

The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!



Laurens, Iowa



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Local News

Tevis Reaches Career Milestone with AMVC

AMVC Management Services recently recognized employees who achieved career milestones. Among the recipients was Ronald Tevis of Laurens, who celebrated his tenth work anniversary with AMVC.

Tevis is employed as an AMVC swine specialist at Hawkeye Six, a breed to wean sow farm near Laurens. He is responsible for completing daily chores and caring for sows, boars, and piglets on the farm. Tevis commented his favorite part of his job is the company atmosphere and working with his co-workers, who provide guidance and support him.

“Ron is a committed animal caretaker, and he’s a great team member. We appreciate his hard work over the last ten years and congratulate him on this accomplishment,” said Jason

Peters, AMVC sow farm manager.

Before working at AMVC, Tevis worked in the construction industry. He decided to apply to work at the sow farm at a friend’s recommendation. Tevis received on-farm training, as he did not have previous swine experience before working at the local sow farm. Ten years later, he continues to be excited for future years at the sow farm.

AMVC is proud to employ dedicated employees, like Ron, who are committed to doing the right thing every day.

AMVC Management Services, a diversified swine management company based in Audubon,

Iowa, is the ninth-largest pork producer in the United States and has a swine management presence in ten states.



Pictured: Ron Tevis, left, is congratulated by his manager, Jason Peters, right, on his 10 years work anniversary with AMVC

Iowa Master Conservationist Program to begin in Hamilton, Webster, Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties

Course will provide hands-on interaction with Iowa's rich natural resources

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer the Iowa Master Conservationist Program starting May 18. The program will take place at different locations within Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster and Pocahontas Counties, providing participants with hands-on interaction showing the diversity of the state's natural resources. The program teaches about Iowa's natural ecosystems and the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities within the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for leading and educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

The program consists of approximately 12 hours of online curriculum and seven weekly three-hour face-to-face meetings. The online modules will include lessons and resources by Iowa State University subject-matter experts to be reviewed at the participants' own pace at home or at the ISU Extension and Outreach County office. Module topics include conservation history and science, understanding Iowa ecosystems, implementing conservation practices in human dominated landscapes and developing skills to help educate others about conservation practices.

The face-to-face meetings held on Tuesday evenings will build on the online lessons. The program schedule is as follows:

- May 18 - Camp Wanoki, Fort Dodge for introductions to the program
- May 25 – Bells Mills Park in Hamilton County to learn about Setting the Stage: Land, Water and Conservation in Iowa
- June 1 - Brushy Creek to learn about prairies
- June 8 – Joe Sheldon Park in Humboldt County for forests
- June 15 – Lizard Lake in Pocahontas County for aquatic environments
- June 22 – Smelter Farm near Otho to hear about watersheds
- June 29 – Frank A. Gotch Park in Humboldt County for Planting the Seeds of Conservation.

All programs are from 6-9 p.m. Each face-to-face meeting will be led by local subject-matter experts to demonstrate how the principles covered in the online curriculum play out locally.

Steering committee partners include: Humboldt County Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Webster County Conservation, Webster County Pheasants Forever, Hamilton County Conservation, and Pocahontas County Conservation.

Registration for the course is \$125 and includes all materials and refreshments and is due at the time of registration. Please register online by May 11 at:

<http://bit.ly/masterconservationist>

Questions? Please contact Webster County Extension 515-576-2119; Hamilton County Extension 515-832-9597; Pocahontas County Extension 712-335-3103 or Humboldt County Extension 515-332-2201.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County Celebrate Extension Week

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is celebrated every year and is an opportunity for the 99-county campus to give back and thank those who have supported and continue to support the community and Extension and Outreach. The Pocahontas County Extension Office Celebrated ISU Extension and Outreach Week by honoring and thanking their partners and volunteers by passing out Appreciation Boxes. The boxes included cookies and a certificate thanking those for their partnership and support. Over all 40 dozen cookies were distributed and consumed throughout Pocahontas County.

The weeks activities included a Meet and Greet for Child Care Providers. Linking Families and Communities, as well as Child Care Recourse and Referral were available at the Expo Center in Pocahontas on Tuesday, April 13th to answer questions and get to know child care providers in Pocahontas and surrounding communities.

2021 Pocahontas County District Fair

4-H and FFA members in grades 4-12 in Buena Vista, Calhoun, Clay, Humboldt, Kossuth, Sac, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Webster are invited to participate in the 2021 Pocahontas County fair July 14-19 in Pocahontas. 4-H and FFA members must have their livestock identified in their home county by May 15 and must make entry to the Pocahontas County fair in fairentry.com no later than June 25. The fairbook is posted online at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/pocahontas/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/pocahontas/2021%20%20Fairbook.pdf> the schedule is posted but subject to change, final schedule will be posted July 1, 2021. If you have any questions or need help with the entry process please contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office at 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu.

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***At the Library
with Glenda Mulder
April 29, 2021***

I have the sort of news I haven't had in over a year—we have an adult program scheduled at the library! Oh, how I have missed our programs!

Chris Hodges, Laurens Class of 1971, is now the author of three historical fiction books. We will host an author talk during the Laurens Summer Celebration. It will be Saturday morning at 11 a.m. More details later, but in the meantime, his books are available for you to check out at the library.

I think I'll give nonfiction top billing this week. We received: *The Beauty of Living Twice* by Sharon Stone, *Broken (in the best possible way)* by Jenny Lawson, *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country* by Amanda Gorman, and *World Travel: an Irreverent Guide* by Anthony Bourdain and Laurie Woolever.

In fiction, we received: *The Newcomer* by Mary Kay Andrews, *Northern Spy* by Flynn Berry, *The Cottage on Lighthouse Lane* by Davis Bunn, *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahri, *Country Proud* by Linda Lael Miller, *Lady has a Past* by Amanda Quick, *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan, *Family Reunion* by Nancy Thayer, and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir.

While I enjoyed rereading John Steinbeck's classic, *The Grapes of*

Wrath, I am ready for a palette cleansing, light, uplifting book or two! Next month we will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *Home Front*.

Coming Events

May 4 @ 6 pm - Take it Tuesday will have a patriotic theme

May 24 @ 7 pm - Book Club *Home Front* by Kristin Hannah

***Happy Birthday
Shirley***

The family of Shirley (Lampman) Mackey would like to honor her with a card shower in celebration of her 85th Birthday on May 3rd.

Cards and memories may be sent to her at: 515 West Main Street, Laurens, Iowa 50554.

Spring Open House
Thursday, April 29th
NOON - 7:00 PM
Laurens, IOWA

Spring is nature's way of saying
"let's go shopping"

- Lizziedoodle Gifts & Home Decor
- Cuts To Dye For
- Heart 'n Home
- Embrace Boutique
- Gather on Third
- Rhi's Real Beauty
(• At Embrace Boutique •)
- William & Wesley

This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Ed Frank

Thurs., April 29:

Bible Study @ 1 p.m. with Linda Lingo at the church

Sat., May 1:

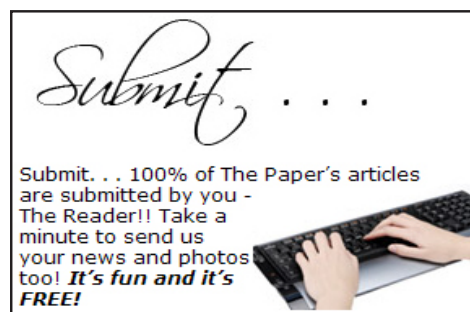
United Methodist Men's Meeting @ 8 a.m.

Sun., May 2:

Sunday school from 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Graduate Recognition

Mon., May 3:

Quilt Club @ 7 p.m.



Biggest Little Paper In Town!

This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Thursday: April 29, 2021

2:00 PM ~ Circle Group at Bethany

Sunday: May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Youth SS

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion,
SS Program & Honor graduates

NO Youth Group

Thursday: May 3, 2021

4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

Tuesday: May 4, 2021

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

*Worship, Love, Accept~ Together
in Christ's Name*



Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF

MASS TIMES:

Daily Mass as scheduled in the weekly bulletin

Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Sunday, May 2

10:00 a.m. - Coffee

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Wednesday, May 5

7:00 p.m. - Mission Council



New Hope Baptist Church

202 Byron St, Laurens

New Hope Baptist Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 a.m. and our Worship Service at 11 a.m. Additionally all are welcome to attend our weekly Bible Study held each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

Remote Work Certificate Opens Employment Possibilities

Over the past year, many Iowans have experienced working remotely. Their experiences have convinced them – and their employers – that remote work can continue to be a viable option, with or without a pandemic.

“Remote work is likely here to stay,” said Brenda Schmitt, a human sciences specialist in family finance with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. “Having the skills to be successful in remote work can open employment possibilities for Iowans no matter where they live.”

Iowans can gain these skills through the Remote Work Certificate. ISU Extension and Outreach offers the virtual course in partnership with Utah State University Extension.

The four-week course is open to adult learners and requires approximately 30 hours to complete. Participants work at their own pace but must participate in four weekly virtual workshops and submit weekly assignments.

“The course simulates remote work,” Schmitt explained. “Participants work independently on the assignments and meet as a group each week for one-hour via Zoom to practice technology, etiquette and virtual small-group work. Participants are divided into work groups made

up of individuals across the U.S. to complete a project.”

Participants must have broadband internet access, a Web camera and microphone, and basic computer proficiency. The course registration fee is \$249 and upon completion participants receive a Remote Work Certificate.

A new session begins each month, except in July and December. Upcoming sessions are listed and registration information is available on the Human Sciences Extension and Outreach website at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/remote-work>.

Five human sciences specialists coordinate the course and provide support for participants. At the end of the four-week course, participants who would like one-on-one assistance in setting career goals, identifying gaps in skills and finding opportunities for remote work can schedule time with a specialist.

Participants take the course for many reasons, Schmitt noted. Some are preparing for remote employment. Some are transitioning from an on-site job to remote work. Others are looking for professional development and are investing in themselves. Remote work can provide self-employed entrepreneurs with flexibility and access to a larger pool of contract work to select from as they build their business.

The course also is appropriate for high school seniors who want to enter the workforce upon graduation, Schmitt continued. Many already possess the necessary technology

skills, and the course can add the experience of remote work that may appeal to potential employers.

“Other students will find remote work valuable as they pay their way through college. By working remotely, they won’t have to find a different job when they return home during semester breaks,” Schmitt said.

4-H and FFA Livestock Identifications Due

All animals that will be exhibited at the 2021 Pocahontas County Fair must be identified no later than May 15. Livestock ear tags may be purchased at the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. If you need help with the identification process please call or email - 712-335-3103 or lzeman@iastate.edu.

Livestock Producers Can Track Their Costs and Insurance Options

Newly updated resources from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are available to help livestock producers track their cost of production and work through price insurance options.

The “Livestock Enterprise Budgets for Iowa” and “Livestock Risk Insurance Plans for Cattle Producers” are both available in the April edition of Ag Decision Maker.

The “enterprise budgets” publication provides estimates of production costs for common livestock produced in Iowa, using estimates that reflect average or above-average levels of management and expected input and output prices for 2021.

Producers are encouraged to enter their own costs for items like feed, labor, facilities, equipment and transportation. The publication helps producers understand and identify fixed costs (those that occur regardless of the level of production) and variable costs (those that vary according to the level of production).

Each of the eleven livestock enterprise budgets has a coordinating Decision Tool for producers to enter

their own information or they can start with the same inputs as the ISU budget and make adjustments.

“We’ve set these budgets up so producers can insert their own on-farm numbers,” said Tim Christensen, farm management specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “The more accurate the input numbers are, the more accurate the numbers will be for each operation.”

The goal is to help producers think critically about the different costs and opportunities associated with each species, while providing different scenarios of what could happen throughout the year.

The publication on livestock insurance covers two programs administered through the farm bill, known as Livestock Risk Protection and Livestock Gross Margin.

The LRP program provides protection against price declines, while the LGM program provides protection against loss of gross margin (market value of livestock minus feed costs).

“Both programs are great ways for livestock producers to have some risk management protection against adverse price movements,” Christensen said.

The article provides an update on recent changes, which includes a higher level of subsidy available, and the ability to pay premiums at the end of the insurance period, instead of upfront.

Both products are available to producers of all sizes and must be

purchased through an authorized insurance agent.

A Decision Tool comparing coverage levels for covered livestock species under the Livestock Revenue Protection program has also been updated.

This month’s Ag Decision Maker also includes a look at the “push-n-pull” factors supporting hog prices, written by Lee Schulz, associate professor in economics and livestock economist at Iowa State University.

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Well Water Woes When Drought Comes

Iowa has been blessed with about the right amount of rain for crops and, in almost any location, a well can be dug to provide enough water for a household. The water table is often close to the surface but because the glacial till soils are compact at depths, the lateral flow rate is slow, providing 10 to 20 gallons per minute pumping rates. The water in these shallow open aquifers becomes somewhat stratified with the highest quality water near the surface where the flow rates are better and, during normal years, where most of the water comes from. The water deeper down has been there for a long time and has dissolved a lot of naturally accruing minerals that can cause issues with our modern lifestyles.

I have lived in a farmstead that is over 100 years old with an 85-ft well that has served our needs, but drought causes my wife aggravations that I have to solve. Three of these water woes are: Harder water, red water and smelly water.

1. Harder water. Calcium and magnesium are healthy minerals in the soil that quickly dissolve in our water, but if you add detergent to the water they turn to scum. Dishes and clothes do not get clean and there may be a scum ring in the bathtub. We have always needed a water softener to replace the

calcium, magnesium and sodium that does not turn the soap to scum. Our normal hardness level at our home is about 5 grains of hardness. Because of the drought, our hardness level has increased to 50 grains, which means an adjustment on the water softener and buying a lot more salt. If the weather continues to be dry, I will have to check it again and continue to make adjustments to the softener. Also, I must remember to check it after it rains a lot, so I don't waste salt. Problem solved.

2. Red water. Iron in our water is also healthy to drink as long as it is clear and not in high amounts. The deeper water that we use during these dryer times has a lot of iron and there are natural iron-reducing bacteria in the soil that will turn the iron to rust making the water red. They live in the well and the water pipes, mostly next to the side walls of the pipes. The rust accumulates there for years. They multiply slowly in the cold water and are not a health concern. But have an interruption in power so the pipes go dry, then years of rust flake off the pipes, the water turns red like blood and all the sinks and toilets in the house plug their aeration screens. All my pipes are plastic or copper, so the rust is from the water itself, never the pipes. There are potassium permanganate filters that work like a softener to remove iron, but I have chosen a whole house screen filter to remove all the rust that flakes off the pipes before the water softener. Second problem solved.

3. Smelly water. My wife says that the hot shower water smells bad.

Then I tell her it is the iron-reducing bacteria working in the water heater to turn the sulfur to hydrogen sulfide (which makes a rotten egg smell). While I can smell the hydrogen sulfide, she thinks I am going to die taking a shower. To be fair, women do have more sensitive noses than men. Research has confirmed that fact. Nonetheless, I have to fix the problem ASAP or find a new place for my wife. So, for the first time in 30 years, I need to kill all those iron-reducing bacteria especially those in the water heater. I decide to shock chlorinate the well. For me this requires 12 gallons of bleach and a 2-day process of leaving high levels of bleach in the water heater and the rest of my pipes. The bleach kills the iron-reducing bacteria and the rust comes off the plastic pipes in large clumps, plugging my filter many times requiring cleaning. Third problem solved... Hopefully for 30 or more years into the future.

For more information on Good Wells for Safe water, visit <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4149> or for information on Shock Chlorinating Small Water Systems, visit <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4200>.

Virtual Community Food Systems Certification to be Offered Online

*Course begins June 3 with some
scholarships available*

Food systems practitioners nationwide can ramp up their skills by enrolling in Community Food Systems training and certification, offered entirely online by the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm, Food and Enterprise Development Program.

The training includes both live virtual discussions and pre-recorded online learning modules. The next class cohort begins June 3 and runs through Dec. 16. Some scholarships are available. May 28 is the deadline to register and apply for a scholarship.

Food systems practitioners who successfully complete the course will increase their capacity to work within communities and develop food systems. The virtual workshops center around activities and networking with colleagues to learn a new framework for community food systems development.

“The Community Food Systems certification is being offered in an

all-virtual format, which allows participants to connect with other food systems practitioners across the nation,” said Kaley Hohenshell, program coordinator with Farm, Food and Enterprise Development with ISU Extension and Outreach. “This cohort-style certification course includes both independent and group learning with an emphasis on networking between participants.”

The curriculum focuses on building facilitation skills and developing vision, mission and core values. Participants also learn tools for conducting community food systems assessments, prioritization methods, evaluation techniques and project management and development.

The online modules offer intensive curriculum around visioning and implementation, conducting community food systems assessments and mapping for decision-making, tools for project management and evaluation, feasibility studies, economic impact and design thinking. Participants who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion in Community Food Systems.

Related links and registration

- The ISU Extension and Outreach Community Food Systems Program
- Cohort schedule: [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/wp-](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/wp-content/uploads/CFS-Workshop-Schedule_May2021_without-zoom-info.pdf)

[content/uploads/CFS-Workshop-Schedule_May2021_without-zoom-info.pdf](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/wp-content/uploads/CFS-Workshop-Schedule_May2021_without-zoom-info.pdf)

- Registration: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15888>
- Scholarship application: www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/wp-content/uploads/CFS-Full-Cert-Scholarship-Application_Mar-2021.pdf
- Syllabus: www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/wp-content/uploads/CFS-Full-Syllabus_2021.pdf
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