

# The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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June 5, 2024

## Local News

### *“Ball N Chain” to Pweform at Fonda Arts Center*

"Ball N Chain" have been making music together for close to two decades. The sometimes duo, sometimes trio, digs deep into the heart of Americana music, be it roots rock, blues, jazz, country, or jam band.

Mary Beth Andrews and Mick Polich have been delivering the musical goods to northwest Iowa communities since 2010, entertaining audiences of all ages.

This is what we have on tap at the Fonda Arts Center on Sunday, June 16th, music beginning at 3 p.m. We hope you can join us for this afternoon of music.

The Fonda Arts Center is located on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main in Fonda. As always, admission and refreshments are free! Everyone welcome!



### *Improve Communication for a Strong Family*

When families are busy with their daily activities it's easy to overlook the importance of good communication. But at the heart of every strong family lies a foundation built on open, honest, and meaningful communication.

Families often face a variety of barriers to effective communication, including a lack of time and an abundance of technology distractions. Improving family communication requires intentional effort and commitment from all members.

Let's break this down and consider some practical ways to improve family communication:

- Talk and listen. Effective communication involves both talking and listening. Express your thoughts and feelings, but also take the time to listen to others. When family members feel heard, trust and understanding grow. Create opportunities for regular communication by routinely scheduling family meetings, meals, or activities where everyone can participate and share.
- Address conflicts calmly. Conflicts are normal, but how we handle conflicts matters. Instead of blaming each other, focus on finding solutions. Be respectful and work together to resolve disagreements. For examples, review "Stop, Breathe, Talk" from the Science of Parenting.
- Be honest and transparent. A family that values honesty creates a safe space for everyone. Encourage open dialogue where family members can share their thoughts and feelings authentically.
- Set boundaries with technology. Technology can be a distraction. During family time, consider limiting screen use for everyone. Face-to-face interactions are essential for building strong connections.
- Seek professional help if needed. Sometimes communication challenges persist. Don't hesitate to seek guidance from family therapists or counselors. They can provide strategies to improve communication.

Remember, family communication is an ongoing journey, unique to each family. By recognizing its importance, identifying common barriers, and implementing practical strategies, we can create a nurturing environment where every family member's voice is heard and valued.

For more valuable parenting insights, check out the Science of Parenting at [www.scienceofparenting.org](http://www.scienceofparenting.org). For additional parenting resources, visit ISU Extension and Outreach's website, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/parenting>.

### At the Library with Glenda Mulder June 5, 2024

Summer Reading kick-off is next Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.! Dinosaur Dimensions will be fun for all ages! "Witness the amazement of seeing realistic looking animatronic dinosaur puppets, all bundled together with a high energy cast member, a fun story line, and tons of audience participation/imaginative play. You'll get to meet four dinosaurs and not only learn some basic facts about the dinosaurs, but get a few little jump scares along the way!" I have a feeling we will be talking about it all summer long! The rest of the kids' summer reading times are at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

My "Read Your Height 2024" reading challenge is progressing at an unexpectedly crazy pace. The stack of books I've read would be 52.6 inches! At this rate, I'll meet my goal next month! Maybe I should change my goal to reading twice my height this year?! My favorites this month have been *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, and *10 Kids, 2 Lovebirds & a Singing Mermaid* by Cathy Lamb.

New novels this week include: *Girl from the Grand Hotel* by Camille Aubray, *Stuart Woods Smolder* by Brett Battles, *All Fours* by Miranda July, *For the Love of Summer* by Susan Mallery, *A Bright and Tender Dark* by Joanna Pearson, *Last Note of Warning* by Katherine Schellman, *Shelterwood* by Lisa Wingate, *Don't Turn Around* by Harry Dolan, *Rom-Commers* by Katherine Center, *Seaside Sisters* by Pamela Kelley and *Blast from the Past, Dead Guy Next Door, and Corpse in the Closet* all by Lucy Score. In nonfiction, we received *Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space* by Adam Higginbotham.

We also received *The Comfort of Ghosts* by Jacqueline Windspear in memory of Ralph Hitchcock, by his classmates in the Laurens Elks Class of 1964.

### Mark Your Calendar!

June 12 @ 6:30 p.m. - Dinosaur Dimensions!

June 19 – August 14 @ 11 a.m. - Kids Summer Reading!

June 24 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb

June 26 @ 6:30 p.m. - Garden Fresh Eats with ISU Extension

July 17 @ 11 a.m. - The Dulcimer Guy

July 31 @ 6:30 p.m. - Preserving from your Garden with ISU Extension

*Our Town Our Paper!*

### Fairfield Township Cemetery Tour

To celebrate the 125th birthday of Albert City the committee is giving a cemetery tour at the Fairfield Township Cemetery on June 15th from 1:00 until 4:00 pm. You can drive out to the cemetery located about one mile west of Albert City where there is plenty of parking, or you can hop on the bus at the AC-T School.

Did you know there is a Bank Robber buried in this cemetery? Albert City was famous for foiling the escape of three bank robbers who robbed a bank up north. They rode to the Albert City depot where they were met by a posse of men, the Sheriff and deputies.

The early settlement of Albert City will be described, and you will also learn who the town is named after, and how she arrived in northwest Iowa. There will be a man who was interested in labor saving devices, so he and his brothers manufactured many products.

You will learn of the son of Swedish Immigrants who became one the largest employers in the area during WWII and what they made, and also how a farm implement business started in Albert City. Explore the cemetery and find out about all kinds of history by riding a trolley on June 15, 2024. Just park east of the Cemetery off of C-29. A four-wheeler will pick you up, if necessary, and take you to the Trolley. Or you can take the bus from the AC-T School.

More information can be obtained by calling 712-299-0440. Donations accepted.

### Wedding Shower

Please join us in celebrating Bryce Niemeyer & McKenna Crotty before their big day! A wedding shower will be held at the Silver Dollar Saloon in Laurens on June 22 from 12-3 p.m. Feel free to come and go as you wish! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Please do not feel pressured to purchase a gift, your presence is enough! If you are interested in purchasing a gift in support of McKenna & Bryce, they are registered at Amazon and also at Lizziedoodle Gifts & Home Decor in Laurens, IA. Amazon Registry Link: <https://www.amazon.com/wedding/share/mckennabryce>

We hope to see everyone there!



please join us for a  
BABY SHOWER HONORING

*Alaina Lind*

on June 8, 2024 •

Come and Go from 10:00 am -12:00 pm

At Steve and Karen Lind's home  
4633 200th Ave, Marathon, IA 50565

Baby Registry located at  
<https://www.babylist.com/list/alaina-lind>

*a little cutie*

*is on the way*

JOIN US IN HONORING THE MAMA-TO-BE  
**LACEY ANDERSON**  
 (Van Sickle)  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH**  
**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**213 S. HARRISON • LAURENS, IA**  
**9:30 - 11:00 AM**

*Registry can be found at [BabyList.com](https://www.babylist.com) and [William & Wesley](https://www.williamswesley.com)*

# FREE MEALS

## FOR ALL KIDS

**\*\*Ages 18 & under which include 2 Breakfast & 2 Lunch Grab & Go meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.**

**\*\*No registration or identification is required**

**\*\*NO ADULT MEALS ~ NO SECONDS\*\***

**\*\*Child must be present for pick up\*\***

**June 3 to August 16, 2024**

**10:30-11:00AM Marathon Community Center**  
**12:00-12:45PM Laurens-Marathon cafeteria**

Site Contact: Stephanie Weig, Food Service ~ Laurens-Marathon  
 712-841-5000 Ext. 119 [stephanieweig@lm.k12.ia.us](mailto:stephanieweig@lm.k12.ia.us)

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# *Producers and Landowners Can Now Sign Up for USDA's Grassland Conservation Reserve Program*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can now sign up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP). The signup runs from today through June 28, 2024. Grassland CRP, offered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary working lands conservation program that enables participants to conserve grasslands and provide important conservation benefits for wildlife, soil health and carbon sequestration, all while continuing most grazing and haying practices.

"Grassland CRP is a vital conservation tool that supports two of USDA's top priorities: the wellbeing of American agriculture and the health of America's grasslands, which provide critical environmental benefits for wildlife and carbon sequestration," said Matt Russell, FSA State Executive Director in Iowa. "Over the past three years, we have seen historic interest in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program with producers signing up to conserve over 6.8 million acres. This historic interest from agriculture has proven that agricultural productivity and conservation priorities are not exclusive

from one another, but can coexist and, more importantly, complement and enhance one another."

More than 2.3 million acres from agricultural producers and private landowners were accepted through the 2023 Grassland CRP signup. That signup reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 8.64 million acres, which is part of the 24.8 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which generally extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before the June 28 deadline.

**Other CRP Options.** FSA is also accepting applications for the Continuous CRP signup, which opened in January 2023. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

Additionally, FSA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the Forest Management Incentive (FMI), which can help participants with forest

management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

**More Information.** Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

## Mary Jo Witt Passes

Mary Jo Witt, 76, passed away on April 27, 2024. She was born December 12, 1947 to Ambrose and Mabel Mitchell.

To know a day filled with joy, sunshine and happiness is to know Mary Jo (Nanny per the grandkids). Always up for an adventure, she faced the world with love, kindness and compassion. From her unique laugh, to her ability to ask the funniest questions, our mom is, was and always will be the light of our family.

Her family was her world and there was nothing more important to her. Mary Jo is survived by her husband of 55 years, Mark; daughters, Amy (Blayne), Megan (Joe) and Sarah (Matt); and her grandchildren, Lauren (Justice), Macy (Jarrett), Josie, Weston, Adrienne, Gage and Trigg. She loved them all equally and fiercely and had amazing and unique relationships with each of them.

Nothing made Mary Jo's heart smile more than a family gathering. From holidays to birthdays, she loved having her family all together at her home. Easter was always extra special. From a full spread on the table, to her fun-filled easter egg hunts, she made it so special for the grandkids and created memories that will last a lifetime for all of us.

In addition to family, Mary Jo had made so many wonderful lifelong friends. Friends that she cherished and always looked forward to spending time with. From weekends in Okoboji to meeting for lunch, she was blessed to have shared her life with so many that loved her.

Beyond family and friends, she loved baking and gardening. Her homemade mints, sugar cookies, no-bake cookies, party mix, and angel food cake were family favorites. For anyone who visited her home or came within shouting distance, there was always a snack on hand for her to send with you. Her green thumb was world-class too. She always had a home and yard with bright, beautiful flowers and plants... where weeds never stood a chance. No matter the location, time, or place; if Mary Jo spotted weeds that needed pulled, you could find her providing care as if it were her own yard.

This is a celebration of a wonderful human. One that knew how to enjoy the smallest moments to the biggest moments, and every moment in between. One that shared an affinity for life with everyone around her.

Wife, Mother, Nanny our lives have been left empty, but our hearts will forever remain full. We love you and celebrate you.

Until we see you again.

May you always walk in sunshine, may you never want for more. May Irish angels rest their wings, right beside your door. –Irish Blessing



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*This Week at  
Bethany Lutheran*

**Pastor David E. Klappenbach**

**Monday-Thursday: June 3-6, 2024  
9:00-11:30AM ~ VBS at UMC (ages  
Preschool to Grade 3)**

**Thursday: June 6, 2024  
11:30 AM ~ VBS Program at UMC**

**Saturday: June 8, 2024  
9:30-11:00 AM ~ Lacey (Van Sickle)  
Anderson's Come & Go Baby Shower**

**Sunday: June 9, 2024 SERVICE  
TIME CHANGE**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 AM ~ Worship  
10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship  
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group**

**Monday-Tuesday: June 10-11, 2024  
IMD Pastors' Retreat @ Clear Lake**

**Tuesday: June 11, 2024  
8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group  
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany**

**Wednesday: June 12, 2024  
7:00 PM ~ Council Mtg.**

*Worship,  
Love, Accept~ Together in  
Christ's Name*



*This Week at  
Laurens United  
Methodist Church*

**Pastor Deb Parkison**

**Monday-Thursday: June 3-6, 2024  
9:00-11:30AM ~ VBS here(ages  
Preschool to Grade 3)**

**Thursday, June 6:  
VBS Program @ 11:30 AM  
Laurens United Methodist Women  
Executive Meeting @ 5:00 PM  
Laurens United Methodist Women  
General Meeting @ 6:00 PM; Serving  
& Program: Eve Circle**

**June 7-9: 2024 Iowa Annual UMC  
Conference at the RecPlex in West  
Des Moines**

**Sunday, June 9:  
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM**



*This Week at First  
Christian*

**Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell**

**Sunday, June 9  
9:30 a.m. - Worship followed by  
coffee**



*Resurrection  
of Our Lord  
Catholic Church*

**Pocahontas, IA -- Priest:  
Father Paul Nguyen**

**MASS TIMES:**  
Daily Mass as scheduled in the  
weekly bulletin  
Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at  
10:30 AM  
**Confessions:** Saturday 4:15 pm at  
Resurrection

# 2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR LAURENS WATER SUPPLY

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Date	Violation Yes/No	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)			
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) [TTHM]	80 (N/A)	LRAA	8.00 (8 - 8)	09/30/2023	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	0.30 (ND - 1)	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.2187 (0.0062 - 0.3100)	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
950 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	1.6 (1.1 - 1.92)	12/31/2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
02 - WELL 7 OR 8 @ HIGH SERVICE HEADER TAP						
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	15.8	04/13/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

## DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) -- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- SGL – Single Sample Result
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or

potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. LAURENS WATER SUPPLY is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### CONTAMINANT VIOLATION

There were no violations in 2023

#### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

This water supply obtains its water from the limestone and dolomite of the Devonian aquifer. The Devonian aquifer was determined to have low susceptibility to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide natural protection from contaminants at the land surface. The Devonian wells will have low susceptibility to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 712-841-4526.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact Julian Johnsen at LAURENS WATER SUPPLY at 712-841-4526, during the hours 7:30-4:00 pm.

Decisions regarding the water system are made at the city council meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 5:00 p.m. at city hall and are open to the public.

Please Note: This report will not be mailed to individual customers.



## *Open House*

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest employee, Ashlie! She is our new CYC and will work with the Youth in Pocahontas County! You will see her at the Fair, the summer programs, and working with the 4-H clubs and Clover kids! We will have an Open House at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office on Thursday, June 6th, from 3-6 p.m. with refreshments so you can come and meet her!



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## *'Raising Your Dairy Best Heifer'*

### *Summer Webinar Series*

*Learn about practical heifer management topics during dairy webinars*

Join the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach dairy team as they discuss "raising your dairy best heifer" during a summer webinar series. The series will cover practical heifer management topics.

"Nearly 25% of a dairy's production costs are in raising heifer replacements, thus a considerable amount of feed, time and facilities must be invested to optimize growth for heifers to calve at an appropriate age," said Jennifer Bentley, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "That is why this topic of raising your 'dairy best' heifers can have significant financial and herd benefits."

Each session will cover a different topic related to heifer management, with a question and answer session at the end for any questions participants may have.

#### **Dates and Speakers**

- June 10: Heifer Feeding Strategies – Gail Carpenter, associate professor, dairy extension and outreach, Iowa State.
- June 24: Colostrum Management – Dr. Phillip Jardon, clinical associate professor, extension veterinarian, Iowa State University; and Jennifer Bentley, dairy specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach.
- July 8: Managing Heifer Inventory – Greg Palas, dairy records management system, and Fred Hall, dairy specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach.
- July 22: Heifer Health – Dr. Phillip Jardon, clinical associate professor, extension veterinarian, Iowa State.
- July 30: Heifer Reproduction – Victor Gomez, associate professor, extension dairy specialist, Kansas State University.
- Aug. 5: Heifer Benchmarking – Gail Carpenter, associate professor, dairy extension and outreach, Iowa State.
- Aug. 12: Heifer Grower Panel – to be determined.

Aug. 19: Economics of Raising Heifers – Larry Tranel, dairy specialist, Iowa State.

Those interested in participating in the webinar series can register online at <https://go.iastate.edu/DAIRYBESTHEIFER>.

For more information, contact dairy specialist Fred Hall at 712-737-4230 or [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu); Jennifer Bentley at 563-382-2949 or [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu); or Larry Tranel at 563-583-6496 or [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu)

Funding for this project was provided by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2021-70027-34694.

## *Cash Rent Rates for Iowa Cropland Remain Unchanged*

Cash rent for Iowa farm ground is mostly unchanged from 2023, according to the latest land rent survey from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The average rent is \$279 per acre of corn and soybeans and is the first time rates have not increased in five years. In 2019, the statewide average declined to \$219 per acre, a \$3 decrease over the previous year.

“Despite the increase in land values and farm operating costs, cash rents remained about the same as last year,” said Alejandro Plastina, associate professor in economics and extension economist at Iowa State University.

Plastina attributes the flat rental rate to the tight profit margins farmers are facing for growing crops.

“From December 2022 to December of 2023, we’ve seen the rate of return to farmers decline from about 10% to 2%,” he said. “Unless we see an increase in commodity prices, I expect rents will stay the same or decrease.”

The survey also includes rent for hay and pastureland, as well as oat production. The state average for established alfalfa is \$200 per acre, followed by \$145 for grass hay and \$198 per acre for oats. Pastureland ranges from \$95 per acre for highly productive pasture, to \$60 per acre for low-productivity pasture.

The complete survey and historical comparisons are available in the May edition of *Ag Decision Maker*. The survey includes nearly 1,300 responses from farm operators, landowners, professional farm managers and realtors, ag lenders and other professionals, representing 1.7 million cash-rented acres in Iowa.

The survey also provides rates for nine regions of the state, as well as individual counties. Six of the nine regions saw an increase, with the largest per-acre values reported in northwest (\$304) and northeast (\$309) Iowa, while the lowest reported values were in the south central district (\$231).

Plastina reminds Iowans that the survey is meant to be one resource in the land rent discussion, and that each land rent contract should be decided by reviewing multiple sources of information, including the unique features of each farm.

## *Receive Instant Pest Alerts Directly to Your Cell Phone*

The Iowa Pest Alert Network provides short, timely updates via text messaging to farmers and crop consultants, agronomists and extension who advise farmers. This free, user-friendly service provides timely scouting information about pests in your area.

The website provides links to information about key pests in the Midwest, degree day mapping, regional updates and supplemental publications. There is also an archive listing of past pest alerts.

All a user needs is a cell phone number. Sign up by visiting the Pest Alert Network website, at <https://pestalerts.extension.iastate.edu>.

“A needs assessment published by the North Central Soybean Research Program in 2021 determined that farmers and the industry are really interested in receiving real-time alerts about pests,” said Ashley Dean, extension specialist in entomology with ISU Extension and Outreach. “Farmers and the people who advise them are often out in the fields during the day, so text messages might be more efficient than emails.”

The user can customize the service to receive specific pest alerts based on specific pests, or per region of Iowa.

“These short bursts of information are meant to reach people wherever they are, and they can use links in the alerts to access relevant scouting information,” said Erin Hodgson, professor and extension entomologist at Iowa State.

Recent pest alerts cover topics such as scouting for bean leaf beetle, black cutworm in emerged corn, as well as alfalfa weevil.

The service was created in 2022 and is free to subscribe with a mobile phone number.

For more information, Ashley Dean can be reached at 515-447-3766 or [adean@iastate.edu](mailto:adean@iastate.edu); Erin Hodgson is available at [ewh@iastate.edu](mailto:ewh@iastate.edu).

## *I-29 Moo University Webinar on June 13 to Focus on Dairy Facility Design in a Changing Climate*

The I-29 Moo University Dairy Webinar Series continues Thursday, June 13 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

In this webinar, Nesli Akdeniz, assistant professor and extension specialist in Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will discuss how increasing temperatures and extreme weather events affect the design and ventilation of dairy buildings. She will also cover ventilation techniques that enhance airflow rates and considerations for energy efficiency and reducing ventilation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr. Akdeniz's extension program focuses on livestock buildings, energy-efficient ventilation design, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions. More information about her extension program is available on her website, <https://controlledag.wisc.edu>.

There is no fee to participate in the webinar; however, registration is required at least one hour before the webinar. Register online at <https://go.iastate.edu/DESIGN24>. For more information, contact: in Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230; in Minnesota, Jim Salfer, 320-203-6093; or in South Dakota, Patricia Villamediana, 605-688-4116.

## *ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Team Webinar to be Held on June 19* *Focusing on mitigating heat stress for employees on the dairy farm*

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team monthly webinar series continues on Wednesday, June 19, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Cody Volkmann will discuss how dairy producers can mitigate heat stress for their employees. He will define heat stress, how it is measured, and offer techniques to prevent heat stress.

Cody Volkmann is a Certified Safety Professional with 13 years of safety and health experience. He grew up on a family farm in northwest Iowa and received his B.S. from Iowa State University in Agriculture Systems Technology and Industrial Systems Technology and a Master of Business Administration. After graduation from ISU, he worked for an industrial service company providing services to ethanol, biodiesel, grain handling and other industrial facilities. He is currently an Occupational Safety Specialist with the College of Engineering and Environmental Health and Safety Department at ISU.

For more information, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist in your area: in Northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu); in Northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or [jbentley@iastate.edu](mailto:jbentley@iastate.edu); in East Central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or [tranel@iastate.edu](mailto:tranel@iastate.edu); in Ames, Dr. Gail Carpenter, 515-294-9085 or [ajcarpen@iastate.edu](mailto:ajcarpen@iastate.edu).