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FROM THE DIRECTOR: We're always looking for better ways to do things at the Leopold Center. For both financial and environmental reasons, we have stopped publishing our *Center Progress Report* that had been printed annually since 1992. This is the annual collection of key findings from Leopold Center-funded research projects. The good news is that you can find these key findings on the Leopold Center Web site and we'll be adding research summaries more often to keep everyone informed. Go to the "Research Results" Web page for the latest research summaries at: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/topics.html You can look for older reports by year and by topic. We hope the transition to this on-line-only format will be easy for everyone, but please let me know if you have questions. -- Jerry DeWitt

LEOPOLD LETTER: If you like to read our quarterly newsletter, check out our summer issue now on-line. Find out about a new land tenure project and film documentary, new research on bioreactors, an essay about the desert wilderness that informed Aldo Leopold's early ideas about the land and the need for departments of food and agriculture in all Iowa cities and communities. Go to: www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/nwl/currentletter.htm

LOCAL FOODS: The Leopold Center is a sponsor of the Tri-State Local Foods Conference September 4 at the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center in Fairfield. A large part of the conference will focus on food system development; having fresh, delicious and healthy meals served at schools, hospitals, assisted living and nursing homes; and ways to bring change. Speakers include Leopold Center Associate Director Rich Pirog, Matt Russell who coordinates the Iowa Food Policy Project; and ISU economist Dave Swenson on area-wide economic gains that result from increased local foods production and consumption. For more information, check the conference web site: www.travelfairfieldiowa.com/food-conference/

COOL TOOL: Farmers have a new web-based tool to help them set up postharvest handling workflow to ensure food safety and freshness. The Postharvest Handling Decision Tool was developed for the Fruit and Vegetable Working Group coordinated by the Leopold Center and ISU Value Added Agriculture. Look for a link on the Value Chain Partnerships web site, www.valuechains.org

GREEN WINE: In the future, Iowa grapes could be among the most sustainably grown in the country. The Center's Ecology Initiative is funding research that looks at how Iowa grape growers can reduce chemicals for weed control while still producing high yields and high-quality fruit. Leopold Center research also was used to make the case for the first American Viticulture Region (or AVA) in Iowa recently approved by federal regulators. The Upper Mississippi River Valley AVA includes 18 counties in northeast Iowa and is country's largest. A two-year Leopold Center grant helped Limestone Bluffs RC&D start the application process in 2005. Watch a video about current weed research: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/eco_files/ground.html Learn more AVAs in this research summary: www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/grants/2007/2005-M14.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Leopold Center is helping to bring noted author and climate change expert to Iowa in September. Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute and author of eight books, will speak September 24 at the Iowa State University Memorial Union in Ames. Heinberg also is speaking in Ankeny at the annual conference of the Iowa Environmental Council and in Cedar Falls. More on the Leopold Center event page: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm

GRAZING WORKSHOP: August 25-26 at Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake near Monrovia, organized by the Iowa Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative and the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council. Preregistrations are required; check the Leopold Center event calendar for details: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm

HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP: Two in-depth workshops will be offered for commercial fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in high-tunnel structures. The workshops are part of a Leopold Center grant. Register by September 15 for the September 29-October 1 workshop. Contact Linda Naeve, lnaeve@iastate.edu for information; details on the Leopold Center event calendar: www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm