

# The Paper

*Our Town, Our Paper!*



*Laurens, Iowa*



Vol. 9 No. 36

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December 23, 2015

## *Local News*

### *ISU Extension & Outreach Pocahontas County After School Program*

Children in Laurens, Pocahontas, and Rolfe learned how to make recycled holiday gifts for their friends and family at the December programs. Corinne Peterson, Pocahontas County Conservation Naturalist, assisted children with wooden cookie ornaments by stamping on the pieces of wood and making ties to hang on the tree. Children used jars and old greeting cards for a decorative container to put hot cocoa mix in for a festive gift. Milk and cookies were enjoyed after the children frosted and decorated their snack.

To find out about other youth activities in Pocahontas County contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County, office at 712-335-3103.



The Rolfe Public library hosted the after school program. Children are pictured sanding their wooden ornament.



Children enjoy a winter story at the Pocahontas Area after school program.



Laurens-Marathon students are decorating their Christmas cookies.

## *Naughty or Nice List!?*

Laurens Public Library's Elf on the Shelf (aka Library Board President Patty Boughey) stopped by to see if the library staff has been Naughty or Nice! Happy to report they are still on the "Nice" list!



## *Local Author Visits the Library*

Author Eric Price autographs a paperback copy of his first book *"Unveiling the Wizard's Shroud"* for Gail Olson at the Laurens Public Library recently. Eric also told us details about the writing, editing & publishing processes. He informed us that the second book in the Saga of the Wizards series, *"The Squire and the Slave Master,"* is now available as an e-book.



## *A Message from Massage by Kayla*

I will be closing my massage business at the end of the year. Thank you to each and every person who supported me throughout my massage career. Thank you for making it a great 9 years.

*Kayla Graff, LMT.*

## **HELP WANTED! Children's Librarian**

We are taking applications for a librarian to work 3 days a week and one Saturday morning a month. Please apply at the Laurens Public Library.



## *Services Held Recently for Lois Lind*

Lois Lind, age 88, of Marathon, Iowa died December 9, 2015 at her home in Marathon.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at Grace

Lutheran Church in Marathon. Burial was at the Poland Township Cemetery in Marathon. Visitation took place Friday, December 18, 2015 from 5-7 p.m. at the Sliefert Funeral Home in Albert City. The Sliefert Funeral Home in Albert City was in charge of the arrangements.

Lois Joan Engh, the daughter of Emery and Newella (Thompson) Engh, was born in Goldfield, Iowa on October 24, 1927. She lived her youth on the farm in Goldfield. Lois attended a country school and completed her secondary education at Renwick High School. Lois continued her education at the Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa where she received her teaching certificate. She took additional

college courses at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake.

On January 23, 1951, Lois was united in marriage to LeRoy Lind at St. John's Country Church in Kanawha, Iowa. Together, this couple was blessed with four children: Barbara, Leanne, Steve and Mary Beth. Lois was an elementary school teacher in Marathon when she met Leroy. She also taught in the communities of Clear Lake, West Bend and Webb. Following their marriage, LeRoy established Lind Turkey Enterprises with the support of Lois, an active partner in the family farming business.

Lois was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Marathon and the Ladies Aid. She took great pride in the Marathon community and helped to organize the "Good Ol' Days," co-founded (with her husband) the Marathon to Marathon annual run, served on the Library Board, was a 4-H leader, a member of the Tuesday Study Club, and delivered Meals on Wheels. Lois also served on the B.V. County Sesquicentennial Committee and was an active member of the Marathon Area Historical Society, which established the LM&O Railroad Museum. Lois was always a teacher at heart and took an active interest in attending school activities for her children and grandchildren, as well as activities of her students. In recent years, Lois enjoyed socializing at the Marathon Community Center with her friends.

Lois' life will always be loved, honored and cherished by her family which includes her children: Barbara Lind of San

Antonio, Texas; Leanne Lind Marden of Arlington, Massachusetts; Steve and Karen Lind of Marathon, Iowa; and Mary Beth Lind and her husband, Arthur Calias of Columbia, South Carolina; grandchildren: Thayer Marden Blair and her husband Michael, and Dana Marden; Auston, Spencer, Haley, Devin and Collin Lind; great grandson, Ethan Blair; other extended family and her many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, LeRoy in 1996; and two brothers, Clifford and Donald Engh.

Memorials may be directed to the Marathon Area Historical Society, Marathon to Marathon, or the Marathon Library via P.O. Box 289, Marathon, Iowa 50565.

Blessed be the life and memory of Lois Joan (Engh) Lind.

## *Best Wishes!*

Cuts to Dye For regrets to inform you that Kayla Graff will no longer be working with us at the salon. She is closing this chapter of her life as a Licensed Massage Therapist and starting a new journey at Pengo. Her last day at the salon will be December 31, 2015.

It is with sadness we let you go, Kayla. We thank you for spending over 7 years with us. If you ever miss the long days or late nights, you are welcome to come back and see us! The salon won't be the same without you!

We request you all join me in congratulating Kayla on her amazing journey here at the salon and her well deserved next phase in life. Katie and I will miss you, Kayla, but we wish you the best!

*Erica & Katie*



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## *Bieri Graduates from University of Iowa*

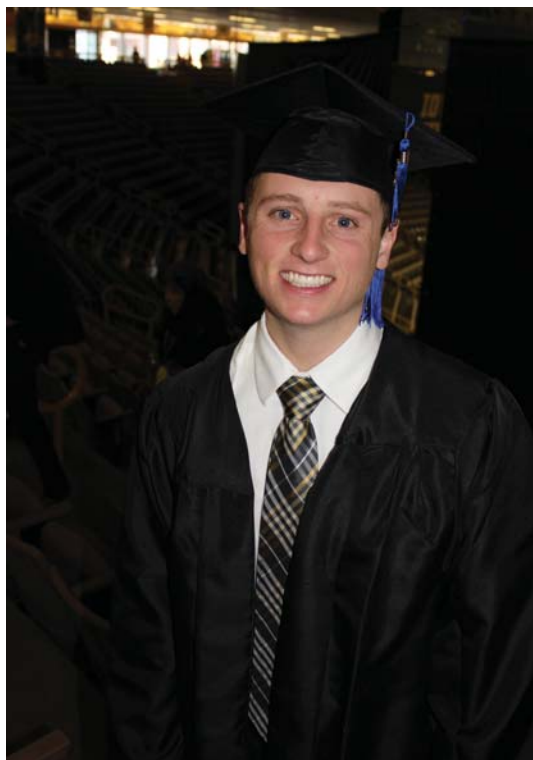
On Saturday, December 19, 2015, Case E. Bieri of Laurens graduated from the Henry B. Tippie School of Business at the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. The graduation ceremonies were held at 9 AM in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Case majored in Finance and Business Analytics and Information Systems. He is a 2011 graduate of Laurens-Marathon High School.

Attending the graduation ceremonies were: Case's parents, Mr. Sheldon and Dr. Linda Bieri of Laurens, his grandmother Mrs. Bertha Olson of Laurens, his sister Mrs. Elise Patzke and her husband Mr. Jeffrey Patzke of Kasson, MN, his sister Mrs. Laura Latham and her husband Mr. Brett Latham of Urbandale, IA, and his niece Miss Allison Latham.

After graduation the family celebrated with friends Dr. Russell Nichols and his wife Kristy from Iowa City at the Ox Yoke Inn in Amana, IA.

Case will continue to reside in Iowa City and work for State Farm Insurance while he pursues a position in his field of study.



***SHOUTS OF JOY COMING  
FROM THE LAURENS POOL  
PROJECT COMMITTEE! WE  
RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS  
DONATION OF \$35,000!!!***

*You too may give:*

*-In your own name*

*- A loved ones name*

*- A business*

*-In memory of someone who passed away*

*-It may be an anonymous donation*

*This would be a nice Christmas gift for  
anyone on your list!*

*A gift to the Laurens Pool Project may be  
eligible for a tax deduction. Consult your  
tax professional to take full advantage.*

*A HUGE Thank you to all who have  
donated and Merry Christmas!*

***TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS  
can be sent to: Laurens Pool Project  
c/o City of Laurens  
272 North 3rd Street,  
Laurens, IA 50554***

***Like us on Facebook:  
Laurens Pool Project  
[www.laurens-ia.com](http://www.laurens-ia.com)***

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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
from all of us at The Paper!*

*Due to the holidays, there will not be an issue of The Paper next  
Wednesday, December 30. Thanks for your understanding!*



*At the Library  
with Glenda Mulder  
December 23, 2015*

Merry Christmas! Naturally, the library will be closed December 24-26 as we celebrate the season with our families.

We will have a job opening at our library soon. Kayla, our Children's Librarian, has accepted a full time position elsewhere. While we are sad to see her leave, we are happy for her new opportunity. So, if you would like to be considered for our part time (3 days a week) position as Children's Librarian, please contact the Library. I'd tell you it's a totally awesome place to work, but you would probably tell me I'm slightly prejudiced!

Two new biographies at LPL this week: *Fasten Your Seat Belts This is Going to be a Bumpy Ride* by Ruth Steinkoenig and *But Enough about Me* by Burt Reynolds. Looks like our local author Ruth (the leader of our monthly Writers Free for All group) is in pretty good company there! Just one new DVD *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*. Our only new novel is a biggie, *Tom Clancy Commander in Chief* by Mark Greaney. It's kind of the dry time of year for new books right now & for the next month or so – all the publishers have a push to make their books available by about the first of December.

Our Book Club is, of course, reading a Christmas book this month. *"A Paper Bag Christmas"* was written by Kevin Milne. Stop and pick up a copy of this heartwarming book. I've had a number of people tell me it's the best Christmas book they've ever read! It's short and a quick read – really, you can do it! We will discuss this book on Monday, December 28th at 7 p.m.

### Event Calendar

- Tot Time every Monday at 10 a.m.
- Tell Me a Yarn Mondays 5-7 p.m.
- Writers Free for All is 3rd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
  - Book Club is 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
  - Card Making is the 4th Tuesday of the month
- Smart Investing @ Your Library classes begin Jan 19



### COME WORK FOR US AT FISHER HYDRAULICS IN LAURENS, IOWA

Fisher Hydraulics in Laurens, IA is currently accepting applications for the following;

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> shift machinists Mon-Thur 5pm-3:30am**

We are seeking dependable and motivated applicants. Experience is preferred but we are willing to train the right applicants. Come work in a team oriented and friendly atmosphere with state of the art equipment. Shift premium is paid during training and overtime is available. Pay increases available after 90 days and every 6 months thereafter to top of pay scale.

A Pre-employment Drug Screen is required. **Fisher Hydraulics** is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering expanded benefits that include Competitive Wages, Medical, Dental, Flexible Spending Accounts, STD/LTD, and Life Insurance Plans, 401K Plan, paid Personal & Vacation days, & paid Holidays.

To apply: Call 712-845-2634 ext. 113, during the hours of 7:00 am-4:30 pm, Mon.-Thurs. and speak with Diane. You may also stop in and fill out an application.

**Fisher Hydraulics**  
a LIGON company

### VACANCY LAURENS-MARATHON CSD 2015-2016

Special Education Chaperone for Spencer Route  
Person(s) needed to chaperone special education students during the route to and from Spencer in the mornings and afternoons. Could possibly split position.

Interested applicants need contact:  
Troy Oehlertz, Principal  
Laurens-Marathon Community School District  
300 W Garfield St.  
Laurens, IA 50554  
712-841-5000  
E.O.E/AA

## Calling All Supplies!

The L-M Elementary will be participating in their first MakerDay this Spring! We are asking parents, grandparents, anyone (!) to save/donate the following items during the upcoming months:

**Duct Tape**

**Masking Tape**

**Straws**

**Cardboard - thick and thin**

**Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Tubes**

**Wrapping Paper Tubes**

**Egg cartons**


**Any small items that could be used for wheels (spools, lifesavers, etc.)**

These items can be dropped off at the main office of the school (box under the table marked "MakerDay").

If you are a business and would be interested in donating snacks for the elementary students on their MakerDay, please email Meredith Allen: [ms.meredithallen@gmail.com](mailto:ms.meredithallen@gmail.com).

Save the Date: Friday, March 4th  
- MakerDay Open House





Ring in the New Year  
at the Silver Dollar Saloon!

OPEN  
New Year's Day  
Come watch the  
Rosebowl

FRIDAY  
HAPPY HOUR  
~  
5-7pm  
1/2 PRICE

MONDAY  
\$2.00 BUD & BUDLIGHT

TACO  
TUESDAY  
5-8PM

WEDNESDAY  
LUNCH  
11am - 1pm  
December 30  
SALISBURY STEAK  
BUTTERED POTATOES  
PEAS

WEDNESDAY DRINK SPECIALS 4-6PM  
SAVE 50¢ ON ALL DRINKS/BEER

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SALOON**

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Spirit Lake 712-336-9111  
Toll Free 877-849-1756

## Thank You!

The family of Darwin Wurr would like to thank everyone who has offered words of comfort, hugs, cards, and food. We would like to take a moment and express our humble gratitude to: **UnityPoint** and their staff plus **Pocahontas County Hospital** and staff for always looking out for dad's comfort and health. Thank you to **Arlington Place** in Pocahontas for making dad's second home not only a place of comfort - but a place he thrived in. Thank you to **Powers Funeral Home** for going out of your way to make everything effortless.... you are top notch! A HUGE thank you to **Hospice of Pocahontas Hospital** for not only making sure Darwin was comfortable at all times - but that we were also comfortable with decisions being made. Your compassion, knowledge and advice was exactly what we needed. Thank you to **Trinity Lutheran Church**, Pastor Neal Hayen and the Women's Circle for the service....your words were comforting. Also a thank you to the **Laurens VFW** for the presentation of Colors at the graveside....Darwin was always so proud to call himself a veteran. And thank you to **Pizza Ranch of Laurens** for letting us gather after service. The gathering room was perfect and the comfort food is exactly what everyone needed. We are proud to call this community our home. From the bottom of our hearts - you will never know how much every gesture meant to us.

*Delaine Warnke and family  
Bill Wurr and family  
Duane Wurr and family*

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AFN42811

## *Grace Lutheran Church Marathon, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Albert City & St John Lutheran Church Rural Albert City*

**Pastor John Mayer**

Sundays 9 a.m. Worship Service @ Grace Lutheran Church - Marathon ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service @ 7PM

Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship @ Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Albert City ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service @ 10:30PM

Sundays 9:00 a.m. @ St John Lutheran Church Rural - Albert City ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service @ 5PM

\*Grace Lutheran Church Marathon starting Jan 2nd time change to Saturday night at 5PM

## *This Week at First Christian Church*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Wednesday, Dec. 23**  
1 p.m. - Willing Workers

**Thursday, Dec. 24**  
7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Friday, Dec. 25**  
7 p.m. - AA

**Sunday, Dec. 27**  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
No Youth Group today  
*Our Town Our Paper!*

## *This Week at Bethany Lutheran*

**Thursday: December 24, 2015**  
6:00 AM - 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Vigil  
5:30 PM ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion

**Sunday: December 27, 2015**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**NO SS & Confirmation**  
9:15 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 AM ~ Worship  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM ~ Ecumenical Christmas Dinner at Bethany  
**NO YOUTH GROUP**

**Tuesday: December 29, 2015**  
10:00 AM ~ Coffee Time  
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM ~ Viewing of Nativity Scenes ~ every Friday, Saturday, Sunday ~ December 11th - January 3rd



## *This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church*

**Wed., Dec. 23rd:**  
NO puppets

**Thurs., Dec. 24th:**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Church office closed**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services @ 5 & 11 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 25th:**  
**Christmas Day!**  
**Church office closed**  
**NO Men's Bible Study**

**Sun., Dec. 27th:**  
**NO Sunday School**  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.  
NO Laurens Area Youth Group meeting

**Mon., Dec. 28th:**  
Tear down Festival of Trees 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Tues., Dec. 29th:**  
Tear down Festival of Trees 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

## *Sacred Heart Church Laurens*

*Father Francis Makwinja*  
**Weekday Mass : Friday at 8:00 AM**  
**Weekend Mass: Sunday at 10:30 AM (November - February)**  
**Cluster Parishes**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids**  
**Weekday Mass: (Monday&Wednesday) - 8:00 AM**  
**Weekend Mass: Sunday - 8:30 AM (November - February)**  
**St. Louis Catholic Church, Royal**  
**Weekday Mass: (Tuesday & Thursday) - 8:00 AM**  
**Weekend Mass: Saturday - 5:00 PM (November - February)**

**Laurens Sacred Heart Catholic Church Christmas Mass schedule:**  
**Thursday, December, 24th, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday, December. 25th, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Cluster Parishes**  
**Thursday, December 24th, St. Joseph's, Sioux Rapids, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Friday, December 25th, St. Joseph's, Sioux Rapids, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Thursday, December, 24th, St. Louis, Royal, 9:00 p.m.**





## *Confinement Site Manure Applicator Workshops Scheduled for 2016*

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 2016. Pocahontas County will offer the confinement manure workshop in the office on Thursday, January 21, 9:30 – 11:30 am. 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.

A total of 69 counties will participate in the confinement site manure applicator workshops. In addition, a series of seven dry/solid manure applicator certification meetings will be held in February. 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>

The workshops serve as initial certification for those applicators that are

not currently certified, recertification for those renewing licenses and continuing education for those applicators in their second or third year of their license.

Due to uniform certification deadlines, applicators are encouraged to attend workshops prior to March 1 to avoid being assessed a late fee of \$12.50 for those who are re-certifying. Those unable to attend one of the workshops need to schedule time with their ISU Extension county office to watch the training DVD. Due to scheduling conflicts, many extension offices will no longer accept walk-in appointments to watch these DVDs, but do offer scheduled dates and times to provide this training. If you can't attend training during one of the scheduled reshow dates at your county extension office, you will be charged a \$10 fee to view the training at your convenience. If attending the workshops or watching the two-hour training DVD is not convenient, confinement site manure applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam to meet certification requirements.

Applicators now have another option, online certification, which an applicator can take their training online 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 Manure Applicator Certification Program or visit: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/mac.html>

## *Pocahontas County 4-H Scholarship Applications Available*

All Pocahontas County Senior 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply for 1 of up to 10 \$500 Scholarships that will be awarded to the college of their choice. These scholarships are made available by the generous donations to the Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment each year. Applications are available online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas) or may be picked up at the ISU Extension and Outreach Office Pocahontas County. All applications are due no later than February 1, 2016. No late applications will be accepted.

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## *Winter Webinar Series Offered for Master Gardeners in 2016*

*Three part series shows how Master Gardeners support food security*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program will host a winter webinar series in 2016. Master Gardeners will gain educational hours while learning the realities of hunger in Iowa, the best way to work with food banks, food safety and more. Two-hour webinars are scheduled at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office for January 7th, January 26th and February 8th.

Winter webinar topics include:

- January 7, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm - Hunger in Iowa: Learn the realities of hunger and teaching methods to use when working with food-insecure adults. Presented by Christine Hradek, food and nutrition educator for ISU Extension and Outreach as well as Susan DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

- January 26, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm - Working with Food Banks: Find out how Master Gardeners can work with food banks to donate garden produce. Presented by Sara Bonefas, interim director of the Food Bank of Iowa as well as Susan

DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

- February 8, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm- Best Practices for Food Safety: Get information on the best practices for handling garden produce going to food banks and the importance of food safety procedures. Presented by Shannon Coleman, assistant professor in food science and human nutrition and ISU Extension and Outreach specialist as well as Susan DeBlieck, Master Gardener program assistant for ISU Extension and Outreach.

This webinar series is part of a collaborative project between the Master Gardener program in Iowa and the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education. This collaboration aims to improve the food environment for Iowans with low income, develop a strategic plan for planting food bank donations in gardens across Iowa, and increase the amount of food donated to food banks by Iowa Master Gardeners. Any Master Gardener wishing to apply for a mini grant to support a food security project is required to register and take part in the webinar series. Mini grant applications for up to \$500 are due on March 1, 2016.

To register, contact Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach Office, at 712-335-3103 or email [hfrerk@iastate.edu](mailto:hfrerk@iastate.edu). The webinars are free of charge and open to anyone who may be interested.

## *Pocahontas County 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-In*

Pocahontas County 4-H/FFA market beef weigh-ins will be held at the Dale Wenell residence, 11413 500th St., Albert City on SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016 from 9A.M.-11 A.M.

All market beef animals that will be exhibited at the 2016 Pocahontas County Fair must be weighed at this time. This includes lead steers and heifers, 2nd year bucket calves, and advanced cattle feeder pens. The cost is \$2/tag and \$2/implant if you want your calves implanted. Payment is due at weigh-in. Market beef must weigh a minimum of 950 pounds at fair weigh-in in July. **You must be enrolled in 4-H before the January 9 weigh-in if you are exhibiting market beef as a 4-H'er at the 2016 Pocahontas County Fair! No state fair identification will happen at this time!** You may weigh in the following number of animals: Lead animals—you may weigh 10 animals, but you may only exhibit 4 lead animals and only three of one sex. Advanced Feeder Pens—you may weigh 5 heifers and 5 steers and you will exhibit 3 in a pen. Only 1 pen of steers and 1 pen of heifers may be exhibited by an individual. If you have any questions or need to identify State Fair Beef, please call Lisa at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3103.

## *Yard and Garden: Caring for Poinsettias*

The poinsettia is one of the most popular potted flowers in the United States. These colorful plants can be found in nearly every household or business during the December holiday season.

However, taking care of this festive flower can sometimes be tricky.



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists give tips on how to care for poinsettias for a perfect holiday display. To have additional questions answered, contact ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or at [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu).

**Why is my poinsettia dropping some of its leaves?** The leaf drop is likely due to some type of environmental stress. Improper watering is the most common reason for leaf drop on the poinsettia. Over-watering will cause the lower leaves to turn yellow and drop. Plants that are allowed to get too dry will wilt and also drop leaves.

The water needs of a poinsettia can be determined with your finger. Check the potting soil daily. When the soil becomes dry to the touch, water the plant until water begins to

flow out of the bottom of the pot. The pots of most poinsettias are set inside decorative pot covers. When watering these plants, carefully remove the poinsettia from the pot

covering, water the plant in the sink, then drop the poinsettia back into its pot cover.

Also, make sure the poinsettia is not located near a heat source or cold draft. Warm, dry air blowing across the plant from a

furnace register or rapid temperature fluctuations, such as near a door, can also cause leaf drop.

**My poinsettia suddenly wilted and died. Why?** The sudden death of the poinsettia was likely due to a root rot. *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* root rots typically occur when plants are watered too frequently and the potting soil is kept saturated. Allow the surface of the potting soil to dry to the touch before watering poinsettias. Also, don't allow the poinsettia pots to sit in water. Discard excess water which drains into pot coverings or saucers.

**Small, white insects flutter about my poinsettia when I water the plant. What are they and how do I control them?** The small, white insects are likely whiteflies. Whiteflies

are common insect pests of poinsettia, hibiscus, chrysanthemum and a number of other indoor plants. They are most often noticed when watering or handling a plant. When disturbed, whiteflies flutter about the plant for a short time before returning to the plant.

Whitefly adults are small, white, moth-like insects. Female adults lay eggs on the undersides of the plant's foliage. After five to seven days, the eggs hatch into small, pale green, immature insects called nymphs. The nymphs crawl a short distance before settling down to feed for two to three weeks. After feeding for two to three weeks, the nymphs progress to a nonfeeding stage and then finally to the adult stage.

The nymph and adult stages of whiteflies feed by inserting their short, needle-like beaks into foliage and sucking out plant sap. Heavy whitefly infestations may cause stunting or yellowing of leaves, leaf drop, and a decline in plant health.

Whiteflies on poinsettias and other indoor plants are extremely difficult to control. Prevention is the best management strategy. When purchasing plants, carefully check for whiteflies and other insects. Avoid purchasing insect-infested plants. Insecticides are not a good control option as they are not very effective. It's often best to tolerate the presence of a small infestation of whiteflies on a poinsettia and then promptly discard the plant after the holidays.



## *Commercial Manure Applicator Training Scheduled for Pocahontas County*

Commercial manure applicators should plan to attend the Commercial Manure Applicator training program scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 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 ISU Extension Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

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.

All currently certified commercial manure applicator licenses will expire on March 1, 2016. Commercial applicators can attend training throughout the year, but if they were previously certified, they should plan to attend training and submit the forms and fees to DNR prior to March 1, 2016, to avoid paying the late fees. Certification fees for commercial manure applicators have not changed for 2016. ISU Extension and Outreach will charge a \$10 fee to applicators choosing to view the certification materials on a non-scheduled reshow day at the county office. For this reason, all applicators are encouraged to attend the workshops or to plan to view training materials on the scheduled reshow date at their local county extension office. The fee will not apply to workshops or scheduled reshow dates.

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.

If attending the Jan. 5 commercial manure applicator program or watching the three-hour DVD is not convenient, commercial applicators may contact their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. In addition to needing an appointment to take the exam, applicators must bring a pencil and photo i.d., and should plan to bring a calculator.

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.

Commercial manure applicators hauling, handling or land-applying primarily dry or solid manure are encouraged to attend the dry manure applicator workshops scheduled for February 2016. Dates and locations can be found in the link below.

For more information about the commercial applicator program contact the ISU Extension Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or access a list of the training locations at: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/certification/macprogrampostcard.pdf>

## *Smart Marketing Strategies for 2015 Corn and Soybean Crops*

*New Extension video details decision-making tools that producers can use*

The latest in a series of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach videos on crop marketing explores how producers can obtain the best prices for their crops using different storage and pricing strategies.

In “Five Grain Marketing Strategies & Tools for the 2015 Crop,” Steve Johnson, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, describes how corn and soybean prices fared at a north central Iowa terminal elevator over a 25-year period. The greatest average return for corn was to store after harvest on the farm unpriced, which gives farmers the ability to hold their grain and sell at a higher cash price the following July.

“On-farm storage always beats commercial storage because commercial storage is more than twice as expensive,” he said. “But in some years, even storing bushels on-farm unpriced wasn’t the most profitable strategy.” He recommends

that farmers consider incorporating other marketing tools because selling crops at the highest price doesn’t always mean that they will generate the most return given the costs associated with storage.

For soybeans, the most profitable route was a basis contract, which yielded a slightly better average price than storing the crops on-farm



Steve Johnson, center, farm management specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Chad Hart, right, ISU associate professor in economics and extension grain markets specialist, discuss crop management concerns with an Iowa farmer.

unpriced. (Basis is the difference between the daily local cash price and the nearby futures price on the Chicago Board of Trade.)

Johnson’s source was a study of cash prices at a north central Iowa terminal grain elevator compiled by Farm Futures magazine. Terminal elevators receive grain after it has been inspected and weighed at other terminals and then transfer the grain to another processor, often the final destination.

The video highlights a study comparison for both on-farm and commercial storage of corn and soybeans unpriced from harvest until July. Four marketing strategies and tools are compared to measure

net profit or loss: 1) storage hedge using July futures; 2) store and buy a July put option; 3) a minimum price contract (sell and buy a July call option); and 4) a basis contract (sell and buy a July futures contract).

Other crop marketing strategies and tools are explained in further depth in a series of 12 instructional videos available at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/icc.html>. They range from four to 16 minutes in length, and include everything from an introduction to crop marketing to futures hedging.

“Understanding the basics can get producers that much closer to selling and buying at the right time and price,” Johnson said.

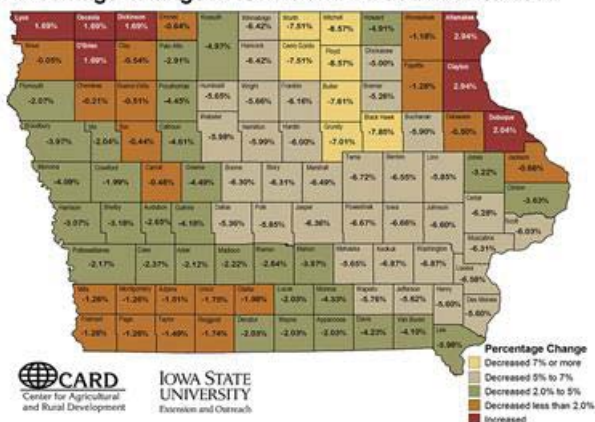
The video series was developed as part of the Iowa Commodity Challenge in partnership with the Iowa Farm Bureau. This includes an online market simulation game to learn risk management tools such as futures and other options. Participants market 75,000 bushels of corn and 25,000 bushels stored at a central Iowa elevator. All marketing actions must be completed by March 9, 2016 when the net cash price minus commercial storage costs will be determined.

“The game gives players a chance to look at commodity markets and how they work over the course of several months,” Johnson said. “It reflects what is happening in real world markets and gives participants the opportunity to try various strategies and use marketing tools such as futures and options.”

For more information about the Iowa Commodity Challenge, link to the site at [www.tinyurl.com/IowaLearn](http://www.tinyurl.com/IowaLearn).

# Farmland Values Fall for Second Consecutive Year

Percentage Change in Iowa Land Values 2014 to 2015



Average Iowa farmland value is now estimated to be \$7,633 per acre — having dropped in value for the second consecutive year. Per acre value declined \$310, or 3.9 percent, since last year's survey. Farmland values have now fallen almost 13 percent from the historically high 2013 values.

Land values were determined by the 2015 Iowa Land Value Survey, which was conducted in November by the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Results from the survey are similar to results by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Realtors Land Institute.

The \$7,633 per acre, and 3.9 percent drop in value, represents the state as a whole, although values are also determined by crop reporting districts (district hereafter) and each of Iowa's 99 counties individually according to low-, medium- and high-quality farmland ratings.

Farmland values hit a historic peak of \$8,716 per acre in 2013, but declined 8.9 percent to \$7,943 the following year. The drop in value this year is smaller than that of

last year, but now marks the third time values have fallen since 2009.

The 3.9 percent decline may seem less than what many people speculated, but according to Wendong Zhang, assistant professor of economics at Iowa State University who led the survey this year, this is not out of line due to a mix of factors, including a lot of cash in hand for many farmers, market expectation of this decline early on, robust livestock returns and strong recreational demand. Despite decreasing again, farmland values are still more than twice the reported values from 10 years ago, and almost 14 percent higher than 2011 values.

For the third year in a row, Scott and Decatur counties reported the highest and lowest farmland values, respectively. Decatur County reported a value per acre of \$3,514, a drop of \$73, or about 2 percent, from last year's report. Scott County reported the highest value at \$10,918 per acre, however, values there declined about \$700 per acre, higher than this year's statewide average, and just over 6 percent from last year.

The largest district-wide decrease in farmland value was North Central Iowa, which reported a drop of 6.7 percent, bringing farmland values there down to \$7,962 per acre. Mitchell and Floyd counties, in the Northeast portion of the state, reported the largest percentage drops in value at 8.6 percent; and Black Hawk County, also in the Northeast district, reported the largest dollar decrease with a loss of \$784 per acre. The district with the highest overall farmland value is Northwest Iowa at \$9,685 per acre, and the lowest is South Central at \$4,397 per acre.

The value of all qualities of farmland fell across the state, with high-quality farmland losing 5 percent (\$490 per acre) of its value, medium-quality land falling 3.2 percent (\$232 per acre) and low-quality farmland falling 0.9 percent (\$44 per acre). Statewide averages for high-, medium- and low-quality farmland are now \$9,364, \$7,127 and \$4,834 per acre, respectively.

The only district to show an increase in values as a whole was Northwest Iowa, which reported values 0.7 percent higher than last year. Clayton and Allamakee Counties, located in the Northeastern portion of the state, reported the largest percentage increases with a 2.9 percent gain.

Of respondents that listed positive and/or negative factors influencing farmland values, low interest rates and high yields were the most commonly cited positive factors and lower commodity prices were the most frequently cited negative factor. High input prices, an uncertain agricultural future and cash/credit availability were also cited as negative factors.

With stagnant commodity prices, declining farm income forecast, a slowing Chinese economy, and a potential increase in interest rates, the Iowa farmland market appears to have peaked for the foreseeable future, and seems to continue drifting sideways to slightly lower. However, as Zhang put it, "It will most likely be an orderly adjustment as opposed to a sudden bubble burst. Most farmers will be able to weather the storm as the market prices find a new equilibrium, but farmers and land owners who bet on the high commodity prices lasting and aggressively expanded or borrowed heavily will face significant problems in the months ahead."

In the 2015 survey, over 75 percent of respondents thought land values in their territory would continue to decline next year. The majority predicted the decline would be either less than 5 percent or between 5 and 10 percent. The magnitude of the predicted drop depends on the location—areas relying heavily on corn and soybeans could see a bigger decrease.

The survey was initiated in 1941 and is sponsored annually by Iowa State University. Only the state average and the district averages are based directly on the Iowa State survey data. The county estimates are derived using a procedure that combines the survey results with data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture.

The Iowa Land Value Survey is based on reports by agricultural professionals knowledgeable of land market conditions such as appraisers, farm managers, agricultural lenders and actual sales. It is intended to provide information on general land value trends, geographical land price relationships and factors influencing the Iowa land market. The 2015 survey is based on 514 usable responses providing 708 county land values estimates. The survey was made available online for the first time this year, and 55 percent of participants chose this method as opposed to the traditional paper survey.

A new web-portal has been developed at <http://www.card.iastate.edu/farmland/> to pool various sources of Iowa farmland values and offer visualization tools like charts and interactive county maps.



## *Crop Advantage Series – Info to Manage Costs, Increase Profits*

Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach announces its “Crop Advantage Series” meeting in Storm Lake on January 12, 2016. The meeting will be held at the Siebens Forum at Buena Vista University. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is hosted by Paul Kassel, extension field agronomist.

“Crop Advantage Series presents the latest crop production information from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach,” states Kassel. This year’s Crop Advantage Series will focus on the importance of risk management programs and ways to control costs.

John Sawyer, Extension soil fertility specialist, is one of the morning’s keynote speakers. Sawyer will discuss research that will help farmers make decisions on fertilizer application and nitrogen management.

Chad Hart, Extension economist at ISU, will discuss managing margins in 2016 and

beyond. Hart will also give his views on the grain markets for 2016.

Workshop sessions in the afternoon include a corn disease update by Daren Mueller, Extension plant pathologist. Erin Hodgson, Extension entomologist, will discuss the likelihood of corn rootworm problems in 2016. Jamie Benning, Extension water quality program manager, will share new information on the economic benefits of cover crops.

Other topics include a discussion on cover crops, weed control, corn planting rates, and use of UAVs in agriculture. Workshop sessions also include soybean disease, farm business decisions and spray applications strategies.

Advance registration is \$50 that includes workshop materials, lunch and refreshments. Registration after January 5 or at the door is \$60. Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) can obtain up to five CEU credits. The fee for the CCA credits is included in the registration cost.

Private pesticide applicators will be able to obtain their continuing instructional course credits at this meeting. The cost for the private pesticide applicator certification is included in the registration fee. The program

adjourns at 4:15 p.m. for persons attending the pesticide course. Contact Paul Kassel at 712-262-2264 or Ellen Anderson at 712-732-5056 for more information on this program.

ISU Extension and Outreach in Iowa will hold fourteen Crop Advantage Series meetings from Jan. 5 to Jan. 29, 2016. The workshop topics are different at each of the thirteen meetings in the series. Additional information and online registration is available on the Crop Advantage website at [www.cropadvantage.org](http://www.cropadvantage.org).

Extension and Outreach connects Iowans to Iowa State University’s academic programs and scientists. We’re working to make sure Iowa State becomes the university that best serves its state.

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 <h1>January Breakfast Menu</h1>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cereal Poptart Applesauce Milk	Combo Link/ Bun Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cheese Omelet Toast, Jelly Applesauce Milk	Pancake Sticks Pineapple Milk
Scrambled Eggs Toast, Jelly Grape Juice Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Apple Juice Milk	French Toast Sausage Patty Fruit Cocktail Milk	Ham & Cheese Egg Bake, Peaches Milk	Cereal Muffin, Yogurt Sidekick, Milk
No School	Sausage & Cheese on Biscuit Pears Milk	Combo Link/ Bun Apple Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Mandarin Oranges Milk	Egg & Cheese Sandwich Orange Juice Milk
Pancake Sticks Pears Milk	Cereal Toast, Jelly Cranberry Sauce Milk	French Toast Sausage Patty Fruit Cocktail Milk	Mini Pancakes Sausage Links Orange Juice Milk	Waffle Sticks Yogurt Applesauce Milk



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# January Lunch Menu

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Chicken Nuggets  
Green Beans  
Corn  
Pears  
Dinner roll  
Milk

Pork Chop Patty  
Sandwich  
Mashed Potatoes  
Baked Beans  
Peaches  
Milk

Mandarin Orange  
Chicken  
Rice, Mixed Veggies,  
Apples  
Lettuce Salad  
Milk

Macaroni & Cheese  
Lettuce Salad  
Broccoli Normandy,  
Pineapple  
Milk

Scalloped Potatoes &  
Ham  
Dinner Roll, Steamed  
Carrots  
Lettuce Salad,  
Sidekicks, Milk

Breaded Chicken  
Patty Sandwich  
Broccoli, cheese  
Sauce, Sweet Potatoes,  
Applesauce, Milk

Hamburger  
Waffle Fries  
Lettuce Salad  
Tomato, Pickles  
Fruit Cocktail  
Milk

Cheese Pizza  
Lettuce Salad  
Green Beans  
Peaches  
Cookie  
Milk

Meatball Sub  
Cauliflower, Cheese  
Lettuce Salad, Cukes  
Pears  
Jello Cake  
Milk

Popcorn Chicken  
Corn  
Baked Beans  
Mandarin Oranges  
Dinner Roll  
Milk

No School

Chicken Gravy,  
Biscuits  
Lettuce Salad  
Steamed Carrots  
Pineapple  
Milk

Beef and Noodles  
Mashed Potatoes  
Broccoli Normandy  
Pears  
Dinner Roll  
Milk

Crispito, cheese sauce  
Mixed Veggies, Black  
Beans, Rice  
Applesauce  
Sidekick  
Milk

Grilled Cheese  
sandwich, Chicken  
Noodle Soup, Lettuce  
Salad, Green Beans,  
Peaches  
Milk

Meatloaf  
Mashed Potatoes  
Baked Beans  
Apple Wedges  
Dinner Roll  
Milk

Italian Bake  
Sliced Cucumbers,  
Lettuce Salad, Green  
Beans, Fruit Cocktail  
Breadstick  
Milk

Chicken Alfredo  
Broccoli  
Baby Carrots, Ranch  
Grapes  
Garlic Toast  
Milk

Mr. Rib  
Corn  
Broccoli Normandy  
Mandarin Oranges  
Brownie  
Milk

Italian Chicken  
Sandwich  
Mixed veggies  
Lettuce Salad  
Strawberry  
Applesauce  
Milk



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