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News Release
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ISU Research Farm Field Day features Crop Maturity, Harvest, Drying and Marketing a Late Crop on August 28

NASHUA--ISU Extension Specialists emphasize crop production and management of a late maturing crop during the Annual Fall Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua.

The program will feature five speakers. Ken Pecinovsky, ISU Research Farm Superintendent will briefly review 2013 seasonal weather and trials on the research farm. Roger Elmore, Corn Production Specialist, will discuss crop growth and development from the planting date trials and expectations on maturity. Charles Hurburgh, Professor-in-Charge of the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, will address management tips on grain harvest, handling and storage of a wetter than normal crop. Chad Hart, Economist and Crop Markets Specialist, will cover the latest on grain marketing and market predictions, and Dan Huyser, Agricultural Engineer, reflecting on this wet spring, will discuss tile drainage planning, lay out, costs and maintenance.

The Wednesday, August 28, program is free and open to the public. It begins at 1 p.m. at the Borlaug Learning Center on the ISU Northeast Research Farm near Nashua. Directions: From Nashua at the Jct of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801.

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News Release
Contact: Denise Schwab, ISU Extension Beef Specialist, 319-721-9624, dschwab@iastate.edu

Dairy Beef Feeding for Profit

CRESCO--Feeding dairy steers has been common on northeast and east central Iowa farms and others are looking at dairy steers with supplies of feeder cattle being low.

An educational conference on feeding dairy steers will be the focus of two Extension programs in NE Iowa, August 6 at Monticello and August 7 at Cresco.

Dr. Lee Schultz, ISU Extension Livestock Economist will discuss the current feeder calf availability including both beef and dairy calves, as well as share his outlook on the fed cattle market and profitability in the feedlot industry. Dr. Dan Loy, ISU Beef Specialist, will discuss the use of growth promoting technologies such as implants, ionophores and beta-agonists in dairy beef steers and their impacts on marketing options.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Steven Rust from Michigan State University, speaking on their research and experience in feeding Holstein steers for the beef market. His research includes feeding systems, rations, and housing for Holstein beef steers. Shawn Walter, from Professional Cattle Consultants (PCC) at Hydro, Oklahoma, will share some of their closeout and performance data comparing Holstein to beef cattle. PCC has over 35 years of feedlot data with over 120 million head of cattle in their database, and they currently represent over 2.5 million head of feeding capacity from more than 100 feedyards. Dr. Darren Katzung, DVM with Southwest Vet Services in Wisconsin specializing in dairy calf health, and will share his experiences with calf health and its impact on feedyard performance. A panel on marketing fed dairy beef will discuss the options and preferences of packers.

Both programs will begin at 9:15 am and conclude at 3 pm. The August 6 session will be at the Jones County Extension office in Monticello, and the August 7 session will be at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Cresco. Registration for the event is $20 to cover lunch and materials.

Sponsors helping defer speaker expenses include Merck Animal Health, Big Gain Feed, Iowa Beef Center, Innovative Ag Services, Silver Edge Coop, Cargill Feeds, C US Bank and Cresco Bank & Trust. To register for the program in Monticello contact Denise Schwab at the Benton County Extension office 319-472-4739 or dschwab@iastate.edu or for the Cresco meeting contact Sue Barnes at the Howard County office 563-547-3001 or skbarnes@iastate.edu. Registration is requested by August 2.

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News Release
Contact: Kristin Schulte, Farm Mgt Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu

Farmland Leasing Meeting Set for August 1 in Calmar

CALMAR--More than half of Iowa farmland is rented, and the percentage of farmland rented has increased over time due to the changing demographics of farmland owners. Iowa farmland cash rental rates increased by $30 an acre from 2011 to 2012; northeast Iowa cash rental rates increased by over 19 percent in 2012. Additionally, farmland values have increased by 31.5 percent in northeast Iowa from 2010 to 2011.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Winneshiek County is hosting a farmland leasing meeting on Thursday, August 1 at 1:30 p.m. to address questions that land owners, tenants, or other interested individuals have about farmland leasing.

The meeting will be held at the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation in Calmar. The meeting is approximately 2 ½ hours in length. Similar meetings are being held across northeast Iowa during the first three weeks of August.
Attendees will gain understanding of current cash rental rate surveys and factors driving next year’s rents such as market trends and input costs. They will learn leasing terminology along with types of leases and how to calculate them. They will hear about how much land values have increased and why. Additionally, ISU Extension and Outreach and internet related resources will be presented. A workbook will be included with registration that includes land leasing information such as surveys, sample written lease agreement and termination forms, and many other publications.

“With the changing input costs, commodity markets, and cash rent values, you’ll want to attend this meeting to stay up to date on farmland lease issues,” says Kristen Schulte, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm and Ag Business Management Specialist. Schulte will be the presenter at the meeting.

Registration is $20 per individual. An additional $5 fee will be added if registering less than two calendar days before the workshop. Pre-register by calling the Winneshiek County Extension and Outreach office at 563-382-2949.

News Release
Teresa Wiemerslage, Communications Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Local Food Directories Available

The Northeast Iowa Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter announces the 2013 Local Food Directory is now available. The directory has been connecting consumers with direct marketing farmers for seven years. Buying local products from farmers is good for you, your family, your community and the environment.

This year’s directories were printed in a unique partnership with Inspire(d) magazine, a local publication based out of Decorah, Iowa. Inspire(d) covers positive news in the Driftless Region – Northeast Iowa, Southeast Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin and can be picked up for free at more than 100 locations across the region.

Directories are also available online at www.iowafreshfood.com – click on Finding Local Food.

The Northeast Iowa Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter is part of the Northeast Iowa Food & Farm (NIFF) Coalition and the Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI). Together, they are working to create community environments that support access to fresh, locally-grown food. More information about these programs can be found at www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

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News Release
Contact: Denise Schwab, Extension Specialist, 319-472-4739, dschwab@iastate.edu

Pasture Walk Focuses on Managing Timber Pastures

Managing timbered pastures is a challenge to balance between forage production and lumber production. A pasture walk will be held at the Dave Schulte farm near Dorchester on Wednesday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to noon. Schulte has a 30 acre pasture with scattered trees and runs 21 cow/calf pairs. Former NRCS grazing specialist Jim Ranum, and DNR forester Dave Asche, will discuss management strategies to pasture timbered areas. Denise Schwab, ISUEO Beef specialist, will discuss pasture improvement. Michelle Elliott, Waterloo Creek Watershed Coordinator will discuss cost share opportunities.

To get to the pasture walk take Hwy 76 north from Waukon towards Dorchester, turn left on Dorchester Dr (County Rd A16). Just before Dorchester turn left continuing on Dorchester Dr (A16) west, go 3 1/2 miles. Turn right (north) onto Bee Rd, and the farm is approximately 1/2 mile north. It is the first driveway on the left.
The Northeast Iowa Graziers plan pasture walks to local farms to help producers learn how to better pasture management can result in both healthier profits and a healthier environment. The walks are organized by area graziers and supported by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Pasture walks are informal educational programs designed to demonstrate one or two key areas of pasture management, as well as answer any questions you might have. Each has a slightly different focus and all producers who are dependent on forage production are invited to attend to improve their own pasture management.

This event is co-sponsored by the Allamakee County Soil & Water Conservation District, NRCS, ISU Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Beef Center. For more information, please contact Denise Schwab at 319-472-4739 or email at dschwab@iastate.edu.

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