



July 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Iowa is on the edge of major changes in farm land ownership. With most of the state's farms owned by people in their 60s and 70s, the Leopold Center is partnering with Drake University's Agricultural Law Center to make sure conservation is a priority. The new Iowa Landowner and Sustainable Agricultural Land Stewardship project will study lease agreements and other legal issues that affect how land is managed. Read about this new effort: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/062509_Drake.html -- Jerry DeWitt

WANTED – PROJECT IDEAS: We've issued the annual Request for Pre-proposals that will guide the selection of innovative projects to be part of our long-running competitive grants program. Funds for the work will be available in early 2010. One- or two-page concept papers are due 5 p.m. August 19. Investigators from any Iowa nonprofit organization, agency or educational institution (such as soil and water conservation districts, schools and colleges) can apply. Specifics in the 2009 RFP at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/rfp/2009.html

GRASS & DDGS: Can producers who graze beef cattle save money by using ethanol coproducts in their operations? That's the question explored by Iowa State University Extension beef specialist Dan Loy. He is finishing a multi-year study funded by the Ecology Initiative. Watch a video on the Web at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/eco_files/ground.html

VEGGIE TALES: The Fruit and Vegetable Working Group is hosting postharvest handling workshops that will take participants through the steps of harvest, washing, grading, sorting and packing vegetables for wholesale and retail markets. Afternoon workshops will be July 26 at Rock Spring Farm in Decorah and July 27 at Black's Heritage Farm in Ames. Details at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/062909_produce.html

FARM ENERGY: The Leopold Center's newest working group is organized to address on-farm energy needs by providing resources and examples of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy practices for Iowa's small and mid-sized farms. The group is hosting its second meeting at 10 a.m. July 14 at the BECON facility in Nevada, followed by a Practical Farmers of Iowa field day at the facility that begins at 2 p.m. For info about the group, contact Carole Yates at the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy and Environmental Education, (319) 273-7599, e-mail carole.yates@uni.edu

PHOTOS FROM WHITEROCK: This month's photo gallery takes you to Whiterock Conservancy, a non-profit land trust near Coon Rapids that is demonstrating sustainable rural land management and conservation. It's also where Roswell Garst hosted Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, the 50th anniversary of which will be celebrated August 27-29. View the photo gallery at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/gallery/Whiterock/index.html

CONSUMER BUYING GUIDE: The Small Meat Processors Working Group of the Value Chain Partnerships project has a new publication, *Beef and Pork Whole Animal Buying Guide*, PM 2076. It is written for consumers who want to buy pork and beef as whole animals (or portions thereof) from local producers. The guide explains marketing terms, information on storage and handling, meat inspection, meat cut out weight and color photos of common retail beef and pork cuts. Download or buy a copy from Iowa State University Extension at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ItemDetail.aspx?ReturnTo=0&ProductID=13056>

BACKYARD BIRDS: A new Iowa State University Extension guide is designed to help small-scale poultry producers in Iowa figure out poultry slaughter and processing regulations. A map and contact information is included of processing facilities. Find *Iowa Poultry Slaughter, Processing and Sales Guidelines for Small-scale Producers*, PM 2068 at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13044>

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Organizers of "Food Independence Day" are inviting kids who garden to submit a video about "Why I'm a Victory Grower." The grassroots group is encouraging individuals to celebrate the 4th of July by eating food grown locally. The video contest is supported by Seed Savers Exchange and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Details at: <http://foodindependenceday.org/post/116892037/telavision>