December 14, 2016

IN THIS EDITION
News Releases specific to NE Iowa:

- Annie's Project Provides Agriculture Business Education to Iowa Farm Women
- Iowa State Extension and Outreach will hold Dairy Days in January and February
- Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops Scheduled for 2017
- Commercial Manure Applicator Training Scheduled
- Start to Farm Series For New and Early Career Dairy Farmers Continues
- Driftless Region Beef Conference to Feature Cattle and Corn Synergies

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News Release
Contact: Julie Christensen, Office Coordinator, Allamakee County, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu or Deb Kahler, Office Manager, Fayette County, 563-425-3331, dkahler@iastate.edu

Annie's Project Provides Agriculture Business Education to Farm Women

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering a networking program that empowers women in agriculture to become better business partners and owners.

Annie’s Project is a six-week course designed to help farm women develop their management and decision-making skills. Farm women participating in Annie’s Project courses become better business partners and owners by learning to manage and organize critical information for their own farms, while establishing networks with other farm women and agriculture business professionals.

According to ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Specialist, Melissa O’Rourke, Annie’s Project covers five areas of agricultural risk management: financial, human resources, legal, marketing and production.

O’Rourke states, “Our goal is to provide a program that is of great interest and value. Each session includes presentations, discussions, hands-on activities and computer skills training. In addition, guest speakers share their personal experiences and knowledge to help women become better business partners and owners.”

The course will be offered at two northeast Iowa locations. Online registration is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag or at your local County Extension office.

Allamakee County Extension office, on Mondays from 6 p.m – 9 p.m. beginning January 30 and continuing February 6, 13, 20, 27; and March 6. A light supper will be provided at 5:30 p.m. The cost is $75.00. Registration deadline is January 23. For more information, contact Julie Christensen, Allamakee County, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu

Fayette County Extension office, on Thursdays, from 6 p.m – 9 p.m. beginning February 23 and continuing March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. A light supper will be provided at 5:30 p.m. The cost is $75.00. Registration deadline is February 16. For more information, contact Debra Kahler, 563-425-3331, dkahler@iastate.edu

According to a 2012 survey conducted by ISU Extension and Outreach, 47 percent of Iowa’s farmland is owned by women. Annie’s Project supports these women by providing an agricultural business education program that empowers farm women who want to be more knowledgeable about their agricultural enterprises.
More than 33 states have implemented Annie’s Project sites since its inception in 2002. According to post-program surveys, participants have reported that the program encouraged learning and that the nurturing environment has facilitated ongoing conversation with local speakers. In addition, respondents were able to network with other professionals and stated that they felt comfortable interacting with others for additional information and assistance.

Overall, participants remarked that the courses were beneficial in understanding the factors in farming that pertain to women, their families, and the land.

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News Release
Contact: Jennifer Bentley, Dairy Specialist Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu

Iowa State Extension and Outreach will hold Dairy Days in January and February
Iowa dairy producers have the opportunity to learn about emerging dairy industry issues at the 2017 Dairy Days hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists. The program is scheduled at seven eastern Iowa locations between Jan. 16 and Feb. 2.

“The ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Team conducts this workshop to provide the latest research to Iowa’s dairy producers,” said Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension and Outreach dairy specialist. “Our goal is to help producers make sound herd management decisions that are backed by current and relevant information.”

“This day-long program offers producers an opportunity to hear up-to-date information. They can also talk with our speakers for answers to their specific situations,” said Bentley.

Topics covered at 2017 Dairy days will include: colostrum quality; millionaire model dairies; woodland and wildlife management opportunities on your dairy; keys to successful farm transition; silage, snaplage and shredlage; and, balancing SCC and milk quality decisions.

Dairy Days will be offered at seven Iowa locations: Jan. 16 in Waverly, Jan. 17 in Calmar, Jan. 19 in Riceville, Jan. 30 in Bloomfield, Jan. 31 in Kalona, Feb. 1 in Holy Cross, and Feb. 2 in Ryan. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the program will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Contact your county ISU Extension and Outreach office for more information.

A $15 registration fee covers the noon meal and proceedings costs. Pre-registration is requested by the Friday before each event to reserve a meal. Vouchers for the event may be available at your local agri-service providers or veterinarian’s office.

For more information contact your county ISU Extension and Outreach office or your local dairy specialist, Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496

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News Release

Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops Scheduled for 2017
Confinement site manure applicators and anyone interested in learning about manure issues should plan to attend a two-hour workshop offered by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in January or February 2017. These workshops are offered in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. There is no fee to attend the workshops, but applicators will need to pay certification fees to complete certification requirements.

“Iowa law requires confinement site manure applicators to attend two hours of continuing education each year of their three-year certification period, or take and pass an exam once every three years,” said Dan Andersen, assistant professor, ISU Ag and Biosystems Engineering and coordinator of the manure applicator certification program.

ISU Extension and Outreach county offices have a complete list of workshop dates and locations, or view a list at: http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/confinementsitebrochure.pdf
News Release

Commercial Manure Applicator Training Scheduled for Jan. 5

Commercial manure applicators should plan to attend the Commercial Manure Applicator training program scheduled for Thursday, January 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will conduct the required three-hour training workshop at that time. There is no fee to attend the workshop, but commercial applicators must register by Dec. 30 by contacting the hosting ISU Extension and Outreach office. The workshop will be hosted at the following county offices: Allamakee, Clayton, Howard, and Winneshiek.

Commercial manure applicators needing to recertify and those wanting to certify for the first time should attend. The workshop will provide the required three hours of annual training and will cover rules for applicators as well as land-application requirements, update on inspections, what you need to know about nitrogen and phosphorus in manure, nitrogen inhibitors, manure application equipment, and manure and hydrogen sulfide safety.

Please contact your county extension offices to determine which days are scheduled for the manure applicator certification programs. Due to scheduling conflicts, many county extension offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch the training DVDs.

Applicators now have another option, online certification, which an applicator can take their training on-line at DNR MAC eLearning site at https://elearning-dnr.iowa.gov/. The applicator will need to sign-in and get an A&A account.

For more information about the commercial applicator program contact your local ISU Extension & Outreach County office or access a list of the training locations at: http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/macprogrampostcard.pdf

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News Release

Contact: Jennifer Bentley, Dairy Specialist Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 563-382-2949, jbentley@iastate.edu or Larry Tranel, Dairy Specialist Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 563-583-6496, tranel@iastate.edu

Start to Farm Series For New and Early Career Dairy Farmers Continues

Start to Farm: New Farmer Learning Networks are for beginning and early-career farmers looking for an edge in managing and growing their farm business. The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team will continue their dairy beginning farmer series to improve business practices and production techniques, tour successful farm operations, and to form a community to share new ideas and profitable farming methods.

“Our goal is to provide an open atmosphere for discussion, sharing of ideas and learning about resources for producers who are considering dairy farming or in their early years of dairying,” said Jennifer Bentley, ISU Extension and Outreach dairy specialist. “It is important to help producers make sound dairy farm management decisions that are backed by current and relevant information.”

Registration for the program is requested, but there is no participation fee. Start to Farm will be facilitated across the state and can attend all or some sessions. Dates in January include:

- Jan. 12 – The People Side of Dairy; ISUEO Farm Management Specialist, Melissa O’Rourke will provide
communication strategies in working with family and non-family employees.

- Jan. 26 – Raising Calves & Heifers; ISUEO Dairy Field Specialist, Jennifer Bentley will provide guidelines and recommendations for raising both calves and heifers to maximize production in the milking herd.

Start to Farm will be offered at four locations with the same topics presented at each site. Programs will start at noon and conclude by 2 p.m. The locations in NE Iowa include:

- Dubuque County ISU Extension and Outreach Office, 14858 West Ridge Lane, Dubuque, RSVP: tranel@iastate.edu, 563-583-6496
- Iowa’s Dairy Center-Robotic Meeting Room, 1527 Hwy 150, Calmar, RSVP: jbentley@iastate.edu, 563-382-2949

For more information, contact your county ISU Extension and Outreach office or ISU Extension and Outreach dairy specialists, Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496.

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News Release

Contact: Denise Schwab, Iowa State University Extension beef program specialist, 319-721-9624, dschwab@iastate.edu

Driftless Region Beef Conference to Feature Cattle and Corn Synergies

The upcoming Driftless Region Beef Conference will spotlight competitive advantages of Midwest beef producers, according to Denise Schwab, beef program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The conference will be held Jan. 26-27, at the Grand River Conference Center in Dubuque.

“We hear a lot of discussion about the challenges of raising cattle on corn ground, yet that is one of our biggest competitive advantages over beef producers in other parts of the country,” Schwab said. “We are really excited to feature two of the leading researchers in the country to talk about the synergies between cattle and corn.”

One of the major concerns is that cattle trampling could negatively affect soil properties and crop yields. However, research at the University of Nebraska has shown that grazing corn residue at the recommended stocking rate does not reduce corn or soybean yields. In fact, a long-term study in Mead, Neb. showed slight improvements (2-3 bu/ac) in soybean production following grazed corn residue when managed in a corn-soybean rotation. This result was the same regardless of whether cattle were grazed in the fall (November-January) or the spring (February-April).

Another concern is removal of crop residue, which is important to reduce potential soil erosion. However, Nebraska research has shown that removing some of the crop residue actually is beneficial by allowing the soil to warm up earlier in the spring and reduce some of the challenges of seed placement at planting.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota have also looked at the crop residue via cattle feed, but their focus was more on how to optimize corn yield, feed conversion efficiency and crop residue management for optimum gross return per acre. They compared the interactions of cattle performance and crop yield when corn was harvested as either silage, high-moisture ear corn, or dry corn and fed to heavy yearling steers through finishing.

Mary Drewnoski from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and Alfredo DiCostanzo from the University of Minnesota will share more of their research on how cattle and corn production can benefit both systems.

The early registration fee of $85 per person must be received prior to midnight, Jan. 13. The price increases to $115 after that date. More information on topics, speakers, lodging and registration with links for online and mail forms is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/beef.

The Driftless Region Beef Conference is sponsored by ISU Extension and Outreach, University of Illinois Extension, the University of Minnesota Extension and University of Wisconsin Extension. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact Schwab at 319-472-4739.

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