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Download previous editions here: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/winneshiek/news/news-ne-iowa-isu-extension

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: Brian Lang, Iowa State University Extension Field Agronomist, 563-382-2949, blang@iastate.edu

ISU Extension Workshops to Maximize Economic Returns to Fertilizer Expense

With continued low commodity prices, many farmers are looking to trim costs. For fertilizer, don't simply trim overall costs but rather selectively maximize economic returns to fertilizer expense. ISU Extension is conducting small-group workshops for those wanting to understand soil tests and fertilizer recommendations.

“We will take a step-by-step approach on understanding what to test for, how labs provide test results, and how to turn those results into profitable fertilizer rates”, says Brian Lang, agronomist with ISU Extension.

Even if you already have soil testing and recommendations hired out to an agri-business, in two hours you can still gain a very good understanding of how to manage one of the top three dollar per acre expenses on your farm.

Knowledge gained from this program will likely allow you to selectively reduce fertilizer costs while improving income. The two-hour workshop is free but seating is limited, so please RSVP to the County Extension office where you wish to attend. For more details about the program content, contact Brian Lang at 563-387-7058 or blang@iastate.edu

Dates, Times and Locations:
Feb. 6, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Fayette Co. Extension office, 218 S. Main St., Fayette, 563-425-3331
Feb. 14, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Chickasaw Co. Extension office, 104 E. Main St., New Hampton, 641-394-2174
Feb. 17, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Clayton Co. Extension office, 120 S. Main St., Elkader, 563-245-1451
Feb. 24, 10:00 to Noon. Delaware Co. Extension office, 1417 N. Franklin St., Manchester, 563-927-4201
Feb. 27, 10:00 to Noon. Allamakee Co Extension office, 218 7th Ave. SE, Waukon, 563-568-6345
March 1, 10:00 to Noon. Winneshiek Co. Extension office, 325 Washington St., Decorah, 563-382-2949
March 3, 10:00 to Noon. Dubuque Co. Extension office, 14858 West Ridge Ln., Dubuque, 563-583-6496
March 20, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Howard Co. Extension office, 132 1st Ave. W., Cresco, 563-547-3001

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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 designed to help participants grow their farm business

Ames, IA – 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 February include:

- Feb. 16 – Herd Health and Records; ISUEO State Dairy Specialist, Leo Timms will provide key ways to


look at your dairy records to improve herd health management and observation.

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.

- **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
- **Iowa State University Campus**, 305 Kildee Hall, Ames, RSVP: hramirez@iastate.edu, 515-294-5517
- **Dordt College-Campus Center Boardroom**, 498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center, RSVP: doranb@iastate.edu, 712-737-4230

For more information, contact your local ISU Extension and Outreach county 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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