

NEW

from Van Buren County

March 2021



Van Buren County

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WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

OUR DOORS MAY BE LOCKED....

But our commitment to serving Iowans has not changed!
You can contact us by calling 319-293-3039 or by emailing us at
nancarr@iastate.edu or jbathje@iastate.edu

FREE - Money Smart: Prioritizing Bills, Debt and Credit Series Begins March 3, 2021

It can be tough to decide which bills and monthly expenses to pay first, especially if you're on a tight budget. Although it's important to try to make all of your monthly payments, it may not always be possible.

"When you have sound information and strong skills, you can make your money work for you and for your future even when money is short. Money Smart tools and ideas help take control of your financial situation," Mary Weinand, Human Sciences | Family Finances specialist said."

The topics are presented in four- one hour online Zoom sessions provided by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Improve your financial wellbeing by:

- * developing an Emergency Spending Plan
- * creating a Prioritized Bill Paying strategy based on future consequences
- * learning ways to manage your debt
- * understand the importance of credit reports
- * improving your credit scores

The unbiased, relevant, and accurate financial education on-line course meets on Wednesday's in March: 3, 10, 17, 24 2021 from noon to 1:00 p.m.

The course is **free** but pre-registration is required online clicking on the Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/moneysmart17442>

You'll receive an Email Confirmation Providing the **FREE Zoom Class** Information.

For Questions Please Contact: Mary Weinand at mweinand@iastate.edu, Carol Ehlers at xehlers@iastate.edu, or Jeannette Mukayisire at jeannet@iastate.edu

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Soil Testing Resources - Information on how to take a soil sample in your lawn or garden

In December 2017 the Iowa State University Soil Laboratory closed its doors. Due to continued need for soil testing services by our clients, we are now forwarding our clients to the University of Minnesota Soil Testing and Research Analytical Laboratory. This is because it is a public university and as a convenience, you have the free choice to choose a different university laboratory or private lab. [Soil Testing Resources](#). If you wish to use another lab, please consult the IDALs listing of certified labs, It can be found at the IDALS website, commercial fertilizer bureau.

The first step is to take the soil sample(s). [Instruction Sheet for Taking a Soil Sample](#)

After taking a soil sample from your yard or garden, you will need to print and fill out a [Soil Sample Submission Sheet](#). Send this sheet along with your soil sample(s) and the fee, to a soil testing laboratory. This form is for The University of Minnesota, you may choose another laboratory. A list of certified labs in Iowa is found at <https://iowaagriculture.gov/commercial-feed-and-fertilizer-bureau/commer...>

After a few weeks, you will receive a soil sample report from the laboratory. This is an example [Example Soil Test Report](#).

For any questions in relation to taking and submitting a soil sample, please contact

[Steven Eilers](#)

Urban Agriculture Specialist

seilers@iastate.edu

319-234-6811



The Iowa Economic Development Authority has a new e-commerce platform, Shop Iowa, that gives retailers, particularly those that didn't previously have an online presence, a place to showcase their products and businesses. Learn more and register. <https://www.shopiowa.com/sell/>

2021 Workshops for Morel and Oyster Mushrooms Certification Scheduled

To legally sell morel and oyster mushrooms in Iowa, sellers must complete a certification workshop that covers identifying morels and oyster and distinguishing between true and false morels. People can be poisoned by eating misidentified mushrooms. By the end of the workshops, participants will recognize true edible morel and oyster mushrooms.

There will be two ONLINE workshops on Saturday, **March 20th, and April 3rd, 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m.** You only need to participate in one of the sessions to receive certification. Make sure to save your spot, register online at <http://bit.ly/morel21>. Once on the page, click new user sign up. Registration is \$50 per person. If you are seeking recertification, you will receive a notification to the email provided on your 2018 registration to sign up at a discounted rate.

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... and justice for all

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