Map of My Kingdom Performance tackles farm transition

Who’s going to get the farm? And what are they going to do with it? Will your future plans for your land create harmony or strife for your family? Or have you even started to think that far ahead?

“Map of My Kingdom,” a play commissioned by Practical Farmers of Iowa and written by Iowa’s Mary Swander, tackles the critical issue of land transition. Hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach, the play will premiere on September 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Chase the Adventure, 1838 Middle Calmar Rd, Decorah.

In the drama, Angela Martin, a lawyer and mediator in land transition disputes, shares stories of how farmers and landowners she has worked with over the years approached their land successions. Some families almost came to blows, struggling to resolve the sale or transfer of their land, dissolving relationships. Others found peacefully rational solutions that focused not only on the viability of the family, but also of the land.

Land is the thread that binds all of the stories together. “For most farmers I know, owning land means everything,” Angela Martin says. “Map of My Kingdom” will resonate with those who have been through or are working through challenging land transfer issues that include division of the land among siblings, to selling out to a neighbor, to attempts to preserve the land’s integrity against urban sprawl. The drama will inspire the hesitant and the fearful to start the conversation that cannot wait.

Today, a vast amount of land in the United States is owned by those over 65 years old. Some have made their wishes clear for the future of their property. Others are courting family upheaval by not planning in concrete ways. An age old problem, evident in literature from the Bible to King Lear to Willa Cather, land transition asks hard questions: Who really owns the land? And what is the role of the steward of a property? Can “fair” become “unfair” to one’s children?
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Meet Melissa O’Rourke, NE Iowa Farm and Agribusiness Management Specialist for Iowa State Extension and Outreach. A discussion facilitated by O’Rourke will follow the performance.

The performance is free and open to the public. Contact Winneshiek County Extension and Outreach with questions at 563-382-2949.

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**News Release**

**Contact:** Jill Weber, Human Sciences Specialist, Nutrition and Wellness, jrweber@iastate.edu, 319-234-6811 Ext. 112

**Register for Preserve the Taste of Summer Lessons and Workshops**

Iowans can learn how to “Preserve the Taste of Summer” during online lessons and hands-on workshops from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The online lessons are currently available, and workshops are planned for August 27 and Sept 3. The workshops will be held from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM each evening.

Jams and Dehydrating will be offered in West Union on August 27, and Hot water bath canning and salsa making will be offered in Decorah on Sept. 3.

The “home food preserver” registration fee is $35 and covers all eight online lessons and one hands-on workshop. The “professional level” of this course qualifies as continuing education for Iowa teachers and registered dietitians. The registration fee is $100 and covers all eight online lessons and two hands-on workshops. To register for “Preserve the Taste of Summer,” go to www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-taste-summer.

For more information, contact Jill Weber at 319-240-1730, or jrweber@iastate.edu.

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**News Release**

**Contact:** Winneshiek County Extension, 563-382-2949

**Pine Bluff 4-H Camp to host Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on August 30**

An all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast will be held at Pine Bluff 4-H Camp. The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Adults and Children are $7 with five and under eating free. Funds raised will support restroom updates and handicap accessibility at the camp. Pine Bluff 4-H Campground is located at 2672 River Rd, Decorah.

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