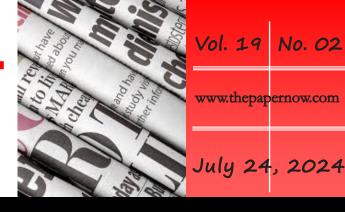


Our Town, Our Paper! Laurens, Iowa





Local News

The Dulcimer Guy Visits the Library

The Dulcimer Guy, Mike Anderson entertained at the Laurens Public Library recently. In addition to the dulcimer, he also played the mouth harp and a nose whistle. He is a wonderful storyteller, and his audience kept inching closer so they wouldn't miss anything. This Summer Reading program was sponsored by the Laurens Public Library Foundation, and enjoyed by kids of all ages!



Find out more info on page 10!



Local News & Advertising

At the Library with Glenda Mulder July 24, 2024

Summer Reading continues Wednesdays at 11 a.m. through August 14 – except next week (the 31st) it's going to look a little different. That's the day the Culpepper-Merriweather Circus comes to Laurens! They will be doing a tent raising out at Sportsman's Park at about 9:30 a.m. We don't know exactly how long this will take, and we don't want our kids to have to choose between the library and the circus, we are taking our Story Time on the road. It will be out at Sportsman's Park when the tent raising is complete. Hope to see you at the circus!

New books this week include: *Calder Country* by Janet Dailey, *What Have You Done* by Shari Lapena, *Body in the Backyard* by Lucy Score and two books by James Patterson ; *Confessions of the Dead* and *Hard to Kill.*

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesdays until August 14 @ 11 a.m. - Kids Summer Reading! July 22 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *The River We Remember*

August 7 @ 6:30 p.m. - Preserving from your Garden with ISU Extension (new date because the circus will be in town July 31!)

October 14 @ 7 p.m. - Morbid Curiosities – Edgar Allan Poe

School Registration

School registrations for Laurens-Marathon will be sent in the mail again, registration date to drop them off is Monday, August 12, 2024 from 3:00-6:00 PM.

School for K-6th starts on Friday, August 23, 2024 with scheduled K-6 Parent & Student Conferences with their teachers between 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Our 1st FULL DAY of school begins Monday, August 26, 2024.



Laurens-Marathon School - 2024-2025 Supply List - 5th & 6th

5th Grade:

- (1) pair of earbuds or headphones
- (2) Spiral Notebooks wide lined (colors: red & blue)
- (2) Composition notebooks
- (2) Highlighters (2 different colors)
- (4) Dry erase markers
- (2) Double-Pocket folders w/brads (colors: red & blue)
- (1) bottle of white glue or (2) glue sticks
- (1) set of markers
- (20) #2 Pencils (No mechanical pencils)
- (12-24) Pencil Cap Erasers
- (1) pair of tennis shoes for PE
- (3) large boxes of Kleenex
- (1) container of disinfecting wipes

Assignment Notebook (\$5.00 purchased at Registration) Students must have one!

**Please No Trapper Keepers

6th Grade:

- Pair of earbuds or headphones
- (2) Composition notebooks
- Folders (3) red, blue, green
- (2) 1 1/2 inch Binders
- 2 packs of loose leaf paper
- Assignment Notebook/Planner (\$5.00 purchased at registration) Students must have one!
- #2 Pencils (No mechanical pencils)
- Pens 3 red, 3 blue
- (2) Highlighters
- (1) bottle of white glue AND (2) glue sticks
- Colored pencils
- PE Clothes and Shoes
- Pencil Case
- 2 box of Kleenex (200 Count)
- Container of Hand Sanitizer
- · Container of disinfecting wipes

LAURENS-MARATHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~ 2024-2025 ~ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

L-M PRESCHOOL

 (1) Extra pair of Tennis Shoes
(1) Full-sized Book Bag
(1) Extra set of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear, & socks)
PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

KINDERGARTEN

**PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

(1) Supply box - LABEL W/NAME

(1) <u>Set of headphones (NO ear buds) - LABEL W/</u> NAME

(1) Package of #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils)

- (5) White Board markers (black)
- (1) Scissors LABEL W/NAME

(12) Glue sticks

- (3) Highlighters
- (1) Box of Crayons (24 count) LABEL W/NAME

(2) Set of Classic colored markers - LABEL W/ NAME

- (2) Boxes of Kleenex (200 count)
- (1) Tub of Clorox Wipes

(1) Package of Ziplock baggies (sandwich or gallon size)

(1) Pair of P.E. Tennis Shoes - LABEL W/NAME

Water bottle for snack - LABEL W/NAME

Extra set of clothes - LABEL W/NAME

Book Bag - LABEL W/NAME

Notebooks & Folders are NOT needed, please!

FIRST GRADE

**PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

(1) set of headphones - LABEL W/NAME Pencil Box (No bigger than about 6"x 9") (4) Double-Pocket Folders (with NO fasteners and NO plastic folders) (20) #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils) (6) Large Erasers (2) Large Boxes of Kleenex (2) Large containers of Clorox disinfectant wipes (3) Glue Sticks (1) 8 oz. Bottle of School White Glue (1) 7.5" x 10" Canvass Zipper Bag with Clear Front (1) Pair of Tennis Shoes for P.E. (4) Dry erase markers (1) Box of quart or gallon size Ziploc bags (3) Wide-lined (1 subject) Spiral Notebooks (1) Box of Crayons (1) box of CLASSIC colored markers (1) pair of scissors (1) Small flashlight (1) Book bag

LAURENS-MARATHON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~ 2024-2025 ~ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

SECOND GRADE

**PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

(1-2) set of headphones - LABEL W/NAME

- (20) #2 Pencils
- (1) Scissors
- (4) Glue Sticks
- (4) Dry Erase markers & 1 SOCK (To use as an
- eraser and store the markers)
- (4) Double Pocket Folders
- (2) Large Boxes Kleenex
- (1) Container of Clorox Wipes
- (1) pair of tennis shoes for P.E.
- (1) Box of gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- (3) Wide-Lined spiral notebooks
- Supply Box (No bigger than about 6"x9")
- (2-3) Pack of Crayons (24 Count) Basic Colors
- (2-3) Pack of Markers Basic Colors
- Book Bag (Bring Daily)

THIRD GRADE

- (1) Pair of headphones or earbuds for Laptops*
- (NO Bluetooth PLEASE)
- (1) Backpack
- (1) Ruler
- (4) Glue Sticks
- (1) Bottle of liquid glue
- (2) Boxes of YELLOW #2 pencils (They will be shared)
- (3) Wide-lined spiral notebooks
- (1) Scissors
- (3) Double pocket folders
- (2) Large boxes of tissues (200 count)
- (1) Box of crayons
- (1) Box of colored pencils
- (1) Pair of tennis shoes for PE
- (1) Box of markers
- (1) Pack of dry-erase markers
- (2) Canisters of Sanitizing Wipes
- **PLEASE MARK EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM WITH CHILD'S NAME (CLOTHING ALSO)

FOURTH GRADE

(1) Pair of earbuds or headphones for Laptops* (NO Bluetooth PLEASE) (3) Spiral Notebooks - wide lined (2) Highlighters (2 different colors) (4) Dry erase markers (1) Box of gallon-sized Freezer Zip-loc baggies (3) Double-Pocket folders (1) bottle of white glue (2) glue sticks (1) Set of markers (20) #2 Pencils (NO mechanical pencils) (2) Large Erasers (1) pair of tennis shoes for PE (3) Large boxes of Kleenex (1) container of disinfecting wipes Assignment Notebook (\$5.00 purchased at

- Registration) Students must have one!
- **Please NO Trapper Keepers

Fonda Arts Center - "Donnie from the Senders"

Exciting news from the Fonda Arts Center! Our July guest musician needs no introduction to many of you: Don Schossow, aka, "Donnie from the Senders" will take the stage at the Fonda Arts Center on Sunday afternoon, July 28th, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Don has been playing since his

early teen years as a member of "the Senders" band, wowing audiences, not only in Iowa, but in surrounding states as far west as Colorado.

Come, bring your friends! Admission is free, refreshments are free, air conditioning is on!

All this happening at the Fonda Arts Center on the Northwest corner of Fourth & Main Streets in Fonda. Everyone is welcome

Windbreak School Meeting in Marathon on August 16

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Buena Vista, Calhoun and Pocahontas counties along with USDA/NRCS, SWCD, and Iowa DNR will host a free meeting on Friday, August 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The location is at Mick Schleusener's, 4428 240th Avenue, Marathon. The meeting will last approximately 3 hours with a free meal provided after. The Windbreak Meeting will be facilitated by Billy Beck, Assistant Professor and Extension Forestry Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach.

The discussion will focus on proper windbreak establishment, windbreak management, and restoration techniques. Participants will have the opportunity to speak 1-on-1 with NRCS staff and District Foresters, discussing objectives for their land, cost share potential, initiate the windbreak planning process, and schedule on-site visits. Speakers will be Billy Beck ISU Extension Forestry Specialist, Ed Zaworski Plant Pathologist with ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic, Larrette Kolbe with USDA/NRCS, and Aaron Wright with Iowa DNR.

Preregistration is required by contacting Stacie at the Buena Vista County Extension office at 712-732-5056 by Tuesday, August 13.

The Paper

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Church News

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: July 28, 2024 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM ~ Worship 10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship 6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: July 30, 2024 8:30 AM - Prayer Group 9:30 AM - Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Saturday: August 3, 2024 8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

Worship, Love,Accept- Together in Christ's Name



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Sunday, July 28: Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM Worship Service10:30 AM

Thursday, August 1: Laurens United Methodist Women Meeting at the UMC General Meeting @ 6:00 PM Program: Eve Circle Serving: Eve Circle Light Supper



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This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, July 25 2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Saturday, July 27 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open

Sunday, July 28 9:30 a.m. - Worship followed with refreshments



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

USDA Announces August 14 Application Deadline for Emergency Relief Program Assistance for Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the deadline for commodity and specialty crop producers to apply for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for 2022 natural disaster losses is Aug. 14, 2024. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began accepting ERP 2022 applications in October 2023.

"If natural disasters impacted your farm or ranch in 2022, there's still time to submit your application for Emergency Relief Program assistance," said Matt Russell, FSA State Executive Director for Iowa. "Don't delay. Gather up your documents and contact your local FSA office to complete the application process."

Background. Through the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) Congress allocated \$3.2 billion in funding to cover an estimated \$10 billion in uncovered crop losses.

ERP 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 1. ERP 2022 Track 1 leverages existing federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating payments for eligible crop producers who received indemnities through these risk management programs.

In fall 2023, FSA began issuing pre-filled ERP 2022 Track 1 application forms to producers who had crop insurance and NAP data already on file with USDA. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP 2022 Track 1 payment.

ERP 2022 Application Process – Track 2. Track 2 is a revenue-based certification program designed to assist producers who suffered an eligible decrease in revenue resulting from 2022 calendar year disaster events when compared with revenue in a benchmark year using revenue information that is readily available from most tax records.

In cases where revenue does not reasonably reflect a normal year's revenue, Track 2 provides an alternative method for establishing revenue. Likewise, Track 2 affords producers of crops that are used within an operation and do not generate revenue from the sale of the crop a method for establishing revenue for the purpose of applying for ERP 2022 benefits. Producers are not required to submit tax records to FSA unless requested by the County Committee if required for an FSA compliance spot check.

Although not required when applying for ERP 2022 Track 2, applicants might find the following documents useful to the process:

· Schedule F (Form 1040)

· Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Track 2 targets gaps in emergency relief assistance for eligible producers whose eligible losses were not covered by crop insurance or NAP, including revenue losses too small (shallow loss) to be covered by crop insurance.

It's important to note that disaster-impacted producers may be eligible for ERP 2022 assistance under one or both tracks (ERP 2022 Track 1 and Track 2). To avoid duplicative benefits, if a producer applies for both tracks, the Track 2 payment calculation will take into account any payments received through Track 1.

Additional Required Forms. For both ERP 2022 tracks, all producers must have certain required forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the Aug. 14 application deadline. If not already on file, producers can update, complete and submit required forms to FSA by Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024.

Required forms: Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity, Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable), Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable), Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, if applicable, for the 2022 program year.

Note: Currently, there is a Federal court injunction that prohibits USDA from "making or increasing payments, or providing any additional relief, based on its 'socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher' designation" under ERP 2022. This may impact certain payments.

A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements. All producers who receive ERP 2022 payments must purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, in the next two available crop years as determined by the Secretary. Purchased coverage must be at the 60/100 coverage level or higher for insured crops or at the catastrophic coverage level or higher for NAP crops.

More Information. ERP 2022 eligibility details and payment calculation factor tables are available on FSA's Emergency Relief webpage, in the ERP Track 1 and ERP Track 2 fact sheets and through the FSA at your local USDA Service Center.

John "Jack" Edmonds Passes

John Arthur (Jack) Edmonds, 87, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota (originally of Laurens, Iowa) passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Jack was born on July 2, 1937 to Art and Bertha Edmonds of Laurens, Iowa. He attended Laurens Community School for most of his years growing up. However, he suffered the loss of his father at an early age, but later he gained a wonderful family when his mother married Bill Selke of Albert City, Iowa. He graduated from Albert City High School in 1955 where he excelled in track, football and FFA. He was a graduate of Iowa State University where he majored in agriculture. On August 31, 1958, he married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Stockwell, of Laurens (also an ISU graduate). They settled on a farm west of Laurens where they farmed and raised their family. Jack was both a crop and livestock farmer and loved the farm.

Jack was very active in his community. He served on various boards such as the church, school, and elevator. He was also active in community service clubs like Kiwanis and Jaycees as well as serving as a 4-H leader and Scout Master. Jack was kind, positive, and optimistic, always lending a hand to others. This optimism helped him persevere through health hardships and many other obstacles.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents (Art and Bertha Edmonds, step father Bill Selke), in-laws (Ralph and Betty Stockwell), two step sisters and spouses, Arlene (Bob) Brown and Dorothy (Alden) Karlson. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sharon Edmonds of Sioux Falls, SD, son Dan (Barb) Edmonds of Sioux Falls, daughter Leslie (Brian) Aden of Pocahontas, Iowa, brother, Marvin (Patsy) Selke of Tucson, AZ, as well as five grandchildren: John (Megan) Edmonds of Minneapolis, MN, Tom Edmonds of Portland OR, Allie (Josh) Gunderson of Loveland, CO, Maddie (David) Erickson of Pomeroy, IA and Parker Aden of Pocahontas, IA. In addition, Jack had four great grandchildren: Bjorn Edmonds of Minneapolis, MN, and Oliver, Oakley and Onyx Erickson of Pomeroy, Iowa.

Private Services will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to: Dan and Barb Edmonds, 6401 S El Dorado Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108 and Brian and Leslie Aden 58615 210th Ave., Pocahontas, Iowa 50574.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the charities linked below: The Good Samaritan Center in Sioux Falls and Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.



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Extension News & Announcements

Join the Iowa State Extension as we host a Trees, Pesky Bugs, Lawn and Disease Program

Iowa has seen several extreme weather conditions from drought conditions to flooding. All these weather conditions have affected our trees and other garden plants. That is why we are gathering extension experts in trees, plant diseases and entomology to help answer your questions.

Are you seeing problems in your lawn, with your trees or experiencing pesky bugs? After the strong winds of the Derecho and freezing temperatures of our winter, do you need advice about your windbreak or trees? Perhaps you have questions about the Emerald Ash Borer. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas, Hamilton, Humboldt, and Webster Counties have teamed up to host a live virtual Q&A learning opportunity on August 8th at 6:30 P.M. to 8 P.M. in each county's office. Come to the meeting with your questions regarding your lawn, trees, insects, and bugs. Presenting at the meeting will be Dr. Jeff Iles, Professor and Horticulture Department Chair, Chelsea Harback, Extension Plant Pathologist and Diagnostician, as well as Zach Schumm insect Diagnostician at the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic. Our experts have the answer to help advise how best to address whatever issue being seen in these areas.

Pre-registration is preferred. To Pre-Register go to https://go.iastate.edu/ENAS6L. Please send questions ahead of time by contacting ISU Extension and Outreach, Pocahontas County at 712-335-3103 or email Erica Svuba at esvuba@ iastate.edu. Join us to address whatever you are seeing in your yard, garden, trees, or pests invading your home that our experts in extension will be able to help guide how to best respond to those issues on research-based information.

Laurens Chamber & Community Boosters Presents GULPEPPER MERRIWEATHER *** GREAT COMBINED CIRCUS*** WEDNESDAY, JULY 3IST <u>Showtimes: 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm</u> Sportsman's Park Circus Day: Adult - \$16 Child/Senior -\$9 Advanced Tickets: Adult - \$13 Child/Senior -\$8 Tickets available: City Hall, Community State Bank, Hwy 10 Hardware, The Perfect Blend, West Iowa Bank, William & Wesley, Woodley Insurance/Pocahontas Mutual

*

Season-Long Water and Manure Management to be Featured at August 2 Field Day

Learn about innovative and climate-smart strategies aimed at helping solve nutrient water quality issues

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host the "In-Season Manure Application with Irrigation Field Day" on Aug. 2 at Brent Renner's Farm, near Klemme. The day will feature innovative and climate-smart strategies aimed at helping solve nutrient water quality issues originating from agriculture.

"Yield improvement from consistent and timely watering, the ability to introduce manure or critical nutrients throughout the growing season past V4 corn growth stage, and lowering off-season manure application costs are all key aspects of a recently introduced system, 360 RAIN from 360 Yield Center," said Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer with ISU Extension and Outreach.

The field day will demonstrate this autonomous machine, which applies irrigation water or diluted manure to the base of a growing crop season-long. Learn about the details of the USDA Conservation Innovation Grant Project using 360 RAIN at this field day. A summary of the first year's research

will also be shared.

Iowa State researchers are teaming up with Ohio State University, and with industry partners, for developing and demonstrating in-season manure and nutrient management strategy, including projects like 360 RAIN.

Based on first year's data, information will be shared on the topics of in-season manure application and irrigation strategy, corn plant nutrient needs and supply, economics of in-season manure application and what this all means for overall on-farm manure management. Field demonstrations will be held after the presentations and will conclude by 3 p.m.

The field day flyer explains the activities for the day. The program will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a free lunch for registered participants.

Commercial and confinement manure applicators, agency staff involved in manure management, manure planners and consultants, watershed coordinators and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The field day is a collaborative effort of the Iowa Pork Producers Association, 360 RAIN and ISU Extension and Outreach.

Registration is required. Register by July 29 to ensure a free meal. Call the ISU Extension and Outreach Hancock County office at 641-923-2856 or email kristyb@iastate.edu

Interested participants can also register online by visiting https:// go.iastate.edu/OIANSK.

The Renner Farm is located at 2455 180th St., Klemme, Iowa.

For more information, contact Kapil Arora, at 515-291-0174; Daniel Andersen, associate professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering at 515-294-4210; or Kris Kohl, field agricultural engineer at 712-730-5068.

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Extension News

Effective Runoff Management for Open Lots and Outdoor Manure Storage

Many areas of Iowa have experienced higher-than-average precipitation events with a string of continued wet weather. This abnormally wet weather pattern has caused drainage and flooding issues in the state. During wet weather patterns, farmers must be vigilant to monitor runoff holding pond and out-of-barn manure storage levels.

Managing runoff from open lots and outdoor manure storages during wet weather is crucial for protecting water quality, public health and the environment. Wet weather exacerbates the potential for nutrient and pathogen runoff by increasing the runoff volume and stressing the holding capacity of manure and runoff storage.

Effective runoff management practices can mitigate these risks, ensuring sustainable agricultural operation and environmental stewardship.

Runoff occurs when rainfall flows over the land surface instead of infiltrating the ground. This runoff can pick up and transport pollutants in agricultural settings, particularly in open lots, including nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pathogens and organic matter. These pollutants can contaminate surface water bodies, causing algal blooms, fish kills and degradation of aquatic ecosystems. Catching and treating this water is critical.

Feedlot runoff and manure contain high levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, which is toxic to fish. Ammoniacal nitrogen is strongly absorbed by soil so management practices that encourage manure or feedlot runoff contact with soil, rather than flow over soil, significantly reduce risk of nutrient movement.

Preventing overflows. The number one goal of management must be preventing a holding pond or manure storage from overflowing. Over-topping earthen berms may compromise the manure storage and lead to catastrophic discharge. Similarly, while ideal land application conditions don't exist, effluent discharge from the manure or runoff control pond will be most concentrated and most likely to lead to fish kills if it enters a water body. Application to wet soils is preferable to allowing a storage basin overflow.

When applying to wet soils, vegetated areas such as pasture or hay are preferred to better support equipment and reduce runoff potential. Use land with the least potential for runoff and lower slopes to give time for effluent to soak into the soils. Increase separation distances where possible and selectively apply to fields to avoid wet spots. Pumping operations should be monitored continuously to watch for signs of runoff, and applications should be stopped if signs of runoff develop.

Critical strategies for runoff management. *Evaluate buffer zones and diversion channels.* Diversion channels or berms divert clean water away from manure storage areas. Prolonged wet periods can cause diversions to lose shape and effectiveness. Take a moment to check them over at your farm to minimize the amount of water you are dealing with. Establish vegetative buffer zones around open lots and manure storages to filter and absorb runoff. Grasses can trap sediments and uptake nutrients before they reach water bodies; perennial roots help increase absorption in the soil to minimize flow if overflows occur.

Feedlot surface. When possible, scrape lots to maintain a 3-5% slope away from feed bunks and toward drainage collection areas. Reshape mounds to ensure water runs away from mounds quickly to provide good animal resting areas (repair problem areas, especially around the concrete pad along the feed bunk). Evaluate fence lines and clear debris if it becomes an obstacle to obtaining good drainage from the pen surface.

Settling basins and retention ponds. Settling basins help remove solids from runoff water before they enter the runoff retention pond. Most settling basins are designed to have solids removed after significant rainfall events. Remove solids from the settling basin and check the slotted gate or perforated pipe to ensure slots aren't plugged, and water is directed through the settling basin outlet. Evaluate how full the retention pond or manure storage is and plan to remove some manure to ensure sufficient storage volumes. If required, ensure manure application areas are included in your manure or nutrient management plan.

Effective runoff management from open lots and outdoor manure storages during wet weather is vital for protecting water quality and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. By combining site selection, structural and vegetative practices, and nutrient management, farms can mitigate the risks associated with runoff. Continuous monitoring and maintenance are essential to ensure the long-term success of these strategies, ultimately benefiting both the environment and agricultural operations.

Harvest May Be Tricky This Year Kris Kohl, Ag Engineering Specialist

While it is July now, the crop will soon be coming out of the field and with the very late replant and the overall early planting of the rest of the fields, the difference between moisture content will be very wide, and the low crop prices have many farmers planning to store the corn and soybeans longer than in the past.

When grain is more than four moisture points different, it tends to separate in the storage pile because of flow and friction and accumulates in spots like the center of a bin with the broken kernels plugging the air paths. Because wet grain has all the needed nutrients for bacteria to grow, and their byproducts are heat and moisture from the destruction of the grain, a chain reaction can start. A wet spot as small as a basketball can spoil the whole bin regardless of size.

With that said, the remainder of this article will deal with:

- Moisture testers
- Harvest considerations
- Grain storage over one year

Moisture testers. Moisture testers do a very good job of testing grain that is uniform in moisture. When the kernels are different, it will tend to read higher than the average because the electrical conductivity of the wetter kernels are going to be overrepresented. Hand shelling a sample for testing will often read three to four points dryer, because the combine will tip many of the wetter kernels. The tip is the last place to dry. The butt end of an ear is wetter than the tip and second ears on a stalk are often 10 points wetter than the main ear. When hand shelling, try to go to some of the replant areas, take second ears and don't just grab the best ears near the edge of the field. In a corn bin the edge of the bin often has dryer corn than the center, so take your samples there so you don't get a false dryer reading.

A short story about how one large wet soybean changed the reading of a whole sample – A farmer tested a sample of soybeans and got a reading of 18 percent. Thinking it was too high, he dumped it into a shallow pan to look at it. There was one big green bean in the sample that was not mature, so he removed it and put it back into the tester and the sample then read 14 percent.

Harvest considerations. This year the early planted corn will mature early and may be harvestable before the soybeans when the low temperatures are above 50. While it is tempting to go through replant areas so that the field is done, the wet corn and fines will accumulate in the center plugging the pathway for air and could start a spoiling timebomb. Start with the best fields and core the bins four times during filling rather than the two times that are the standard recommendation. Look closely at this cored grain as it tends to be the lower quality that will give you mere problems. Turn the cooling fans on and try to get the grain below 40 degrees F. If overnight lows are

not that cool, then you may need to come back in a week or two to finish the job.

Storing Grain over 1 year. Many farmers have gotten used to no drying charges for 18 percent corn going to the ethanol plants and have managed the corn to meet this new standard. There has always been a risk of it going out of condition but harvested cold and sold by March have worked in the past. If we plan to go through the summer and store it longer than one year, we must start with dry corn at 14 percent or dryer and cooled below 40 degrees as quick as possible. The cost of drying it and the loss in weight need to be understood, but spoiled corn is a nightmare no one ever wants to experience. Harvest the best corn, remove the fines - if possible, dry it to 14 percent and then cool it below 40 degrees.

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Iowa State University Extension and Outreach to Host Farmland Leasing Meetings Across Northwest Iowa in August

Farmland Leasing Meetings for agriculture property owners, tenants, ag business representatives and lenders will be held at 6 different locations throughout Northwest Iowa in early August.

Each workshop will discuss farmland ownership and tenure, cash rental rates and land values, methods to improve leasing arrangements and determine fair rent, Iowa law for terminating a lease and legal aspects of farmland leasing, an update on agriculture markets and the new Iowa agriculture laws, and resources from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"These meetings are designed for both ag property owners and tenants," said Gary Wright, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "We will focus greatly on landowner and tenant information such as rental rates and land values. Successful ag decision-makers will want to gain the most current and accurate information as they finalize 2024 and look towards the 2025 crop year."

Upcoming workshop options include:

- Aug. 1, 9 a.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Office, 305 North Main, Pocahontas; Register to 712-335-3103.
- Aug. 5, 1 p.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Plymouth County Office, 251 12th St. SE, Le Mars; Register to 712-546-7835.
- Aug. 6, 9 a.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Clay County Office, 1515 West 18th St., Spencer; Register to 712-262-2264.
- Aug. 7, 9 a.m. Northwest Iowa Community College, Building H, Room 520, 603 W Park St., Sheldon; Register to 712-957-5045.
- Aug. 14, 4 p.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Monona County Office, 119 Iowa Ave., Onaway; Register to 712-423-2175.
- Aug. 22, 9 a.m. ISU Extension and Outreach Dickinson County Office, 1600 15th St., Spirit Lake; Preregister to 712-336-3488.

Meetings are approximately 2 ½ hours in length and all registrants receive a leasing arrangement book, as well as access to research-based resources from ISU Extension and Outreach. Specific topic depth and breadth at each meeting will vary to best suit participants' needs and wants, but individuals need only attend one meeting.

There is a \$20 per individual or \$30 per couple registration fee for those who register with the ISU Extension and Outreach office hosting the meeting at least two days prior to the workshop date. A \$5 fee will be added for late registrations.

"We encourage individuals to call in and register so that we can have adequate space and materials prepared," Wright said. "We do not want to turn anyone away or run short on leasing books."

For more information regarding land leasing and value or the upcoming workshops, contact Wright at 712-223-1574 or gdwright@iastate.edu.

When gardeners have questions – they can get answers – thanks to two popular gardening resources offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Public Radio.

"Garden Variety" is the name of a Public Radio podcast based on the Horticulture Day program that runs on Fridays, as part of Talk of Iowa. The program is featured every Friday during the growing season, and every other Friday in the fall and winter.

Each segment features a different gardening topic, with a conversation between host Charity Nebbe and a horticulture expert – mostly from ISU Extension and Outreach.

Gardeners can call in to the Horticulture Day show with their questions and get timely answers. The show is in its 38th year and the podcast is in its third year – with an average of more than 19,000 listeners per month.

"Both programs provide listeners a welcome break from the daily news cycle ... a wholly positive, warm community" focused on home gardening, said Nebbe.

"People love to grow things and the experts we bring on the show are so incredibly knowledgeable that even if someone doesn't have a question, they always learn something," she said. National recognition

The Garden Variety program and an accompanying Garden Variety Newsletter were recognized nationally in July, with a silver award from GardenComm – an organization of professional communicators in the green and garden industry.

The award recognizes individuals and companies who achieve the highest levels of talent and professionalism in garden communications.

Recipients of the Silver Medal represent the best in their category and will now compete for Gold Medals at the annual awards event, Aug. 28 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, said the recognition shows the value of both programs to the public.

"I hear all of the time how much listeners enjoy these programs," said Steil. "Some of them set their alarms to remember the air-time, and the feedback tells me they are learning and getting value from tuning in."

Nebbe said the partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach continues to be a success, and that the horticulture experts who appear on the show are personable and engaging.

"The listeners appreciate the warmth and kindness the specialists bring to people who are asking questions," Nebbe said. "The experts are excited to talk to people who have questions and educate the audience.

The newsletter is sent to nearly 10,000 subscribers and includes timely tips from horticulture specialists, plus photos and garden success stories from gardeners.

For more information, Steil can be reached at 515-294-8953 or ajsteil@iastate.edu

Extension News

Forage Specialist Shares Advice on Assessment and Recovery Following Flooding

Iowa has had a wide range of weather in the past few weeks, with areas of extreme flooding in the northwest part of the state. As the waters begin to recede, there are many considerations people are making. In this article, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach forage specialist Shelby Gruss provides some steps producers should take to evaluate the damage.

"Damage may vary depending on how long the forage was submerged, the species and the amount of sediment deposits," she said. "It is essential to document and report damages."

Officials have announced that producers impacted by the flooding will be eligible for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) for feed and grazing losses. Baled hay and purchased hay losses can be covered under ELAP. However, the program will not cover hay that was cut and on the ground, or hay that has yet to be harvested. Once you can assess the damage, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

Gruss said it's important for producers to evaluate their pastures as soon as possible to assess damage, debris and silt deposits, and to continue monitoring the recovery of forage stands in the following weeks. She offered the following recommendations for assessing conditions of pastures, hayfields and stored forages, and planning for possible next steps.

Pasture health. First, walk through pastures to clear any debris that could be dangerous to livestock. Inspect and repair fencing and water systems. Ensure you have clean water before allowing animals back on the pastures.

Animal health considerations include ash content and microbe contamination on forage. Do not allow animals back on pastures for at least a couple of weeks to prevent microbial contamination. Floodwaters may have carried contaminants from sewage treatment plants, manure piles, potentially liquid manure holding ponds and other contaminations onto your forage. Delaying turnout will allow the microbe populations to diminish and it will give time for the pasture to dry out some to avoid pugging up the pasture.

Sediment deposits can be a large concern that can cause damage to the stands and, if grazed too early, could be detrimental to the health of livestock. Sand and silt deposited on the plants will increase the ash content of the forage. Increased ash content on the forage can impact livestock performance. Although horses are particularly susceptible to sand, some extra steps may be needed to ensure the health of the horses.

Forage species survival will depend on flooding length of time, how much of the plant was submerged, sediment deposits and species. Many perennial forages can withstand flooding for up to a few days to weeks and with water receding now, many could recover. Stand assessments should be completed. Conduct stand assessments to check for root damage; dark-colored, mushy and water-soaked roots are unlikely to recover. Examine for regrowth from crowns and tillers. Some legumes, particularly alfalfa, are susceptible to flooding and damage to the stand can occur quickly.

Sediment deposited on the stands not only potentially affects animals but also stand survival. Sediment deposit of more than 2 inches can smother the plants, leading to stand losses, and mechanical removal will help reduce stand losses. Perennial forage plants can typically produce new growth with less than 2 inches of deposit, but be sure to check for crusting. Crusting inhibits plant regrowth and light tillage can help stimulate regrowth.

Alfalfa hayfields. Checking alfalfa damage should occur approximately a month after flooding. Alfalfa is of large concern because it does not tolerate flooding for very long, and alfalfa fields could have sustained substantial damage. Check the alfalfa roots 6 inches deep, and look for browning, soft roots, water-soaked appearance or rotted-off roots. These are symptoms of root rot, such as phytophthora root rot, which may necessitate replanting the stand.

Silt deposits in alfalfa fields will cause similar problems as in pastures. Large amounts of silt deposits (2-3 inches) can weaken the stand, and these areas may need to be reestablished. However, be aware of reestablishing stands that are older than a year due to autotoxicity.

Stored forage. Pastures and hayfields are not the only forages that can be affected. Stored forage, hay and silage can be impacted as well. All stored feed impacted by the flood can be contaminated with sand, silt and

microbe populations. Dry bales in flooded areas greater than 1 foot deep for longer than a day should be disposed of. Hay exposed to less than 1 foot of flooding may have areas that are still safe to feed. Hay kept in barns that were flooded should be removed immediately to avoid heating and spontaneous combustion. Individually wrapped sealed bales may be safe to feed, but inline-wrapped bales with open ends may be affected throughout the line and must be assessed for damage and visible silt. For silage piles that have already undergone fermentation, assess the smell and color. Dispose of forage that is obviously contaminated with sediment or has offcoloring and smell.

Be sure to document all losses, including the types and sizes of bales, for records and reports of losses.

What's next: emergency forages and grazing. Delaying grazing allows for shoot regrowth and replenishment of carbohydrate reserves. For pastures with less than 70% damage, allow one to two months of recovery before grazing. Moderately damaged pastures, where 40-70% stand is still healthy, may require two to three months to recover fully. Additionally, weed management may be needed. Stand that acquired more significant damage should be considered for stand renovation to replant and could take up to a year for recovery.

There is still time to plant other forage options. For more details, refer to the article "Forage Options with Prevented Planting Fields." Talk with your FSA agent about any replant restrictions. Extension beef specialists and field agronomists are ready to assist with your questions and concerns.

Additional resources. Flood Damage and Recovery Management for Forages, by John Jennings, Kenny Simon, Shane Gadberry, Ed Twidwell, Mike Andrews, Jennifer Caraway, Hank Chaney, Blair Griffin, and Kevin Lawson. University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Research and Extension.

Step Two in Flood Recovery of Pastures Is Renovation, by Beth Doran, Joel DeJong and Brian Lang. Iowa State University Extension. ICM Blog 2019.

Dealing with Pasture, Hay, Feed and Livestock Losses After Significant Weather Events, by Jennifer Tucker, Dennis Hancock, Lawton Stewart. 2019. University of Georgia Extension.

Reclaiming Flood-damaged Pastures and Forage Production, by Daren Redfearn and Ben Beckman. 2019. University of Nebraska Lincoln. 15 The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1st, 2024. Mayor Rod Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, John Jamison, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, and Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda as amended – removing item number 5- Change Order #2 Laurens Pool Project, consisting of the minutes from the July 1st, 2024, meeting, and the list of claims. Jamison seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

carrieu.		
CLAIMS 07-01-24		
AGRECOL, LLC	VEGETATIVE MAT	5,240.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY BILLING	82.50
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	158.22
DWIGHT E. VAN GENDEREN	SOLAR LIGHT	25.66
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WATER TESTING	823.25
GFC LEASING-WI	COPIER MAINT	191.81
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	600.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	7,811.13
IPERS	IPERS	6,788.64
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	1,974.33
JCS SOLUTIONS	CLEANING SUPPLIES	269.02
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	527.53
LMU	JUNE MONTHLY UTILITIES	5,667.63
MODERN MARKETING	POLICE SUPPLIES	619.46
POC COMMUNTIY HOSPITAL	RANDOM TESTING	34.75
PRIME BENEFITS SYSTEMS	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	78.75
SANDE CONSTRUCTION	PAY REQUEST #10	190,637.26
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	JUNE SALES TAX	5,658.24
ULINE	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,626.48
UNITYPOINT CLINIC	POLICE MED PHYSICAL	482.00
US BANK	SUPPLIES	1,273.02
USA BLUE BOOK	BUFFER PACK	56.30
WATER'S EDGE	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 10,000.00	
WELLMARK	MONTHLY HEALTH INSURANCE	8,935.02
	TOTAL	249,561.00
PAYROLL	6/24/2024	
001 210	GENERAL ROAD USE TAX	14,739.30 1,524.27
600	WATER	3,429.52
610	SEWER	2,662.73
670	GARBAGE	2,298.08
	TOTAL	24,653.90
	PAYROLL TOTAL	
	PAID TOTAL	274,214.90
001		
	GENERAL	31,486.39
110 112	ROAD USE TAX EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,187.53 4,651.43
172	POOL RESTRICTED	200,637.26
176	HOMETOWN PRIDE	25.66
317	PRAIRIE PARK TRAIL	3,240.00
600	WATER	13,908.66
610	SEWER	8,723.97
670	GARBAGE TOTAL BY FUND	6,354.00
Jamison moved to approv	ve Resolution 11-24-SRT Grant Jamison seconder	. ,

Jamison moved to approve Resolution 11-24-SRT Grant. Jamison seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison, Swanson. Nays: None. Other: Absent: Booth and Christenson. Motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve Resolution 12-24 – 2024 Grand Marshal Troy Oehlertz. Jamison seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Zylstra, Jamison, Swanson. Nays: None. Other: Absent: Booth and Christenson. Motion carried.

Zylstra moved to approve Pay Request #10 – Sande Construction. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried. Zylstra moved to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Jamsion seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

July 1st, 2024

July 15th, 2024

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15th, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth, Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnson, Deputy Clerk Joan Hoben, and officers Hoover and Herril.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the July 1^{st} , 2024, meeting, and the list of claims. Booth seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

CLAIMS 07-15-24		
A&M SERVICES, INC	MOPS, RAGS, RUGS	90.14
ACCO	POOL CHEMICALS	1,820.00
AGSTATE	WEED CHEMICALS	100.25
ALLAINT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS BILLING	256.50
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES FOR MEMORY LANE	77.39
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	MONTHLY EYE CARE INSURANCE	218.53
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.	POLICE TASER CERTIFICATION	6,759.51
BADGER METER	TECH SUPPORT	52.72
BAKER & TAYLOR	BOOKS	675.98
CENGAGE	LARGE PRINT BOOKS	191.93
CONNECTIONS, INC.	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	30.51
DELTA DENTAL	MONTHLY DENTAL INSURANCE	718.02
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	643.00
GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS	YELLOW TRAFFIC BULB	81.10
IDNR	ANNUAL FEES	138.68
IRS	FED/FICA TAX	10,170.59
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT	POLICE EVALUATION	150.00
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	18.00
JACK'S UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	1,836.44
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	LOADER REPAIRS	2,075.77
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE & INTERNET	144.66
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	308.40
LAURENS SUN	LEGAL ADS	728.60
MACC	TECH SUPPORT - BILLING	700.28
PATHFINDERS STRATEGIC PARTNERS	ANNUAL DUES	1,461.99
NORTHERN LIGHTS FOOD SERVICE	POOL CONCESSIONS	303.92
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE	292.03
POCACHONTAS COMM HOSP	RANDOM TESTING	34.75
POCAHONTAS CO SOLID WASTE	LANDFILL FEES	6,409.10
POCAHONTAS TITLE COMPANY	ABSTRACT TITLE COMMUNITY CENTER	665.00
PRIME BENEFIT SYSTEM	MONTHLY GROUP INSURANCE	2,000.00
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP	MONTHLY LIFE INSURANCE	764.65
PRO COOPERATIVE	CITY MONTHLY FUEL	1,711.43
R&D INDUSTRIES, INC.	TECH SUPPORT	525.50
RB LUMBER COMPANY	SUPPLIES	51.94
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	1,083.87
RYNO'S	NUISANCE MOWING	405.00
SANTANDER LEASING	MONTHLY PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SHAMROCK RECYCLE, INC.	MONTHLY JUNE RECYCLING	1,952.05
STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA	FY25 MARC RECORDS	120.00
UNITYPOINT CLINIC OCCUPATION	RANDOM TESTING	42.00

MONTHLY CELL PHONE BILLS

438.35

VERIZON WIRELESS

City Council Minutes

WEX BANKS

	POLICE DEPT MONTHLY FUE	L	882.44
	TOTAL	-	48,592.36
PAYROLL		7/1/2024	
001	GENERAL		6,536.91
PAYROLL		7/8/2024	
001	GENERAL		16,911.82
210	ROAD USE TAX		2,070.36
600	WATER		3,201.51
610	SEWER		2,711.25
670	GARBAGE	-	2,375.78
		TOTAL	27,270.72
	PA	YROLL TOTAL	33,807.63
		TOTAL PAID	82,399.99
	TOTAL PAID BY FUND		
001	GENERAL		50,364.74
110	ROAD USE TAX		5,461.14
112	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		2,030.65
600	WATER		6079.99
610	SEWER		5823.74
670	GARBAGE		12,639.73
		OTAL BY FUND	82,399.99

Booth moved to approve the sidewalk permit request at 531 E. Olive St. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion

carried.

Booth moved to approve the sidewalk permit request for 529 E. Olive St. Zylstra seconded. All ayes; motion carried. After much discussion, Booth moved to approve the filling of residential pools at the rate of \$100 for pools within city limits, and \$150 within fire districts, plus water at the rate of bulk water, effective 7/15/24. Swanson seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

An update was given on the Prairie Preservation Trail report. No action was taken.

Booth moved to approve Change Order #2 – Laurens Pool Project. Christenson seconded. All ayes; motion carried. Zylstra moved to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. Booth seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem

Hilary Reed, City Clerk