July 23, 2012

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

Plan Ahead for Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 3-4
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/plan-ahead-sales-tax-holiday-aug-3-4
Iowa’s Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 3-4. Consumers should plan ahead to get the most for their money during this annual sales tax exempt shopping weekend, said Susan Taylor, a family finance specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

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

New ISU Extension Agricultural Engineer to Serve Northeast Iowa
Dan Huyser is a new agricultural engineering program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach serving northeast Iowa. He brings a diverse background to the position, which he started in May.

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News Release
Contact: Jeannie Tibbitts, Administrative Specialist – (641) 435-4864

Extension July 25 Webinar Looks at Livestock and Crop Producer Options during Drought

Nashua – Iowa crop and livestock producers dealing with drought–related issues are invited to attend an Iowa State University Extension and Outreach webinar Wednesday, July 25 to learn more about options available to them. ISU Borlaug Learning Center on the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will be hosting the 1-3 pm webinar. There is no charge to attend the webinar.

Livestock issues covered during the webinar will include options to help producers manage immediate needs related to stressed pastures and reduced hay supplies. “We also will talk about early weaning to reduce cow requirements and supplemental feeding,” said Day Loy, Iowa Beef Center director. “Other topics facing producers are feeding value, proper ensiling and potential for nitrate toxicity for corn harvested as silage or green chop.”

Members of the extension crops team will cover the topics of crop growth and development under drought conditions and feeding drought damaged crops. “We will look at current conditions, short-range and long range forecasts, impacts of drought on forages and crops, and impacts on disease and insect development,” said Roger Elmore, Extension Corn Specialist.

Extension specialists will discuss crop insurance coverage, grain marketing implications and valuing drought-damaged corn silage. Possible disaster programs related to the drought situation also will be covered, said William Edwards, Extension Economist.

Iowa State University Borlaug Learning Center is one of at least 25 locations hosting the webinar. At Nashua Exit 220, go west on B60 (1 mile). Turn south on Windfall Avenue (1 mile). At the T intersection, turn east on 290th Street (1/4 mile).

Extension agriculture and program specialists will facilitate the program at each site. Time has been allowed for questions and answers following the presentations. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the ISU Extension and Outreach website www.extension.iastate.edu/. To find other hosting sites, contact the Borlaug Learning Center at 641-435-4864.

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News Release
Contact: Bob Hauer, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, (641) 394-2174, bhauer@iastate.edu

Stay for the Day at the Summer Horticulture Showcase

If you have questions about plant insects and diseases, fruit & nut trees or strawberry renovation, wondered about doing your own landscaping or taken an interest in bee management, you may want to attend the Summer Horticulture Showcase. Participants have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of workshops.

The sessions will be held on August 11, from 9:30 am –3:00 pm at the Borlaug Learning Center-Northeast Research Farm in Nashua. The Annual Iowa State University Home Garden Field Day will host free strawberries & ice cream from 3-4 pm to the public. Listen to Dr. Cynthia Haynes from 4-6 pm speak about compact vegetables, new types of sweet corn, and unusual flowers and vegetables.

For more information on how to register for the workshops contact the Floyd County Extension Office at 641-228-1453.

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Low Cost Parlors and Automatic Milking Systems featured Locally in Summer Tour Schedule

ISU Extension & Outreach Dairy Team have organized parlor tours this summer to give producers and agri-businesses who serve the dairy industry insight into how different parlor systems can be built to meet the operation’s goals in herd management and their building/remodeling budget. This year will feature recent installations for low cost parlor systems and automatic milking systems.

On August 6, from 1:30 – 2:30 pm, the Parlor Tour topic will be a swing 10 installed in 2008, milking 100 cows held at the Mike Deutmeyer farm, 21710 Clear Creek Rd, Guttenberg.

The August 14 morning tour, from 10:30 – 11:30 am, will feature a swing 10 parallel, milking 180 cows at the farm of Jeff & Melinda Walz ,10870 King Rd, West Union. That afternoon from 12:30 – 1:30 pm, tour the recently converted step-up parlor to a swing 12 using the Translowa parlor design, milking 180 cows at the Gary & Scott Wedemeier farm, 18663-110th St, Maynard.

An Automatic Milking System Tour featuring a 3 box system installed in Dec. 2011, milking 150 cows will be held on August 15, 10:30 – 11:30 am, at Matt & Jolene Nierling’s farm, 2479 Co Rd A14, Decorah. From 1-2 pm join Alan & Ruth Hageman, 1688 Co Rd W46, Decorah, to see the 2 robots installed in September 2011, milking 130 cows.

Automatic Milking System Tours will also be held on August 16, 1-2 pm, at the home of Scott & Nathan Adams, 30324 Unicorn Rd, Waucoma, featuring 2 robots installed in December 2011, milking 260 cows (half in robots, half in stanchion barn currently). That afternoon, from 2:30-3:30 pm, see 4 robots installed in February 2012, milking 248 cows at Kriener Dairy, 2865- 120th St, Fort Atkinson.

A full list of parlor tours can be found at: www.extension.iastate.edu/dairymteam. Each of these tours is open to the public, no pre-registration is required. Contact Jenn Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu.

Drought Management Meetings in Cresco, Osage Aug. 2

Cresco -- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is organizing two Dealing with Drought 2012 meetings on Thursday, Aug. 2. The sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Heritage Events Center in Cresco, and at 1:30 p.m. at the Cedar River Complex Auditorium in Osage. There is no charge to attend either meeting, but the public is encouraged to RSVP by July 31.

The following extension specialists and topics will be featured at both locations: Terry Basol, crops and pest management issues; Russ Eukem, livestock management drought related issues; Jennifer Bentley, managing drought corn silage and nitrate toxicity; William Edwards and Kristen Schulte, crop insurance and questions and answers.

These meetings are being sponsored by C US Bank of Cresco, Ridgeway, Lime Springs, Osage and Charles City. To attend, please RSVP by calling C US Bank at 800-397-9964 by July 31.

For more information on drought related issues, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach offices in Howard County, 563-547-3001, or Mitchell County, 641-732-5574.

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