

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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Local News

Drainage Water Recycling Field Day to be Held

Iowa Learning Farms, in partnership with the Iowa Nutrient Research Center, will host a drainage water recycling field day Wednesday, September 4, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Mark Schleisman's farm near Lake City. The free event is open to farmers and landowners and includes a complimentary meal.

Drainage water recycling (DWR) is a drainage management system designed to capture water during wet periods so it can be used later when growing crops are thirsty. Versions of DWR have been around for years, but adoption has remained limited. Now, interest is growing as the practice is recognized for its potential to improve water quality and help farmers reduce risks from weather volatility.

During this field day, attendees will have a chance to get a closer look at new installations being used to collect in-field data on the performance of these systems. These sites are being studied as part of a research project led by the Iowa Nutrient Research Center and the Iowa Soybean Association analyzing drainage water recycling's costs and benefits, with funding from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Nutrient Research Center and the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Division.

The field day will feature a field tour of the site with host Mark Schleisman, Calhoun County farmer and landowner, and Chris Hay, owner and principal of Christopher Hay Consulting. Additionally, Matt Helmers, Iowa Nutrient Research Center Director, and Eric Henning, Iowa State University agricultural and biosystems graduate research assistant, will share yield and water quality research findings. Jeremy Viles, Calhoun County NRCS district conservationist, will conclude the program with a discussion on soil health.

"Too much rain or not enough rain are two of the biggest problems for Iowa crops most years," notes Hay. "Drainage water recycling can help farmers address these challenges. Research -- mostly done in other states -- shows it can boost yields by up to 50% for corn and 30% for soybeans. Our early work modeling it here in Iowa also shows potential for significant yield gains, especially in dry years, and the system can also benefit water quality and wildlife. But there's still a lot of work to be done to predict what farmers can expect in terms of return on investment."

The field day will be held at the Schleisman Farm, 1532 365th St, Lake City, IA 51449. From Lake City, head west on IA-175W/365th St for 3 miles. The farm is located on the south side of the road and field day signs will mark the driveway.

The event is free and open to farmers and landowners, though we require reservations to ensure adequate space and food. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, please contact Liz Ripley at 515-294-5429 or ilf@iastate.edu by August 28. Attendees will be entered in a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey. Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit www.iowalearningfarms.org.

VFW Donation

The Archibald-Southworth Post 3533 of the VFW recently presented a \$500 check to the Laurens Senior Pioneers for their noon meal program at the Laurens Community Center.

Pictured left to right in front row are: Steve Chaffee, Marlene Elsbecker and Marcia Leu of the Senior Pioneers. Back row left to right are: VFW members John Pohlman, Ed Schmidt, Lee Bailey, Marlin Egertsen and Bob Schuler.



Jump Start Grant

Are you opening a new business or expanding. Here is your chance to apply to receive a Jump Start Grant!

Grant applications are on the county website or you can email MaryJo at: litwiller@iowacentral.edu.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JUMP-START ACCELERATOR GRANT

GRANTS UP TO \$10,000

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NOW!**



pocahontascounty.iowa.gov/economic-development/jump-start-accelerator-grant/



+712-730-2259

Learn Grant Writing with ISU Extension and Outreach Online Workshops

Nonprofit, government and school district representatives can boost their grant writing skills by enrolling in three upcoming Online Grant Writing 101 Workshops.

Dates and times for the workshops are:

- Aug. 22, 1-4 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://go.iastate.edu/W4C4R8>.
- Sept. 24, 9 a.m.-noon. Learn more and register at <https://go.iastate.edu/5V0KQ0>.
- Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-noon. Learn more and register at <https://go.iastate.edu/AN51RY>.

The registration deadline for each workshop is one day before that workshop. The fee is \$25 per workshop.

The online workshops, hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, offer practical training for aspiring grant writers to learn the art of crafting successful grant applications.

Lindsay Henderson, an ISU Extension and Outreach specialist in Community and Economic Development who leads the workshops, said, "The three upcoming online workshops will give Iowans from across all 99 counties a chance to learn the skills they need to find, write and submit a grant."

Learning these skills can catalyze great impact, Henderson explained. "The training we did in Jefferson, Iowa, is a prime example. They went from \$271,000 in grants over five years to \$6.4 million in just three years after 30 residents attended our training."

With such catalyzing impact, Henderson noted, "I look forward to seeing grant writers of all skill levels at our upcoming events. There are benefits to boost your grant writing success, from project planning to application writing tips."

For additional details or to register for the virtual workshops or an in-person boot camp, please contact Lindsay Henderson at lindsayh@iastate.edu or Esther Crompton, communication specialist, at eecrompt@iastate.edu.

ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Hosts Awards Supper

ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County held an awards supper for the Beef Carcass Contest following the Pocahontas County Fair. The event featured a presentation by Beef Field Specialist, Beth Doran, who shared valuable beef production data and discussed yield grade and quality grade reports with the contestants.

The evening was highlighted by the presentation of awards to the top performers.

The winners were:

- Lead Champion - Emma Sobotka
- Lead Reserve Champion - Caden Freeburg
- Champion Pen of 3 Steers - Nathan Burke
- Reserve Champion, Pen of 3 Steers - Cole Aden
- Pocahontas County Champion Pen of 3 Steers - Patience Smith
- Champion Pen of 3 Heifers - Cole Aden
- Reserve Champion, Pen of 3 Heifers - Nathalie Burke
- Pocahontas County Champion Pen of 3 Heifers - Justin Patterson



At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
August 21, 2024

The Board of the Laurens Public Library Foundation met recently. They will again be having a Potato Bar Supper for a fundraiser. It will be Monday October 14 before the Edgar Allan Poe program at our library. More details in the next few weeks about that, as well as the projects they have chosen. We also had a visit recently from Mark Bogenrief about the stained glass window that is a current Foundation project. They will be starting to cut the glass soon!

Don & Sarah donated Fort Dodge America's Frontier Town by Alan Foster Nelson. This author will be presenting a program at our Library on Tuesday, August 27. The focus of his program will be the Des Moines River Valley; it's mapping, and how the river effected settlement in the area. Join us at 7 pm for an interesting and informative program!

August Book Club choice was written by one of our Library's most popular authors. It's Kristin Hannah's novel *Angel Falls*. Our catalog's brief description is, "Liam will do anything to break his wife out of her coma, even locating the first love of her life--the man she married before him--and bringing him to her bedside." We've got quite a few copies, so grab one and plan to join our discussion Monday the 26th!

Some interesting books in our new book stack this week! Don't Talk to Strangers by Fiona Barton, Spirit Crossing by William Kent Krueger, Backwater Justice by Fern Michaels, Black Butterflies by Priscilla Morris, This is Why We Lied by Karin Slaughter, and By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Laurens native and author Brenda (Boughey) DeHaan has donated two of her "Jasper Kitty" kids' books to our library. I'm sure our local readers will enjoy these!

Mark Your Calendar

August 26 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club *Angel Falls* by Kristin Hannah

August 27 @ 7 p.m. - History of the Des Moines River Valley

August 31-September 2 - Closed for Labor Day Weekend

October 14 - Library Foundation Potato Bar Fundraiser 5-6:30 p.m.

October 14 Morbid Curiosities an Evening with Edgar Allan Poe @ 7 p.m.

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*This Week at
Bethany Lutheran*

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Sunday: August 25, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM ~ Worship
10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship
6:00 PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesday: August 27, 2024
8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

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



*This Week at
Laurens United
Methodist Church*

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wednesday, August 21:
Administrative Council Meeting @
7:00 PM in the Wesley Room

Sunday, August 25:
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM



*This Week at First
Christian*

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Thursday, August 22
2-5 p.m. - Clothes Closet open

Saturday, August 24
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Clothes Closet open

Sunday, August 25
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

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Horticulture Display to Feature Plants Growing on Water, Turfgrass and Organic Agriculture

Not all crops in the Midwest are grown in the field, at least not in 50-plus acre fields. In fact, some crops in this part of the country are not grown in a field at all.

Helping to illustrate that fact, the horticulture team from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will show how crops can be grown in greenhouses, on acreages, on lawns and on water (known as hydroponics).

A team of specialists will be on site all three days of this year's Farm Progress Show Aug. 27-29 near Boone, and their display will have something for everyone.

"We will be showcasing the diversity of horticulture," said Cindy Haynes, professor and extension specialist in horticulture at Iowa State. "All of these disciplines are part of horticulture and each one offers farmers and landowners another opportunity to diversify their income."

Hydroponics exhibit. One of the more unique features on display will be a small-scale hydroponics model, growing garden plants on water in a table-size container. Similar to a "large fish tank," the lighted structure will include flowing water, with the plants all growing on top.

"This is basically a high-tech way to grow some things indoors or in a greenhouse," said Haynes. "It has a much smaller footprint than a field or garden, and you can grow a lot of different plants this way."

The water is recycled and the overall setup and design is easy enough that most folks could build a similar unit at home, she said.

She will also be discussing how to grow and produce cut flowers. Several cut flowers will be on display, sourced from local flower farms.

Step onto the field. In the outdoor part of the display, turfgrass specialist Adam Thoms will demonstrate good sod and lawncare techniques on a mini Iowa State football field, complete with line markers and goal posts.

People can have their picture taken on the field, while also exploring the potential of sod and asking questions of trained lawncare specialists.

"There is definitely a demand for the lawncare business, whether it's people wanting to know more about how to improve their own lawns or looking for a side job of taking care of someone else's lawn," said Thoms. "Plus, about every town in Iowa has a public space or a golf course, so there is a lot of interest in turfgrass care."

Kathleen Delate, professor and extension organic specialist at Iowa State, will be on-hand to discuss the opportunities in organic agriculture.

"Organic ag is growing in Iowa and in the U.S., so we hope to let folks know about the excellent opportunities to farm with less inputs and secure greater returns with organic premium prices," she said. "I am excited to be a resource for folks interested in transitioning to organic ag, including providing information on the cost-share programs USDA has for transitioning farmers."

Haynes said it's been several years since the horticulture team has exhibited at the show and the specialists are enthusiastic to be back. They promise to offer a "hands-on sensory experience for all who stop by."

There will be plenty of things to see, touch and smell, with experts who can answer everything from questions about home gardening and lawncare, to commercial ventures.

The Iowa State University exhibit space can be found at the corner of 7th Street and Central Avenue.

Cindy Haynes can be reached at 515-294-4006 or chaynes@iastate.edu.

Adam Thoms is available at 515-294-1957 or athoms@iastate.edu.

Midwest Compost School to Be Held in Ames Sept. 24-26

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host the 2024 Midwest Compost School Sept. 24-26 at the Iowa State Dairy Farm and Composting Facility near Ames.

This is a specialized, three-day course for compost facility operators and composting professionals. Topics will include feedstock selection, recipe development, operations, analysis, odor and runoff management, monitoring and marketing strategies. Special emphasis will be on food residuals composting. Each day includes a combination of hands-on training, lecture, discussion and problem solving.

"Participants will receive hands-on experiences and hear from composting facility managers and other experts about techniques that will give them a competitive edge," said Kapil Arora, field agricultural engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the course coordinator.

The program is approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for compost facility operator certification as specified under the Iowa Administrative Code.

The school features instructors from Iowa State, the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin and Illinois State University, and is presented in collaboration with the Iowa Composting Council and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Early registration is \$495 and must be made prior to midnight, Sept. 16. Late registration is \$550 and the registration deadline is midnight, Sept. 20. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration includes course materials and meals listed on the program.

For additional information and to register online, visit <https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/compost/>

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program Accepting Applications for the 2025 Program Year

The Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program is currently accepting applications for the 2025 program. Eligible communities are those with populations of fewer than 10,000 residents, existing transportation-related issues and a committee of volunteers willing to dedicate their time and talent to the visioning process. Only communities located within one mile of a state or federal highway will be selected.

The visioning program integrates technical landscape planning and design techniques with sustainable community action to empower local leaders through a planning process that results in an enhancement plan that reflects the values and identity of the community.

Public participation is the key to identifying the needs and desires of a community, said Sandra Oberbroeckling, with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development program. Community Visioning Program staff engage client community residents using a variety of methods to ensure a more inclusive public process. For example, in larger communities surveys are sent to a random sample of households to better understand how residents use the local transportation system. Program staff conduct focus groups with a variety of user types, including parents, youth, older adults, people with mobility issues and active recreationists, to identify factors that affect transportation use in communities.

Community installations give residents flexibility to view design proposals and provide feedback when it is convenient for them and bring attention to potential project sites. All communities have their own webpage on the Community Visioning website, where residents can access meeting information, design proposals and eventually final products. The program engages the public on a variety of social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube.

Communities selected to participate are required to contribute \$2,000 (either cash or in-kind) toward program implementation. In return, the visioning program provides professional services valued at more than \$100,000. Since 1996, 266 Iowa communities throughout the state, ranging in size from towns of fewer than 100 residents to cities with close to 9,000 people, have participated in the Community Visioning Program. Of these communities, 40 have gone through the process more than once.

The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Extension and Trees Forever, an Iowa-based nonprofit with a mission to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

Communities interested in applying to the 2025 Community Visioning Program can apply online at <https://www.communityvisioning.org/apply/>. Communities that would like assistance with the application process should contact Sandra Oberbroeckling at 515-294-3721 or soberbr@iastate.edu or Brad Riphagen, 515-370-1291, briphagen@treesforever.org.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 1. Selections will be announced at the end of September.

Spray Drone Field Day Will Feature Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Demonstration

Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) or remotely piloted or operated aircraft are seeing an increase in agricultural applications including but not limited to plant growth monitoring, plant health imagery and land surveying and terrain analysis. One new area of growth is pesticide spraying.

In the past, pilots have operated fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters to perform spraying over agricultural fields. Change is on the horizon. Small, remotely piloted aircraft and drones mounted with spraying systems are now being used to apply pesticides in the U.S. and here in Iowa. Drones for spraying pesticides can be handy when traditional aircraft are not available or are too expensive, or treatment areas are relatively small.

To demonstrate the operating capabilities and characteristics of spray drones, specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Digital Ag Innovation Laboratory have scheduled a Spray Drone Field Day in Havelock, Iowa, on Sept. 6. The

day will start at 10:30 a.m. with the morning session devoted to aerial applications of drones in agriculture. Registration starts at 10 a.m. and lunch is provided at no cost to registered participants.

The afternoon session will focus on spray drones and will include demonstrations of spraying with Hylio, Agras and XAG spray drones. Participants will observe drone design and spraying system parameters that are important for maximizing spray deposition and coverage on the targeted plants.

The event is being held in collaboration with Titan PRO SCI, Innovative Ag Solutions, and

Terraplex Ag. The event will be held at Peterson Farm Solutions, 22077 430th St., Havelock.

Pre-registration by Sept. 3 is required and limited to 50 participants. Register online at https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1HTdgmsADl4UeTY or call the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103.

For more information, Contact Kapil Arora at 515-291-0174 or Gentry Sorenson at 641-430-6715.

DRAINAGE WATER RECYCLING FIELD DAY

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | 5:00-7:00PM
SCHLEISMAN FARM
1532 365TH ST
LAKE CITY, IA 51449**



FREE FIELD DAY AND COMPLIMENTARY MEAL FOR FARMERS, LANDOWNERS AND CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

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