March 28, 2011
IN THIS EDITION

News Releases specific to NE Iowa:
- ISU Extension Offers Food Preservation Classes
- ISU Extension Offers Pruning Workshop
- Iowa Learning Farms offers no-till, strip-till workshop
- National Volunteer Week Honors Volunteers

Click this link to access previously released items

News Release
Contact: Cindy Baumgartner, ISU Extension, cbaum@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599

ISU Extension offers Food Preservation Classes
Spring is just around the corner and people are starting to plan their gardens. Iowans can take advantage of the abundance of fresh, locally-grown produce by preserving it for year-round use. Canning, freezing, drying, fermenting, jelling, and pickling are all ways to store fresh food.

Home food preservation is not difficult and it can be a satisfying experience. Iowa State University Extension is offering several “So Easy to Preserve” workshops in April. Cindy Baumgartner, ISU Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist will talk about basic food preservation methods and will introduce safe methods of canning and freezing. Participants will take home USDA-approved recipes and handouts. Even people who have been canning for years should come and learn the latest recommendations.

One workshop will be held on April 5 at First Lutheran Church in Decorah from 5:30-7:30 pm. Register by calling 563-382-2949. Another workshop will be held at the ISU Extension—Allamakee County office in Waukon on April 7 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Pressure canner lids may be brought in for testing at 5 pm. Pre-registration and payment is required by calling 563-568-6345.

Luana Savings Bank will host the workshop on April 28 at 7 pm. Pre-registration by calling 563-245-1451. Register early as space is limited.

-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 Pruning Workshop

STRAWBERRY POINT--Pruning fruit trees can be a daunting task. Books are helpful, but the drawings don’t look like what’s growing in the back yard. To prune effectively, people need a basic understanding of how trees work.

Iowa State University Extension is hosting a pruning workshop on April 9 to show people basic principles of pruning fruit trees. Bob Hauer, ISU Extension horticulturist, will emphasize pruning decisions (what to cut and what to leave) based on knowledge of how trees grow. Proper pruning technique will also be discussed. The main focus will be on apple trees, but other fruit trees, grapevines and berries will also be covered. Bob will also answer questions about pruning ornamental trees and shrubs as well.

The workshop will be held from 2-4 pm at the Mike & Cindy Dorsey residence, 15493 Canoe Rd. Strawberry Point. The cost for this workshop is $5 per person. Please pre-register by calling the Clayton County Extension office at 563-245-1451 or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/clayton.

-30-

News Release

Contact: Carol L. Brown, communications specialist, 515-294-8912, Jay Jung, Chickasaw Co. USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist, 641-394-2514

Iowa Learning Farms offers no-till, strip-till workshop

NEW HAMPTON—With today’s high fuel prices, cash rents and land costs, there has never been a better time to explore reduced tillage options. A No-till/Strip-till Workshop, sponsored by Iowa Learning Farms, will be held on Tuesday, April 5, at 5:30 in New Hampton. It will be held at Kolby’s Dine and Stein, 503 W. Milwaukee Street. The workshop and a buffet meal are both free of charge.

The workshop will feature a panel of farmers who have been successfully using no-till or strip-till. They will offer information about their operations and discuss no-till or strip-till management issues with attendees. Persons interested in learning more about using these conservation-farming practices should attend.

The farmer panel includes Jon Gisleson, Floyd; Randy Norby, Osage; and Collin Jensen, West Union. These three northeast Iowa farmers have been strip-tilling or no-tilling for many years and are willing to share their knowledge with others. Jay Jung, Chickasaw County NRCS resource conservationist, will also be on hand to discuss government incentives for producers who are thinking about switching to a strip-till or no-till system.

No-till is a system in which the soil is not disturbed before planting, except for injecting fertilizer nutrients such as liquid manure or anhydrous ammonia. Tillage is entirely eliminated. Residue from the previous crop remains on the soil surface to protect it from erosion.

Strip-tillage marries the best aspects of conventional tillage with the benefits of no-till. Before planting (fall post-harvest, or spring pre-plant) a strip-tillage implement creates strips of tilled soil. Surface residue is left undisturbed between the tilled strips. In the spring, corn or soybeans are planted into the tilled soil strips, which warm and dry faster than the rest of the field, making this system ideal for some Iowa soil types.

With either method, landowners and farmers should see better water infiltration, improved soil structure, and potential for reduced fuel, machinery and other crop input costs.

The Iowa Learning Farms’ focus is on helping strong conservationist farmers teach other farmers about systems that will improve the quality of the soil and water on their farms, while remaining profitable and
sustainable. Iowa Learning Farms is a partnership between the Iowa Department of Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; in cooperation with Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Farm Bureau and the Iowa Water Center.

-30-

News Release

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

National Volunteer Week Honors Volunteers

Each year, thousands of volunteers in Iowa donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live. These volunteers will be among the millions across the country who will be spotlighted during National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, 2011.

Research conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that 26.8% of adult Americans volunteered 8.1 billion hours of service worth $169 billion in 2009. In Iowa approximately 883,900 volunteers contributed 93.7 million hours of service. Thirty-seven point eight percent (37.8%) of Iowans volunteer, ranking Iowa 2nd among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

One Iowa group that relies heavily on volunteers is the 4-H Youth Development Program. In 2010 over 8,500 adults volunteered in some capacity with 4-H. In Northeast Iowa, over 500 volunteers serve in many roles including club leaders, project leaders, and committee members for the 4-H Youth Development Program.

4-H volunteers serve as caring adults who help young people develop communication, citizenship, and leadership skills through 4-H projects and community service learning opportunities. Volunteers create safe environments for youth to learn, thrive, and grow in their communities.

Every day 4-H volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H Extension programs more beneficial to the youth in Northeast Iowa. Those interested in joining the team of Extension 4-H Volunteers are invited to find their local ISU Extension Office at www.extension.iastate.edu.

-30-

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, mjlynch@iastate.edu
Clayton: Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu
Fayette: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteege@iastate.edu
Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winnebago: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, court@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.