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IN THIS EDITION

News Releases specific to NE Iowa:
- Master Woodland Managers Program Registration Now Open
- Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association Annual Meeting & Conference to Feature Cover Crops
- ISU Extension Offers Plant Starting Workshop

Previous Editions:
Download here: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/news/news-ne-iowa-isu-extension

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

Master Woodland Managers Program Registration Now Open

AMES, Iowa — Beginning on Aug. 21, 2013, the 39th session of Iowa’s highly successful Master Woodland Managers Program will begin at the Chickasaw County Conservation Board office near Ionia, Iowa. This educational program involves 32 hours of intensive field- and classroom-oriented forestry instruction designed specifically for woodland owners or managers, public land managers, and natural resource consultants. Course instruction focuses on various aspects of woodland management, including tree and shrub identification, basic tree biology, land and tree measurements, protection from insects and diseases, tree planting and pruning, wildlife management, timber marketing, and wood utilization. Both indoor classroom instruction and outdoor laboratory sessions will be used in this program.

Professionals from various agencies and organizations including Iowa State University, Iowa DNR, tree farmers and county conservation boards will provide instruction. A textbook and a reference notebook, plus various other technical handout materials will be provided as supporting materials.

This educational program will consist of a total of 32 hours (6 to 10 p.m. Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 28th, 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 4, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 18 and 25). A $50 ($65 for couples) registration fee to help cover costs of materials is required and graduates are expected to contribute at least 30 hours of public service after completing the course. Service projects could include a variety of activities designed to improve and expand tree resources in Iowa (assisting with 4-H projects, community tree plantings, forestry field days, etc.).

The Master Woodland Managers Program is sponsored by Iowa State University Forestry Extension, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, the Iowa Tree Farm Committee and County Conservation boards. To date, 934 individuals have graduated from this program since it was initiated in 1988, and more than 22,000 public service hours have been contributed.

Anyone interested in receiving more program information and an application form should contact Jesse Randall, ISU Extension Forester, 339 Science II, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 50011-1021 (phone: 515-294-1168, or e-mail: randallj@iastate.edu). Or find more information on the web at www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry. Application deadline is July 1, 2013. A maximum of 20 people will be admitted to this educational program.
News Release
Contact: Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist, 319-472-4739, dschwab@iastate.edu

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association Annual Meeting & Conference to Feature Cover Crops

Area hay and forage producers are invited to attend the 30th Annual Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association Annual Meeting and Conference on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at Buzzy’s in Welton. Registration will begin at 10:00 am with the program scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m.

This year’s conference features the use of cover crops and is co-sponsored by the Iowa Learning Farm. Mark Carlton, Extension Field Agronomist, will discuss cover crops for feed, soils, and soil nutrient management. Sarah Carlson, Research and Policy Director for Practical Farmers of Iowa, will moderate a panel discussion of farmers who have been using cover crops in various ways.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association (EIHPA) will take place shortly after lunch and will include their election of officers and directors.

Following lunch a tour will be hosted to view fall seeded rye at the Engel Family farm north of Welton. J.C. and Neal Engel will share their experience with growing cover crops to reduce erosion following chopped corn and to supplement grazing for the cow herd.

Registration for the conference is $30 and includes a membership to EIHPA and meal. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Certified crop advisor credits have been applied for. This conference is sponsored by EIHPA, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, the Iowa Beef Center and the Iowa Learning Farm.

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association provides educational workshops and field days for forage producers in Jackson, Jones, Clinton, Cedar, Scott and Muscatine counties. However, forage producers from other counties are also welcome to participate. For more information contact Denise Schwab at dschwab@iastate.edu or Kevin Brown at brofarm@windstream.net or 563-872-4475.

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News Release
Contact: Bob Hauer, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, (641) 394-2174, bhauer@iastate.edu
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

ISU Extension Offers Plant Starting Workshop

DECORAH - Most gardeners know about dividing perennials, but there are many other ways to increase the number of plants you want. Both perennials and woody plants can be started when you learn some old-time techniques. Grape vines are easy to propagate if you take hardwood cuttings in the fall. “Drop” propagation is a low-tech way to multiply woody shrubs like spirea or ninebark. Softwood cuttings or “slips” are more likely to live if you use a forsythe pot. Propagation is a beneficial skill for home gardeners looking to add more plants to a landscape or those wishing to share a favorite with a friend.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is hosting a Plant Propagation workshop on Thursday, April 18th to show people how to create new plants from existing ones. Bob Hauer, ISU Extension horticulturist, will demonstrate several propagation techniques that can be used. Participants will learn about root cuttings, hardwood and softwood cuttings, plant division, drop propagation and more. The techniques can be used on a wide variety of plants including perennials, annuals, houseplants and shrubs.
This hands-on workshop will be held at the Fairgrounds Community Building in Decorah from 6-7:30 pm. No special tools are needed for the workshop. All supplies will be provided.

Pre-registration is required by April 15 to the Winneshiek County Extension office at 563-382-2949. Workshop cost is $5.

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