January 16, 2012
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News Release
This is a CORRECTED RELEASE from 1/6/12. The program is on Thursdays, not Tuesdays.

Contact: Kristin Schulte, ISU Farm Management Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu, 563-547-3001.

Program Teaches Farm Women to be Better Business Partners

CALMAR - ISU Extension and Outreach will offer a nationally renowned farm business course for northeast Iowa women in February. Annie’s Project empowers farm women to be better business partners through peer networks. The program includes critical decision making and information topics on production, marketing, financial, legal and human resources risk management.

Named after Annie Fleck, a farm wife from Illinois, Annie’s Project recognizes that the unique learning preferences of women often are not served through traditional farm management education programs. Annie’s Project is a six-week course is designed especially for farm women to help them develop their management and decision making skills for the farm operation they are involved in.

Annie’s Project gives farm women the opportunity to learn from female agricultural professionals and network with other women in similar situations. Organized by a local committee and ISU Extension staff, the topics include personality and communication assessment, understanding market terminology, interpreting financial statements and understanding estate planning.

Annie’s Project will meet at the Northeast Iowa Community Based Dairy Foundation in Calmar for six weeks on Thursdays from 6-9 pm starting February 16. Participants receive software programs, access
to ISU Extension online courses, handouts and an Annie’s Project portfolio. A light dinner is included. Course size is limited.

Annie’s Project is being funded by a grant from the USDA/FCIC Risk Management Agency. Sponsors of the Annie’s program include Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Farm Credit Council, Farm Credit Services of America, and the American Farm Bureau. Local sponsors of the Calmar site include Asgrow, DEKALB, Farmers Union Coop, and Winn Coop.

For more information and to register, call Winneshiek County Extension office at 563-382-2949, or online at [http://www.uos.iastate.edu/mnet/annie/home.html](http://www.uos.iastate.edu/mnet/annie/home.html).

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**News Release**

**ISU Extension Offers Beef Feedlot Roundtable Sessions**

Beef feedlot operators and others interested in production topics are invited to attend one of three Beef Feedlot Roundtable locations on Feb. 14. These locations, in Garner, Nashua and Manchester, will be linked to a live meeting in West Point, Neb.

This opportunity for Iowans is provided through a cooperative agreement between Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension to share livestock educational resources and programs. Iowa participants may listen, ask questions of presenters and engage in discussion with the Nebraska attendees through electronic access.

The session features experts from ISU and UNL focusing on animal health and nutrition. ISU’s Jan Shearer will talk about digital dermatitis (also known as hair heel wart) and how to manage it in the feedlot. From UNL, Galen Erickson will present research on grain adaptation and roughage in the feedlot diet, and Heather DePra will talk about performance and economic impact of ionophores, implants and beta agonists in feedlots. Presenters from two UNL research facilities also will have updates from those locations.

The session begins with registration at 12:45 p.m. and will conclude by 4 p.m. The $10 per person fee (payable at the door) covers proceedings, meeting costs and refreshments. Those who want to attend should preregister by Thursday, Feb. 9, to ensure adequate materials are available.

Feedlot Roundtable sponsors are ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Beef Center, UNL Extension and the Nebraska Beef Council.

To register, contact Denise Schwab at 319-472-4739 or dschlab@iastate.edu for the Manchester location. Contact Russ Euken at 641-923-2856 or reuken@iastate.edu for the Garner or Nashua sites.

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**News Release**

**Conference to Cover Production and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables**

The Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Annual Conference will be held Jan. 27-28 at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Producers interested in marketing and production of local fruits and vegetables are invited to attend.

The conference will offer sessions on direct marketing, production issues, food safety and emerging trends. Roundtables on a variety of topics including agritourism, soil fertility, sweet corn, pumpkins, managing multiple markets and organics also are on the conference agenda. Trade show exhibits will feature equipment, seed dealers, state services and more.
Conference fees are $70 per day. An additional $50 dues fee is required for all non-members of the association. Registration information is available online at www.findafarmiowa.org.

Iowa State University Extension Value Added Agriculture is a sponsor of the conference. More information on value-added agriculture can be found at www.iavaap.org.

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News Release
Sandra Oberbroeckling, Iowa State University, 515-294-3721, soberbr@iastate.edu

Calmar Selected for 2012 Community Visioning Program
Twelve Iowa communities have been selected to participate in the Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program in 2012.

The award-winning program integrates technical landscape planning and design techniques with sustainable community action to assist community leaders and volunteers in making sound and meaningful decisions about the local landscape.

The 2012 visioning communities are Calmar, Center Point, Chariton, Colo, Dyersville, Manning, Paullina, Perry, Rock Valley, Schaller, Tripoli and Villisca.

The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Extension and Trees Forever, an Iowa-based nonprofit environmental advocacy organization. In addition, professional landscape architects offer expertise in creating conceptual design plans for the communities.

To qualify for the visioning program, a community must have a population of fewer than 10,000, existing transportation-related issues and a committee of volunteers willing to dedicate their time and talent to the visioning process.

Since 1996, 182 Iowa communities have benefited from the visioning program.

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News Release
Contact: Jodi DeJong-Hughes, Minnesota Extension tillage specialist, 320-815-4112, dejon003@umn.edu

Conservation Tillage Conference Feb. 7-8 in Rochester
University of Minnesota Extension will host the seventh annual Conservation Tillage Conference and tradeshow Feb. 7 and 8, at the International Event Center in Rochester, MN.

The day-and-a-half-long conference will provide practical, how-to information on nearly every aspect of conservation tillage. Learn how conservation tillage can save soil, time, fuel — and money. Besides saving valuable soil resources, conservation tillage has been proven to save $25-45 per acre in tillage costs. And that doesn't include time.

"Whether you are an experienced steward looking to fine-tune what you are doing, a crop consultant who helps growers, or a novice looking to get your feet wet, you should put this conference on your calendar now," said Jodi DeJong-Hughes, Minnesota Extension tillage specialist and conference coordinator.

Experts from the University of Minnesota and neighboring states will present the results of extensive research comparing tillage systems, including strip tillage. Matt Darr, assistant professor in ag and biosystems engineering and Chad Ingles, watershed project coordinator, will represent Iowa State University as conference speakers. In addition, experienced conservation tillage farmers, including Steve Berger and Jeff Pape from Iowa, will answer questions and provide management tips.
A popular “Farmer Panel” offers practical insights and management tips from experienced northern strip tillers and ridge tillers. A “Beer & Bull” session offers a relaxed, informal setting where farmers can pick the brains of other farmers, consultants and researchers.

The conference will open with a provocative keynote speech from Robert Recker: “Yield, Profitability, and Sustainability: Where to go from here?” Recker is the owner of Cedar Valley Innovation and a retired John Deere engineer, researching strip intercropping. He studies corn growth on a row by row basis trying to unlock the secrets of using technology and the sun to farm smarter.

The Conservation Tillage Conference runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 7, and from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 8. The tradeshow will be open both days.

The registration fee is $150 per person, which includes nine continuing education units (CEUs). An early bird fee of $120 per person is offered for those registering by Jan. 25.

More information, including schedules, maps, contacts and exhibitor registration is available at www.tillageconference.com, or by contacting Jodi DeJong-Hughes at 320-815-4112 or dejon003@umn.edu.

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News Release
Contact: Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forestry, 515-294-1168, randallj@iastate.edu

Annual Forest Stewardship Conference Is March 10

The 2012 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference is Saturday, March 10 at Sinsinawa Mound Center, Sinsinawa, Wis. This is the 18th year for the conference, which annually draws 550 woodland landowners from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

According to Jesse Randall, Iowa State University Extension Forester, “It has become one of the largest private woodland owner conferences in the nation. The conference regularly fills to capacity, so those interested in participating are encouraged to register early to secure their place and receive the ‘Early Bird’ registration discount.”

More than 25 presentations will cover a wide range of forestry and wildlife topics including, timber marketing in today’s economy, the how to’s of woodland burning, herbicides to use in woodlands, shelterwood harvesting, safe handling and processing of wild game, introductory beekeeping, common tree diseases and pests and how to treat them, maple syrup production for the beginner, and crop tree release techniques to maximize tree growth. A full list of topics and registration materials are posted online at www.forestry.iastate.edu. Participants also will have the opportunity to interact with state and federal forest managers, as well as to see the most recent advances in forestry technology at the vendors fair.

“This year, there will be a two-hour chainsaw safety and maintenance discussion taught by STIHL Safety Instructors and a two-hour estate planning workshop,” Randall said. “Enrollment for both the chainsaw safety and the estate planning workshop will be limited to the first 50 individuals.” We will also be offering a two hour session on forest management and stream water quality which will highlight new research and restoration techniques.

Additional conference information is available online at http://www.forestry.iastate.edu, including the conference brochure and registration materials.

Randall encouraged woodland owners to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration Discount. The adult registration fee is $40 per person on or before Feb. 18 and $50 per person after that date. The fee includes a continental breakfast, buffet luncheon, refreshments, resource packet and handouts.

The deadline to mail registrations is March 1st. Advance registration is required; no walk-in registrations on the day of the conference will be allowed. Participation is limited to 550; so early registration is encouraged and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration materials will be posted at http://www.forestry.iastate.edu.
The conference is presented in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Services at Iowa State University and University of Illinois; the Department of Natural Resources from each of the three states; the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University; and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Sinsinawa Mound Center is located in Wisconsin, a few miles east of Dubuque, Iowa.
For more information, contact Jesse Randall at 515-294-1168 or send email to randallj@iastate.edu.

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This information has been sent to you by Teresa Wiemerslage, Regional Communications Coordinator for Region 4 ISU Extension, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599.

For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:

**Allamakee:** Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu

**Chickasaw:** Danielle Day, 641-394-2174, daday@iastate.edu

**Clayton:** Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu

**Fayette:** Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteen@iastate.edu

**Howard:** Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu

**Winneshiek:** Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, ccourt@iastate.edu

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