

AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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Washington, IA 52353

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newsletter

February 1, 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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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:

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.

SOIL FERTILITY/NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE FEB. 18-19

AMES, Iowa – Making sound soil fertility management decisions is an important part of successful crop production, on both an economic and environmental level. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer a two-day crop production short course Feb. 18-19 focusing on principles of soils, soil fertility and nutrient management. Highlights include sampling and testing; pH and liming; essential, secondary and micronutrients; nitrogen dynamics and manure management.

The Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Short Course will be held in Room 250, Scheman Continuing Education Building, Iowa State University, Ames. Registration opens Feb. 18 at 8:30 a.m. with classwork beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Feb 19. Registration is limited to 40 participants and pre-registration is required. The small class size allows for increased discussion and interaction with extension specialists.

Short course registration

The short course cost is \$275 and includes the course reference notebook, lunches and breaks. Registration and fees must be received by midnight Feb. 11. Registrations can be completed online with a credit card or by mail with check payment. Online registration and forms are available at www.aep.iastate.edu/soil. For more information, call ANR Program Services at 515-294-6429 or email anr@iastate.edu.

FARM GENERATIONAL TRANSITION, ‘MANAGING FOR-TODAY AND TOMORROW’ COURSE FOR FARM WOMEN BEGINS FEBRUARY 4TH IN MONTICELLO AND FEBRUARY 6TH IN BURLINGTON

Creating a transition plan to make sure a farm continues as a productive business can be challenging. Farm women can learn how to plan a successful farm transition in a five-session course offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The “Managing for Today and Tomorrow: Farm Transition Planning” program, a new Annie’s Project course, has been scheduled in Monticello, Iowa, on Tuesdays February 4th through March 4th and, Burlington, Iowa on Thursday evenings, February 6th through March 6th.

Pre-registration is required to attend by January 30th at a cost of \$75 per person. Registration includes a light meal each night and a 300-page workbook with fact sheets, hands-on activities, and presentations. Register online at www.aep.iastate.edu/annie/mtt/. Course size is limited, so please register soon.

Farm women will learn about business, estate, retirement and succession planning from ISU Extension and Outreach specialists and area professionals. In addition to brief presentations, there will be discussions based on participant questions and follow-up activities for family members to complete at home.

“We’re happy to be a partner in bringing this valuable program to Des Moines County,” said Gene Mohling, Regional Extension Education Director, “This farm transition course is an opportunity for farm women to meet with others who share similar issues and concerns. A small class size makes it comfortable for everyone to speak up and get questions answered.”

Annie’s Project, an agricultural risk management education program for women, has successfully reached more than 8,000 farmers and ranchers in 30 states. “This new Farm Transition program emphasizes the role women play in helping transfer farms from one generation to the next,” said Ryan Drollette, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist. “Managing for Today and Tomorrow: Farm Transition Planning will empower women to take ownership of the future of their farms,” said Ryan. Farm Credit Services of America is a statewide sponsor of Annie’s Project courses. For more information contact Ryan Drollette, ISUEO Farm Management Specialist at 319-337-2145, drollett@iastate.edu.

IOWA LEARNING FARMS MARKS 10 YEARS IN 2014

AMES, Iowa — It began in 2004 with a small group of concerned people from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. They created a project that would address increasing adoption of conservation farming practices across the state. The five-year Iowa Learning Farms project has evolved into a program that is commemorating 10 years in 2014. The components of ILF include agronomy, agricultural engineering, economics and sociology. It includes partnering with farmers in the different Iowa soil regions who are already practicing conservation such as no-till, strip-till and cover crops. ILF is guided by representatives from IDALS, IDNR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Conservation Districts of Iowa, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

ILF began promoting conservation practices to farmers in 2005 through field days, a newsletter, website and radio. It has added outreach resources including print publications, how-to videos and the “Culture of Conservation” videos. In 2011, monthly webinars began with presenters offering technical expertise in many areas of agriculture. These are ongoing and air on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. In 2006, a rainfall simulator trailer was acquired and accompanied staff to field days and other public events. In 2010, a new trailer with an improved rainfall simulator — the Conservation Station — was launched. Two trailers have since been added to form the Conservation Station fleet. The fleet goes to field days, county fairs, farmers markets, festivals and schools, enabling ILF to reach even more people, especially those who don’t farm. Field days are held on farmer partner fields, in their machine sheds and outbuildings. The first field day was on June 22, 2005, at John Kielkopf’s farm in Keokuk County with 22 attendees. That year, ILF held six field days with 108 people in attendance. In 2013, ILF hosted 30 farmer events with 1,969 attendees who saw practices first-hand, including no-till and strip-till, cover crops, bioreactors and wetlands.

Since 2004, ILF has reached approximately 75,000 people through these forms of outreach and ILF will continue to host field days, workshops and Conservation Station appearances. New videos are being produced; a blog and Facebook have also been added. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit the website <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/>.

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 \$4.00-6.50/b
Grass : SmSq \$2.75-4.00/bale; LgRd \$40-72/bale Straw \$2.75-4.50/bale; LgRd \$25-30/b
Cornstalks: LgRd \$27-35/B

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa: SmSq \$5.00/b; LgSq \$65-87.50/B; (LgRd \$100/bale Nov) Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$6.25/bale Grass: SmSq \$3.75-5.50/b; LgSq \$31-67.50/b LgRd \$30-125/bale Oats & Pea hay: (LgRd \$50/b Nov
Straw: SmSq \$3.00-3.75/b; (LgRd \$42.50/bale Nov) Cornstalks: LgRd \$22.50-41/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) Alfalfa: SmSq \$5.10-7.10/b; LgSq \$80-110/b Mixed Leg/Gr: LgRd \$80-125/b Grass: SmSq \$3.80-5.30/b ; (LgSq \$45-65/b Nov); LgRd \$40-85/

bale Oat & new seeding Hay: (LgSq \$50-55/b Nov CRP: (SmSq \$2.75/b Nov); LgRd \$40/b Straw: SmSq \$2.75-4.40/bale; (LgRd \$405-50/b Nov) Cornstalks: LgRd \$25-35/bale



ISU EXTENSION OFFERS FIELD CROP SCOUT SCHOOL

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer a Field Crop Scout School on Saturday, March 8, 2014. Designed for beginning crop scouts, the day-long course features workshops on crop growth and development, weed, disease and insect identification, non-pest crop injuries and scouting methods and techniques.

A new addition for 2014 is a supplemental Field Scouting Basics class held in May at the Field Extension Education Laboratory. Attendees of the March school will receive discounted registration for the field session in May. Registration for the May session will open following the Scout School. "Consider the March school the three credit foundation course and the May class the one credit lab session," according to Stuart McCulloh, Extension program specialist and school coordinator. "The agenda will be geared toward feedback from the March school as well as a needs assessment quiz to start the May session. Together the two sessions form a comprehensive package."

The Field Crop Scout School will be held Saturday, March 8, in the Scheman Continuing Education Building, Iowa State Center, in Ames. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with sessions beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 4:45 p.m. Registration is limited to 150 participants and pre-registration is required to attend. The cost is \$100. Registration must be completed by midnight, February 28. Registrations will not be accepted at the door for this program. The fees cover field guides and course handouts, lunch and breaks. Online registration (VISA, MasterCard or Discover) at www.aep.iastate.edu/scout. For more information, call (515) 509-8308 or email smac@iastate.edu.

SOWBRIDGE AND PORKBRIDGE PROGRAMS BEGIN SOON

AMES, Iowa -- The successful pork industry distance education programs SowBridge and PorkBridge are scheduled to begin in early February, so those who want to participate need to register very soon. Iowa State University animal science professor and extension swine specialist Ken Stalder said registrations are still being accepted.

"Although the registration deadline to ensure materials are received in time for the first session for each program has passed, people can still register by completing the form and submitting payment," he said. "We will do our best to get materials to our subscribers in time for the initial sessions on Feb. 5 and 6, respectively." Stalder, who also is the Iowa contact for the programs, said the programs offer accurate and timely information on a variety of topics through a regular schedule. In addition, the registration fee has not increased for either program. Each registration provides access to one phone line per session and all the materials for all sessions. For operations with more than one location, lower fees for subsequent registrations from the same entity are available.

"Cost is \$250 for SowBridge and \$125 for PorkBridge," he said. "Contact us at the Iowa Pork Industry Center for any questions on either program at <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>" More information on SowBridge, including a link to the program brochure, is available on the IPIC website. The website also has a section for PorkBridge including that brochure. Iowa residents who want more information on either program can call IPIC at 800-808-7675. SowBridge and PorkBridge are sponsored by a group of 11 state universities – including Iowa State – from the major swine producing states. For more information visit the following web sites:

SowBridge www.ipic.iastate.edu/SowBridge/sowbridge1415.html

Pork Bridge www.ipic.iastate.edu/PorkBridge/porkbridge14.html

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, 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

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.

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

PLANNING PRODUCTION COSTS & RETURNS FOR 2014

See the Ag Decision Maker for Many Farm Management Resources:

- * Crop Planning Prices: Publication A1-10
- * Estimated Costs of Crop Production: Publication A1-20
- * Livestock Planning Prices: Publication B1-10
- * Suggested Closing Inventory Prices: Publication C1-40
- * 2013 Farmland Value Survey Iowa State University: Publication C2-70

All of these and more available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>

Stay Informed - www.extension.iastate.edu/washington

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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 to pre-register. The WLL Listening Sessions scheduled for February 6 will be held at the Johnson County Extension & Outreach Office located at 3109 Old Hwy 218 S in Iowa City.

PQA PLUS[®] 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[®] (PQA Plus[®]) program. One certification session has been set for February 5th in Washington. The session will be held at the Washington County Extension office, 2223 250th St. Washington, and taught by swine specialist Tom Miller.

"The PQA Plus[®] 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[®] please see the National Pork Board Web site at <http://www.pork.org/certification/default.aspx>

BENNING IS WATER QUALITY PROGRAM MANAGER FOR EXTENSION

Jamie Benning has been hired as water quality program manager for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. As an extension agronomist the past 13 years she has led multi-state water quality projects, supported farmer-led watershed initiatives and conducted agronomic research.

Iowa State University was a partner in the development of the statewide nutrient reduction strategy, working with IDALS and Iowa DNR over a two-year period to develop the initiative. Benning has worked with state and local partners, as well as members of watershed groups, through her water quality projects across Iowa and the Midwest. She is looking forward to providing cohesive access to essential research and extension support. Benning can be reached at benning@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-6038.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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INTEGRATING COVER CROPS IN FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

This workshop is geared towards growers, horticulture specialists, local food organizations, IFVGA & PFI members, IDALS & NRCS personnel. Participants attending the workshop will learn about cover crops types, planting, management, benefits and issues associated with cover cropping in fruit and vegetable cropping systems. Live cover crop samples will be on display. The workshop will be held Tuesday, February 25, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (registration begins at 9:00 a.m.). The event will be held at the Iowa Clothing Center, 1005 Nutmeg Avenue, Kalona. Speakers will include Dr. Ajay Nair and Mr. David Burkholder. Registration is \$5 per person. The event is open to the public. If you have questions contact Dr. Ajay Nair at 515-294-7080 nairajay@iastate.edu or Dr. Patrick O'Malley at 319-337-2145 omall@iastate.edu

FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES COMING TO BRIGHTON

Need tax help, but can't afford to pay for it? Are you confused by the tax law changes and which exemptions, deductions and credits you can claim? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program can help you complete basic tax returns free of charge. Volunteer Tax Assistors have completed an IRS training and certification course. Federal and state returns are able to be filed electronically. VITA offers free assistance to those with low-to-moderate incomes under \$52,000. Help with basic income tax returns will be offered by appointment only on February 8 and 15 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Brighton Community Center. To schedule an appointment, please contact Nancy Adrian at the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Brighton Horizons is the sponsor of VITA in Brighton.

2014 HERBICIDE GUIDE

The 2014 Herbicide Guide for Iowa Corn and Soybean Production is now available at: www.weeds.iastate.edu/WC94.pdf