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News Release

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Farmland Leasing Meetings set for Northeast Iowa

More than half of Iowa farmland is rented, and the percentage of farmland rented has increased over time due to the changing demographics of farmland owners. Iowa farmland cash rental rates decreased by $10 an acre from 2013 to 2014; northeast Iowa cash rental rates decreased slightly by 1.4 percent in 2014. Additionally, farmland values have increased by 7.4 percent in northeast Iowa from 2012 to 2013, but have leveled off in the first quarter of 2014.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offices across northeast Iowa are hosting farmland leasing meetings from July 30 through August 21 at selected locations. These meetings will address questions that land owners, tenants, or other interested individuals have about farmland leasing. Locations include:
- Nashua at 6:00 p.m. on July 30;
- Calmar at 9:00 a.m. on August 6;
- Dyersville at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on August 12;
- Fayette at 9:00 a.m. on August 13;
- Waukon at 1:30 p.m. on August 13;
- Osage at 9:00 a.m. on August 14;
- Cresco at 1:30 p.m. on August 15;
- Waterloo at 9:00 a.m. on August 15;
- Tripoli at 1:30 p.m. on August 15;
- Elkader at 1:30 p.m. on August 21.

Meetings are approximately 2 ½ hours in length.

Attendees will gain understanding of current cash rental rate surveys and factors driving next year’s rents such as market trends and input costs. They will learn about types of leases and results of farmland value surveys. Additionally, information on 2012 Census, Farm Bill, CSR2, and Nutrient Reduction Strategy will be presented. A 100-page workbook will be included with registration that includes land leasing
information such as surveys, sample written lease agreement and termination forms, and many other publications.

“Due to changes in commodity markets, cash rent values, and government programs farmland owners and tenants may have more decisions over the next year than in previous years, and this meeting provides information to stay up to date on farmland lease issues”, says Kristen Schulte, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm and Ag Business Management Specialist. Schulte will be the presenter at the meeting.

Registration is $20 per individual. A $5 late registration fee will be charged if registering less than two calendar days before the workshop. Pre-register and find out additional meeting and location details by calling the corresponding local county extension office for the desired meeting location.

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News Release
Contact: Teresa Wiemerslage, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599.

Local Food Directories Available

The Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Coalition has released the 2014 Local Food Directory. The directory connects consumers with direct marketing farmers in Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties. Buying local products from farmers is good for you, your family, your community and the environment.

This year’s directories were printed in partnership with Inspire(d) magazine, a local publication based out of Decorah, Iowa. Inspire(d) covers positive news in the Driftless Region – Northeast Iowa, Southeast Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin and can be picked up for free at more than 100 locations across the region.

Directories are also available online at www.iowafreshfood.com – click on Finding Local Food.

The Northeast Iowa Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter is part of the Northeast Iowa Food & Farm (NIFF) Coalition and the Food & Fitness Initiative (FFI). Together, they are working to create community environments that support access to fresh, locally-grown food. More information about these programs can be found at www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

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