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News Release
Contact: Julie Christensen, Allamakee ISU Extension & Outreach, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu

ISU Extension and Outreach Offers Course on Health Insurance
With only a few weeks remaining to purchase health insurance during open enrollment, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering a free workshop to help Allamakee county and surrounding area residents understand how to make smart choices for purchasing health care coverage.

The workshop will take place Tuesday, February 11, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the YMCA in Postville. The program will be delivered using both English and Spanish materials.

Through the Smart Choice Health Insurance workshop, attendees will:
  • Understand the importance of networks and finding out which health providers participate in various plans;
  • Find out whether financial assistance is available to reduce the cost of health insurance;
  • Use a guide to identify their own health insurance needs and priorities;
  • Be able to compare different plans available through the Health Insurance Marketplace; and
  • Get prepared to purchase coverage at healthcare.gov.

“This workshop will help people choose coverage that best fits their family’s budget and health care needs and use that plan efficiently once enrolled,” says Cindy Thompson, family life/family finance program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The Smart Choice Health Insurance Program is funded through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant.

Pre-registration is requested to the Allamakee ISUEO by noon on Monday, February 10.

For information about the local Health Insurance Marketplace workshop February 11, contact the Allamakee ISU Extension and Outreach office at 563-569-6345, visit www.extension.iastate.edu/allamakee, or contact Cindy Thompson at 641-229-6655, cpthom08@iastate.edu.
**News Release**

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

**Beef Feedlot Roundtable Sessions Offered at Five Iowa Locations**

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the University of Nebraska are teaming up to offer a Feedlot Roundtable session at five Iowa locations on Thursday, February 13 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. Iowa State Extension beef program specialist Russ Euken said the feedlot roundtable sessions are offered annually in Nebraska for feedlot operators and interested agribusiness people.

“As part of a cooperative agreement between Iowa State Extension and UNL Extension that provides sharing of livestock educational resources and programs, and through available technology, the roundtables also will be offered via Internet connection for Iowans in selected locations,” he said. “The speakers and subject matter are sure to draw interest from our state’s beef community.

Dee Griffin from the UNL vet education center in Clay Center will discuss the Food and Drug Administration’s policy on eliminating use of antimicrobials for growth promotion and feed efficiency. This presentation is prerecorded for the program Also Dustin Loy with the Vet Diagnostic Lab at UNL will discuss BRD and antimicrobial resistance. Galen Erickson will also have a presentation on using fiber for cattle or ethanol and there will be an update on ISU beef research provided locally.

More information, including a registration form, is available on the Iowa Beef Center website iowabeefcenter.org

The $10 fee covers proceedings, meeting costs and refreshments, and is payable at the door. However, you’re asked to preregister no later than Tuesday February 11 at the location you will attend to ensure adequate materials and refreshments.

Location for the Roundtable in northeast Iowa and preregistration contact information for each are:

Delaware County Extension office, 1417 N Franklin St., Manchester.
Denise Schwab, call 319-472-4739 or email dschwab@iastate.edu
Borlaug Learning Center NE research farm 3327 290th Street Nashua, Iowa
Russ Euken Call 641-923-2856 or email reuken@iastate.edu

For more information please contact your local county extension office or Iowa State Extension beef program specialist.

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**News Release**

Contact: Mark Storlie, ISUEO Swine Field Specialist, mstorlie@iastate.edu, 563-425-3331

**PQA Plus® and TQA® Training Session Scheduled**

Pork producers and others who need certification in pork quality and handling courses have several opportunities to receive the training at upcoming meetings in Elkader and Nashua.

The Postville Vet Clinic and Elkader Vet Clinic are teaming up with the Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University (ISUEO) Extension and Outreach to provide training for pork producers and others who need certification in Pork Quality Assurance Plus® (PQA Plus®) and Transporter Quality Insurance® (TQA®). Programs have been scheduled for Thursday, February 20 in Elkader, according to ISUEO swine specialist Mark Storlie.

The programs will be held at the Freedom Bank’s Community Room, 210 South Main Street, in Elkader.
TQA® session will begin at 12:30 pm and the PQA Plus® session will start at 3 pm. Attend one program or both, but pre-registration is required.

Certification will cost $25 per person for one program or $35 per person for both programs. To preregister, contact the Postville Vet Clinic at (563) 864-3631 or in the Elkader Vet Clinic at (563) 245-1633. Questions may be directed to Mark Storlie by phone at (563) 425-3331 or mstorlie@iastate.edu.

Another session of PQA Plus is set for Wednesday, February 26 at the Borlaug Learning Center, 3327 290th St., in Nashua. The PQA Plus® session will be from 9:30 to 11:30 pm.

The session is sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association and will be provided at no cost for those who pre-register. To preregister, contact Tyler Bettin at (800) 372-7675 or tbettin@iowapork.org. Questions may be directed to Mark Storlie by phone at (563) 425-3331 or mstorlie@iastate.edu.

The 2014 Iowa Pork Regional Conference will follow the PQA Plus session 1:00 to 4:30 pm. Speakers include Dr. Mike Brumm, Brumm Swine Consultancy; Dr. Lee Schulz, ISU Livestock Economist and ISUEO Field Specialists, Mark Storlie and Russ Eukens. Program is free when pre-registered or $5 registration at the door. For additional information or to pre-register, contact IPPA at (800) 372-7675.

Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) provides a framework for significant, relevant food safety standards and improved animal well-being. Pork producers pride themselves on the commitment to continuous improvement and the PQA Plus is regularly revised to increase its effectiveness, incorporate new research information, and ensure the program’s validity.

To learn more about PQA Plus™ please see the National Pork Board Web site at http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQAP.aspx.

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For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:

Allamakee: Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu
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Fayette: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteege@iastate.edu
Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winnebago: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, ccourt@iastate.edu

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