



August 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR: It's not often that I have the opportunity to introduce so many new resources from the Leopold Center. This issue of *NOTES* features several new web sites and programs, so be sure to check them out. I am most pleased to offer this web site: Scientific Findings About Organic Agriculture, www.organicag.org. Here you will find summaries of more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles on the quality and nutritional characteristics of organic foods and production practices used in organic agriculture. I know of no other place to find this type of information in one handy location, so I hope you find this web site useful. Let me know what you think, or if you have other articles that should be added.

It also is exciting to launch a new focus area at the Leopold Center, the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group (or GBLWG). The Center has made a three-year commitment and funds for research and development grants. Andy Larson, ISU Extension's new small farms specialist, will coordinate the working group. More in our news release at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/newsreleases/2008/071808_GBLWG.html Please let me know if you have ideas for projects or want to be involved in this exciting endeavor. -- Jerry DeWitt

FOOD GEOGRAPHY A new online resource tracks the origins of 95 different fresh fruits and vegetables typically sold in U.S. supermarkets. Besides showing product origins, the tool allows the user to see which state is the leading domestic producer of these crops. The tool, *Where do your fresh fruits and vegetables come from?*, was developed by the Leopold Center with assistance from ISU's Center for Transportation Research and Education. Check it out at www.leopold.iastate.edu/resources/fruitveg/fruitveg.php

RESEARCH SUMMARIES Can bird nests survive in pastures? What natural seed treatments work for organic? Could excess heat from an ethanol plant support an aquaculture enterprise? How does ISU Dining use local foods? Find answers to these questions in summaries of 25 research projects that completed their work last year. All are in the 2008 *Center Progress Report*, recently published by the Leopold Center, covering work in all three initiatives of Ecology, Marketing and Food Systems and Policy. All summaries also are on-line at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/grants/completed_grants.htm#2008

UPCOMING DEADLINE If you would like to be involved in Leopold Center research, or have an idea for a project, be sure to check out the latest RFP (request for preproposals). In the RFP are guidelines for the type of work to be funded during the next year in the competitive grant process. All preproposals are due August 18. Details at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/rfp/2008.html

STRIP-TILLAGE The Iowa Learning Farm is hosting "Operation Strip-Till" field day August 6 at the Smeltzer Trust Demonstration Farm in Webster County. If you cannot come to the field day, be sure to see the outside display during the Farm Progress Show August 26-28 in rural Boone. Details at: www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf

COWS, BIRDS AND WILDLIFE Southern Iowa landowners, cattle grazing operators and wildlife enthusiasts are invited to attend this evening workshop that will be offered Monday, August 25 near Kellerton in Ringgold County and again on Tuesday, August 26 near Leon in Decatur County. The workshops are funded by a Leopold Center grant. More on the Leopold Center events page: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm

FLOOD RELIEF More than a dozen Iowa sustainable agriculture and faith-based organizations are offering \$500 grants to farmers who have suffered losses due to this spring's storms and flooding. The Iowa Farm Disaster Relief Coalition received a \$10,000 donation from Farm Aid to launch the fund. Applications are available at the group's web site: https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2715/t/7173/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=3737

FLOOD PHOTOS Leopold Center Director Jerry DeWitt offers a firsthand look at the Iowa floods, and a gallery of his photos, in his column in the Summer 2008 issue of *The Leopold Letter*, the Leopold Center's quarterly newsletter. More at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/nwl/2008/2008-2-leoletter/director.html