

# AG

ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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Washington, IA 52353

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# newsletter

April 1, 2015

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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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## SE RESEARCH FARM FIELD DAY JUNE 23

The Southeast Iowa Research Farm Spring Field Day is set for Tuesday, June 23. Certified Crop Advisor Training is planned with registration at 8:30 a.m. with training held from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The tours and Spring Field Day will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The research farm is located near Crawfordsville. More details will be released later this spring.

## PESTICIDE TESTING ON APRIL 6 & 10

The Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship (IDALS) will offer pesticide testing on Monday, April 6, at the Johnson County Extension Office and Friday, April 10, at the Washington County Extension Office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. respectively. All tests are available at these sites and will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tests are administered by the IDALS. Because it may be necessary to cancel or reschedule a test date or site, it is recommended you confirm the test time and site prior to travel. IDALS offers testing monthly at the Washington County and Johnson County Extension Offices.

Study materials are available for purchase from your local Extension office or online from Iowa State University: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/> then select the tab "Agriculture & Environment" and "Pesticide Applicator Training Manuals." For more information contact Washington County Extension at 319-653-4811 or IDALS Pesticide Bureau at 515-281-8591.

## LAST CHANCE PRIVATE PESTICIDE TRAINING

The last chance for farmers to attend private pesticide applicator training are:  
**Johnson County Extension- Tuesday, April 14, 9:30 a.m. 319-337-2145**  
**Keokuk County Extension- Wednesday, April 15, 9 a.m. 641-622-2680**  
**Washington County Extension- Wednesday, April 15, 1:30 p.m. 319-653-4811**  
**Iowa County Extension- Tues., April 14, 4 p.m. & Wed., April 15, 9 a.m. 319-668-1052**

The cost of the training is \$20. This training will be done by webinar. There will be no trainings held anywhere after April 15. Pre-registration is not required but applicators are encouraged to contact the Extension Office. Pesticide applicators who wish to recertify by training and not by exam must attend a continuing instruction course each year. There is also the option of taking an exam to recertify. Washington and Johnson County Extension are field test sites for those needing to take pesticide applicator tests. Tests are administered by the Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship. Please contact the County Extension Office for more information or other locations for trainings.

## 2015 CROP COST ESTIMATES RELEASED

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach released its annual publication titled Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa – 2015. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html> The publication is intended to help farmers determine their own potential 2015 crop costs per acre and per bushel. The calculations take into consideration the various crop costs like tillage practices, machinery, inputs, labor and land for varying yield expectations.

“In 2015, we expect a drop in the crop cost estimates for both corn and soybean production in Iowa,” said Steve Johnson, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. Due to differences in soil potentials, crop rotations, quantity of inputs used and other factors, production costs will vary from farm to farm.



As reported in the January 2015 issue of Ag Decision Maker newsletter, Johnson explained how they present the estimates, “The 2015 Iowa Crop Cost Estimates bar chart indicates the 2015 cost estimates for three different crop rotation options assuming conventional tillage practices and medium-yield expectations. Total costs are expected to decline from 2014 by 1 to 2 percent depending on the crop planted,” he said. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/newsletters/nl2015/jan15.pdf> These cost estimates are representative of average costs for farms in Iowa. Very large or small farms may have lower or higher fixed costs per acre.

## REQUIRED MOREL MUSHROOM CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN APRIL

Interested in hunting and selling morel mushrooms in Iowa? If so, plan to take this three-hour class in April from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and be certified to sell morel mushrooms legally within the state of Iowa. “The purpose of the workshops is to help assure that mushrooms sold as morels in the state are actually morels,” said Mark Gleason of ISU Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, who is conducting the workshops. “People can be poisoned by eating mushrooms that are misidentified as morels.”

To legally sell morel mushrooms in Iowa, sellers must complete a certification workshop on identifying morels and false morels. The certification lasts for three years. Iowans who have not certified for three or more years must re-certify this year. Registration is open to out-of-state individuals.

**Workshop Agenda** 1) Pre-training identification test 2) Slide presentation on recognizing morels and false morels as well as other species of wild mushrooms 3) Examine preserved morels and false morels 4) Post-training identification test (and re-testing as needed) 5) Receive wall-size and wallet-size training certificates

### Location and Times

All three 2015 morel certification workshops will be held on the Iowa State University campus in Ames, at Room 106, in the Seed Science Building, located at the northwest corner of Wallace Road and Osborn Drive, on the following dates: Saturday, April 4, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, April 11, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, 1-4 p.m.

Free parking is available near the Seed Science Building, in Lot #41 on the east side of Wallace Road. See an online campus map. To register for the workshop contact Mark Gleason at 515-294-0579 or email [mgleason@iastate.edu](mailto:mgleason@iastate.edu). Participants should indicate which workshop they plan to attend. Cost is \$50 per person, payable at the training. Cash or checks are accepted; no credit cards.

## EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) is now offering certified commercial pesticide applicators the opportunity to receive email notifications of upcoming Continuing Instructional Courses (CIC) and other pesticide safety education opportunities. Applicators can use the link below to sign up to receive notifications. Applicators can select the categories they would like notification for and will also have the opportunity to update their information if it changes, or opt-out at any time if they no longer wish to receive email notifications. Participation is voluntary. Spring and Fall postcard notifications will still be sent to employers. Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Email Notification Sign-Up Web Site <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep/>

## FARM MANAGEMENT ONLINE LINKS

### Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey Update March 2015

This information is now updated as of March 2015, and is available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/others/PlaMar15.html>

### County Yields for Corn and Soybeans in 2014

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) now has available estimated county yields for 2014. Go to: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Iowa/Publications/County\\_Estimates/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Iowa/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp)

### County Historical Yields for Corn and Soybeans

Corn yields are available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-12.html>

Soybean yields are available at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-13.html>

## 4-INCH SOIL TEMPERATURE

Temperatures are posted in the NPKnowledge website at: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/NPKnowledge/> Currently, soil temperatures are in the 30's. Oats will germinate at 35F, and could be planted anytime now once the soil is fit to drive on. However, alfalfa's preferred planting window is April.

## IOWA GRANT WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOODS IS APRIL 22

AMES, Iowa – Grant-writing workshops designed to help potential applicants understand, develop and submit their federal grant applications for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program are being offered in every U.S. state this spring through a unique collaboration among federal, state and regional partners. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service and National Institute for Food and Agriculture to conduct workshops in Iowa. This effort is known as the Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance Project.

Register for the Iowa event to be held in Ames April 22 at the Hansen Agriculture Learning Center, 2615 Mortenson Road, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. by visiting [www.extension.iastate.edu/article/iowa-grant-workshop-support-local-foods-april-22](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/iowa-grant-workshop-support-local-foods-april-22) The grant workshop is one of two professional development options offered during the Regional Food Systems Working Group spring meeting.

"The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program is a key to USDA's efforts to revitalize rural economies by supporting local and regional food systems," said AMS Administrator Anne Alonzo. "The grant workshops will ensure that more communities and businesses across the country can participate in the competitive grant process with proposals that create real economic opportunities and help meet the growing demand for locally and regionally produced food."

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is coordinating the workshops through the Regional Rural Development Centers, and Cooperative Extension System educators will provide training in all regions of the country. NIFA and all partners will conduct outreach to raise awareness of AMS grant opportunities and increase participation in the programs. The AMS and NIFA collaborative effort for this innovative national training project will be directed by Stephan J. Goetz of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development based at Penn State.

"In the history of the Regional Rural Development Centers this is an unprecedented collaboration in terms of the scope and reach of a single project," said Goetz. "We are pleased to be a part of this partnership effort and expect that it may become a model for efficient delivery of federal educational programs in the future." A list of upcoming grant workshop dates and locations can be found at <http://www.amsta.net>. More workshops will be added soon, and the state representatives listed on the website can be contacted for additional information about upcoming workshops. Some of the workshop sessions will be recorded and available for online viewing for those not able to attend in person.

With \$30 million authorized annually by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) through fiscal year 2018, AMS' Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program awards competitive grants to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local and regional markets. The Farmers' Market Promotion Program supports farmers' markets and other direct producer-to-consumer activities, while the Local Food Promotion Program supports enterprises that aggregate, store, distribute and process local and regional food.

## YARD AND GARDEN: YOUR OWN ASPARAGUS PATCH

AMES, Iowa--It's the time of year when wild asparagus hunters are taking to roadside ditches and railway right-of-ways in search of this spring delicacy — a hunt that is rivaled only by the woodland hikes to find morel mushrooms. Coming home with a bounty of fresh greens is a treasure to be savored every spring. For the less adventurous and gardeners that want a "patch" all their own, this is also a good time to plan, purchase and plant asparagus in the home garden. Horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach recommend asparagus varieties for Iowa gardens and share how to properly plant and harvest a home patch of asparagus. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu).



### What would be a good planting site for asparagus?

Carefully consider possible planting sites, as asparagus is a perennial crop. A well-maintained asparagus planting may be productive for 15 to 20 years. Asparagus performs best in well-drained soils in full sun. Planting sites should receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Avoid shady sites near large trees and buildings. Raised beds are a good planting option for gardeners with poorly drained soils.

### What are some good asparagus varieties for the home garden?

Asparagus is dioecious. Dioecious plants produce separate male and female plants. Male asparagus plants live longer and are more productive than female plants. Excellent all-male asparagus varieties (cultivars) for the home garden include 'Jersey Giant,' 'Jersey Knight,' 'Jersey King,' and 'Jersey Supreme.' 'Mary Washington' and 'Martha Washington' are good standard asparagus cultivars. (A planting of 'Mary Washington' or 'Martha Washington' will include both male and female plants.) 'Purple Passion' is a distinctive cultivar with purple shears.

### When is the best time to plant asparagus?

The best way to establish an asparagus planting is to plant one-year-old crowns. Asparagus crowns can be purchased at garden centers and mail-order nurseries. Early spring (April to early May) is the best time to plant asparagus in Iowa.

### How do you plant asparagus?

Asparagus crowns should be planted in shallow trenches or furrows. The planting depth depends on the soil type. Asparagus crowns should be planted eight to 10 inches deep in light, sandy soils, but only six inches deep in heavier soils. Space crowns 12 to 18 inches apart in rows that are four to five feet apart. Place asparagus crowns in the bottom of the furrow (buds pointing upward). Spread out the roots of the asparagus plants. After planting, completely fill the trench with soil. (For many years, it has been a common practice to cover the asparagus crowns with two inches of soil and gradually fill the trench as the asparagus grows. However, research has found the gradual filling of the furrow is unnecessary.)

### After planting asparagus, when can I begin to harvest spears?

Asparagus plants should be allowed to become well established before any spears are harvested. No spears should be harvested during the first growing season. Asparagus can be harvested over a three to four week period during its second growing season. In following years, asparagus plantings can be harvested until early to mid-June. Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping the spears when they reach a height of six to eight inches.

## JOHNSON COUNTY 4-H HOSTING IJBBA OPEN CATTLE SHOW

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Johnson County Classic, Open Beef Show. Johnson County 4-H'ers will be hosting an Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association (IJBBA) sanctioned open beef show on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. This event is open for all youth up to age 21. To exhibit at this show, there are no requirements to be a member of the IJBBA or a member of 4-H. However, members of the IJBBA will receive points. This is a great opportunity for youth to compete against youth from other counties, work more with their cattle, gain experience and most of all have fun!

Check-in will be from 8:00-9:30 a.m. The show will begin at 11:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$35.00 per head. Pre-registration is \$30.00 per head if registered by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South, Iowa City, IA 52246. Prizes will be awarded to Supreme Breeding and Reserve Breeding Champions as well as Supreme Market and Reserve Market Champion animals. Health papers are required on all animals. If intending to show in a breed division registration papers are required. Generators are recommended, but not required.

If you have would like to register, donate to the event or have any additional questions please contact Camie Marshek. 319-337-2145. Registration forms are available at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/>.

## ISU EXTENSION OFFERS FARM FINANCIAL PLANNING SUPPORT



A FINPACK analysis and useful counseling and finance management referrals are included in the support offered by ISU Extension and Outreach.

AMES, Iowa – It's safe to say that financial management for farm families is unique. Farm income can be irregular and unpredictable. Bills must be paid, livestock fed and crops tended to. Taking care of a family's needs can add stress.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering Farm Financial Planning, a program providing one-on-one financial support and advice to farmers. The program includes FINPACK, a computerized analysis of the farm business. It also offers useful referrals to ISU Extension and Outreach programs and outside services such as counseling or finance management courses.

"FINPACK gives information to make more informed and profitable decisions for the future of a farm business," said Ann Johanns, extension program specialist. "The farm financial planning program was initiated in the 1980s in response to the farm crisis. It continues to be available to give Iowans confidence with stressful issues, legal questions and financial concerns."

Any farmer who wants to understand a complete picture of their farm financial situation, which many lenders are requiring before they will extend further credit, should consider the Farm Financial Planning program. The goal of the program is to help determine farm business needs, and whether or not future changes are desirable. As part of the program analysis, farm business operators will see at least three in-depth FINPACK business plans and how to implement alternatives like the addition, expansion or phasing out of a livestock operation, or buying, selling or renting land. Farm Financial Planning can also help evaluate ways to correct negative cash flow and profitability problems.

A trained ISU Extension and Outreach associate meets with the family one to two times to get farm records and to discuss results of the FINPACK analysis in confidence and possible effects if changes are made. The extension associate may introduce other farm and family financial materials or information about outside sources of help. The service is available at no charge and is funded by the Agricultural Credit School, a program of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and the Iowa Bankers Association.

Farm Financial associates are part-time ISU Extension and Outreach employees trained in farm budgeting and financial analysis. They have farm backgrounds so they understand farming and the challenges it may bring.

To set up an appointment, contact the Farm Financial Associates in your area: Jim Dane, Iowa City, 319-354-3963 [jim@dane.org](mailto:jim@dane.org) For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach farm management specialist in your county office at [www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/farm-management-0](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/farm-management-0). Or contact the Beginning Farmer Center at 877-232-1999.

## IJBBA OPEN CATTLE SHOW APRIL 18 IN WASHINGTON

Washington County 4-H County Council will be sponsoring an IJBBA sanctioned open cattle show on Saturday, April 18 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This event is open to youth of all ages up to 21. To exhibit at this show, there are no requirements to be a member of the IJBBA or a member of 4-H. However, members of the IJBBA will receive points. This is a great opportunity for youth to compete against youth from other counties, work more with their cattle, gain experience and have fun.

Check-in will be from 8:00-9:30 a.m. The show will begin at 11:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$35.00. Pre-registration is \$30.00 if registered by April 1st. Pre-registration guarantees a t-shirt per exhibitor. Make checks payable to Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St. Washington, IA 52353. Supreme Champion will receive \$250.00 and Reserve Champion will receive \$150.00 for both market and breeding animals. All 1st-3rd place in the class will have cash awards.



Health papers are required on all animals. If intending to show in a breed division registration papers are required. Generators are recommended, but not required. In conjunction with this event will be a Pancake Breakfast from 7:00-10:30 a.m. in the lower level of Dallmeyer Hall on the fairgrounds. If you would like to register, donate to the event or have any additional questions please contact Amy Green at 319/653-4811. Forms can be found at [www.extension.iastate.edu/washington/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/washington/Flyer-2015.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/washington/Flyer-2015.pdf) or by calling 319-653-4811.

## MANURE APPLICATOR PROGRAM SHOW DATES

Washington County Extension will reshew both the Commercial and Confinement Manure Applicator Programs on the first Friday of each month for those that were unable to attend a workshop. If you need to schedule a reshew at any other time, you will be charged a \$10 fee per person.

The Commercial Manure Program (3 hours in length) will be shown at 8:30 am and the Confinement Manure Program (2 hours in length) will be shown at 1:30 pm at the Washington County Extension Office, 2223 250th St., Washington, IA 52353. No pre registration is required. Please contact the Washington County Extension Office at 319-653-4811 with any questions.

## IOWA FARM CUSTOM RATE SURVEY SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASES FOR 2015

AMES, Iowa – Rates for custom machine work and services are showing a steady increase again for 2015, according to the 2015 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey. The service categories that were surveyed include information on tillage, planting, spraying, harvesting and hauling grain and forages. Also included are values for miscellaneous services, and machinery and grain storage rental.

Alejandro Plastina, economist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, indicates that expected farm custom rates for 2015 increased 1.2 percent from their 2014 survey results. “In dollar terms, rates are 19 cents higher on average. However, 90 percent of the changes in custom rates range between a decline of \$2.10 and an increase of \$2.20 from their 2014 levels, averaging only a 1-cent increase,” said Plastina.



A total of 166 Iowa farmers, custom operators and farm managers replied to the survey. Twenty-five percent of them reported that they performed custom work for others, 11 percent reported hiring custom work done and 64 percent indicated that they did both. There are many reasons why the rate charged in a particular situation should be above or below the average. These include the timeliness with which operations are performed, quality and special features of the machine, operator skill, size and shape of fields, number of acres contracted, and the condition of the crop for harvesting. The availability of custom operators in a given area also will affect rates.

Ag Decision Maker offers a Decision Tool to help custom operators and other farmers estimate their own costs for specific machinery operations. The Machinery Cost Calculator, File A3-29 can be found under Crops, then Machinery in the Ag Decision Maker left-hand navigation bar at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/decisionaids.html>

The 2015 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey is available at your county extension office or online as publication FM-1698 <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a3-10.pdf> or as Information File A3-10, Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey, on the Ag Decision Maker website [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/).

## ALFALFA-Little Concern of Over-Wintered Stands

Even though winter weather was quite cold at times, snow cover usually kept 4-inch soils temperatures at 20F or higher. Only twice during the winter dropping to 19F (Feb. 18 and 23), but nowhere close to the 5-15F temperatures to where we might have some concerns with some cold injury to alfalfa crowns. Plus, with the rather quite warmup lately, we seem to have avoided some of our usual late-winter concerns with possible alfalfa injury to extended ponding or ice sheets.

## PASTURE-N Fertilization

The majority of pasture production of our cool season forage species occurs in spring. To take advantage of this production potential, N fertilization of grass pastures in spring is usually recommended at anywhere from 30 to 80 lbs of N/ac. If a pasture consists of at least 40% legumes, then the legumes should be able to provide all of the needed N to the grasses.

## PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/ COORDINATORS

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## ACREAGE LIVING NEWSLETTER ADDRESSES SPRING ISSUES

AMES, Iowa —“April showers bring May flowers”— along with yard work, weeds and excess rainwater. Acreage owners can be proactive about managing all these spring tasks by subscribing to the electronic Acreage Living <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms> newsletter, offered free from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Small Farm Sustainability Program. The recently published Spring 2015 e-newsletter provides readers with resources and information to manage spring home and landscaping projects.



Excess rainwater is inevitable in the spring, but can it be contained and reused?

“Harvesting rainwater has gained attention in recent years, especially after the Midwest experienced a couple seasons of wet springs followed by several dry weeks during the growing season,” said Linda Naeve, value added agriculture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

In the wet season, runoff from roofs and drain pipes can create riverlets and trenches across a landscape. But the dry season has homeowners wishing for a little more rain to keep plants alive. These problems can be solved with a rainwater catchment system.

“Use of collected rainwater reduces the need for potable water for outdoor water uses, such as watering landscape plants,” Naeve said. The rainwater catchment article explains how to calculate the amount of water a catchment will need to hold, what to use for a catchment, different ways to use the collected water, and where to purchase the supplies needed to install a rainwater catchment system.

The *Acreage Living* newsletter also offers information on May flowers. Planning how to use extensive space around a rural home can be tricky, but the article on spatial design explains how to find the most aesthetically pleasing way to organize flower beds.

“By using bubble (or functional) diagrams and form composition studies, a comprehensive spatial design can be achieved that will miraculously reveal garden rooms surrounded by planting beds,” said Lisa Orgler, professor of horticulture with Iowa State University.

Her article describes how to study the relationship of spaces and the visual connections between them. Once a homeowner understands how to use space efficiently, garden areas can be defined with a strong shape inspired by a particular garden style or even the architecture of the owner’s home. After plans have been laid out for a beautifully designed landscape, the only thing left to do is to start digging and plant.

Additional articles featured in this issue include manure management, using riparian buffer strips, and managing thistles. To subscribe to future issues or to view past issues, visit the Small Farm Sustainability Web page at [www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms).

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## NEW EXTENSION AGRONOMY SPECIALIST NAMED



IOWA CITY, Iowa – Iowa State University (ISU) Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources has named Meaghan Anderson as ISU Extension and Outreach agronomy specialist. Meaghan will work from the Johnson County Extension Office in Iowa City and serve eastern Iowa counties including: Benton, Buchanan, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Linn, Poweshiek, Tama and Washington. The position was formerly held by Jim Fawcett who retired from service in December 2013.

In December 2014, Anderson earned a Master of Science degree in crop production and physiology from Iowa State University, and a bachelor's in agronomy, magna cum laude, in May 2012. She worked with the Monsanto Company as production research intern in Illinois and most recently served as lab and teaching assistant with the Agronomy Department at ISU.

ISU Extension and Outreach Regional Director Gene Mohling says he is pleased to welcome Anderson to Region 15 in eastern Iowa. "Meaghan will be a valuable part of the team that develops producer and crop advisor educational efforts such as the Crop Advantage Series, Ag Chemical Dealer Update, Southeast Iowa Research Farm efforts and assist with on-farm producer issues." Anderson's research specialized in weed sciences, rye biomass and herbicide effects on fall cover crops. But she is also passionate about communicating for a successful extension program. "Holding field demonstrations and on-farm research projects, gathering support and providing advice through newsletters will keep me busy. But I especially am looking forward to seeking advice and information by holding workshops, field days, and integrated crop management winter meetings."

Anderson can be contacted through the Johnson County Extension Office at 319-337-7864 or [mjanders@iastate.edu](mailto:mjanders@iastate.edu).

**Stay Informed - [www.extension.iastate.edu/washington](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington)**