Scheduled to Meet Requirements to Sell Morel Mushrooms**

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University has scheduled a series of certification workshops in April for people who want to sell morel mushrooms.

“The aim of the workshops is to help assure that misidentified mushrooms are not sold as morels. People can be poisoned by eating mushrooms that are misidentified as morels,” said plant pathology professor Mark Gleason, who is coordinating the workshops.

The workshops fulfill a new requirement for anyone wanting to legally sell morels in Iowa.

“The last year, Iowa's laws changed to make it easier to get the certification needed to sell morels legally in the state,” he said.

Gleason will conduct the three-hour sessions on identifying morels and false morels. Certification lasts for three years. The training costs $45 per person.

Morel mushroom certification workshops will be held at these locations:

- **Council Bluffs**, 1 to 4 p.m. April 2, ISU Extension Office, West Pottawattamie County, Iowa School for the Deaf Campus, Careers Building Suite 100, 3501 Harry Langdon Blvd.
- **Dubuque**, 1 to 4 p.m. April 4, Dubuque County Extension Office, 14858 West Ridge Lane, Suite 2
- **Ankeny**, 9 a.m. to noon April 9, DCI classroom, Des Moines Area Community College, DMACC Blvd.
- **Bettendorf**, 1 to 4 p.m. April 11, Scott County Extension Office, 875 Tanglefoot Lane

Those planning to attend one of the workshops are asked to register with Gleason by March 28 at mgleason@iastate.edu or (515) 294-0579.

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**News Release**

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

Bob Hauer, Consumer Hort Specialist, bhauer@iastate.edu.

**ISU Extension Offers Apple Grafting Workshop**
Grafting or splicing together two different plants is sometimes the only way to produce a particular variety of fruit tree and is common in the nursery industry. Grafting is a beneficial skill for orchardists as well as home gardeners.

Iowa State University Extension is hosting an Apple Grafting workshop on April 4 to show people how to graft a fruit tree. Dr. Patrick O’Malley, ISU Extension horticulturist, will demonstrate the whip and tongue graft and will help participants graft one dwarf and one semi-dwarf tree to take home.

The hands-on workshop will be held at the Osborne Conservation Center near Elkader from 6:30-8:30 pm. All supplies will be provided including rootstocks and scion wood of several popular apple varieties.

Pre-register for the workshop by calling the Chickasaw County Extension office at (641) 394-2174. Online registration is also available at www.extension.iastate.edu/chickasaw. Cost for a single registration for 2 rootstocks is $30. Additional rootstocks may be purchased and there are discounts for couples. Registration deadline is March 25 and is limited to 30 participants.

If you have an heirloom tree you’d like to save, please contact Bob Hauer at bhauer@iastate.edu for more information on collecting scion wood.

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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.

For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:

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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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