

AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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newsletter

November 4, 2013

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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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IOWA INCOME TAX TIPS FOR YEAR END PREPARATION - NOVEMBER 15

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA – October 24, 2013 – Annual farm income tax preparation is a real challenge with changing tax codes and regulations. To help farmers through this process, the Iowa Farm Bureau is hosting a farm income tax webinar on Friday, November 15, at 1:00 p.m. Event speakers will draw on their experiences to provide useful, timely information for participants. Speakers include Roger McEowen, Director of the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation (CALT) at Iowa State University, and Charles Brown, President of AgriFinancial Services, LLC. The event will be available live, online to anyone wishing to attend. The webinar will also be recorded and available exclusively to Farm Bureau members online, along with webinar handouts.

Farmers can access the webinar from their home or farm office by going to www.iowafarmbureau.com, finding the webinar banner and entering the forum as a guest on the day of the event. Local sites are also being organized where farmers will gather to view the event together. Locally Extension Offices in Washington, Johnson, Iowa and Keokuk County will offer the program. Register by calling Washington Co. Extension 319-653-4811; Johnson Co. Extension 319-337-2145 Iowa Co. Extension 319-668-1052; Keokuk Co. Extension 641-622-2680 Interested farmers are encouraged to visit the Farm Bureau website for an updated list of local viewing sites. No pre-registration is required for local viewing sites but is appreciated. For more information, contact Kordick at ekordick@ifbf.org.

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE DECEMBER 4-5

The Integrated Crop Management Conference, December 4-5, Iowa State Center, Ames, offers 34 different seminars and workshops focusing on the latest in crop production technology. Experts from Iowa and surrounding states will provide research updates and results in soil fertility, soil and water management, crop production and pest management. Attendees can choose from up to 5 topics each hour. This format allows you to customize your experience, your interests, and CCA credit needs. A popular feature of the ICM Conference is the opportunity to interact with invited speakers from other states and outside of the University. Iowa State University specialists invite individuals in their field who bring different viewpoints and the latest research results to the producers and agribusiness professionals of Iowa.

Visit the Extension Store during the conference, for this year's conference we're setting up a store in the Scheman Building where you can browse available publications, select the ones you want, purchase and take home with you.

Proceedings from the last four conferences are available for online viewing free from <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductList.aspx?Keyword=aep%200302>

Registration is on line at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/icm/registration>

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 or from your local ISU Extension office.

PREGNANCY CHECKING PAYS THE BILLS

By Patrick Gunn, ISU Extension cow-calf specialist

In many parts of the Corn Belt, producers have experienced a second straight summer of abnormally dry weather. The drought, coupled with ergot infestation at relatively high concentrations in some pastures, may be contributing to sub-optimal pregnancy rates in spring calving herds again this fall.



From a benchmarking perspective, in a "normal" summer breeding season it should be expected that 90% of your mature cowherd will become pregnant within a 63 day breeding season. A pregnancy rate of 93% is considered exceptional, and a pregnancy rate below 87% is typically considered below average. The exception to this benchmark is in a heavily-infected, fescue-based system, where producers can expect a reduction in these figures by as much as 3-5%.

Although most producers are trying to minimize costs at a time when feed costs are volatile, skipping an end-of-season pregnancy diagnosis for the herd is not the place to start. I would argue that a pregnancy diagnosis is one of the best investments you can make in your herd. Moreover, with the slim margins noted in many facets of the beef industry, some producers can't afford not to conduct a pregnancy exam. It may sound crazy, but paying for a pregnancy diagnosis will most likely make you money. Particularly with wintering feed costs exceeding \$250 in many locations, identifying even one open cow quickly pays for the veterinary bill with money left over.

For example, if you have 100 cows and pregnancy diagnosis is \$6/cow, you have spent \$600 in pregnancy diagnoses. Even if you are an exceptional herd, you will likely have 7 non-pregnant cows upon diagnosis. At \$250/cow saved in wintering costs (\$1750 total), after subtracting \$600 in veterinarian fees, the producer is still netting \$1150 in opportunity cost.

Once open cows are identified, an appropriate marketing strategy needs to be developed. Cull breeding animals typically represent about 20% of the gross receipts for cow-calf operations. Therefore, careful consideration should be taken to explore all management and marketing options available. Depending on age and body condition, as well as the cause of being open, alternative marketing options may include moving to a different breeding season, sell as an embryo recipient, or if cost of gain allows, feeding to reach a utility market. To assist in this decision, producers should be cognizant of seasonal price swings typically noted in the cull cow market.

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 \$3.75-7.50/b
Grass : SmSq \$2.50-4.50/bale; LgSq \$32-40/b Straw \$2.00-3.00/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa: SmSq \$2.25-7.00/bale;
LgSq \$25-105/B; LgRd \$30-140/bale Grass: SmSq \$5.00/bale; LgSq \$70/bale;

LgRd \$37.50-95/bale Straw: SmSq \$2.75-3.25/bale; LgSq \$26-35/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) Alfalfa: SmSq \$4.20/b; LgSq \$77.50/b Mixed Leg/
Gr: LgSq \$77.50-250/b; LgRd \$82.50-110/b Grass: (SmSq \$3.50-4.00/b Aug) ;
LgRd \$60-67.50/bale CRP: LgRd \$50-62.50/b Straw: (LgRd \$50-72.50/b Aug)



FSA PAYMENTS

FSA started issuing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants across the country on October 21st. CRP payments were followed by 2013 direct payments (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments on October 24. These payments were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding.

2013 DCP/ACRE direct payments were reduced by 8.6% due to sequestration. The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013; however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs. For more information on CRP, DCP and ACRE, producers should contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

EVALUATING YOUR ESTATE PLAN – WORKSHOP FOR FARM FAMILIES

Talking about estate planning is difficult and implementing an estate plan can be even harder. Questions often include: Who needs to be involved? What information do I need to gather? When is it the right time to start? Where do I start? How do I decide what to do? The Evaluating Your Estate Plan program can help in the planning process.



The Evaluating Your Estate Plan workshop will be held December 11th at the Henry County Extension Office 127 North Main, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 with registration starting at 9:00. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program will answer estate planning questions and helps prepare participants to work with their estate planning team.

The presenters for the program include Kelvin Leibold and Melissa O'Rourke, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach farm and business management specialists. O'Rourke is an attorney experienced in agricultural law and estate planning. Leibold joined ISU Extension in 1987 and has vast experience in working with agricultural clients in farm and business planning. The one-day workshop will cover the language of estate planning, gift, estate and inheritance taxes, calculating retirement costs, and many other areas vital to creating a good estate plan. The workshops help those who are confused about building a plan for transferring farm assets or unsure what options are best for their farm operation and family.

Advance registration is required as space is limited. The Evaluating Your Estate Plan workshop costs \$20 per person and includes workshop materials and lunch. To register, or for more information, call the Henry County Extension office at 319-385-8126.

ESTIMATING A VALUE FOR CORN STOVER

Corn stover is an abundant source of winter feed for beef cows in Iowa. When supplemented with protein, vitamins, and minerals, stover can supply the nutritional needs of cows that are in moderately good body condition during fall and early winter. Corn stover is also in demand for livestock bedding and is a potential feedstock for the production of ethanol. The obvious advantage of utilizing corn stover is its wide availability and low cost. This has created a small but important market for stover, both as a harvested product and as a standing crop in the field. As with any market, though, a price must be determined. Three general approaches can be used: What is the value to the purchaser, based on feedstuffs replaced by corn stover? What is the cost to the seller of harvesting the stover and replacing lost crop nutrients? What is stover selling for on the market? For more visit www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-70.html
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a1-65.pdf>

BEEF FACILITIES CONFERENCE NOV. 21 BY BETH DORAN, BRENT PRINGNITZ, CINDY GANNON

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — Beef barns of all types are becoming more common place in the upper Midwest. “But, we are still learning a lot about these barns,” said Beth Doran, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach beef specialist. A one-day “Beef Facilities Conference” will be held Nov. 21 to share current research findings and discuss building management and cattle performance. The conference, a cooperative effort of ISU Extension and Outreach, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, South Dakota State University (SDSU), USDA Agricultural Research Service and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will be held at the Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

“The purpose of the conference is two-fold,” said Doran. “Morning sessions feature environmental research with these facilities; afternoon sessions focus on building management and cattle performance.”

The morning session includes results of the two-year air emissions study in mono-slope barns, air quality regulations and how to capture, manage and use nutrients produced in beef barns. The two-year air emissions study looked at the emissions of gases and dust and is one of the first studies looking at air quality in these barns. Morning presenters are Erin Cortus, assistant professor at SDSU; Mindy Spiehs, research animal scientist at USDA, ARS, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center; Rick Stowell, associate professor at UNL; Kris Kohl, ISU Extension and Outreach ag engineering program specialist; and Angie Rieck-Hinz, extension program specialist at Iowa State.

Afternoon sessions involve two panels – a producer panel discussing building management in different style barns and a university panel discussing cattle performance. Four styles of facilities will be featured – mono-slopes, hoops, slatted floor deep-pit barns and open lots. The university panel includes Robbi Pritchard, distinguished professor at SDSU; Dan Loy, director of the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State; Shawn Shouse, ISU Extension and Outreach ag engineering program specialist; and Russ Euken, ISU Extension and Outreach livestock program specialist.

The conference is tailored to feedlot producers, beef consultants, building contractors, engineers and consultants, state and federal agency staff, and extension and university professionals. Conference information, registration materials and potential sponsorship are available online at www.aep.iastate.edu/facility/. Registration is \$40 if registered by Nov. 14. Students receive a \$15 discount. Fees will increase \$20 after Nov. 14 for all participants.



CONTROL SNOW DRIFTS WITH WELL INSTALLED SNOW FENCES

BY GREG BRENNEMAN, ISUEO AG ENGINEER With winter just around the corner, snow fences are going up in anticipation of the snows that will surely come. Snow fences are just one of the ways to control drifting snow. A proper snow fence will be about ½ solid and ½ open spaces. This lets most of the snow through the fence but slows the wind, and allows for maximum trapping of snow downwind of the snow fence. The best fencing materials are wood picket and flexible mesh-like plastic. To make sure they do the job right without creating more problems, they must be properly placed.

A majority of the snow is stored about 20 times the snow fence height downwind of the fence. However, in a severe winter, drift lengths can reach up to 25 to 30 times the fence height. For best results, keep a 4 ft. snow fence back at least 80 ft. and preferably 120 ft. from the road or driveway you want to protect. You also want it on the predominant up-wind side, so if the road goes from east-to-west, place it on the north side. On a north-south road, put it on the west side. Fences should be as long as possible extending well beyond the protection zone. A bottom gap of 6 inches underneath the fence allows for trapping the maximum amount of snow. Steel posts should be on 8 ft. centers and the end post should be braced with a steel post driven into the ground at an angle so it supports the top of the end post. Plastic fencing material should be sandwiched between two wood laths and wired tightly to the steel post near the top, bottom, and center of the post. A longer term solution to drifting snow includes building up roads and driveways so that snow is blown across rather than drifting on to them. By elevating driveways above the surrounding terrain, wind will sweep snow off of the roadway. Also, living snow fences of evergreens and shrubs can be planted to provide a permanent snow fence. Make sure that they are planted well back from the areas they are meant to protect. A good rule of thumb for Iowa is to allow 100-150 ft. for trapping of snow between the living snow fence and area to be protected. Keep grass and weeds alongside roadways mowed down in the fall. This vegetation can act as a mini snow fence creating drifts right on the roadway. Leaving cornstalk stubble undisturbed will trap a great deal of snow out in the field and minimize the amount of snow that can drift onto a roadway.

SAMPLE FIELDS FOR SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

As we work to complete harvest and put the finishing touches on the 2013 growing season, it is not too early to start thinking about 2014 crops. Results of soil samples collected in the next few weeks from fields in which soybeans will be grown in 2014 could mean the difference between “so-so” and profitable yields next year.

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is a widespread pest of soybeans in Iowa and the Midwest, and SCN reproduction was extremely high in the 2012 growing season. Many of the fields in which soybeans were grown in 2012 will be planted to soybeans again in 2014.

Fall is a perfect time to collect soil samples to check fields for SCN and to determine the population density (number) of SCN in the fields, if it is present. If SCN is discovered at low or moderate population densities, SCN-resistant soybean varieties should be grown in 2014 to maximize soybean yields in the presence of the nematode. Fall also is a good time to determine if SCN was present in soybean fields in 2013. Collecting samples for this purpose is done in the same manner as sampling fields of corn stalks for SCN in anticipation of the 2014 soybean crop. Following are some sampling guidelines.

How to collect a good sample

- Collect 8-inch-long soil cores.
- Collect 15 to 20 soil cores per sampling area.
- Limit the area sampled to 20 acres or so, if possible.
- Collect numerous multiple-core samples from different areas in large fields
- If grid sampling, collect one or two soil cores from every grid cell and combine cores from the number of cells that represent approximately 20 acres.
- Collect cores from underneath crop row if soybeans were grown this season.
- Do not collect samples if the soil is muddy or frozen.



Send samples to a private soil-testing laboratory that does SCN testing or to: Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Iowa State University 327 Bessey Hall Ames, IA 50011 For more information about the biology and management of SCN, visit www.soybeancyst.info and www.planthealth.info/scn_basics.htm.

AG CHEM DEALER UPDATE

Ag Chemical Dealer Update, December 2, Clarion Highlander Hotel & Conference Center, Iowa City, delivers the latest crop production recommendations, news and information directly from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Meetings review the positives and negatives of the 2013 growing season and prepare seed, chemical and fertilizer dealers, crop consultants, farm managers and agronomists for the challenges of the 2014 crop production year. Registration: 8:30 am, Program: 9:00 am, Conclude: 4:00 pm

The following continuing education credits for **Certified Crop Advisers** have been applied for: 3 pest management, 1 nutrient management, 1 soil and water management, and 0.5 crop management. Individuals completing the pesticide applicator recertification portion of the program are also eligible for one additional pest management credit. Credits are subject to final approval by the CCA organization. Attendance at an Ag Chemical Dealer Update qualifies as continuing education for **Commercial Pesticide Applicator** recertification for calendar year 2013 in categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10. Recertification is included in the registration fee. **Applicators must attend the entire program to receive recertification.**

- **Early registration - \$70** (Iowa City - prior to midnight, Nov 25) **Late registration or at the program - \$85**
Cancellations will receive a full refund if received prior to the early registration deadline listed above. To cancel a registration please email anr@iastate.edu or call (515) 294-6429.
- Phone registrations are not accepted.
- Registration includes refreshments, handouts, lunch, CCA credits and commercial pesticide applicator continuing instructional course (Categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 10) To register go to <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/acu/>
For assistance with **registration, receipts, billing, cancellation** or **questions on the status of your registration** contact Program Services at (515) 294-6429 or anr@iastate.edu.

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 or 319/337-2145; Tom Miller, Program Specialist, tmiller@iastate.edu 319-653-4811 or Terry Steinhart, Swine Specialist, 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.

12/19/13	9:30 AM	Johnson	Iowa City	ISU Extension Johnson County
12/19/13	1:30 PM	Washington	Washington	ISU Extension Washington County
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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COOL STORED GRAIN NOW

In just the past couple of weeks a lot of corn and soybeans went into storage with temperatures in the 60s. With grain this warm, moisture migration within the grain mass and spoilage can occur very quickly, even with fairly dry grain.

With average daily temperatures now in the low to mid 40s, newly stored grain should be cooled down as soon as possible. While stored grain should be cooled to 30-40 degrees for winter storage, the sooner we get grain temperatures down, the better. Fans might need to be run several times during the fall to get grain down to wintertime storage temperatures.

The time required to completely cool a bin of grain depends on fan size. In general terms, a large drying fan will take 10-20 hours to cool a bin of grain. However, a small aeration fan can take a week or more to completely cool a full bin. In either case, it is best to measure the temperature of the air coming out of the grain to see if cooling is complete. It is also much better to error on the side of running the fan too long rather than turn it off too soon.

If grain is dried down to the proper moisture and correctly cooled, it should store very well through the winter. Even so, it is best to check stored grain at least every two weeks during the winter and once a week in warmer weather. To do a good job checking grain, inspect and probe the grain for crusting, damp grain, and warm spots. Also, run the fan for just a few minutes and smell the exhaust air for any off odors. For more details, order a copy of "Managing Dry Grain in Storage" AED-20 from Midwest Plan Service at <http://www.mwps.org> or check out more post-harvest grain information at <http://www.bbe.umn.edu/ExtensionandOutreach/FoodProductionandProcessingSafety/Post-HarvestHandlingofCrops/index.htm>

COMPONENT PRICING THE VALUE OF MANURE

The most common method of valuing fertilizer is component pricing. The manure is sampled and tested to determine the nutrient content. Then this analysis is used to determine the value based on commercial fertilizer prices. A typical hog finishing manure might test 50-35-25 pounds of nitrogen, phosphorus (as P₂O₅), and potassium (as K₂O) per 1,000 gallons. If the manure was injected with minimal losses and the nitrogen was readily available a 3,000 gallon per acre rate of application would provide 150 units of nitrogen per acre. If nitrogen was valued at \$0.30 a pound there would be \$45 of N value. In addition there would be 105 pounds of P₂O₅, which, if valued at \$0.40 per pound, would be worth \$42 per acre. There would also be 75 pounds of K₂O, which if valued at \$0.25 per pound would bring the total to about \$105.75 per acre.

There can be a considerable range in the projected prices of commercial fertilizer nutrients, depending on material type (dry, liquid, or gas), method of application, and the time of year applied. In addition, the manure would contain other components such as sulfur, iron and organic matter. This method does not take into account nitrogen losses and crop utilization. For more information on the "Value of Manure Nutrients" visit www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/html/b1-65.html

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

NEW BEEF PROGRAM SPECIALIST BRINGS EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND ENTHUSIASM

Joining Iowa State University as an extension specialist had been on Patrick Wall's radar screen for years, so when the southeast area position became available he jumped at the opportunity to apply. As the newly hired southeast Iowa beef program specialist, he's already learning from his predecessor Byron Leu. From growing up on a diversified grain and livestock farm near Bradford in central Illinois to his most recent professional position with the American Shorthorn Association, Wall said each experience provided unique opportunities to mold and shape his future in the meat industry.

With academic success and encouragement from Iowa State people who knew him, choosing to earn a masters degree and learn about carcass ultrasound technology at Iowa State was an even easier decision.

"My teaching and coaching experience at the collegiate level should help prepare me for the educational part of this new position," he said. "Working at The National CUP (Centralized Ultrasound Processing) Lab and for the American Shorthorn Association were both roles that serviced beef producers of all sizes, scopes, and production goals. The field specialist does both: education and service, so the fit seems pretty logical."

Wall said his primary focus areas have been genetic selection and carcass endpoint, because producer decisions start with genetic selection and see the results of that selection with the carcass endpoint. In this extension role, he hopes to help producers tie these two together in managing their cows but said he isn't an expert in all areas.

"The field specialists and campus staff members have compiled a team that can answer the call — whatever a producer needs. If I don't know the answer, it's likely someone else on my team does," he said. "The diversity of the Iowa Beef Center is one of the major strengths of the group." Wall is housed at the Marion County extension office and can be reached by phone at 515-450-7665 and by email at patwall@iastate.edu.

