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ISU Extension & Outreach

Washington County

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newsletter

July 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Managing For Today & Tomorrow-Course for Farm Women**
- **Certified Grazier Program**
- **State Land Open to Emergency Haying & Grazing**
- **Court Decision Effects CRP Land Owners**
- **Determine Safety Before Using Produce From Flooded Gardens**
- **Manure Issues**
- **Register for Aug. 12 Fruit & Vegetable Field Day**
- **Farm Land Leasing Meetings in August**
- **Yard & Garden-Weeds**
- **Soil Sustainability Webinar July 17**
- **GAP Fall Workshops**
- **Tick Publication Available**
- **Region 15 County Fairs**
- **Eastern Iowa Forage Prices**

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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FARM GENERATIONAL TRANSITION, 'MANAGING FOR-TODAY AND TOMORROW' COURSE FOR FARM WOMEN BEGINS AUGUST 20TH IN IOWA CITY & MT. PLEASANT

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 Iowa City on Tuesday evenings, August, 20th through September, 17th.

Two options exist for those wishing to participate in the program:

Managing for Today and Tomorrow: Farm Transition Planning meets from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August, 20th through September, 17th, at the Johnson County Farm Bureau office in Iowa City, Iowa. Also from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August, 20th through September, 17th at the Henry County Extension office in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The cost is \$75 per person, which includes a 300-page workbook with fact sheets, hands-on activities, and presentations. A light supper will be served before each class at 5:45 p.m. 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 Johnson 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, ISU Farm Management Specialist at 319-337-2145 or drollett@iastate.edu; or Shannon Bielicke, at the Johnson County Extension office at 319-337-2145 or Bielicke@iastate.edu.

CERTIFIED GRAZIER PROGRAM EXPANDS IN 2013

ARTICLE | TUE, 06/04/2013 - 08:29 | BY [JOE SELLERS](#), [SHERRY HOYER](#)

CHARITON, Iowa — Following a successful pilot season in 2012, the Certified Grazer Program is being expanded to two southern Iowa locations this year. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach beef program specialist Joe Sellers said the program is ideal for those who have experience with grazing and want more detailed information on tools and techniques.

“Past participants of our Greenhorn Grazing series or other in-depth grazing programs will benefit from this next-level programming,” he said. “This series offers classroom and field-based sessions, including personalized learning opportunities, at Fairfield and Creston this summer and fall.”

General information sessions feature a variety of management strategies and ways to apply those strategies to participants' land. Personalized sessions offer in-depth looks at specific topics that can be incorporated into individual grazing plans, while networking with others provides opportunities for discussions with fellow producers on how they've approached grazing and developed plans tailored to available resources and goals.

Sellers said producers can take advantage of others' practical experiences by seeing actual on-farm results of various techniques, and can build and strengthen mentoring relationships between themselves and experienced graziers, as well as university and industry personnel. Cost is \$100 per person for the six-part series, which includes a meal at each session and a reference guide. The registration fee is payable to the Jefferson County Extension office at Fairfield or the Lucas County Extension office at Chariton.

Dates for the six-part series are specific to each location as follows:

Fairfield, Jefferson County Extension office — July 9, July 30, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15 and Nov. 5

Creston, Southwestern Community College agricultural center — July 2, July 25, Aug. 27, Sept. 19, Oct. 17 and Nov. 12

Sponsors of the Certified Grazer Program are ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Beef Center, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Dow AgroScience, Southern Iowa Forage and Livestock Committee, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, contact Sellers at 641-203-1270, ISU beef program specialist Byron Leu at 641-799-2298, Certified Grazer Program coordinator Brian Peterson at 641-344-1026, or Rick Sprague of NRCS at 712-542-8765.

STATE LAND OPEN TO EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will open up state land to haying and grazing to help farmers impacted by severe weather conditions. “This has been one of the most challenging weather patterns Iowa farmers have ever had to face and we want to be able to provide some additional options to our livestock producers,” said DNR Deputy Director Bruce Trautman.

Most state lands in Iowa do not have proper fencing for cattle so farmers wanting to use the land for grazing would be responsible for setting up temporary electric fencing and watering tanks, making haying more likely to be the most viable option. **Haying and grazing can start after July 15th** when the primary nesting season for upland birds has been completed. Land available is primarily the upland grassland areas however there are some additional opportunities for “flash grazing” in northeast Iowa and other limited opportunities on land not currently being leased to farmers.

“The DNR is working very closely with the Iowa Governor's Office and all of our stakeholders to make emergency livestock forage available and to make sure that we are helping those who need assistance the most,” said Trautman. Farmers interested in this opportunity should contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at 515-281-5918.

COURT DECISION EFFECTS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) LAND OWNERS

ARTICLE | WED, 07/03/2013 - 11:16 | BY CHRISTOPHER LIGHTFOOT, ROGER MCEOWEN, TIFFANY KAYSER

AMES, Iowa—As a result of a recent U.S. Tax Court ruling, those who sign a Conservation Reserve Program contract, whether they are involved in a farm business or just own the land, will find their CRP payments subject to self-employment tax. Previously, at least until 2003, self-employment tax on CRP payments was only enforced on those who were directly involved in a trade or business, and a non-farmer's CRP income was not subject to self-employment tax, said Roger McEowen, director of the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation and agricultural law professor at Iowa State University. "The issue is that people who are not in a trade or business should not need to pay self employment taxes on CRP rents," McEowen said. McEowen explained that even if someone just owns the land that is in the CRP and is not a farmer, the court says they will be charged the tax. According the USDA's website, the program pays landowners to halt all production on their environmentally sensitive lands to conserve and improve the quality of the land. The program is in place to help improve water quality, stop soil erosion and the loss of natural habitats. Landowners apply for the program by a bid to the USDA, who then accepts or denies the application. The participants then sign a 10 to 15 year contract. The court determined that the landowners participating in the CRP have the intent to make profit, and should be charged a self-employment tax. "The court says that you are in the trade or business of creating environmentally friendly land and farms," said McEowen. "Once you sign the CRP contract, the court states that you are in the trade or business of CRP and the CRP rents are subject to self-employment tax." With landowners being charged a self-employment tax, McEowen explained that when they apply their bids for the CRP, they would adjust their bids to incorporate the tax. The USDA will then have to pay more for the land to become a part of the CRP. Others may simply not participate in the CRP and cash lease the land to a farmer so that the cash rent income is not subject to self-employment tax.

DETERMINE SAFETY BEFORE USING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM FLOODED GARDENS

ARTICLE | MON, 07/01/2013 - 14:26 | BY ANGELA LAURY SHAW, TERESA WIEMERSLAGE

AMES, Iowa — Iowa fruit and vegetable growers have questions about the safety of produce harvested from gardens and fields that have been flooded. In responding to numerous questions the past two months, the On-Farm Food Safety team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach frequently references two extension publications.

Teresa Wiemerslage, a team member, said the publications are useful in determining the risk level for contamination from biological and chemical hazards. Garden Produce in Floods (SP 0328) is an ISU Extension publication available from the Extension Online Store at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/> and Safely Using Produce from Flooded Gardens is a University of Wisconsin Extension publication available at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood/docs/SafetyofProducefromFloodedGardens.pdf.

"If you are selling product to customers, you have a responsibility to minimize its risk to others," said Wiemerslage in a Wiemerslage notes in a June 24 post to the the Iowa GAP Center blog, <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/iowagap/>. "Never sell produce from a flood-damaged garden at a farm market or farm stand until you are sure that all contamination has been removed from the garden, usually a period of at least one month after the last incidence of flooding."

MANURE ISSUES

Website for foaming pit issues

The following link has information about what is known about the foaming pit issues present in the Midwest again this summer/fall and what producers should do from a safety standpoint. Several Midwestern Universities are working together to try and understand this issue better and are pooling their findings at: http://www.manure.umn.edu/applied/health_safety.html

Fact sheet on *Selling and Buying Manure in Iowa* is available

The latest Iowa Manure Manager Series fact sheet, *Selling and Buying Manure In Iowa*, has been finalized and posted to the web at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/pubs/imms/vol10.pdf>.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR AUG. 12 FRUIT & VEGETABLE FIELD DAY

ARTICLE | MON, 05/13/2013 - 08:18 | BY AJAY NAIR, WILLY KLEIN

AMES, Iowa — The 2013 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day at the Iowa State Horticulture Farm in Ames is set for Monday, Aug. 12. The field day will begin at 2 p.m. and feature research-based information on a variety of production topics of interest to fruit and vegetable growers. Although geared towards commercial production the event would be helpful to small scale growers, master gardeners and home owners who are interested in enhancing their production skills and diversifying their gardens and acreages.

The program fee for the event is \$25 which includes evening supper and refreshments. Participants are encouraged to stay after the meal to mingle with growers, researchers, agriculture professionals and extension personnel. Registrations for the field day can be made at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/hort/>. Online registration closes on Aug. 5 at midnight. A limited number of on-site registrations at \$35 will be available.

Tentative agenda includes a welcome by Jeff Iles, chair of the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University and presentations on topics related to fruit and vegetable production. The field day will tour research plots on biochar in carrot and pepper production; mechanization and disease management in cucurbit production; sweet potato cultivar trials; role of colored plastics in vegetable production; high tunnel production of tomatoes, cucumbers and raspberries; northern climate grape cultivar trials; apple root stocks and training systems; disease management system evaluation in apples; honey bee health and behavior; and other topics.

The Department of Horticulture in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture are field day organizers. The event would provide opportunity for real time assessment of ongoing research in the area of fruit and vegetable production.

FARM LAND LEASING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN AUGUST



Opportunities to lock in profits for the 2014 corn and soybean crops have disappeared as corn and soybean futures prices have fallen considerably since the predictions for record crops have been made by the USDA. Even as grain prices drop, continued increases are occurring in farmland values although the volume of sales is down. Many people are asking "What will cash rental rates look like for the 2014 crop year?" Setting cash rental rates in stable times is hard enough. Setting cash rental rates when there are volatile prices for corn, soybeans, and input cost, is even more difficult.

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension is offering a Farmland Leasing workshop on:

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 9:00 a.m., Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old HWY 218 S, Iowa City 319-337-2145

Monday, August 12, 1:00 p.m. Clarion Inn, Amana Colonies, I-80 at Exit 225 319-668-1052

Tuesday, August 13, 1:00 p.m. Keokuk County Extension Office, 400 220th Avenue, Sigourney 641-622-2680
Other meetings are also planned and can be found listed on the Iowa State University Extension Calendar.

Jim Jensen and Ryan Drollette, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialists, will be the presenters. Jensen & Drollette will be discussing land values, leasing practices, and lead an interactive discussion on methods to calculate cash rent. Jensen stated, "The most frequent stumbling block for setting a cash rental rate is determining the land quality of the farm. Rents on various quality soils and ways to determine land quality will be discussed. Land values and cash rental rates for various grades of land have not increased at the same percentage rate.

The Farmland Leasing workshop cost is \$25 per person and includes the 2013 Farm Leasing Arrangement booklet and copies of the presentation. To pre-register call the [YOUR OFFICE] at [PHONE]. Registration can be paid at the door approximately 30 minutes before the workshop begins. For those that pre-register 1 business day prior to or at the meeting, a \$5 late registration fee will be added.

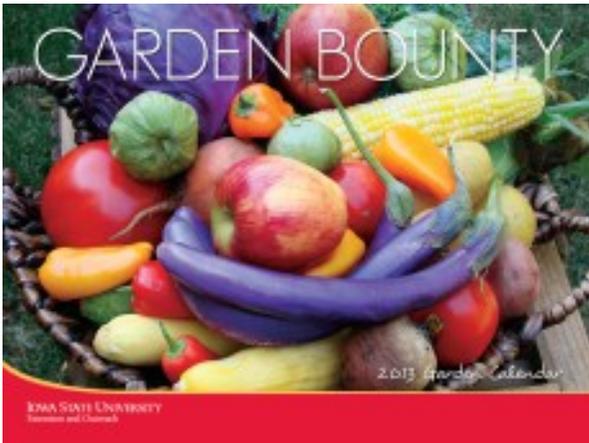
YARD AND GARDEN: WEEDS

ARTICLE | WED, 07/03/2013 - 08:11 | BY RICHARD JAURON, WILLY KLEIN

AMES, Iowa —Weeds are a constant problem for home gardeners. Weeds compete with garden crops for nutrients, moisture and sunlight. In large numbers, weeds can reduce the quality and yield of fruits and vegetables. Horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach answer questions about weeds in general and a couple of specific weed issues. Horticulturists are available through the ISU Hortline to answer additional questions. Contact them at hortline@iastate.edu or 515-294-3108 .

How do I control weeds in my garden?

Cultivation, hand pulling and mulches are the primary means to control weeds in the home garden. Cultivation and hand pulling effectively control most annual weeds. Perennial weeds are often more difficult to control. Repeated cultivation or the use of herbicides may be necessary to destroy some perennial weeds. When cultivating the garden, avoid deep tillage. The roots of many vegetables, fruits and flowers grow near the soil surface. Deep cultivation will cut off some of



these roots. Also, deep cultivation will bring deeply buried weed seeds to the soil surface where they can germinate. Hoe or till around plants or between rows and pull weeds close to plants. To effectively control weeds, cultivation and hand pulling must be done periodically through the growing season. Small weeds are much easier to control than large weeds. It's also important to destroy weeds before they have a chance to go to seed.

Mulches control weeds by preventing the germination of weed seeds. Established weeds should be destroyed prior to the application of the mulch. In addition to weed control, mulches help conserve soil moisture, reduce soil erosion, prevent crusting of the soil surface, keep fruits and vegetables clean, and may reduce disease problems. Grass clippings, shredded leaves and weed-free straw are excellent mulches

for vegetable gardens and annual flower beds. Apply several inches of these materials in early June after the soil has warmed sufficiently. Plant growth may be slowed if these materials are applied when soil temperatures are still cool in early spring. Grass clippings, shredded leaves, and similar materials break down relatively quickly and can be tilled into the soil in the fall. Wood chips and shredded bark are excellent mulches for perennial beds and areas around trees and shrubs. Apply 2 to 4 inches of material around landscape plantings. These materials decay slowly and should last several years. However, it will be necessary to apply additional material periodically to retain the desired depth. In some situations, herbicides may be necessary to control difficult to control perennial weeds.

How can I control weeds in my raspberries?

Cultivation and mulches are the most practical weed control measures for home gardeners. Cultivate the raspberry plantings frequently during spring and summer. To prevent injury to the roots of the raspberry plants, don't cultivate deeper than 2 to 3 inches. Mulches help to control weeds and conserve soil moisture. Possible mulching materials include straw, shredded leaves, lawn clippings, crushed corncobs, sawdust and wood chips. The depth of the mulch needed depends upon the material. The depth ranges from 3 to 4 inches for fine materials, such as sawdust, to 8 to 10 inches for straw. Since mulches gradually decompose, apply additional material each year. Avoid mulching poorly drained soils to discourage root diseases.

How do I control quackgrass in my iris bed?

Quackgrass is a cool-season perennial grass. It spreads rapidly by underground stems or rhizomes. Quackgrass is extremely difficult to control. To effectively control quackgrass, all of the rhizomes in the soil must be completely destroyed. Any rhizomes (or parts of rhizomes) that remain in the soil will eventually root and produce leafy growth. My suggestion is to carefully dig up the irises in early summer, place the plants in flats or boxes, and set the irises in a shady location. Then slowly and methodically dig up the area and remove as many of the quackgrass rhizomes as possible. Periodically check the area over the next several weeks and promptly dig up and destroy any quackgrass sprouts that appear. In late summer, replant the irises back in their original location.

SOIL SUSTAINABILITY WEBINAR JULY 17

ARTICLE | MON, 07/01/2013 - 11:23 | BY [MICHAEL CASTELLANO](#), [CAROL BROWN](#)

AMES, Iowa — Michael Castellano, assistant agronomy professor at Iowa State University, will share his research on nitrogen and soil organic matter during the Iowa Learning Farms' monthly webinar Wednesday, July 17. The 11:30 a.m. webinar is part of a free series, hosted by ILF, through Adobe Connect. The series is on the third Wednesday of each month. A computer with Internet access is all that is needed to participate.

Castellano will discuss the status and management of soil organic matter stocks in Iowa soils. "Soil organic matter, rather than fertilizer, is the largest direct source of crop nitrogen uptake – regardless of the amount of nitrogen fertilizer applied," Castellano said. "Soil organic matter is also typically the largest sink for nitrogen fertilizer. Due to the effects of soil organic matter on nutrient availability as well as water holding capacity, soil organic matter is positively correlated with the amount and stability of crop yields."

Castellano received his Ph.D. in soil science from The Pennsylvania State University in 2009. He has worked in agricultural systems in Arizona, Texas and Maryland. His research focuses on the use, transport and transformation of nitrogen. To connect to the webinars, go to: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/> at 11:30 a.m. on the morning of the webinar and log in as a guest. Castellano will be able to answer questions from webinar attendees via the Adobe Connect chat box. The ILF website contains links for archived webinars from all previous sessions: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/Webinars/>. The webinar archive will also be available in a podcast through iTunes.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) FALL WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

AMES, Iowa — Along with increasing consumer interests in buying locally grown foods come food safety expectations from buyers. Good Agricultural Practices, or GAP, certification can be used by fruit and vegetable producers to meet buyer requirements for food safety. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will hold GAP workshops this fall for farmers who sell directly to consumers and those considering sales to retail foodservices. The one-day workshops are offered as Level 1: KNOW and Level 2: SHOW. Level 1 is training for growers who provide food to consumers through community-supported agriculture or farmers' markets, or are considering retail foodservice sales. Training covers good agriculture best practices and market considerations.

Level 2 workshops guide farmers in the development of a written farm food safety plan. Farmers considering sales to retail foodservices such as grocers, restaurants, hospitals and other institutions, and those interested in adding value to fresh produce and selling products in a convenience form will have the tools to demonstrate GAPs are in place after attending the workshop. Farmers then can offer food safety assurances to buyers.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach faculty and specialists instructing the workshops include Angela Shaw, food safety; Paul Domoto, horticulture; Catherine Strohbehn, food safety and local foods systems; and Linda Naeve, value added agriculture. The workshops are funded through a grant from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Workshops are also planned for the Council Bluffs and Des Moines area.

2013 GAP workshop schedule

Dubuque Workshops – Dubuque County Extension Office, 14858 W Ridge Lane

- Level 1 – Oct. 3; registration deadline Sept. 26
- Level 2 – Oct. 24; registration deadline Oct. 17

Iowa City Workshops – Johnson County Extension Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 South

- Level 1 – Sept. 24; registration deadline Sept. 17
- Level 2 – Oct. 1; registration deadline Sept. 24

The fee is \$25 per workshop with discounts for farms and multiple level participation. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion following the program. Registration can be made online at <http://bit.ly/12sLsxE>. For more information or to book a date, please contact Heather Snyder at 515-294-9020 or email at hsnyder@iastate.edu.

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EXTENSION HAS TICK PUBLICATION AVAIL- ABLE

Ticks are active now and it is important to take precautions to prevent ticks on people and pets. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers a publication, "Tick and Tick-borne Diseases in Iowa". This publication focuses on the three main species of ticks: black legged (deer) ticks, lone star ticks, and American dog ticks. It discusses biology, habitat, detection, prevention, and risks of all three species.

The publication is free for download from the ISU Extension Online Store at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/pm2036.pdf> or contact Washington County Extension at 319-653-4811 or any local office.

REGION 15 COUNTY FAIR DATES

County fair dates are shown below for counties in Region 15. For more information you may also contact your local Extension Office.



Keokuk County Expo July 16-20 641-622-2680

Iowa County Fair July 10-14, Auction July 14 319-668-1052

Washington County Fair July 13-19, Auction July 19 319-653-4811

Johnson County 4-H/FFA Fair July 22-25, Auction July 26 319-337-2145

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 11:30AM Alfalfa & Mixed Lg/Gr: SmSq \$2.50-4.50/b; LgRd \$35-42/bale Grass: SmSq \$2.00-3.00/bale

Kalona Auction (SE IA) Thursdays 11:00 AM Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.75-4.00/bale; LgSq \$47.50-55/B; LgRd \$75-130/bale Grass: SmSq \$2.25-3.75/bale; LgSq

\$25-55/bale; LgRd \$30-105/bale Baleage (type, bale size, and moisture % not stated) \$30/bale Straw: LgSq \$70/bale

Yoder Auction (Frytown) Alfalfa & Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$5.00-6.00/b; LgSq \$85-95/b; LgRd \$85/bale (wet) Grass: SmSq \$4.50-5.25/b; (LgSq \$90-125/b May); LgRd \$82.50-100/bale Straw: LgSq \$52.50/b; (LgRd \$15-20/bale May) Cornstalks: (LgRd \$25-27.50/b May)

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WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

JULY 14—19, 2013

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