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News Release
Contact: Denise Schwab, Beef Program Specialist, 319-721-9624, dschwab@iastate.edu

ISU Extension Hosts Dairy and Beef Manure Tour

ISU Extension and Outreach and the Delaware County SWCD, with partnership assistance from USDA-NRCS, are hosting a tour to look at practices and management techniques to help small dairies and beef feedlots address potential water quality impacts of runoff from outside open lot areas.

The farms feature clean water diversion from buildings and fields, covered and open manure storage, and feeding under roof. The event will also feature a manure spreader calibration exercise to help fine-tune application rates of nutrients used for crop production.

The tour will start on Tuesday, November 19 at 10 a.m. at the Paul Overman feedlot, will move to the Wade Brunsman dairy and then on to lunch provided at the Wayne Brunsman farm. After lunch the tour will conclude with a brief overview of the hoop barn facilities and manure handling and the manure spreader calibration exercise.

For more information about this field day please call Angie Rieck-Hinz at Iowa State University 515-294-9590. This event will be held regardless of weather conditions so please come dressed appropriately. To respect biosecurity protocols, please wear clean street shoes and not barn or chore footwear. Plastic boots will be provided.

The Overman feedlot is located at 3327 163rd Street, New Vienna. From Dyersville, take highway 136 (exit #294 on highway 20) five miles north to New Vienna, then turn west on Main Street and follow West Main (Petersburg Road, which becomes 163rd Street) west two miles to the Overman farm. The Brunsman farms are located one quarter mile west and one mile north. Watch for signs.

This effort is part of the Water Quality Initiatives for Small Beef and Dairy Feedlot Operations. Additional details will be shared on the Small Feedlot Web page at http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/smallfeedlotsdairy.html

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New Report Shows How Local Food Helps Iowa's Economy

AMES, Iowa -- A new report from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture shows that institutional purchases of local food added nearly $9 million to the Iowa economy in 2012.

What's more, the report points out enormous opportunities for local foods in Iowa that could benefit rural communities and farm-based businesses. Investigators measured significant sales from only a small segment of potential markets for local foods among grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes, college and school food services and other institutions.

The findings are part of an evaluation of the Regional Food Systems Working Group (RFSWG) that supports local food systems in 90 of Iowa's 99 counties. It is the first coordinated, comprehensive attempt to measure actual economic and community impacts associated with regional food system development in Iowa.

The evaluation tracked local food purchases by grocery stores, restaurants and institutions, and sales from Iowa farm-based enterprises that marketed their products locally in 2012. Nearly 180 businesses and individuals participated in the data collection effort, including 74 buyers and 103 producers of local foods. The evaluation also measured job creation as a result of local food production, processing or utilization, and counted funds leveraged by the regional food groups that comprise the statewide RFSWG network.

"Most of the information we've had in the past came from economic models, that is, projections based on potential scenarios and assumptions, not what actually happened during a specific time period," said associate scientist Corry Bregendahl, who coordinated the data collection project for the Leopold Center with Leopold Center program assistant Arlene Enderton.

She said the report also differs in the type of sales information that was collected, which included data from institutional and intermediary markets as well as direct sales.

"Most people think local food sales are only those between farmers and individual consumers, such as farmers markets or community supported agriculture (CSA) enterprises," she explained. "We also measured sales to institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes, and schools, grocery stores and restaurants. These markets represent huge potential markets for local foods, and serve a population that needs greater access to healthy food."

Bregendahl and the coordinators of the 15 regional food groups in the RFSWG network collaborated to gather and assess the data. The coordinators distributed surveys to area buyers and farmers they worked with to collect information about these key indicators of economic impact:

- **Local food purchases in 2012:** 74 buyers reported total purchases of $8,934,126.
- **Local food sales in 2012:** 103 farmers reported total sales of $10,549,296;
- **New jobs related to local food in 2012:** A total 36 new jobs (24 full-time equivalent) were created in 2012 (reported by a subset of buyers and farmers).
- **Funds leveraged by eight regional food groups in 2012:** $766,020.

Bregendahl said the 74 buyers spent an average $120,700 on local foods, or about 8.7 percent of their total food budget. If local food purchases were increased to 30 percent of the total food budget, an additional $21.5 million in sales would have been generated, leading to the creation of 71 new full-time
buyer-based jobs. Less than half of one percent of the estimated 22,000 institutional and intermediary markets in Iowa participated in this evaluation.

“When you look at jobs related to public money invested in the local food groups, we found that it's relatively inexpensive to create full-time employment opportunities in Iowa communities,” she said. Calculations showed that it cost the public $17,874 to support one new FTE job in the local foods sector. “Local foods commerce expands and complements what we’re already doing in Iowa agriculture; it does not compete with it,” Bregendahl added.

The evaluation reflects efforts throughout Iowa by RFSWG’s 15 geographically-based groups. Each group works with different stakeholders – farmers, food-based businesses, non-profits, Extension, Resource Conservation and Development organizations, educational institutions and government agencies – to support local food systems development in their region.

The statewide report, 2012 Economic Impacts of Iowa’s Regional Food Systems Working Group, is available on the Leopold Center website at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/local-food

For more about RFSWG, go to their website: https://sites.google.com/site/iowarfswg/

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News Release

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

Driftless Region Beef Conference Features New UM Faculty

Cattlemen and women from the tri-state area are invited to the Driftless Region Beef Conference, Jan. 30-31, 2014, at the Grand River Convention Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

The Thursday program will focus on the competitive advantage of grain and beef production systems, with an evening discussion focused on extending the grazing season with cover crops and annuals. Friday morning’s program includes three breakout sessions for feedlot operations and three for cow-calf herds.

Two new beef specialists from the University of Minnesota will be featured. Eric Mousel is well-known for his expertise in applied reproductive strategies in beef cattle. He works mostly with cow/calf programs and is located in the Extension Regional Office in Grand Rapids. Mousel will be speaking during the general session on grazing cover crops, facilitate the evening ‘bull pen’ producer panel, and during a breakout session, he will discuss longevity of beef heifers.

Nicole Kenney is a new extension educator at the Extension Regional Office in Willmar, MN. She brings new energy and innovative applications to beef feedlot management. Her breakout session presentation will discuss health and nutrition management for newly arrived feeder calves.

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Jan. 30 and run through 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 31. Other key speakers include Jerry Hatfield, Garland Dahlke, Patrick Gunn and Lee Schultz, Iowa State University; Amber Radatz, Rhonda Gildersleeve, and Brian Holmes, University of Wisconsin; Eric Mousel and Nicole Rambo, University of Minnesota; and Travis Meteer, University of Illinois and Galen Erickson, University of Nebraska .

Registration for the conference is $80 before Jan. 15 or $100 after Jan. 15. Additional information about the conference is available at www.aep.iastate.edu/beef. Registration will open for the conference on Dec. 1.
The Driftless Region Beef Conference is sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Wisconsin Extension. The planning team strives to deliver the latest in research-based information regarding the beef cattle industry. For more information or to receive a brochure, contact Denise Schwab at 319-721-9624 or dschwab@iastate.edu.

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For information about local Extension events and programs, contact:
Allamakee: Julie Christensen, 563-568-6345, juliechr@iastate.edu
Chickasaw: Danielle Day, 641-394-2174, daday@iastate.edu
Clayton: Rita Severson, 563-245-1451, ritas@iastate.edu
Fayette: Kathy Steege, 563-425-3331, ksteege@iastate.edu
Howard: Sue Barnes, 563-547-3001, skbarnes@iastate.edu
Winneshiek: Carrie Courtney, 563-382-2949, ccourt@iastate.edu

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