Pasture Walk Focuses on Managing Pastures to Protect Streams

Managing pastures to protect streams and water quality are key topics for many beef and dairy producers.

A pasture walk will be held at the Jeremy and Jodi Peake farm near Waukon on Friday, June 28, from 1-3 pm. The Peakes have a 30-head, grass-based organic dairy and have been farming for 12 years. In addition to the dairy, there is an apple orchard on the farm with 1,000 trees. Marketing is done on farm and to the surrounding area. Guest speaker, Dave Vetrano, Former DNR Fish Manager and Jeff Hastings, project manager for Driftless Area Restoration Effort & Trout Unlimited will be on hand to discuss issues related to pasturing near streams and management practices that can help protect water quality. Directions to the pasture walk (pasture is not on home farm): From Decorah, go east on Hwy 9, turn left onto County Road A52 (Old Stage Road) and go about 4.5 miles. Turn left (north) onto 138th Street. The field is about one-half mile on the left; look for signs.

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 Practical Farmers of Iowa, Organic Valley, and Trout Unlimited. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or email at jbentley@iastate.edu

-30-
News Release
Contact: Kristen Schulte, Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu

2013 Iowa Cash Rental Rates Survey Results Available

Results from the most recent survey of farmland rental rates conducted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach showed that the average estimated cash rent for corn and soybean land in the state for 2013 was $270 per acre, an increase of $18 per acre or 7 percent from last year.

Rental rates for Iowa farmland have been pushed significantly higher by the favorable corn and soybean prices farmers have received since 2010. Click on http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/2013-iowa-cash-rental-rates-survey-results-available to read more about Iowa cash rental rates survey results.

-30-

News Release
Contact: Kristen Schulte, Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu

Crop Insurance and Prevented Planting

Heavy rainfall, floods and cool temperatures across the Midwest have slowed planting this spring. The final planting date for corn in Iowa is May 31. The final planting date for soybeans in Iowa is June 15. Final planting dates and other crop insurance information can be found at www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/mn_rso/.

Prevented planting is a failure to plant an insured crop with the proper equipment by the final planting date designated in the insurance policy’s actuarial documents or during the late planting period, if applicable, due to an insured cause of loss that is general to the surrounding area and that prevents other producers from planting acreage with similar characteristics. More information can be found on the Prevented Planting fact sheet at www.rma.usda.gov/fields/mn_rso/2013/2013preventedplanting.pdf.

Here are some basic guidelines if you are unable to plant because of an insurable cause of loss by the final planting date. You may:

• Plant during the 25-day late planting period. For most crops, the timely planted production guarantee is reduced one percent per day for each day planting is delayed after the final planting date.
• Plant after the late planting period. The insurance guarantee will be the same as the insurance guarantee provided for prevented planting coverage.
• Not plant a crop and receive a prevented planting payment.
• Plant a cover crop and receive a prevented planting payment.
• After the late planting period ends, plant the acreage to another crop (second crop) and receive a reduced prevented planting payment.

The most important thing you can do if you are unable to plant the crop by the final planting date is contact your crop insurance agent to review your policy and options before you make a decision. You are required to provide notice that you were prevented from planting an insured crop within 72 hours after the final planting date.

-30-

News Release
Contact: Kyle Holthaus, Farm Host, 563-382-0489

Waukon Farm Hosts Field Day Featuring Specialized Farm Equipment
WAUKON -- Specialized farm equipment will be showcased at a field day and open house hosted by Kymar Acres and Windridge Implements on June 8. The equipment includes various seeders, tiller and transplanters designed for small to medium-sized vegetable farms.

Kymar Acres (www.kymaracres.com) is a diversified farm owned by Kyle and Mari Holthaus and located between Waukon and Decorah. They raise 5 acres of vegetables, herbs and flowers for sale to farmers markets and wholesale accounts. Visitors will also be able to tour a greenhouse and farmstand where their farm products are sold.

A variety of equipment will be featured including BCS two wheel tractors, Jang seeders from South Korea, seed bed tillers, a Falc bed builder from France, Checchi & Maggli transplanters for vegetable sets and plasticulture layers in red, silver and deep green plastic. It is planting season and visitors can inspect some of the recent plantings and watch new crops go into the ground.

The equipment will be provided by Windridge Implement, LLC (www.windridgeimplements.com). Windridge started carrying lines of specialized equipment in response to increased vegetable production in the region. Equipment is available for purchase or lease.

The field day will last from 1 to 4 pm and is open to the public. Kymar Acres is located at 2168 Winnmakee Road, near Waukon. For more details about this event, please call Kyle Holthaus at 563-382-0489.

-30-

News Release
Contacts:
Terry Basol, ISU Extension Agronomist, tbasol@iastate.edu, 641-426-6801
Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist, bjlang@iastate.edu, 563-382-2949
Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent, kennethp@iastate.edu, 641-435-4864

June 26 ISU Research Farm Field Day Highlights the Late Start in 2013

NASHUA -- ISU Extension Specialists emphasize crop production issues in a late start to the season during the Annual Spring Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua.

The program runs from 1 to 4:30 pm and 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 corn growth and development from the planting date trials and expectations on pollination. John Sawyer, Soil Fertility Specialist, will cover updates on crop and soil fertility issues from the drought in 2012 to the late start in 2013. Bring your questions on nitrogen management, sulfur and micronutrient recommendations, and others. Bob Hartzler, Weed Management Specialist, will address weed control challenges in 2013 and weed resistance management. Daren Mueller, Plant Pathologist, will provide updates on the latest plant diseases found in 2013, scouting for problems, timing of fungicide applications, and stewardship of fungicide use.

The field day is free and open to the public. It starts 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 Brian Lang at 563-382-2949.

-30-

News Release
Contact: Jennifer Bentley, Extension Specialist, 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu
4-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference, June 12-13, 2013 in Dubuque, IA

DUBUQUE--The 4-State Dairy Nutrition & Management Conference allows nutritionists, allied industry professionals, and veterinarians to hear the latest research and its practical application within dairy nutrition and management. The conference is sponsored by the Extension Services of Iowa State University, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, and University of Wisconsin and industry sponsors. A few topics include: Protein does WHAT?, Effects of Silage Inoculants, Nutrition Consultant Panel, Low Protein Feeding Panel, Troubleshooting Mixed Rations, Precision Feeding Dairy Heifers, Genomics Testing, and many break-out sessions on practical nutrition and management topics.

This conference will be held June 12-13, 2013 at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, IA. Visit www.uwex.edu/ces/dairynutrition/conferences.cfm to download brochure and registration. For registration questions, please contact Wisconsin Agri-Business Association at 608-223-1111.

-30-

News Release
Contact: Jennifer Bentley, Extension Specialist, 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu

4th Annual Dairy Breakfast on the Farm

CALMAR--Join the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation for the 4th annual Breakfast on the Farm June 22 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at Iowa’s Dairy Center, Calmar, Iowa. We'll serve up a great wholesome breakfast and provide guided tram tours of the nationally-recognized Dairy Center. The kids will enjoy the chance to meet some calves, plus families can visit several educational exhibits and even milk a cow. Come join us and see how Iowa’s Dairy Center is growing!

This year we will be serving up Dad’s Belgian Waffles and sausage along with dairy products produced and processed right here in Northeast Iowa from Country View Dairy. Takeouts are available along with on-site parking; donations for the breakfast are appreciated.

Iowa’s Dairy Center is located just south of Calmar at 1527 Highway 150 South. For more information, and to watch our event video, go to www.iowadairycenter.com. This event is coordinated by the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, Northeast Iowa Community College, Midwest Dairy Association, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Join us June 22 for Breakfast on the Farm!

-30-