

# 2006 Leopold Center Competitive Grant Projects

The following grants are the result of a Summer 2005 Request for Preproposals, which resulted in 62 project submissions. These projects were selected following a competitive review process. More details about each project are available on the Leopold Center web site, [www.leopold.iastate.edu](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu).

## Marketing and Food Systems Initiative

- **Analysis of transaction costs for small and midsize Iowa farmers**, \$32,967, 1 year, Clyde Walter, *ISU Logistics Operations*; Randy Boeckenstedt, *Center for Transportation Research and Education, ISU*; and Craig Chase, *ISU Extension, Tripoli* [M2006-02]
- **Assessing needs and fostering agricultural entrepreneurship among immigrants in several Iowa communities**, \$15,000, 1 year, Lyle Fleshner, *M&M Divide RC&D, Carroll* [M2006-07]
- **Bridging the Gap: What does it take to bring small and medium-sized producers and retail and food service distributors together?** \$49,500 over 2 years, Mary Holz-Clause, *Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, ISU* [M2006-05]
- **Determining the methods for measuring and the extent of economic and fiscal impacts associated with organic crop conversion in Iowa**, \$15,000, 1 year, David Swenson and Liesl Eathington, *ISU Economics*, and Craig Chase, *ISU Extension, Tripoli* [M2006-12]
- **Functional quality management systems for livestock producers**, \$60,000 over 2 years, John Lawrence, *Iowa Beef Center*; John Mabry, *Iowa Pork Industry Center*; and Mary Holz-Clause, *ISU Value Added Agriculture Extension* [M2006-03]
- **Investigation of economic feasibility of pasture-based dairy operations in Northwest Iowa**, \$7,500, 1 year, Chris Mondak, *ISU Extension, Orange City*, and Tom Olsen, *Storm Lake* [M2006-09]
- **Iowa taste of place project Phase II: Outreach**, \$10,000, 1 year, Rachele Saltzman, *Iowa Arts Council, Des Moines* [M2006-13]
- **New food entrepreneurs - Value added enterprises for farm profitability**, \$21,188, 1 year, Rich Graves, *Wallace House Foundation*, and Christine Pardee, *Des Moines* [M2006-23]
- **Niche-markets in the agricultural enterprise mix: Farm profit optimization and risk analysis**, \$16,370, 1 year, Shane Ellis, *Iowa Beef Center* [M2006-16]
- **Plan demonstration farm to include farm business incubator and educational use**, \$17,850, 1 year, Linda Barnes, *Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown* [M2006-24]
- **Planning a facility for value-added farm business incubation and educational use**, \$7,089, 1 year, Linda Barnes and Tom Deimerly, *Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown* [M2006-25]
- **Strategies to stabilize locally grown produce for year round sales: A feasibility study**, \$53,410 over 2 years, Sam Beattie, Lester Wilson and Aubrey Mendonca, *ISU Food Science and Human Nutrition* [M2006-21]
- **A survey of currently available commercial broilers originating from organic, natural and conventional production systems for cooked meat yields, meat composition and relative value**, \$32,793, 1 year, Joseph Sebranek and Dong Ahn, *ISU Animal Science*, and Sam Beattie, *ISU Food Science and Human Nutrition*, [M2006-01]

For questions, contact initiative leader Rich Pirog, (515) 294-1854, [rspirog@iastate.edu](mailto:rspirog@iastate.edu).

## Policy Initiative

- **Beginning and midsize farm bill analysis and education initiative**, \$25,000 each of 2 years, Mike Duffy, *Beginning Farmer Center, ISU*; and Traci Bruckner, *Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, Nebraska* [P2006-09]
- **Evaluating the Conservation Security Program utilizing the perceptions and economics of producer participation: Implications for land stewardship in Iowa agriculture**, \$38,337, 1 year, James Kliebenstein and Denis Reich, *ISU Economics* [P2006-06]
- **Farm Bill listening sessions**, \$5,440, 1 year, Leigh Adcock, *Iowa Farmers Union Education Foundation, Ames*; Kathie Starkweather, *Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, Nebraska*; and Niel Ritchie, *League of Rural Voters, Minneapolis, Minnesota* [P2006-01]
- **Women, land and legacy: Agricultural policy for changing land ownership**, \$12,686, 1 year, Cassi Johnson, *Iowa City*, and Denise O'Brien, *Atlantic, Women, Food and Agriculture Network* [P2006-10]

For questions, contact interim initiative leader Jerry DeWitt, (515) 294-7836, [jdewitt@iastate.edu](mailto:jdewitt@iastate.edu).



LEOPOLD CENTER  
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Ecology Initiative grants are listed on next page.

## 2006 Leopold Center Competitive Grant Projects

(continued)

### Ecology Initiative

- **Grazing compatibility in and for future years**, \$53,095 over 5 years, *Ed Johnston, Southern Iowa Forage and Livestock Committee and John Klein, Natural Resources Conservation Service* [E2006-01]
- **Integrated soil and weed management production systems for perennial food crops**, \$39,310 over 2 years, *Gail Nonnecke and Craig Dilley, ISU Horticulture, and Tom Loynachan, ISU Agronomy* [E2006-02]
- **The role of herbaceous woodland perennial diversity for improving nutrient uptake capacity of riparian areas – phase II**, \$33,820 over 2 years, *Jan Thompson and Cathy Mabry-McMullen, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management* [E2006-03]
- **New strategies to enhance sustainability of Iowa apple orchards**, \$115,798 over 3 years, *Mark Gleason, ISU Plant Pathology and Matt Liebman, ISU Agronomy* [E2006-04]
- **Bird nesting on rotationally grazed warm- and cool-season grass paddocks in southern Iowa**, \$31,093 for one year, *James Pease and Ryan Marquardt, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management* [E2006-05]
- **Optimizing legume establishment in winter small grains**, \$54,770 over 3 years, *Lance Gibson and Jean-Luc Jannink, ISU Agronomy, and Jeremy Singer, USDA-ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory* [E2006-10]
- **Use of native cover crops to reconstruct native grasslands**, \$8,380 for 1 year, *Brian Wilsey and Andrea Blong, ISU Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology* [E2006-11]
- **Development and implementation of low input delivery systems for ethanol co-products in forage based beef systems**, \$51,862 over 3 years, *Dan Loy, ISU Animal Science and Joe Sellers, ISU Extension* [E2006-12]
- **The impact of biodiversity services in rowcrop production in annual versus perennial landscapes**, \$71,979 over 2 years, *Matt O'Neal, ISU Entomology and Lisa A. Schulte, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management* [E2006-13]
- **Breeding forage and biomass crops to strengthen perennial agricultural systems**, \$53,902 over 3 years, *E. Charles Brummer, ISU Agronomy* [E2006-15]
- **Assessing soil quality impacts after conversion of marginal cropland to productive conservation**, \$7,292 over 2 years, *Tom Sauer, Cindy Camberdella and David E. James, USDA-ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory, and Heidi Asbjornsen, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management* [E2006-17]
- **Devising a framework for implementing cattle-grazing and fire as management tools on grassland reserves in southern Iowa**, \$22,147 for one year, *James R. Miller, ISU Landscape Architecture and Natural Resource Ecology & Management, and David Engle, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management* [E2006-18]
- **Participatory ecology for 'Agriculture of the Middle': Developing tools and partnerships to bridge gaps among science, people and policy in landscape change**, \$54,575 over 3 years, *Lisa Schulte and Ryan Atwell, ISU Natural Resource Ecology & Management, and Lynne M. Westphal, USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station* [E2006-20]

For questions, contact initiative leader Jeri Neal, (515) 294-5610, [wink@iastate.edu](mailto:wink@iastate.edu).