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News Release
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ISU Field Day on June 24 at Nashua with Elwynn Taylor’s Crop-Weather Forecast and Other Topics

NASHUA – The Annual Spring Field Day at the ISU Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm will run from 1:00 to 4:15 p.m. on June 24. The program will start with Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension Climatologist, providing a crop-weather forecast; followed by Matt Liebman, ISU Agronomist, to address the economics of diversified crop rotations; then Antonio Mallarino, ISU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist, will cover N management in crop rotations; and Matt Helmers, ISU Extension Ag Engineer, will address various water quality project on the research farm and their implications.

The field day is free and open to the public. It starts at the Borlaug Learning Center Headquarters on the ISU Northeast Research Farm and Demonstration Farm. Directions: From Nashua at the Jct. of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. CCA credits are available (2 SW, 1 NM, 1 CM). For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801.

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

ISU Extension Short Course will Increase Grazing Knowledge and Skills

Vinton, Iowa - Livestock producers with an interest in beginning or transitioning grazing practices can sharpen their skills by attending Greenhorn Grazing workshops offered by Iowa State University Extension. The Greenhorn Grazing short course consists of five different modules taught over the grazing season.
“Greenhorn Grazing is designed for graziers interested in a more controlled or management-intensive grazing system,” said Denise Schwab, ISU Extension livestock specialist. “Producers who want to optimize forage and livestock production, increase market access and conserve natural resources will find the modules very informative.”

The course will cover concepts relevant to all producers of grass-based livestock, whether it is beef, dairy, sheep or other animals, according to Schwab. Greenhorn Grazing will be held in the Clayton, Delaware and Dubuque county areas, but is designed for any producers in northeast Iowa. Each workshop will have a classroom component with experienced instructors and a hands-on field component.

The workshops will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and will last through mid-afternoon. The sessions are scheduled for June 10, July 21, August 24, September 9 and November 10. The June 10 session will feature Brian Lang, ISU Extension Agronomist, on soil conditions, fertility and plant productivity, Pat Schaefer, Clayton County NRCS, on pasture condition scoring and CSP opportunities, and forage planning and species identification by Schwab. The pasture component will be at the John Schupbach farm near Elgin, featuring new seeding establishment, rotational paddocks, above ground waterline system, wildlife protection systems, and custom grazing.

The July session will feature dairy grazing with Larry Tranel and the Eric Gaul pasture, as well as a fencing demonstration. The August session will feature Dan Morrical, ISU Sheep Specialist, on animal grazing behavior, forage requirements and supplementing on pasture, Greg Brenneman on watering systems, and the Cameron Schulte pasture with buried water lines to tanks and a spring water development. September will feature fall and winter forage management practices such as fall interseeding with Jim Welter, hay field grazing, and planning for winter feeding, as well as weed management with Meaghan Anderson. Dan, Tom and Mark Welter will be the hosts of that session. The final program will be held at the Jack Smith farm near Epworth and will feature cover crop grazing and companionship of cattle to row crops.

“The Greenhorn Grazing program is designed to help livestock producers evaluate their own pasture management and implement steps to increase their grazing efficiency,” said Schwab. “This training features experienced graziers sharing their knowledge and learning from each other; it’s the best combination of academics with real-world experience.”

Cost of the short course is being largely offset by support from the Clayton, Delaware and Dubuque county Extension districts, Theisen’s Home Farm & Auto, Arrow Cattlequip, Innovative Ag Services, and Welter Seed & Honey. The course fee is $75 for all five sessions in the series. Registration fees include a resource notebook and lunch, and help offset speaker travel.

For more information on specific locations or details contact Denise Schwab at (319) 721-9624 or dschwab@iastate.edu. To register, contact the Delaware County Extension Office, at 563-927-4201.

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