Sept 27, 2010
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News Release

Contact: Dan Lane, Region Program Coordinator, 563-245-1451, danlane@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

4-H’ers Compete at the National Barrow Show
NORTHEAST IOWA -- A combined team of 4-H members from Clayton and Fayette Counties participated in swine judging at the National Barrow Show in Austin, Minnesota in September. The team consisting of Joe Boehm, Kaitie Orr, Kennie Orr, and Cole Spain placed eighth out of forty-seven teams that traveled from states including Montana, Georgia, Oklahoma and Indiana. Individually Kaitie Orr placed seventh overall in the contest. Congratulations to the team and Kaitie for their success.

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News Release

Contact: Erin Ludwig, ISU Extension Family Resource Mgt, eludwig@iastate.edu or 563-380-1475
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

ISU Extension Offers Financial Coaching Services
NORTHEAST IOWA -- Iowa State University Extension in Allamakee, Howard, and Winneshiek counties is now offering free one-on-one, confidential financial coaching assistance by trained volunteers.

Are you in need of a financial tune-up? Are you struggling to manage your finances? Are you not sure what bills to pay first? Don’t know where to look for help? No matter what your income level is, there may be times when we need to seek help, especially when it comes to managing our finances.
The volunteer financial coach offers education and resources to help people gain control of their finances. They serve as a motivator to build individual skills and to connect them with tools unique to their situation and goals. This service is appropriate for individuals who need assistance in topics such as starting and maintaining a spending plan, basic money management, saving toward a goal, and understanding credit.

Clients meet with trained volunteers for an initial assessment and then follow-up visits are scheduled as needed. For more information, contact your local ISU Extension Office in Waukon at 563-568-6345, in Cresco at 563-547-3001, or Decorah at 563-382-2949.

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News Release

Contacts:
Dan Loy, Iowa Beef Center, 515-294-1058, dloy@iastate.edu
Denise Schwab, Iowa State University Extension beef program specialist, 319-472-4739, dschwab@iastate.edu

Forage Testing Project Open to Iowa Producers
NORTHEAST IOWA - This year’s weather has been one for the record books, and that’s not good news for the state’s cattle producers. Dan Loy, interim director of the Iowa Beef Center (IBC) at Iowa State University (ISU) said continued rain has made hay baling extremely difficult, resulting in over-mature hays, rain damaged hays and lack of hay supplies in some areas.

“Our beef team has developed a forage testing and cattle feeding project to help producers manage their poor forage conditions and prevent calving problems,” Loy said. “This forage testing project is a multi-pronged approach by ISU Extension beef program specialists to determine the nutrient value of this year’s forages, assist in balancing feed rations for cattle performance and educate people about forage nutrient values and rations.”

IBC, the Grass Based Livestock Working Group from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Forage and Grassland Council and the Southern Iowa Forage and Livestock Committee are sponsoring the first phase of this project this fall: collecting and testing forages. Additional sponsors are being sought for the education portion of the project and a second year of testing. This project currently includes a 50 percent cost share on sample testing for producers, thanks in part to a collaboration with Dairyland Laboratories in Wisconsin.

In addition to receiving information on quality of their forages, producers might use test results to prove losses under the Farm Service Agency’s Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Denise Schwab, ISU Extension beef specialist who is helping lead the project, said county extension offices are vital links in the project. The ISU Extension offices in Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Howard, Fayette and Winneshiek counties are participating in the program.

“The extension beef specialists will work directly with county offices to provide all necessary sample bags, information forms and mailing envelopes, and do necessary monitoring of samples and sample locations,” she said. “We consider county offices our partners in this project, from publicizing its
availability to helping direct producers to the appropriate people and resources to participate in the project. Producers will bring their samples to the county office, so the county office staff are vital to the success of this project.”

While most of the samples will be weather-impacted hay samples, Loy said the project also will include some silage samples.

“We want to be sure we have adequate sample numbers to be able to offer ration balance assistance yet this fall for winter feeding,” he said. “So, if you’re interested in taking part, or you have questions about the project, contact your county ISU Extension office or your beef specialist soon.”

Producers in Howard and Chickasaw counties may contact Russ Euken at 641-231-1711. Producers in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette and Winneshiek counties may contact Denise Schwab at 319-721-9624. Those who would like to learn more about forage sampling can download, print and use this newly updated publication from IBC, “Forage Sampling and Sampling Equipment” at www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1098B.pdf

-Newsmaker-

News Release

Contact: Bob Hauer, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, (641) 394-2174, bhauer@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Learn How to Make Seasonal Wreaths at Two Workshops

Throughout the summer and fall, vegetable gardeners harvest and preserve the fruits of their labor with freezing, canning and drying. But don’t forget about the flowers! Many flowers and grasses can be air dried in a dark location and will look great in arrangements until you replace them with spring daffodils. Dried herbs, flowers and grasses can be used to make a “harvest wreath” that will stay attractive and fragrant for months. Similar wreaths can be found online for $50, or you could learn to make your own!

Iowa State University Extension is offering two workshops in October to teach people how to make two different seasonal wreaths.

An Ornamental Wreath workshop is scheduled for October 11 from 6:30-8:00 pm. at the Elkader Greenhouse. Participants will make a 12-inch wreath using a variety of ornamental grasses and dried flowers like globe amaranth, yarrow and hydrangea. The cost for the workshop is $10 and pre-registration is required by calling the Clayton County ISU Extension office at 563-245-1451.

A Harvest Wreath workshop is scheduled for October 18 from 6:30-8:00 at the Allamakee County Extension Office in Waukon. Extension horticulturist, Bob Hauer, will talk about growing and drying “everlasting” flowers, with the emphasis on varieties that air dry well. After a short presentation, everyone will be able to try their hand at making a 6 inch wreath of dried flowers, lavender and evergreen sprigs to take home. The cost for this workshop is $8.00 for all materials.

Participants should bring clippers to the workshops. Online registration for either workshop is available at www.extension.iastate.edu/allamakee. Workshop space is limited.
News Release

Contact: Brenda Ranum, Region 4 Director, 563-382-2949, ranum@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

NE Food and Farm Coalition awarded $15,700 grant

DECORAH -- NE Iowa Food and Farm Coalition has been awarded $15,700 to provide technical assistance for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification for fruit and vegetable producers in the state.

The grant is one of 15, totaling $238,548, by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to Iowa organizations to help enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in Iowa. The Department received $276,310 through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to support the program.

“Iowa fruit and vegetable growers are facing pressure to comply with food safety standards, known as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and wholesale buyers are increasingly requiring a third-party GAPs certification,” says Teresa Wiemerslage, ISU Extension Program Coordinator.

“The GAP program educates growers about specific handling practices that minimize the risks of food-borne pathogens in the finished product,” says Wiemerslage. “This project will create the human infrastructure needed for a food safety certification program in Iowa by training food safety resource personnel and auditors.”

The Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition (NIFF) is the part of the Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative creating opportunities for producers to engage in the local food system. NIFF works to regionally advance planning and policy change to support processing, distribution and storage opportunities. The Winneshiek County Agriculture Extension District is the fiscal sponsor of the grant.

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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

Pasture Walk Near Monona on Oct 20

MONONA – An organic cow-calf and hog operation will be featured at the next Northeast Iowa Graziers Pasture Walk on October 20 at the Dan Specht Farm north of Monona.

Discussion topics include fall stockpiling and winter forage management and will include a tour of animal handling facilities.

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 Specht Farm is located at 207 Country Road, Monona. From Monona, go 2 mi. north on X26 (Falcon Ave., a.k.a. Monona-Rossville Rd.) to Country Road and the first set of buildings on the left. From Rossville, go 7 mi. south on X26 to Country Road.
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 2010 Pasture Walks, contact Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension Dairy Specialist at 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu.

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Other Releases

Ask the ISU Extension Garden Experts About: Harvesting Green Tomatoes and Storing Apples and Gladiolus Bulbs

Harvesting green tomatoes, keeping gladiolus bulbs over winter and storing apples are topics for this week’s column.

Iowa State University Extension news releases are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/.

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: Bonnie Sorum, 563-382-2949, bsorum@iastate.edu

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Teresa Wiemerslage, Iowa State University Extension Region 4 Extension Education & Communications Coordinator
PH: 563-568-6345, Cell: 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu
www.iowafoodandfitness.org  www.iowafreshfood.com
www.extension.iastate.edu