

AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

2223 250th St.

Washington, IA 52353

319-653-4811

newsletter

February 2016

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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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2016 AG OUTLOOK

The 2016 Ag Outlook will be held Thursday, March 3, at the Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, 3184 Highway 22S, Riverside. The day long event will feature :

- Dan Frieberg, Premier Crop Systems, LLC, "Using Your Data to Make Better Decisions"
- David Oppedahl, Federal Reserve Bank, "Agriculture and the Economy: A View from the Chicago Fed"
- Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University, "ISU Update: College, Research Farms and Extension & Outreach"
- Elaine Kub, Author, "Finding Optimism in the Ag Markets"
- Eldon McAfee, Brick Gentry Law Firm, "Ag Law & Regulations: A Practical Perspective for Producers"

Registrations starts at 9:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 10 a.m. and closing at 3:30 p.m. This event is free to all attendees, thanks to the many sponsors: Agri-Management Services, Agri-Way Partners, Stutsmans, Inc., Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, Hills Bank and Trust Company, Hertz Farm Management, Inc., Latta Harris, LLP, Sinclair Tractor. Register on-line at www.hillsbank.com/hills-bank-business-academy or contact Carrie Ebel, Hills Bank and Trust Company by calling 319-358-2272.



ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE TO RENEW TQA OR PQA PLUS® CERTIFICATION

New TQA or PQA Plus Certification (or recertification, if expired) requires face-to-face training with a TQA/PQA Plus Advisor.

Renewal TQA or PQA Plus Certification can be completed through face-to-face or online training. To be eligible to re-certify through an online course/exam:

- Contact a certified advisor before current certification expires
- Provide the advisor Tom Miller, Washington County Extension Office (tmiller@iastate.edu) with an email address for the purpose of sending online training instructions. 319-653-4811
- Complete online training within 30 days of receiving access to train

CROP PRODUCTION BUDGETING FOR 2016

In Jan. 2016 Ag Decision Maker posted "Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa – 2016". This is available at: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html This website also provides a number of other budgeting and planning resources at: www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/homepage.html

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR DATES SET

The 2015-16 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.

| County | Location | Date | Time |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| February | | | |
| Washington | Washington - ISU Extension | February 15, 2016 | 7:00 PM |
| Johnson | Iowa City - ISU Extension | February 18, 2016 | 1:30 PM |
| Iowa | I-80, Exit 216 - Kinze Mfg. | February 22, 2016 | 1:30 PM |
| Iowa | I-80, Exit 216 - Kinze Mfg. | February 22, 2016 | 4:15 PM |
| Keokuk | Sigourney - ISU Extension | February 29, 2016 | 1:30 PM |
| Keokuk | Sigourney - ISU Extension | February 29, 2016 | 7:00 PM |

HEIFER DEVELOPMENT 3 PROGRAM FEB 9 IN WASHINGTON

By Patrick Gunn, ISU Extension cow-calf specialist, and Lee Schulz, ISU Extension livestock economist



The contrast between the beginning of 2015 and the beginning of 2016 is stark in the beef cattle markets. Last year was one of transition as the markets turned the corner from upward-trending prices to the reality of growing cattle inventories and the beginning of cyclically lower prices. Many cow-calf operations that expanded through the purchase of record high-priced replacement heifers in 2014 and 2015 are now scrambling to pay for those females with calf price levels not seen since the fall of 2013.

Traditional wisdom and economic analysis would suggest that most cows in the Midwest need at least four to six years of consecutive production to turn a profit over the sum of cash and fixed costs. However, Iowa State University's Net Present Value decision tool www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/html/b1-74.html shows replacements purchased at record high prices in early 2015 may need to produce upwards of 10 calves to pay for themselves based on current feeder cattle price projections. Obviously, this investment payback is highly dependent on annual cow costs and future feeder and cull cow prices, but the one thing we can be sure of now is the cost of those replacements.

Now, perhaps more than ever, longevity will be the key to profitability when it comes to replacements that entered the herd over the past two years. However, managing, identifying and breeding for females that will maintain themselves in the herd for six years, let alone a decade, can be a daunting task.

To help producers manage through this time of economic transition, the Iowa Beef Center is partnering with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA), ABS Global, Accelerated Genetics, Select Sires and Merial to conduct a series of seven educational workshops across the state titled, "Heifer Development 3: Breeding & Selecting for Longevity & Profit."

This is the third installment of the heifer development series, building on our 2011 and 2014 programs on yearling and first-calf heifer best management practices, respectively. The focus of this year's series is on current genetic and phenotypic selection tools that can be utilized to improve cow longevity and enhance lifetime productivity. A meal will be served at each site and cost is \$20 when preregistered three days prior to event. Walk-in registration is \$25 per person with no guarantee of meal. Dates and locations (all will be held from 5 to 9 p.m.) are as follows:

Feb 9, Washington Co. Extension Office, Washington

Feb. 10, Muse Norris Conference Center at NIACC, Mason City

Feb. 11, Jones Co. Extension Office, Monticello

March 2, Hansen Ag Student Learning Center, Ames

See session information and registration details on the Iowa Beef Center website. www.iowabeefcenter.org/growingbeef.html

Or contact your regional Extension beef specialist for details on a site near you. We hope to see you at one of these sessions. Patrick Wall, Beef Specialist patwall@iastate.edu

CONFINEMENT SITE MANURE APPLICATOR WORKSHOPS FOR 2016

AMES, Iowa -- Confinement site manure applicators and anyone interested in learning about manure issues should plan to attend a two-hour workshop offered by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in February 2016. Offered in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there is no fee to attend the workshops, but applicators will need to pay certification fees to complete certification requirements. A total of 69 counties will participate in the confinement site manure applicator workshops. In addition, a series of seven dry/solid manure applicator certification meetings will be held in February. ISU Extension and Outreach county offices have a complete list of workshop dates and locations, or view a list at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confinementsitebrochure.pdf> Locally scheduled meetings include: February 16 6:30 PM Washington County Extension Office, Washington
Dry Manure Workshop on February 9, 1:00 PM Washington County Extension Office, Washington
The workshops serve as initial certification for those applicators that are not currently certified, recertification for those renewing licenses and continuing education for those applicators in their second or third year of their license.

CALL FOR OPTIMISM AT 60TH ANNUAL SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE

AMES, Iowa – The 60th Annual Iowa State University Shade Tree Short Course, Glass Is Half Full: A Call for Optimism, will be Feb. 23 - 25, 2016 at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University in Ames. The annual event is sponsored by ISU Extension and Outreach, the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association and the Iowa Arborist Association.

Keynote speakers include Dirk Dujesiefken, Institute of Arboriculture, Hamburg, Germany, talking about the many complex changes that occur in trees after wounding. Dan Potter, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, will cover best management practices for safeguarding bees when treating lawns or landscapes for pests, and highlight recent work documenting which native and non-native woody ornamentals are the "best" for promoting pollinators in urban landscapes. The closing general session will be conducted by Gary Johnson, Department of Forest Resources and Extension, University of Minnesota and Jeff Iles, professor and extension specialist in horticulture at Iowa State University.



"We are excited to offer the 60th Annual Iowa State University Shade Tree Short Course this year and encourage attendees to come with optimism," Iles said. "The conference welcomes design professionals, arborists, master gardeners, nursery and landscape professionals, state and municipal employees and anyone else interested in arboriculture and landscape horticulture. Participants will be treated to a broad array of educational sessions and learning opportunities to help them become more profitable and successful in their professional lives."

2016 Shade Tree Short Course Schedule

The first day of the conference, Tuesday, Feb. 23, is dedicated to Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association events including Iowa Certified Nursery Professional certification testing and continuing education, and the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist exam. The program on Wednesday and Thursday incorporates the INLA's long-standing trade show along with the traditional Shade Tree Short Course educational sessions. Sessions, offered throughout the two days, will cover a variety of topics including insect pests, plant health care, garden maintenance, oak wilt and tree ordinances. For a complete list, description and location of sessions, visit the Shade Tree Short Course website at register.extension.iastate.edu/2016shadetree.

Registration for the Shade Tree Short Course is \$160 on or before Feb. 12; after that date the fee is \$210. Register online at register.extension.iastate.edu/2016shadetree. Early registration is encouraged due to the multiple workshop format of the conference.

2016 HERBICIDE GUIDE FOR IOWA CORN & SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

The 2016 version of this popular publication is now available at: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/2016-Herbicide-Guide-for-Iowa-Corn-and-Soybean-Production>

BEEF FEEDLOT ROUNDTABLE - FEB. 9 AT THREE IOWA LOCATIONS

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Iowa Beef Center and the University of Nebraska are teaming up to offer a Feedlot Roundtable session at Cresco, Ida Grove and Manchester on Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. These sessions are offered annually in Nebraska and Iowa for feedlot operators and interested agri-business people. Topics for this year's session include the following:

- A review of silage research from production to use in the feedlot
- Starch digestion by ruminants
- Economic trends and outlook in the beef industry
- Changing distillers grains and their use in feedlot cattle diets.

Dan Loy from Iowa State and Galen Erickson, Matt Luebbe and Kate Brooks from University of Nebraska will be the speakers. The Feedlot Roundtable will be offered via Internet connection for Iowans at the ISU Extension and Outreach offices in Howard County, Ida County, and Delaware County. This webinar is part of an agreement between Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and UNL Extension to share livestock educational resources and programs. See the program flier www.iowabeefcenter.org/events/2016BeefRoundtable



The \$10 fee is payable at the door and covers materials and refreshments. To register, please contact the location you will attend by Feb. 8. Contact information is as follows:

Cresco, Howard County Extension, Sue Barnes, skbarnes@iastate.edu, 563-547-3001

Ida Grove, Ida County Extension, Kandice Moore, kandicem@iastate.edu, 712-364-3003

Manchester, Delaware County Extension, Denise Schwab, dschwab@iastate.edu, 319-472-4739

More information is available from the Iowa Beef Center website at www.iowabeefcenter.org, local county extension offices or ISU Extension and Outreach beef program specialists.

PRRS, SVV TO BE FOCUS OF 2016 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Two persistent swine viruses will be among the topics the Iowa Pork Producers Association's 2016 Iowa Pork Regional Conferences next month. The Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome continues to create challenges for the pork industry and Dr. Daniel Linhares of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine will present a session on "Practical PRRS Management Strategies."

"Understanding Seneca Valley Virus" will be presented by Dr. Chris Rademacher, ISU Extension swine veterinarian. SVV has shown an increased prevalence in the past year and Rademacher will share information on how to properly diagnose and manage the virus. The third session will be presented by Mark Greenwood of AgStar Financial Services. He will speak on "Positioning your Operation for Future Success." Greenwood will examine current market indicators and forecasts to give attendees a sense of what to expect in 2016.

ISU Extension swine specialists will discuss "Applied Antibiotic Use Considerations" and take a deep dive into FDA Guidance 209 and 213, as well as the new Veterinary Feed Directives rule. Producers can attend one of the four conferences at no cost by pre-registering with IPPA. The cost at the door is just \$5.

The program will be presented on Feb. 22 in Sheldon, Feb. 23 in Carroll, Feb. 24 in Nashua and **Feb. 25 in Iowa City**. Each program will be from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free PQA Plus certification training sessions will be offered at each location from 9:30 a.m. to noon. To pre-register, contact Barb Nelson at bnelson@iowapork.org or (800) 372-7675.

NEW ONLINE OPTION FOR MAC TRAINING

Those who need to become certified or renew their certification for confinement site manure application can now choose to do so through a new online option available through Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The online training offers several advantages to the regular in-person and DVD sessions, including the ability to start and stop modules to fit individual schedules, having the website automatically track each person's progress, and pay either online or by mail following successful completion of the certification modules. Read more about MAC training on the IMMAG website here www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/maccsa.html and sign up for the online certification option on the IDNR website here <https://elearning-dnr.iowa.gov/>

WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS THE STRENGTHS AND CONSTRAINTS OF FARMLAND DRAINAGE

AMES, Iowa – Sub-surface drainage is an important part of agriculture in Iowa and a day-long workshop on March 11 will focus on topics of interest that have emerged around farmland drainage. The Farmland Drainage Workshop will be held in Osage, Iowa from 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post.

The morning session will focus on sub-surface drainage design concepts, wetland determinations, the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the long-term benefits of tiling. The afternoon session will include discussions on economics, nutrient cycling in soils, controlled drainage, bioreactors, saturated buffers and managing drainage water quality with wetlands. Legal issues related to tiling and Iowa drainage laws also will be covered.



The workshop will also instruct attendees about environmental impacts and new technologies that may be useful in minimizing negative environmental impacts.

“This program will provide information essential for designing and planning a new drainage system or retrofitting an existing system,” said Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Additional speakers include Kelvin Leibold, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach; Matt Helmers, professor and extension agricultural engineer in the Iowa State Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering; Mike Castellano, Iowa State University associate professor in agronomy; Jamie Benning, water quality program manager at ISU Extension and Outreach, and John Baker, administrator with the Beginning Farmer Center at Iowa State University. USDA-NRCS drainage specialist Jim Gertsma and Chris Hay, senior environmental scientist with the Iowa Soybean Association, will also speak at this event.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Farm Bureau of Mitchell County, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Soybean Checkoff, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and various industry partners are sponsoring the program.

Industry representatives from Prinsco, ADS-Hancor, Midwest Plastic Products, and Agri-Drain will be available during the workshop to answer any questions. The workshop qualifies for Certified Crop Advisor credits, which have been applied for. Registration is \$50 before March 7 and \$60 after that date. Workshop materials, morning refreshments and lunch are included. Participants can register by downloading and completing the form located at www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell and making payment to Mitchell County Extension. For more information, download the workshop brochure or call ISU Extension and Outreach in Mitchell County at 641-732-5574.

COVER CROP MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

With the amazing cover crop growth last fall and anticipated great growth this spring, Iowa Cover Crop Working Group thought we should get out there early to talk about managing those cover crops before planting. Under the leadership of Iowa Learning Farms and Practical Farmers of Iowa, the workshops will review cover crop termination, pesticide use, and crop scouting. Here is a list of our scheduled workshops. Be sure to check your local papers, and our website for more information!

- February 23, 12:30pm-2:30pm Cerro Gordo County
- February 24, 10:30am-12:30pm ISU Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Sutherland
- February 25, 10:30am-12:30pm Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo In partnership with Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project
- March 1, 10:30am-12:30pm Celebration Farm, Iowa City In partnership with Rapid Creek Watershed Project
- March 2, TBD
- March 3, 10:30am-12:30pm ISU Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis

Visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/> for more information as dates draw near.

CORN PROJECT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED FOR FARMERS AND FARM ADVISERS



AMES, Iowa — Researchers with the Climate and Corn-based Cropping Systems Coordinated Agricultural Project <http://www.sustainablecorn.org/> have documented 130 findings, some of which will be explored during a Feb. 11 webinar, open to the public through Iowa State University.

The five-year USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture research project is nearing completion, led by Lois Wright Morton, a professor of sociology at Iowa State. In 2011, Morton convened 140 researchers from 10 land-grant universities in the Corn Belt and USDA Agricultural Research Service, to begin a study of farmers' perceptions and farm management practices.

The practices had the potential to provide resilience in times of drought, reduce soil and nutrient losses under saturated soil conditions, decrease field nitrogen losses, retain carbon in the soil and ensure crop and soil productivity. The researchers collected measurements at 35 field sites with diverse landscapes and soils, and from surveys of thousands of Midwestern farmers, entering all the data into one database for the team's use.

The project's extension educators worked to ensure the findings could be used by farmers, crop advisers, teachers and students of agriculture and other extension educators, during project years and beyond. More than 60 fact sheets, videos and other project publications are available at <http://store.extension.iastate.edu/Topic/Crops/Climate-and-Agriculture>.

In 2016, project researchers will continue cross-disciplinary integration of the data and publish recommendations focused on combining various practices for optimum results.

The live, Adobe Connect webinar is Feb. 11, 1 -3 p.m. (Central time) at <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/sustainablecorn/>. For audio, call (888) 450-5996; passcode 424492#. The recording (visual and audio) will be available afterwards, at www.sustainablecorn.org. Topics include tillage and drainage water management, cover crops and farmer adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Certified Crop Advisers, Certified Professional Agronomists and Certified Professional Soil Scientists can receive CEUs for attending the webinar. For more information about the webinar and the project, go to www.sustainablecorn.org.

SOIL TESTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

ISU's main resource on soil fertilizer recommendations is publication PM 1688 "A General Guide for Crop Nutrient and Limestone Recommendations in Iowa". It is a free pdf file available at the ISU Soil Fertility web site: www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nutrienttopics/recommendations.html

There were also new publications for 2015 on nitrogen and sulfur management:

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Nitrogen-Use-in-Iowa-Corn-Production>

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Sulfur-Management-for-Iowa-Crop-Production>

IOWA SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

February 13, 2016 Scheman Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Visit: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/smallfarms/> for details

Make the most of your small farm or acreage! Make the most of your time, lifestyle, opportunities and networking. The Iowa Small Farms Conference is an event for people excited to learn more about opportunities with small acreage and ways they can make income on their land or improve their rural lifestyle.

The conference kicks off with a keynote address from Daniel Salatin of Polyface Farm in Virginia. Polyface, Inc. is a family owned, multi-generational, pasture-based, beyond organic, local-market farm and informational outreach in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Experts will lead sessions in three relevant tracks throughout the day on a wide variety of topics including orchard establishment, monarch consortium, ancient grains, small-scale machinery sharing, taking your recipe to market and much more. A trade show will allow attendees to network with companies.



PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/ COORDINATORS

Serving Region 15

Agriculture

Ag Engineering Greg Brenneman
319-337-2145 gregb@iastate.edu

Beef Livestock Denise Schwab
319-472-4739 dschwab@iastate.edu
Patrick Wall 641-842-2014
patwall@iastate.edu

Commercial Horticulture

Patrick O'Malley 319-337-2145
omall@iastate.edu

Agronomy

Lance Miller 319-337-2145
lrm@iastate.edu

Meaghan Anderson 319-337-2145
mjanders@iastate.edu

Virgil Schmitt 563-263-5701
vschmitt@iastate.edu

Farm Management Ryan Drollette
319-337-2145 drollett@iastate.edu

Swine Tom Miller
319-653-4811 tmiller@iastate.edu

Community Economic Dev.

Himar Hernandez 641-682-5491
himarh@iastate.edu

Human Sciences

Family Life Janet Smith
319-385-8126 jansmith@iastate.edu

Nutrition & Wellness Rachel Wall
319-337-2145 wallr@iastate.edu

Family Finance Mary Weinand
641-472-4166 mweinand@iastate.edu

Youth

Janet Martin
319-337-2145 jmmartin@iastate.edu
Scott Hansen Big Brothers Big Sisters
319-337-2145 smhansen@iastate.edu

County Youth Coordinators

Johnson Co.-Camie Marshek 319-337-2145
cmarshek@iastate.edu

Iowa Co.-Mary Veatch 319-668-1052
mkaiser@iastate.edu

Keokuk Co.-Michele Sieren 641-622-2680
mhsieren@iastate.edu

Washington Co.-Amy Green 319-653-4811
amygreen@iastate.edu

Advancement Team

Karen Lathrop 319-930-9744
klathrop@iastate.edu

Regional Ext. Edu. Director

Gene Mohling 319-337-2145
mohling@iastate.edu

ANNIE'S PROJECT MANAGING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Starting Thursday March 10, for 5 weeks in Tipton, Annie's Project Managing for Today & Tomorrow will begin. Register online at www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag. This series is intended for women involved in the ag farming operation. Course cost is \$75.

What is Managing for Today and Tomorrow? The decisions made during business, estate, retirement and succession planning are combined to form a farm transition plan. Planning helps ensure the farm can continue as a productive agricultural business. This course focuses on the management, processes, and decisions needed to make successful transitions.

COMMON SWINE INDUSTRY AUDIT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

The Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) is partnering with the Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC) and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach swine field specialists to offer free training and preparation sessions aimed at helping Iowa pork producers prepare for a Common Swine Industry Audit (CSIA).

Session attendees will have an opportunity to walk through steps of the common audit, evaluate areas for improvement on their farms and customize Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be best prepared for the audit process. Attendees also will be provided a binder and flash drive, including customizable audit materials for their farms, compliments of IPPA, IPIC and the Pork Checkoff.

Training session dates, times and registration information currently scheduled are as follows:

March 7th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St. Washington, IA 52353. please contact tmiller@iastate.edu to reserve your spot

March 15th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Iowa County Extension Office, 223 West Welsh St. Williamsburg, IA 52361 please contact tmiller@iastate.edu to reserve your spot

June 14th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Washington Extension Office, 2223 250th St. Washington, IA 52353 please contact tmiller@iastate.edu to reserve your spot

If you would like one in your area or for your group of producers (10-15 operations class size) Please contact tmiller@iastate.edu

Classes are offered at no charge with support from IPPA. To learn more about audits visit <http://www.pork.org/common-industry-audit/>

IOWA DNR EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has changed its 24/7 Environmental Emergency phone number. The new number is **515-725-8694** and should be used to report manure, fertilizer or chemical spills, as well as fish kills and other environmental emergencies. Remember that manure and chemical spills must be reported within six hours of the onset or discovery of the spill. If you're not sure who should use this emergency number, check the IDNR website's www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Emergency-Planning-EPCRA/Spill-Reporting

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IOWA LIFTS BAN ON POULTRY EXHIBITIONS

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship announced that the order canceling all live bird exhibitions at county fairs, the Iowa State Fair, livestock auction markets, swap meets, exotic sales and other gatherings of birds due to avian influenza was lifted on January 1, 2016.

"This is very good news and another sign that we continue to recover from this devastating animal health emergency. We know the ban on exhibitions caused some real challenges for those anticipating showing or selling birds, but we appreciate everyone cooperating as we worked to stop the disease and then allow the industry to recover," said Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

The Department issued the order prohibiting poultry exhibitions on May 21 in the midst of the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The ban was put into place to minimize spread of HPAI and protect the state's domestic bird population. Lifting the poultry exhibition ban comes as a result of no new cases of HPAI in Iowa since June and the lifting of the final quarantine on December 1. Iowa is now considered free of HPAI.

Total of 77 premises and 31.5 million birds were affected with the disease in Iowa. There are 35 commercial turkey flocks, 22 commercial egg production flocks, 13 pullet flocks, 1 chicken breeding flock, 1 mail order hatchery, and 5 backyard flocks.

More information about the avian influenza situation in Iowa can be found at www.iowaagriculture.gov/avianinfluenza.asp.

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