

# AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

2223 250th St.

Washington, IA 52353

319-653-4811

newsletter

January 2014

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*The fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the County Extension ANR Program."*

### ... and justice for all

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## LOCAL DAIRY DAYS FEATURE PROFITABLE DAIRY PRACTICES

Iowa dairy producers will have the opportunity to hear Iowa State University Extension Specialists share information on emerging dairy industry issues at the 2014 ISU Extension Dairy Days scheduled at seven eastern Iowa locations between January 20 and February 6. Dairy Days will be held in Kalona on February 4, 2014.

Topics include:

- Grass/Legume Forage Mixtures for Dairy
- Contracting Corn Silage for Your Dairy
- Top Legal Issues Dairy Producers Should Know
- Leave No Dairy Calf Behind
- Calf Facilities and Repurposing Buildings
- Optimizing Your Heifer Enterprise.

The final segment will include an interactive survey and discussion with Extension Dairy Field Specialists on Dairy Herd Management Practices. Dairy Days will be offered in Kalona on February 4 at the Kalona Chamber of Commerce at 514 B Ave. in Kalona. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the program will conclude by 3:00 pm. Contact Washington County Extension at 319-653-4811 for more information and a list of other locations and dates. A \$15 registration fee covers proceedings costs. Freedom Security Bank of Kalona an office of Central State Bank is providing snacks and lunch. Pre-registration is requested by January 31 or your local dairy specialist, Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496.

## 2014 AG BREAKFAST SERIES

The Iowa City Chamber Ag/Bio Committee is again offering a series of educational ag programs at the Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old HWY 218 S. The program series includes the following dates, times and speakers:

January 24 - 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey

Feb. 28 - 7:30-8:30 a.m. - State Representatives Sally Stutsman and Tim Kapucian

March 28 - 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Local Foods Panel

Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. Preregister by contacting Maggie Putman, Director of Special Events and Leadership Programs, at 319-337-9637. There is a charge for the breakfast which is payable at the door.

## PRODUCTION/RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Gringer Ag, Inc., in cooperation with Iowa State University Extension & Outreach will host the 2014 Crop Production & Risk Management Seminar. The program will be held at the Johnson County Extension Office, on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch is provided.

Topics include 2014 FSA farm programs, weed/insect resistance, cover crops, grain market update and 2014 cash input costs including rental rates. Contact Melissa at 319-338-2280 to pre-register.

## CROP ADVANTAGE CONFERENCE TO FEATURE OWEN AND TAYLOR ON JANUARY 29

Mike Owen, ISU Extension Weed Specialist, and Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist, will be featured at this year's Crop Advantage conference at the Clarion Highlander in Iowa City on January 29. Owen will discuss "Managing Herbicide Resistant Weeds," and Taylor will look ahead to the weather outlook for 2014. Also featured at the conference are topics on making fertilizer decisions, and corn rootworm management strategies.



The conference is one of 13 scheduled around the state, where crop producers can choose among a variety of topics, including pest management, cover crops, bio-energy crops, soil fertility, and grain marketing. "Each year attendees tell me they wish there were more breakout sessions during the day. They are interested in so many of the topics and can't be at every workshop. The topics are in demand. It's a great problem to have," says Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist in eastern Iowa.

Certified crop advisors can earn up to 5 credits at the conference in Iowa City and private pesticide applicators can become re-certified. Advance registration for each location is \$35 and includes workshop materials, lunch, and refreshments. An additional fee is charged for CCA credits and private pesticide applicator recertification. Registration less than one week prior to the meeting or at the door is \$45. Other sites in eastern Iowa for the conference are at the Catfish Bend Casino in Burlington on January 10 and at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo on January 23. Registration materials for all sites are available at [www.cropadvantage.org](http://www.cropadvantage.org) or from your local ISU Extension office.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST TO PRODUCERS OFFERED AT MULTISTATE BEEF CONFERENCE JAN. 14

ARTICLE | MON, 12/23/2013 - 09:13 | BY CHRIS CLARK, SHERRY HOYER

CRESTON, Iowa -- The 3-State Beef Conference will be Tuesday, Jan. 14 at Southwestern Community College in Creston. Chris Clark, beef program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, said the conference agenda has information for cow-calf, stocker and feedlot operations.



"The topics and speakers will provide timely information on relevant topics, and all were chosen based on producer input," Clark said. "This year, Extension specialists from all three states – Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska – will present information in person at the Iowa location."

Rob Kallenbach from the University of Missouri will provide information on the potential benefits of using cover crops as an alternative forage source in a grazing system. Tim Eggers from Iowa State will present information on the decision process of moving pasture land to crop production, as well as helping participants think through challenges of deciding whether to lease pasture land or keep cow/calf pairs in drylot for longer times. Rick Rasby from University of Nebraska—Lincoln will discuss drylot management of cows with emphasis on financial, nutritional and practical considerations.

The program at the Southwestern Iowa Community College campus in Creston begins with 5:30 p.m. registration p.m., and the first session beginning at 6 p.m.; dinner and two more presentations follow. Cost is \$20 per person and includes the meal and copy of the conference proceedings. Preregistration is required by Friday, Jan. 10, by calling the Page County Extension Office at 877-596-7243 .

Program details, contacts and links to brochures for all locations are available on the conference website at [www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/3stbeef/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/3stbeef/). The conference also will be held at the Hundley Whaley Learning Discovery Center, Albany, Mo, (Jan. 15); the Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ithaca, Neb. (Jan. 16); and the Gage County Extension Office, Beatrice, Neb. (Jan. 16).

## EASTERN IOWA FORAGE PRICES

These are hay prices paid at auction in recent weeks. Much of the price information is obtained from USDA Hay Market News. Personal contacts of local Iowa hay auctions secured price information for these market outlets. Auctions were chosen to reflect prices in SE Iowa. Other nearby auctions may exist. No endorsement of the listed auctions is intended.

Keosauqua (SE IA) Sin that 11:30A Alfalfa & Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$4.00-6.75/b

Grass : SmSq \$2.75-4.50/bale; LgRd \$40-65/bale Straw \$2.50-4.25/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa: LgSq \$65-85/B; LgRd \$100/bale Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$4.50-600/bale Grass: LgRd \$65-80/bale

Oats & Pea hay: LgRd \$50/b Straw: LgRd \$42.50/bale Cornstalks: (SmSq \$2.25/b; LgSq \$25-27.50/b Oct); LgRd \$37-37.0-35/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) Alfalfa: SmSq \$5.10-7.80/b; LgSq \$75-110/b

Mixed Leg/Gr: LgRd \$115/b Grass: SmSq \$3.50-5.10/b ; LgSq \$45-65/b; LgRd \$52.50-

82.50/bale Oat & new seeding Hay: LgSq \$50-55/b CRP: SmSq \$2.75/b; LgRd \$40-

65/b Straw: SmSq \$4.00-4.80/bale; LgRd \$405-50/b Cornstalks: (LgRd \$30-37.50/bale Oct)



## YOUNG LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS NETWORK AND LEARN AS PEER GROUP MEMBERS



Colin Johnson is a young Iowa farmer who moved back to the family farm in 2009, started a family and began managing a cow-calf operation. He understands the struggles of young and beginning livestock farmers -- because he is one. He says Iowa farmers and ranchers are independent by nature and sometimes reluctant to seek advice. The day-to-day activities of a livestock operation don't allow much time to analyze the operation or connect with peers for learning or social interaction. Livestock producers say they like to learn from other producers. They want to have more discussions and opportunities to interact with their peers -- beyond those in their neighborhood. Johnson said support for young and beginning producers is increasing across Iowa -- from

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, commodity groups and agricultural organizations.

### Extension and Outreach Response

Johnson also coordinates the Beginning and Young Livestock Producer Network, an Extension and Outreach initiative started in 2012. He is an extension program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and worked with the Iowa Pork Industry Center prior to returning to southeast Iowa. A primary responsibility of these roles is providing education in ways that help producers enjoy more success. BYLPN targets livestock producers under age 35, as well as aspiring livestock producers. ISU Extension and Outreach's objective is to develop a network of producer peer groups across Iowa, connect participants with educational and mentor opportunities, and provide support to the groups as members take over leadership responsibilities. An ISU Extension and Outreach management team is spearheading the effort and working with local commodity groups and county extension councils to establish regional peer groups and develop programs. BYLPN is an Extension and Outreach strategic initiative and receives funding from the Vice President for Extension and Outreach.

As 2013 ends, there are eight peer groups across Iowa ranging in size from 12 to 30 young and beginning producers. Each group is made up of producers from a five to eight county area and determines its focus, whether that is dairy, swine, cow-calf or general livestock production. Organizers suggest groups meet quarterly and schedule dates around seasonal workloads. Meetings are often attended by young producer couples interested in learning together and enjoying the social aspects of the peer group.

### Producers Are Seeing Benefits

The northwest Iowa peer group is interested in learning and talking about the business side of livestock production, the economics and financial management, according to Vernon Knaack, Correctionville member. Their meetings have included speakers addressing topics ranging from production practices to risk management and credit access and local tours of allied industries.

The southwest Iowa cow-calf oriented peer group encourages group members to give peer demonstrations and visits to member operations -- because the operations are all different and it gives members a chance to discuss what each producer is doing and why. Randy Dreher, Audubon member, said he always comes away with something he can apply to his own operation. The northeast dairy peer group members are seeing the benefits of gathering and reviewing farm data against benchmarks, and participating in a variety of financial and production education. Monica and Brian Enyart, Postville, say the peer group is a comfortable group to interact with because members are all at the same stage of life and have the same questions and same problems. Without this interaction, they'd keep doing things the same way and getting the same results. The group allows them to evaluate what they are doing, see what others are doing, and learn about different or better ways of solving their problems. Learn more about the Beginning and Young Livestock Producer peer groups at [www.extension.iastate.edu/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/)

## IOWA BEEF CENTER HEIFER SERIES ADDRESSES CHALLENGES OF REBUILDING BEEF COW HERD

ARTICLE | MON, 12/23/2013 - 10:08 | BY DENISE SCHWAB, SHERRY

HOYER, WILLY KLEIN

AMES, Iowa – One of the biggest challenges facing cattlemen today is maintaining young cows in their herd long term. The Iowa Beef Center, in partnership with the Iowa Cattleman's Association, is offering a program series focusing specifically on management practices to keep young cows in the herd to improve long-term profitability.

The Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment series of programs is a follow-up to the 2012 series on yearling heifers, Heifer Development – Rebuilding our Future. The goal of the 2014 series is to pick up where the 2012 series left off, and looks at the nutrition, health, calving and reproductive management of bred heifers through their second breeding season.



Denise Schwab, ISU Extension and Outreach beef specialist, said there are a couple of reasons for increased numbers of heifers in cow herds and producer interest in better management of these animals. “Throughout the drought the last two years, we’ve seen an increase in the number of heifers retained for the cow herd, despite the high rate of cow culling,” Schwab said. “This resulted in one of the smallest beef cow herds in the last 60 years, but also one of the youngest and most productive herds ever. Maintaining all of these young cows in the herd long term is a big challenge to cattlemen.”

Schwab points to the research conducted by the National Animal Health Monitoring System in 2007-08 that reported 33 percent of all culled cows left the herd because they did not conceive during the breeding season, and nearly 16 percent of all culled cows left the herd before five years of age.

“If the national beef cow herd is to grow, it will require better management of the replacement heifer and young cows to improve conception and retention,” said Schwab. “This conference will give producers information they can apply to their herd management.” All sessions include a meal for those preregistered at least two days prior to the event. The \$20 fee is payable at the door. Walk-in registrations are \$25 per person and a meal is not guaranteed.

### Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment locations and dates

- Jan. 16, Maquoketa – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Centerstone Inn/Suites, 1910 Nairn Drive. Preregister, call 319-472-4739 .
- Jan. 21, Nashua – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Borlaug Learning Center, ISU Research Farm, 3327 290th Street. To preregister, call 641-394-2174 .
- Jan. 21, Postville – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Postville Vet Clinic, 110 Hyman Dr. To preregister, call 319-472-4739 .
- Jan. 23, Anita – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Anita Community Center, 805 Main Street. To preregister, call 712-769-2600 .
- Jan. 28, Spencer – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Spencer School Administration Bldg, 23 E 7th Street. To preregister, call 712-262-2264x10 or email [mhorst@iastate.edu](mailto:mhorst@iastate.edu).
- Jan. 29, Holstein – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lohff-Schuman Community Center, 301 Lohff Schuman Dr. To preregister, call 712-225-6196 or email [sechler@iastate.edu](mailto:sechler@iastate.edu).
- Feb. 4, Humboldt – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ox Bow Park, Izaak Walton League, 7 Park Rd. Preregister, call 515-332-2201.
- Feb. 5, Mount Pleasant – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Henry County Ext. Office, 127 N. Main St. Preregister, call 319-385-8126 .
- Feb. 5, Albia – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Monroe County Extension Office, 219 B Ave West. Preregister, call 641-932-5612 .
- Feb. 6, Winterset – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Madison Co. Fairgrounds, Jackson Bldg., W. Summit St. Preregister, call 515-462-1001 .
- Feb. 6, Osceola – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Clarke County Fairgrounds Event Center, Hwy 34 W. Preregister, call 641-342-331.
- Feb. 19, Ames – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Hansen Ag Student Learning Center, 2816 Mortensen Rd. To preregister, call 641-774-2016 .

For more information contact a beef specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach or the Iowa Beef Center website at: [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org).

## IOWA LEARNING FARMS LAUNCHES NEW COVER CROP CALCULATOR TOOL

ARTICLE | WED, 12/18/2013 - 12:25 | BY CAROL BROWN, LIZ JUCHEMS

AMES, Iowa — Cover crops are planted in the fall and stay on fields over the winter, covering the ground with foliage and holding soil in place with their roots. These assets help to slow soil erosion and reduce nitrate leaching, thereby improving water quality. They also improve soil health and productivity and suppress weeds. Many farmers are seeking management advice about implementing cover crops into their corn-soybean rotations.

To help farmers in their decision-making, Iowa Learning Farms has launched a new tool to help calculate and compare the costs of using cover crops, including seed, application and chemical termination. Modeled after the popular Ag Decision Maker tools developed by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the calculator can be used for a single cover crop species or up to six species to a mixture. The tool calculates the cost of drilling and aerial application for easy comparison. It is available as an Excel file on the ILF website. To use the calculator, download and open the Excel file (Microsoft Excel software must be installed on your computer): [www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/content/cover-crops-0](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/content/cover-crops-0).

Cover crop acres are increasing as more farmers see their short- and long-term benefits. In Iowa, winter rye is most commonly planted as a single species and some farmers are using mixes such as rye, oats, tillage radish or turnips. Some cover crops also are being used for grazing livestock or as an extra rotation to produce small grain cover crop seed. To learn more about cover crops visit the ILF website for resources and videos on planting and terminating: [www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/).

Iowa Learning Farms is building a Culture of Conservation, encouraging adoption of residue management and conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best in-field management practices that increase water and soil quality while remaining profitable. Iowa Learning Farms is a partnership of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (USEPA section 319); in cooperation with Conservation Districts of Iowa, the Iowa Farm Bureau and the Iowa Water Center.

## HIGH TUNNEL BRAMBLE PRODUCTION FEATURED AT CONFERENCE

ARTICLE | FRI, 12/06/2013 - 15:20 | BY JOE HANNAN, CHRISTA HARTSOOK

AMES, Iowa — High tunnel bramble production will be offered as an educational track at the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association's annual conference Jan. 23-24 in Ankeny. The day-long high tunnel track will be offered Friday, Jan. 24 with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists Linda Naeve, Joe Hannan, Ajay Nair, Donald Lewis and Gail Nonnecke instructing.

They will cover multiple aspects of bramble production including raspberry anatomy, life cycle, fertility, cultural practices, post-harvest handling, marketing and pest management. This workshop is geared toward growers who already have a high tunnel and are growing brambles or those looking to add brambles to their high tunnel. Space is limited for this track and available on a first come, first served basis.

### IFVGA Annual conference details

The Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association conference will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center on the Des Moines Area Community College campus, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny. The two-day conference includes a trade show and a variety of speakers and informative sessions for Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association members. More than 30 exhibitors will display the latest seeds, supplies, equipment and grower information.

The conference registration form and more conference details can be downloaded from the association's website at [www.ifvga.org/](http://www.ifvga.org/); completed registrations can be emailed to [info@ifvga.org](mailto:info@ifvga.org). Registration for the bramble production track is \$55 prior to January 7 - same as the conference registration prior to January 7. After that, conference fees are \$70 per day. IFVGA membership must be current; dues are \$50 per farm. For more information, contact Joe Hannan at [jmhannan@iastate.edu](mailto:jmhannan@iastate.edu) or 515-993-4281 .



## MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. “My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season,” says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist.

Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service. Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Confinement site sessions are as follows:

Location	Date	Time
County Extension Office, Fairgrounds, Sigourney	January 17, 2014	9:30 AM
County Extension Office, Mt. Pleasant	January 17, 2014	1:30 PM
County Extension Office, Vinton	January 28, 2014	1:30 PM
County Extension Office, Iowa City	February 4, 2014	9:30 AM
SE Research Farm, Crawfordsville	February 4, 2014	1:30 PM
County Extension Office, Tipton	February 6, 2014	9:30 AM
County Extension Office, Muscatine	February 6, 2014	1:30 PM
County Extension Office, Washington	February 11, 2014	7:00 PM
County Extension Office, Fairfield	February 13, 2014	9:30 AM
County Extension Office, Washington - Dry Manure	February 17, 2014	1:00 PM

**Commercial Manure Applicator Certification** is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 7, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk and Washington County Extension Office. For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at [gregb@iastate.edu](mailto:gregb@iastate.edu) or 319/337-2145; Tom Miller, Program Specialist, [tmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:tmiller@iastate.edu) 319-653-4811 or Terry Steinhart, Swine Specialist, [tsteinha@iastate.edu](mailto:tsteinha@iastate.edu) 641-622-2680.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2013-14 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration is not required.

01/06/14	1:30 PM	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion Marengo
02/13/14	1:30 PM	Keokuk	Sigourney	ISU Extension Keokuk County
02/13/14	7:00 PM	Keokuk	Sigourney	ISU Extension Keokuk County
02/18/14	7:00 PM	Washington	Washington	ISU Extension Washington County
02/20/14	1:30 PM	Johnson	Iowa City	ISU Extension Johnson County
02/21/14	1:30 PM	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Showroom Williamsburg
02/21/14	4:15 PM	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg. Showroom Williamsburg

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## PQA PLUS<sup>®</sup> TRAINING SESSION SET IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are teaming up to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in the Pork Quality Assurance Plus<sup>®</sup> (PQA Plus<sup>®</sup>) program. One certification session has been set for January 8 in Washington County. Washington County administrative assistant Nancy Adrian said the session will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250<sup>th</sup> St. Washington, and will be taught by ISU Extension and Outreach swine program specialist Tom Miller. "The PQA Plus<sup>®</sup> session is set for 7 to 9 p.m.," she said. "Anyone who plans to attend should let us know as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate materials for everyone."

Cost for this certification program is \$25 per person and is payable at the door. To preregister, contact the Washington County Extension office at 877 - 435-7322 or 319-653-4811. To learn more about PQA Plus<sup>®</sup> please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/certification/default.aspx>

## ISU ECONOMIST, CHAD HART, TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER ON JANUARY 13

Local crop producers are invited to attend a grain marketing and crop insurance informational meeting on Monday, January 13, 2014 featuring Iowa State University Economist, Dr. Chad Hart. The meeting will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in the basement of the Extension Office. Dr. Hart will share his thoughts about the commodity market direction. Crop insurance updates will also be provided.

A light meal will be served from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by Washington County Extension and Fulton Insurance. There is no charge to attend. Please RSVP by calling 319-461-6260.

## WOMEN, LAND AND LEGACY LISTENING SESSION SET

Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) is an outreach project in Iowa that brings women that have an interest in agriculture, local food and natural resources together at the local level to converse, listen and become empowered for involvement on their land and in their communities. **Johnson County** is the latest county to become part of this statewide effort.

As the first event, two "Listening Sessions" have been scheduled for February 6, 2014. The two listening sessions can accommodate different schedules, with the first one running from 2:30 – 4:30 pm, with registration starting at 2:00 pm; and the second from 6:30 – 8:30 pm with registration at 6:00 pm. The participants of both sessions will meet at a potluck from 4:45 to 5:45 pm as a bridge between the two Listening Sessions. The Listening Session is the first step in the WLL process and is an opportunity for local women to connect and network with each other as well as local agricultural agencies and organizations. One objective of this Listening Session will be the development of direction and guidance by the participants. Pre-registration for the Listening Session is available now through January 31, 2014. Please call Wren Almitra at 319-337-2322 (Ext. 3) or go to [www.jeswcd.org](http://www.jeswcd.org) to pre-register. The WLL Listening Sessions scheduled for February 6 will be held at the Johnson County Extension & Outreach Office located at 4265 Oak Crest Hill Road SE in Iowa City.

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

Washington County Extension  
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Washington, IA 52353

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## **2014 CORNBELT COW-CALF CONFERENCE- PROFITABLE EXPANSION**

OTTUMWA, Iowa — The premier Iowa educational event for cow-calf producers is offering a comprehensive package of information to attendees. The popular Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference has provided timely, accurate and important information to the state's beef cattle industry for over 40 years. The conference is set for Jan. 18 at the Bridge View Center, Ottumwa.

The program targets topics designed to help producers of all ages. From genetic selection for profit to cover crop options and heifer development, professionals from universities and private industry as well as cow-calf producers in the Midwest will lead these sessions and offer attendees valuable information to put into practice on their farms. "We have three keynote speakers -- internationally recognized speaker and author Dave Robison of Indiana; Lee Leachman, manager of Leachman Cattle of Colorado; and Brian Heudepohl of Williamsburg Veterinary Clinic," Wall said. "Robison will talk about profit potential of cover crops. Leachman will share expertise on blending composite breeds and explain his \$Profit index. And Heudepohl will explain his heifer development program and successful health protocols to help producers expand their operations."

Afternoon break-out sessions include a panel discussion with individual focus on baleage harvesting, storage and cow economics, featuring Jeremy Erdmann, senior design engineer for John Deere's Hay and Forage Platform, Dave Robison of Legacy Seeds, Inc., and Patrick Gunn, ISU Extension cow-calf specialist. A risk management discussion includes Ryan Drollette, ISU Extension farm management specialist, and Tony Latcham of Son Risk Management. Wall will target cow-share agreements for beginning or young farmers, and Iowa Angus breeder Jim Werner also will be an afternoon producer speaker.

The conference at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa begins with registration at 8 a.m. The welcome is at 9:30 a.m., followed by two general session speakers, lunch and exhibit viewing. The afternoon begins with a session speaker in the auditorium, followed by two break-out sessions with four choices. Admission is \$15, includes lunch and conference proceedings. No preregistration is necessary. [www.extension.iastate.edu/article/2014-cornbelt-cow-calf-conference-focuses-profitable-expansion](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/2014-cornbelt-cow-calf-conference-focuses-profitable-expansion)