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

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Nick McCann Joins ISU Extension
Nick McCann has joined Iowa State University Extension and Outreach as a regional Food System Value Chain Coordinator. McCann will help farmers develop new products, lead discussions on product aggregation and distribution, and identify new partners and urban markets for those products in the Driftless Region.

McCann was previously a Sustainable Agriculture Business Specialist at the Des Moines office for the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). McCann has master's degrees in business administration and sustainable agriculture from ISU where he focused on efficiencies at small meat plants in Iowa.

McCann is housed in the Winneshiek County Extension office. His can be reached at (563) 382-2949 and nemccann@iastate.edu.

McCann will serve Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties. Those county Extension councils are matching their dollars with grant funding from the Northeast Iowa Funders Network and a two-year USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG).

ISU Extension and Outreach is proud to be a core partner of the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative. The work of both groups aligns under the common goal of healthy people, healthy environments and healthy economies. Information about ISU Extension programs and resources can be found at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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

Farm Succession Planning is Coming to Northeast Iowa
A family business, whether a dairy farm or a main street business, represents a lifetime of hard work and a commitment to a certain lifestyle, often times spanning generations. Good communications and planning make the transition from one generation to the next move smoothly and more successfully, according to David Baker, farm transition specialist with Beginning Farmer Center.

“Successfully transferring a farm business, or any business for that matter, begins with conversations about goals — the goals of all parties involved,” David Baker said. “The current owner and spouse, as well as future owner and spouse, need to be included in the conversations. These talks are often hard to initiate, but they are vital to creating an understanding that can be the basis for a succession plan.”

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host a farm succession workshop in January to help families begin those conversations and start putting transition plans on paper. Brenda Ranum, ISU Extension Regional Director, says the Farm Succession Workshop, to be held in Cresco, is a result of needs expressed to her by members of northeast Iowa extension councils and agri-business contacts.

“I hear people express concerns about the future, about whether a spouse will be OK with their goals and about parents or children not knowing what the other one plans to do, or when,” Ranum said. “As I listen, I hear that situations involve the whole family — men and women and more than one generation. That is why we are bringing this event to northeast Iowa.”

The Farm Succession Workshop is a multi-generational event for exiting owners and spouses, and succeeding owners and spouses. The workshop will be conducted on two consecutive partial days to better accommodate rural families and provide time to initiate conversations and written plans. David Baker will be joined by John R. Baker, Beginning Farmer Center administrator and attorney at law, to present the workshop.

“The first session allows participants to gather in small groups with others having the same role,” David Baker said. “Small group discussions offer participants a chance to share needs, wants, expectations and fears. Then as a large group we will look at what must happen to make the transition work.”

Day two of the workshop includes a review of the retirement plan concept and information on transfer plans, estate plans and a process for creating a family statement of intention. Family groups will then have time to write a Statement of Intention and Vision of the Future. “Families will go home with a Memorandum of Understanding that will be their blueprint to the future — knowing what they need to do, who they need to talk to and understanding that the plan may need to be adjusted along the way,” Baker added.

Registration for the workshop will open in December. Families interested in being placed on the mailing list or reserving a table for their family should contact the Howard County ISU Extension office at 563-547-3001 or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/howard.

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**Photos & Captions**

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

**2012 Nutrition Calendars Available**

“Healthy & Homemade” is the theme of the 2012 full-color calendar offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Each month features an easy-to-prepare recipe plus menu ideas and an activity tip.

“Our goal is to give families quick, monthly reminders of things they can do to be more healthy,” said Cindy Baumgartner, ISU Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist in northeast Iowa.
Each month features an easy-to-prepare recipe with nutritional analysis, menu idea, and full-color photo. The calendar includes fitness tips plus space for tracking daily fitness activities.

More than 230,000 copies of the English and Spanish versions have been distributed for use in nutrition programs across the country and in Guam.

The Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI) is proud to be a sponsor of the 2012 Nutrition Calendar in Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw, Howard, Fayette and Winneshiek counties. Contact the county Iowa State University Extension and Outreach office in those counties for your free copy.

The FFI is working to create community environments that support access to locally grown, healthy, affordable food and safe environments for physical activity and play.

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**News Release**

Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, wiemer@iastate.edu; 563-794-0599 or Erin Ludwig, Family Finance Specialist, eludwig@iastate.edu or 563-380-1475.

**Workshop Helps Iowa Educators Build Financial Literacy Skills in Students**

As Iowa students begin a new school year, many can look forward to developing better financial literacy skills along with their more traditional subjects. That's because their teachers, who were recently trained in the Family Economics and Financial Education curriculum and the High School Financial Planning Program curriculum, are better equipped and confident to teach them what they need to know about financial literacy.

High school business teachers from throughout northeast Iowa learned strategies and resources that are available to enhance their financial literacy offerings. The workshop was offered in partnership with the AEA and Northeast Iowa Community College and led by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Family Finance Specialists Erin Ludwig and Susan Taylor.

Teachers from the following schools participated: Allamakee, Clayton Ridge, Crestwood, Dubuque, Dubuque Senior, Easter Allamakee, Edgewood Colesburg, New Hampton, Maquoketa, MFL MarMac, North Fayette, Oelwein, South Winneshiek, Starmont, Sumner- Fredericksburg, Turkey Valley, West Central, and West Delaware.

Educating others to become better stewards of money is a challenge. It can be difficult to find resources that are affordable, unbiased, and not trying to sell you something. Fortunately, there are a variety of resources available for parents and educators -- many of them are research-based and free.

For children, experts agree that children's books are a good way to teach money management concepts. Preschool children can learn from books such as "The Berenstein Bears Trouble with Money." A child in first-to-third grades would enjoy learning from "Arthur's Funny Money." Ask your public library for books on the topic!

“Thrive by Five” teaches preschoolers about spending and savings (www.creditunion.coop/pre_k/index.html). Games, playtime and videos can also teach children to grow up to be responsible, clear-thinking individuals who can make wise decisions about money. Visit www.jumpstart.org for good ideas and resources.
eXtension is an interactive learning environment (www.extension.org) that also provides answers to a variety of questions related to finances as well as links to curricula teaching concepts such as entrepreneurship.

ISU Extension supports healthy people, healthy environments, and healthy economies. This information is one way ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Northeast Iowa a better place to live. For more information on resources to teach money management skills, contact Erin Ludwig, Family Finance Specialist at 563-380-1475 or eludwig@iastate.edu.

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Other Releases

Farm Energy Reduction Topic of Iowa Learning Farms Webinar
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/farm-energy-reduction-webinar
Mark Hanna, ISU Extension agricultural and biosystems engineer, will present “ISU Farm Energy: Energy Conservation and Efficiency” during the Iowa Learning Farms’ October webinar, to be held Wednesday, Oct. 19, at noon.

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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Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winnebago: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, ccourt@iastate.edu

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