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News Release

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Get Answers to Your Yard and Garden Questions

NORTHEAST IOWA -- Dead spots in the lawn, shrubs to prune, insects on garden vegetables, unidentified blooming flowers – these are all things that prompt Iowans to call their local Iowa State University Extension office for consumer horticulture questions.

Six county extension councils in northeast Iowa are making sure those questions get answers by allocating staff time to offer direct assistance for homeowners. Bob Hauer is a horticulturist hired by Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw, Fayette, Floyd and Winneshiek counties to offer horticulture programming in the region. His job duties have recently been revised to offer more diagnostic responsibilities for local horticulture issues. Hauer has worked for ISU Extension for nine years.

Hauer is available to answer questions on a wide variety of issues affecting trees, shrubs, vegetables and lawns. Hauer is providing resources to the local ISU Extension office staff for common questions. County Extension offices can refer more specific questions to Hauer for assistance or questions can be emailed to bhauer@iastate.edu.

ISU Extension has additional gardening resources available for Iowans. People may call the ISU Extension Hortline from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 515-294-3108. In addition, the yard and garden news columns, ISU Extension online store, ISU Horticulture Web page and Horticulture and Home Pest News are places to find answers.

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News Release

Contact: Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension dairy specialist, jbentley@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension program coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu

Rolling to Host Pasture Walk on May 18
WATERVILLE – Pasture fencing will be the focus of the discussion at the next pasture walk scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 at the Nick and Luann Rolling Farm near Waterville.

Rolling Valley Jerseys is home to 85 head of Jersey and Jersey-cross cows. The cows have access to paddocks daily to supplement their ration. Fencing is important to this operation. There will be a discussion on how electric fences work and how farmers can make them work better.

Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist, and a representative from Gallagher Fencing will be on hand to demonstrate fence sizing, ground rods, tie wire and making corners.

The walk will run from 1:00-3:00 pm and is open to grass-based farmers or “graziers” of all species and at all levels. The Rolling Farm is located at 1536 Paint Creek Drive, Waterville. From Waterville on W Main St./Waterville Rd., go west on Waterville Rd. (Hwy X32) about 0.3 miles to Paint Creek Dr. Then 1.5 miles to the farm.

The Northeast Iowa Graziers plan monthly walks to local farms to help producers learn how better pasture management can result in both healthier profits and a healthier environment. The walks are organized by area graziers and supported by Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation.

For more information about the 2011 Pasture Walks, visit www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek or contact Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist at 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu.

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**News Release**

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

**Annual Plant Sales Great Way to Get Garden-Ready**

NORTHEAST IOWA – As Iowans make gardening plans for the year, the annual plant sales from local county Master Gardeners are a great way to get ready and find new plants. Plant sales are happening in many Iowa counties in the coming weeks, featuring a wide range of flowers and vegetables.

Plants for the sales come from Iowa Master Gardeners’ own home gardens. Master Gardeners staffing the sales are also an excellent resource to ask questions about gardening and to help choose appropriate plants. Make plans to check out these local sales.

The Allamakee County Master Gardener plant sale is scheduled for May 21 from 8:30 am to 1 pm at the Allamakee County Fairgrounds in Waukon.

The Winneshiek County Master Gardener plant sale is May 21 at the Winneshiek Farmers Market in Decorah from 8-11 am.

In Chickasaw County, a Plant & Garden Art Sale will be held at the Becky Schoenfeld home, 1053 S. 4th Avenue, New Hampton on May 14 from 8 am – noon.

To find more information, or ask about a plant sale not listed, contact any Iowa State University Extension county office at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/content/county-offices.

The Iowa Master Gardener program is a volunteer service training program of ISU Extension in which adults are given advanced training in horticulture in exchange for volunteer service to the community. The Iowa Master Gardener program has more than 3,000 volunteers statewide.
News Release

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

Garden Natives and Invasives Webinar Series Offered

NORTHEAST IOWA - The Iowa Master Gardener program is once again offering a series of summer webinars. The 2011 series titled "Garden Natives and Invasives" will be hosted by Iowa State University Extension county offices on the fourth Tuesday of the month, May through August.

"Plant Communities of Iowa," the first session in the series, is scheduled for May 24. During this session, the history and relevance of native ecosystems across Iowa will be discussed; including geology, soils, climate and human intervention. Information on the role plant culture, such as aspect, slope and soil type, plays in proper plant selection will also be discussed. By learning some of these principles, participants will be better able to design their own landscapes using native plants. Suggested species of native plants for each plant community will be mentioned. The session presenter is Howard Bright of Ion Exchange, Inc., Harpers Ferry, Iowa.

The webinar series is being offered at the ISU Extension offices in Howard and Fayette counties. Call the county office to pre-register: Howard, 563-547-3001 and Fayette, 563-425-3331. A small registration fee will be collected.

"Identification and Management of Invasive Woody Plants in Iowa" is the session scheduled for June 28. Participants will discover the history and reach of the Tallgrass Prairie Center during the third session on July 26. The final session on August 23, "Native Friends and Invading Forces," will highlight the importance of native species and discuss the problems and related issues with invasive species in Iowa.

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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