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News Release
Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Region 4 Extension Program Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

New Local Food Classifieds Website
The Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Coalition (NIFF) announces a new classifieds feature on its webpage to connect people along the food chain as they search for goods, services or even a place to farm.

The website is www.classifieds.iowafreshfood.com and it is free to use.

Looking for a farm job or internship? Need a piece of farm equipment? Interested in buying seeds, produce or other farm products? Browse the NIFF classifieds!

Have a farm job to advertise? Own agricultural land you want to sell or lease? Need to sell or give away farm products, livestock, or equipment? Place an ad!

The NE Iowa Food & Farm Coalition is a network of stakeholders across the value chain working to create opportunities for farmers to engage in the local and regional food system. The group is primarily focused in Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties.

Funding for the project was provided by the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI) and WK Kellogg Foundation. More information about these programs can be found at www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

News Release
Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, Region 4 Extension Program Coordinator, 563-794-0599, wiemer@iastate.edu

Tweed is New ISU Extension & Outreach Regional Director
Kraig Tweed has been selected as the Regional Director for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in northeast Iowa. Tweed began his duties on December 16 and is housed in the Winneshiek County office.
As a regional director, Tweed will work with county staff and councils, and ISU Extension staff to plan programming in Region 4 around common priority issues. This region includes Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette and Clayton counties.

“I am very excited to become a part of such a dynamic Extension Region as Region 4,” said Tweed. “The passion for Extension in this region is clearly evident by the many projects going on in all of the counties. I look forward to working with all of the counties as we work to improve the lives of Iowans.”

Tweed will work directly with the county extension council members to meet their legal obligations as an elected body. He will work with councils and extension program specialists to provide educational programming that addresses issues of most significance, and evaluate the results of multi-county and regional efforts.

Tweed and his wife are originally from North Dakota and have lived in Jefferson, Iowa for the past 14 years. He has over 25 years of leadership experience and served on the Extension Council in Greene County for 10 years. Tweed attended Wayland Baptist University, Plainview Texas, where he finished his graduate degree while serving in the U.S. Air Force. They have 2 grown children both living in Ames.

ISU Extension and Outreach has an office in every county in Iowa to meet local needs, improve quality of life, and help make Northeast Iowa a better place to live. Information about ISU Extension programs and resources can be found at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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

Iowa Beef Center Heifer Series Addresses Challenges of Rebuilding Beef Cow Herd
One of the biggest challenges facing cattlemen today is maintaining young cows in their herd long term. The Iowa Beef Center, in partnership with the Iowa Cattleman’s Association, is offering a program series focusing specifically on management practices to keep young cows in the herd to improve long-term profitability.

The Heifer Development 2: Maintaining Your Investment series of programs is a follow-up to the 2012 series on yearling heifers, Heifer Development – Rebuilding our Future. The goal of the 2014 series is to pick up where the 2012 series left off, and looks at the nutrition, health, calving and reproductive management of bred heifers through their second breeding season.

Denise Schwab, ISU Extension and Outreach beef specialist, said there are a couple of reasons for increased numbers of heifers in cow herds and producer interest in better management of these animals. “Throughout the drought the last two years, we’ve seen an increase in the number of heifers retained for the cow herd, despite the high rate of cow culling,” Schwab said. “This resulted in one of the smallest beef cow herds in the last 60 years, but also one of the youngest and most productive herds ever. Maintaining all of these young cows in the herd long term is a big challenge to cattlemen.”

Schwab points to the research conducted by the National Animal Health Monitoring System in 2007-08 that reported 33 percent of all culled cows left the herd because they did not conceive during the breeding season, and nearly 16 percent of all culled cows left the herd before five years of age.
“If the national beef cow herd is to grow, it will require better management of the replacement heifer and young cows to improve conception and retention,” said Schwab. “This conference will give producers information they can apply to their herd management.”

All sessions include a meal for those preregistered at least two days prior to the event. The $20 fee is payable at the door. Walk-in registrations are $25 per person and a meal is not guaranteed.

The workshop will be offered at three locations in northeast Iowa.
Jan. 16, Maquoketa – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Centerstone Inn/Suites, 1910 Nairn Drive. To preregister, call 319-472-4739.
Jan. 21, Nashua – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Borlaug Learning Center, ISU Research Farm, 3327 290th Street. To preregister, call 641-394-2174.
Jan. 21, Postville – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Postville Vet Clinic, 110 Hyman Dr. To preregister, call 319-472-4739.

For more information contact a beef specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach or the Iowa Beef Center website at www.iowabeefcenter.org.

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For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:
Allamakee: Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu
Chickasaw: Danielle Day, 641-394-2174, daday@iastate.edu
Clayton: Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu
Fayette: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteege@iastate.edu
Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winnesheik: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, ccourt@iastate.edu

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