



Take Five

five-minute summary of industry activities for members of the largest state agribusiness association in the nation
The Agribusiness Association of Iowa

AAI Hosts a Successful Ag Day!

AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF IOWA HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL AG DAY

With a great turnout, food, and fun AAI hosted a successful Ag Day at the State Capitol Building on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. The goal of Ag Day is to encourage every Iowan to recognize and celebrate the contributions of agriculture in our everyday lives. The event did just that, by bringing together 22 diverse agriculture and life science groups from across the state to create a festive occasion for legislators, staff and the public. Participants set up displays and distributed food, goodies and information showcasing their organization. This year, we were honored to be joined by Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, who read an Ag Day proclamation. Thank you to all who participated in the event or listened in to the live broadcast on WHO Radio, hosted by Mark Pearson.

Iowa Department of Ag Unveils a New Website

DEPARTMENT OF AG UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The Iowa Department of Agriculture has unveiled a new user friendly website. For information concerning all departments, staff, rules, regulations and more within the department, please go to: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/default.asp>

ISU Corn & Soybean Initiative Announces a New Website

ISU-CSI ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

The Iowa State University Corn and Soybean Initiative is pleased to announce the ISU Integrated Crop Management News, an online source for crop production news and information to provide greater access to Iowa State University Extension resources. This ISU Extension site will grow and change over the next few months, so please visit often. www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews. New features of the site include:

- Weekly or daily e-mail notification of new articles
 - Quick access to crop production sites at Iowa State University
 - Easy-to-print single articles and weekly compilations
- Rapid response when a crisis occurs

Greg Tylka welcomes your comments on the site, please send them by e-mail to cropnews@iastate.edu.

Mark Your Calendars for AAI Golf Outings!

AAI GOLF OUTING SCHEDULE FOR 2008 IS HERE!

AAI is ready to get on the green and has scheduled golf events through the summer. They are all over the State and we want you to be a part of it! We will be at Emerald Hills in Arnolds Park on July 15, Lake Panorama National Golf Course in Panora on July 22, Legacy Golf Course in Norwalk on Aug 26, Amana Colony Golf Course in the Amana Colonies on Sept 9 and Lake Creek Golf Course in Storm Lake on Sept 25. Details and registration for these events will be sent to you. You can also visit the AAI website at www.agribiz.org for additional information. Mark Your Calendars!



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Drive at Your Own Risk on Soggy Roads

COUNTY TO FARMERS: DRIVE AT YOUR OWN RISK ON SOGGY ROADS

By Tim Jamison, Courier Staff Writer

Black Hawk County will rely on common sense instead of slapping weight limits on county gravel roads this spring. County Engineer Richard King and members of the Board of Supervisors backed off initial plans for a 90-day, 15-ton road embargo after intense lobbying from farmers and grain haulers concerned such restrictions would cripple their ability to operate. Instead, county officials implored haulers with heavy loads to use their heads when traversing gravel roads left vulnerable to rutting and other damage due to melting snow and ice.

“Just use some common sense and we’ll get through this,” said board chairman John Miller. “If you’re leaving 6-inch ruts in the road, maybe you need to take a lighter load. If it gets too bad, we will have to barricade those roads to keep people off them.” King also told board members he will be returning with a request for an “infusion of rock money” in the near future. King said he estimates it will take \$550,000 to \$700,000 to buy more gravel to replace the rock scraped off roadways during ice-scraping operations this winter.

IDALS Announces a New State Apiarist

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP NAMES A NEW STATE APIARIST

IDALS has named Andrew Joseph as the new State Apiarist. Andy started in late February, and over the last month has dusted off the program, as the position was suspended in 2001 due to departmental budget constraints. Andy and I are still hammering out the details of how his time will be divided but we believe that splitting it into thirds might be ideal, at least to start:

- One third in regulatory work, such as apiary registration and inspection, coordination of three part-time inspectors, diagnostic testing for disease and mite treatment resistances, etc.;
- One third in conducting beekeeper-courses, meetings, board participation, and in-office work such as composing an Iowa Apiary Inspector Manual, factsheets, future articles for The Buzz and other publications, and act as a contact point for beekeepers across the state;
- One third in public (non-beekeeper) outreach on bees, beekeeping, and pollination / agricultural ecology.

Andy’s enthusiasm concerning apiary opportunities in Iowa is contagious. Andy remarked not long ago that he feels very fortunate to have been given this opportunity to serve the beekeepers and beekeeping industry in this state. “I never could have guessed when first starting out with an interest in bees and a couple hives of bees that my life, career, and family would become so entwined with these insects and the people who keep them.” Please don’t hesitate to contact Andy by phone at (515) 725-1481 or by email,

Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov

Certified Esker Seed Oats for Sale

CERTIFIED ESKER SEED OATS FOR SALE

McCorkle Hardware has an abundance of Certified Esker Seed Oats for sale. Currently they are selling the oats for \$6.75 per bushel. If you would like more information or have any questions please call McCorkle Hardware at 641-943-2315 and ask for Kent or Bob.