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News Release
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Changes in Estate Tax Laws Impact Your Future Plans
Concerned about probate costs, power of attorney, or use of trusts? Estate planning involves a lot more than just Federal estate taxes. There are many aspects to estate planning to properly transfer assets and plan for the future.

In today’s economy, an individual or family business, both agriculture and urban based, have extensive values of assets on hand that represent a lifetime of memories, commitment, and hard work. A clear understanding of estate planning can help resolve issues surrounding transition of assets to other individuals.

Clayton County Extension and Outreach will offer a program on estate planning on Wednesday, February 13, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, at the Freedom Bank Community Room located at 210 South Main Street, Elkader. Another program is scheduled by Howard County Extension and Outreach for Wednesday February 20, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm at the Grange Hall, 111 North Elm Street, Cresco.

Everyone who hasn’t reviewed their estate plan in the last six months should take the time to learn and review current options. Kelvin Leibold and Kristen Schulte, Farm Management Field Specialists, will present the latest changes in estate planning information. The topics will include: property ownership, wills, federal estate tax, Iowa inheritance tax, gifting, trusts, and gift taxes. “This is a program that applies to everyone, not just farmers,” emphasizes Leibold. “Often thousands of dollars in taxes can be avoided by good planning” states Leibold. This program will provide background information to assist participants to work more effectively with their professional and legal advisors.

The cost of the program is $15 per person or $25 per couple for pre-registration before February 18th. For more information or to register, contact the Clayton County Extension Office at (563)245-1451 or Howard County Extension Office at (563)547-3001.

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Program Teaches Farm Women to be Better Business Partners
ISU Extension and Outreach will offer a nationally renowned farm business course for northeast Iowa women in February at two locations. 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 Chickasaw County Extension Office in New Hampton for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6-9 pm starting February 5. Participants receive software programs, handouts and an Annie’s Project portfolio. A light dinner is included. Course size is limited.

Annie’s Project will also be held in Allamakee County at the Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank Community Room in Waukon for six weeks starting February 7.

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, Farm Credit Services of America, and the American Farm Bureau. Local sponsors of the New Hampton site include First Citizens Bank, Five Star Co-op, Luana Savings Bank, and Security State Bank.

For more information and to register, call the Allamakee County Extension office at 563-568-6345, Chickasaw County Extension office at 641-394-2174, or online at http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/annie/home.html.

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An Education and Information Event Designed Specifically for Iowa Livestock Farmers
Iowa Farm Bureau and ISU Extension and Outreach are teaming up to deliver current market and management information to Iowa livestock farmers in these challenging times. The “Managing Through Stress: A Livestock Information Event” will be held Monday, February 4.

The event starts at 10:00 am with a morning general session that will be delivered to 14 sites throughout the state via Internet. Farmers will hear from leading experts on livestock and feed price outlook and strategy, weather outlook, financial strategies and managing the stress of farming in challenging times. After lunch, each site will have local presentations geared toward the challenges faced by a specific species of livestock: beef, swine or dairy.

“This information is vital for Iowa farmers right now because they are making 2013 livestock business decisions and there is a lot on the table for them,” says Ed Kordick, IFBF commodity services manager. “Those who come to the ‘Managing Through Stress’ event can hear nationally-noted experts give advice on a variety of issues, including the looming feed supply and 2013 costs.”
Morning presentations include: 2013 Feed Price Outlook/Strategies with Dr. Chad Hart, 2013 Livestock Price Outlook/Strategies with Dr. Lee Schultz and Weather Outlook with Dr. Elwynn Taylor. In addition, Dr. Mike Rosmann will talk about watching for human stress. The afternoon sessions will vary at each site. Here are sites and topics for northeast Iowa farmers: Dairy at Delaware County Extension, Manchester and Postville YMCA Community Room; and Swine at Borlaug Learning Center, Nashua.

More information, including a full list of event locations and local topics, can be found at [www.iowafarmbureau.com](http://www.iowafarmbureau.com) or on the ISU Extension Calendar, or by contacting Ed Kordick, IFBF commodity services manager, at ekordick@ifbf.org.

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