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**News Release**

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

**Celebrate ISU Extension and Outreach Week March 25-31**

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is thanking partners across the state and promoting its educational programs during a statewide celebration this month. ISU Extension and Outreach Week, March 25-31, includes activities both on the Iowa State campus, as well as at county offices.

“The weeklong celebration is just one way we can say ‘thank you’ to the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support Extension and Outreach work in Iowa,” said Cathann Kress, vice president for ISU Extension and Outreach.

Gov. Terry Branstad will officially sign a proclamation on March 27 declaring the dates as Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week.

The week’s events include open houses and activities hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach county offices. Extension and Outreach faculty and staff on campus also will be sharing their stories. Iowans may contact their 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,” Kress said. “ISU Extension and Outreach is dedicated to providing education that makes a difference in Iowans’ everyday lives.”

Extension and Outreach is part of an educational network supported by Iowa State University, local county governments and the United States Department of Agriculture. Every county extension district in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how local tax dollars are spent to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level. ISU Extension and Outreach delivers through five program areas aligned with Iowa State University colleges: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS), Community and Economic Development, Families, and 4-H Youth Development.
"ISU Extension and Outreach anticipates emerging issues and trends so Iowans can thrive and succeed," Kress said. "We act in catalytic ways to create opportunities and build relationships, and we stay for the long haul to be there when needs arise. We are committed to Iowans and plan to be a vital part of Iowa's future."

"Last year about 1.8 million people, including almost 94,000 youth, benefited from ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs. We want to make sure everyone knows that Extension and Outreach is dedicated to helping Iowans," said Terry Maloy, president of the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils (IACEC). "ISU Extension and Outreach addresses local issues 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, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

**ISU Dairy Extension Team Receives College Team Award**

The Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Team Award was presented to the Iowa State University Dairy Extension Team which includes several specialists serving northeast Iowa.

The team develops plans and educational events to address issues in dairy production and herd management systems; dairy economics and finance management; crop, manure and energy systems; and human resource management. The team worked together on these priorities using extensive partnerships and resources to develop a successful dairy extension program for Iowa.

“We did an educational series to help dairy producers deal with the economic decline in 2008-2010,” said Leo Timms, Iowa State professor of animal science and team leader.

The team developed and conducted workshops and produced publications outlining financial strategies to deal with the crisis, along with individual farm consultation. Two independent surveys regarding farm consultations (one six month post-consultation and the other using on-farm records), with more than 110 producers involved, indicated a positive economic impact of more than $2.3 million.

ISU Dairy Extension Team members include: Leo Timms, team leader and professor of animal science; Lee Klimmer, professor of animal science and extension dairy specialist; Chris Mondak, extension dairy field specialist; Jennifer Bentley, extension dairy field specialist; Ron Lenth, Bremer County Extension coordinator; Larry Tranel, extension dairy field specialist; Kristen Schulte, extension farm management field specialist; Angela Rieck-Hinz, extension program specialist; Jan Shearer, professor and extension veterinarian; Melissa O’Rourke, extension farm and agribusiness management; and Brian Lang, extension agronomist.

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**News Release**
Contact: Lynn Heuss, event coordinator, (515) 201-9405, leheuss@iastate.edu; Craig Chase, Local Food and Farm Program coordinator, (515) 294-1854, cchase@iastate.edu; Laura Miller, Leopold Center Communications, (515) 294-5272, lwmiller@iastate.edu

**Iowa Local Food Summit To Spark Discussion On April 3**

AMES, Iowa – Creating a vibrant food system in Iowa requires diverse voices and strong partnerships. The Local Food and Farm Program team invites you to contribute to a lively discussion at the Iowa Local Food Summit on Tuesday, April 3. The event will take place at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A local foods dinner will follow at 6 p.m.
The legislature created the Local Food and Farm Program in 2011 to implement recommendations outlined in the Iowa Local Food and Farm Plan, which was developed by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Craig Chase, coordinator of the Leopold Center’s Marketing and Food Systems Initiative, leads the six-member team.

Chase says, “The information for the original report that initiated the Local Food and Farm Program was the result of several meetings made up of over 1,000 of Iowa agriculture’s best and brightest minds. It’s our hope to again bring together a diverse mix of people concerned about and interested in creating a vibrant, sustainable local food system.”

During the first six months of funding the team identified the challenges to implementing the plan’s 29 recommendations. They need the help of producers, distributors, educators, policymakers, consumers and other members of the local food economy to determine the next steps for success.

Afternoon workshops will center on six focus areas: 1) business development and financial assistance, 2) food processing, 3) food safety, 4) beginning, transitioning and minority farmers, 5) assessing programs, and 6) local food incentives.

Chase said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey has been invited to speak at the beginning of the day about the burgeoning local food economy. “Secretary Northey has been a strong proponent of farmers markets and Farm to School and we look forward to having him attend,” Chase said.

The keynote speaker, David Dahlquist, is a nationally recognized public artist and teacher. Since 1988 he has completed more than 50 large-scale public commissions across the country. He will speak about creating a local sense of place that embraces food, history and culture.

Register online, or download the mail-in registration form, at http://ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/localfood/home.html. The regular fee is $20 and the student fee is $15 if you register before March 30. There is an additional $25 charge to attend the local foods dinner.

The event sponsors include the Leopold Center, ISU Extension and Outreach, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

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**Photo and Caption**
Contact: Kristin Schulte, Farm Mgt Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu.

[Download photo here](#)

**Planning for the Future of the Farm**
CRESO - John Baker, attorney at law, from the Beginning Farmer Center talks to seven families about farm succession planning at a recent workshop hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Howard County. Farm succession planning consists of the transfer of assets and management between two generations to continue the farm business. Succession planning is complex and consists of reviewing both individuals’ and operations’ wants, needs, expectations, and fears in addition to their values, mission, and goals. In addition, participants learned about retirement planning, communications, family business meetings, goal setting, and estate planning. Families left the workshop with a critical path plan, a plan to transfer all management and assets to the next generation in order to continue the farm operation into the future. For more information on farm succession planning contact the Beginning Farmer Center, bfc@iastate.edu or 1-877-BFC-1999, or Kristen Schulte, ISU Extension, kschulte@iastate.edu or 563-419-3001.

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Individuals Learn about Estate Planning

FAYETTE -- Kelvin Leibold, farm and ag business management specialist, talks to 24 individuals about estate planning at a recent workshop hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Melissa O’Rourke, attorney and farm and ag business management specialist, and Leibold team-presented at the workshop, Evaluating Your Estate Plan, at Upper Iowa University in Fayette on Feb. 16. Estate planning allows for planning for the transition of assets to the spouse, next generation, or other heirs both during and after their lifetime. This allows the asset owners the ability to pass on assets to desired heirs, meet family objectives, mitigate future conflict, and plan for or lessen inheritance and estate taxes. Participants also learned about property ownership, wills, trusts, estate and inheritance taxes, powers of attorney, health care planning, building a consultation team, and information needed to start or update an estate plan. For information on upcoming estate planning workshops, contact Kristen Schulte, ISU Extension and Outreach farm and ag business management specialist serving northeast Iowa, at kschulte@iastate.edu or 563-547-3001.

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Local Food Establishment Staff Attend Food Safety Class

DECORAH - Twenty-seven area food service professionals participated in an eight-hour ServSafe® food safety class taught by ISU Extension and Outreach. Participants take an exam at the end of the day for the opportunity to become certified for five years.

ServSafe® teaches participants how to create a desirable and safe foodservice operation throughout the entire flow of food. Participants also learn about food allergens, regulatory requirements, and employee training.

ServSafe® is a food safety program of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. Classes are coordinated by Iowa State University Extension Specialists in cooperation with the Iowa Restaurant Association.

For further information on upcoming classes, contact your county ISU Extension and Outreach Office or Cindy Baumgartner at cbaum@iastate.edu, (563) 608-0868.

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Note to Media: For local customization, the participants are listed below.
• T-Bocks Restaurant in Decorah: Daniel Bohr, Bryce Haemker, Tom Malanaphy, Chris Malone, Coty Moir, Benjamin Rod, Corey Sabin, James Woosley
• Culver’s Restaurant in Decorah: Bruce Anderson, Cathy Bakke, Traci Wheeler
• Annie’s Garden and Greens in Calmar: Sharon Phillips
• Veteran’s Memorial Hospital in Waukon: Janice Bahr, Anne Blocker, Diane McKee
• Allamakee Community Schools: Wanda Christianson, Shelly Grangaard, Julie Magner, Vickie Pladsen, Jane Sivesind, Denise Tysland
• South Winneshiek Community Schools: Laura Brincks, Bernadine Gander
• Postville Community Schools: Laurie Smith
• Riceville Community Schools: Catherine Adams
• West Central Community Schools: Jackie Ruff
• Stoney Brook Village-Assisted Living in West Union: Brenda Cue

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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