

It's
ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH
WEEK

ISU Extension and Outreach Week Is April 6-11

By Andrea Welchans
Iowa State University Extension

AMES – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is April 6-11. With county extension offices, specialists and staff located in all 99 counties, ISU Extension and Outreach connects Iowans throughout the state with education and resources. This celebration thanks Iowans for their support.

County extension staff and extension council members will be showing their appreciation for the people who participate in local educational programs, as well as the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support extension work in their communities, said Andrea Welchans, assistant vice president for county services.

“ISU Extension and Outreach is here with you, in every county in the state, because learning happens where you are. You can find educational resources online and in your county – for you, your family, community, business or farm,” Welchans said.

In FY25, 7,770 volunteers supported extension learning opportunities throughout the state, providing more than 241,000 volunteer hours, a \$7.2 million benefit to Iowans.

Last year ISU Extension and Outreach held more than 10,000 educational events statewide and conducted more than 994,000 educational exchanges with Iowans through educational programming or by connecting them to ISU expertise and resources. In addition, participants in extension programs received more than 85,000 continuing education units or professional certifications.

More than 117,000 youth participated in 4-H youth development education during the September 2024 through August 2025 programming year.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of the federal Cooperative Extension Service — a network of more than 100 land-grant institutions including Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, serving communities and counties across the United States. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level.

See extension’s Real Impact 2025 Report to learn how ISU Extension and Outreach creates opportunity for Iowans. County impact reports also are available. For more information, visit the ISU Extension and Outreach website or contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office.

Prairie Rapids Audubon Society to meet in Cedar Falls

CEDAR FALLS - The next Prairie Rapids Audubon Society meeting will be held on April 14, at 7:00 PM in the lower level of the First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main St. in Cedar Falls. The public is welcome to attend and enjoy the program and refreshments. The featured speaker for the evening, Terry VanDeWalle, will present “The Natural History of the Turtles of Iowa.” To join the meeting virtually, visit www.zoom.com and click the “Meet” menu at the top of the page, then select “Join a meeting.” Enter meeting ID 581 087 8571 and then type in 1999 as the passcode.

The program for the evening will begin with a presentation by local nature photographer Bob Frenchick, who was slated to present at the March meeting but was unable to do so because of technical issues. Immediately following Bob, featured speaker Terry VanDeWalle will share his knowledge as a recognized expert in Midwest herpe-

tology. Terry is a Senior Principal Biologist at Stantec Consulting Services Inc. with over 30 years of experience specializing in animal and natural areas surveys, herpetology, threatened and endangered species surveys, Endangered Species Act Consultation, and coordination of environmental impact statements and assessments. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Hawkeye Community College where he teaches a course on Wildlife Ecology.

Terry’s presentation at the April meeting focuses on turtles, which are arguably the most beloved of the reptiles. Many cultures around the world revere them, and people love to see them basking on log in the sun or swimming in the lake or stream. Iowa has 13 turtle species, ranging from the colorful ornate box turtle to the large snapping turtle. This talk will discuss the features that make turtles unique, provide an overview of the natural

history of each of Iowa’s turtle species, and answer the question, “What is a reptile?”

Terry has authored and co-authored peer-reviewed papers and regional herpetological guides, including The Natural History of the Snakes and Lizards of Iowa, and the recently published The Natural History of the Turtles of Iowa. Each book takes an in-depth look at the natural history of a specific group of Iowa reptiles. Each species account includes a sampling of the common names the species has been known by in the past, the first specimens collected in the state, and a brief history of the early Iowa literature related to the species, along with a complete description, and discussions of similar species, distribution, habitat, behavior, threats, foods and feeding, and reproduction. Terry will have signed copies of both books available for purchase.

Iowa Senate sends bill limiting lawsuits on greenhouse gas emissions to governor

By Robin Opsahl
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The Iowa Senate sent legislation to the governor Tuesday restricting lawsuits against agricultural operations that claim their emissions of greenhouse gases impact the climate.

House File 2527, approved in the Senate 33-13, would limit the ability for individuals to sue farmers and ranchers for greenhouse gas emissions that have an “alleged actual or potential” effect on the climate.

The measure limits the liability of agricultural producers in civil and criminal actions brought on the basis of the impacts of

greenhouse gas emissions on the climate. It places the “burden of proof” on people bringing these lawsuits that the entity has violated existing laws and restrictions on emissions or their permit requirements through emissions — as well as proof that their violation caused damage or injury.

During House debate on the bill in February, Rep. Derek Wulf, R-Hudson, said the measure was needed to protect farmers who could face lawsuits over climate change due to “Green New Deal policies.”

Sen. Art Staed, D-Cedar Rapids, said Tuesday the bill was part of an “alarming trend” of bills attempting to “shield corporate polluters.”

He said the bill would make it “extraordinarily difficult” to hold polluters accountable, which he said was concerning because many of the sources of greenhouse

gas emissions are also emitting other air pollution and toxic chemicals that impact Iowans’ health.

Staed said the language in the Iowa bill saying lawsuits can move forward based on permit violations or other legal infractions is “simply a red herring.” He noted the Trump administration moved in February to rescind the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, a 2009 requirement for regulating emissions from new vehicles and motor engines. He said permits are “a floor, not a guarantee of safety, and when you remove legal accountability beyond those, permits remove a critical layer of protection for the public.”

“This bill will only contribute to the ongoing race to the bottom, as far as climate protections are concerned,” Staed said. “The real threat to Iowa’s agriculture is not

lawsuits, it’s climate change, with dangerous droughts, record-shattering heat waves and torrential rains destroying crops across America’s heartland. This bill takes us in the opposite direction of where we should be headed.”

Sen. Tom Shipley, R-Nodaway, the bill’s floor manager in the Senate, said the bill still requires agriculture producers abide by permits and other regulations, but just ensures that lawsuits are based in specific claims.

“Many of these places operate with air emissions permits, and as long as they’re within the bounds of their permit, they are good to operate,” Shipley said. “The issue becomes, if someone accuses them of going beyond it, the onus is on them to prove it.”

The bill goes to Gov. Kim Reynolds for final approval.

HEALTH: FROM COVER

vices, including:

- A household sharps disposal program
- Disease investigations, outbreak response, and communication to the public
- School and licensed childcare vaccine audits
- Educational programs for schoolage students
- Maintaining a comprehensive community resource guide
- Collaboration with community partners through coalitions, committees, and boards

These programs, along with many others, are under the auspices of two highly skilled and dedicated staff members, Administrator, Katie ThorntonLang and Program Coordinator, Jordyn Beeghly. They manage grants, track budgets, educate the public, and assist with referrals.

In addition, Carie Sparks serves as our valued County Sanitarian in the Environmental Health office, issuing septic and well permits, conducting septic system inspections, performing water and soil testing, and providing radon test kits for purchase at the Grundy County Courthouse for \$8.

The services offered by GCPH and Environmental Health are essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Residents are encouraged to reach out with any questions or needs related to public or environmental health.

On behalf of GCSBOH, please join us in celebrating National Public Health Week—and in thanking our local public health team for their dedication to keeping Grundy County healthy.



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Mid-Iowa Cooperative is hiring Grain Settlement Coordinator

Key Responsibilities:

- Process grain settlements, including discounts, premiums, storage, drying, and service charges.
- Record grain purchases, sales, transfers, and shrink adjustments with accurate pricing and quantities.
- Reconcile daily, weekly, and monthly grain inventories across all locations.
- Verify scale tickets, load data, and grading information for accuracy.
- Reconcile grain contracts (basis, HTA, futures-fixed, and cash) and track fulfillment.
- Coordinate hedge positions with merchandising staff and brokerage statements.
- Prepare month-end journal entries related to grain inventory, hedging, and cost of goods sold.
- Support financial statement preparation, reporting, and variance analysis.
- Ensure compliance with internal controls, accounting procedures, and company policies.
- Provide audit support through accurate documentation and transaction details.
- Communicate with producers regarding settlements, contract balances, and account questions.
- Contact Mid-Iowa Cooperative for full job description

Required Qualifications:

- Associates degree in accounting, Finance, Agribusiness, or related field (or equivalent experience).
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and other Office applications.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills with high attention to detail.
- Strong communication, problem-solving skills, and customer service.
- Familiarity with grain grading, shrink, basis, and hedging concepts preferred

Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, and Paid Time Off

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Mid-Iowa Cooperative is hiring Regional Manager - Grain Operations

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee daily operations across multiple grain facilities, ensuring safe and efficient grain handling, storage, drying, and shipping.
- Manage grain quality, inventory control, regulatory compliance, and facility maintenance programs.
- Coordinate with merchandising, dispatch, and other operational teams to optimize logistics, bin management, and weekly priorities.
- Supervise, lead, and develop full-time and part-time employees, including performance evaluations, workforce planning, and SMART goal development.
- Promote a strong culture of safety, accountability, and customer service while ensuring compliance with OSHA, state, federal, and company standards.
- Train employees in office and facility operational procedures, regulatory requirements, safety protocols.
- Maintain strong relationships with customers, producers, suppliers, transportation partners, and the broader agricultural community
- Contact Mid-Iowa Cooperative for full job description

Required Qualifications:

- Three plus years of experience in grain operations, merchandising or agribusiness management

Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Roth, and Paid Time Off

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