

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version A – Secretary’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Plant 100 trees in the community.

Ability: To rise to the point of order.

Business: Demonstrate parliamentary procedure for the Lions Club.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version A – Judge's Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

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Ability: To rise to the point of order.

Business: Demonstrate parliamentary procedure for the Lions Club.

1. Name the three divisions of the Program of Activities.

(Page 35, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Student Development, Chapter Development, Community Development

2. According to the FFA Manual, which officer prepares and submits the membership roster to National FFA?

(Page 37, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

The Treasurer

3. Does a motion to adjourn require a second?

(Page 42, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Yes, a motion to adjourn requires a second.

4. Name the six responsibilities of the Sentinel.

(Page 37, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“1. Assist the president in maintaining order. 2. Keep the meeting room, chapter equipment and supplies in proper condition. 3. Welcome guests and visitors 4. Keep the meeting room comfortable. 5. Take charge of candidates for degree ceremonies. 6. Assist with special features and refreshments.”

5. The Treasurer is stationed by which symbol?

(Page 39, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Bust of Washington

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version B – Secretary's Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Conduct a canned food drive.

Ability: To amend a motion.

Business: Build a new swing set for the Elementary School.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version B – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Conduct a canned food drive.

Ability: To amend a motion.

Business: Build a new swing set for the Elementary School.

1. What is the FFA Motto?

(Page 17, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.”

2. What does the cross section of the ear of corn on the FFA Emblem represent?

(Page 16, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“The cross section of the ear of corn provides the foundation of the emblem, just as corn has historically served as the foundation crop of American agriculture. It is also a symbol of the unity, as corn is grown in every state of the nation.”

3. Name four of the six responsibilities of the Advisor.

(Page 37, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“1. Supervise chapter activities year-round. 2. Inform prospective students and parents about the FFA. 3. Instruct students in leadership and personal development. 4. Build school and community support for the program. 5. Encourage involvement of all chapter members in activities. 6. Prepare students for involvement in career development events and leadership program.”

4. Name three of the four reasons to use parliamentary procedure at a meeting.

(Page 41, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“1. One item is addressed at a time. 2. Courtesy is extended to everyone. 3. The majority rules. 4. The rights of the minority are protected.”

5. How many taps of the gavel signals the members to stand?

(Page 41, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“Three taps of the gavel is the signal for all members to stand in unison on the third tap.”

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version C – Secretary’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Design new landscaping for the school.

Ability: Refer to a Committee.

Business: Build a gazebo in the city park.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version C – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Design new landscaping for the school.

Ability: Refer to a Committee.

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“1. One item is addressed at a time. 2. Courtesy is extended to everyone. 3. The majority rules. 4. The rights of the minority are protected.”

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Bust of Washington

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version D – Secretary’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Hold a beef show in March.

Ability: Table a Motion

Business: Invite a State FFA Officer to the Banquet.

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*

Version D – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Hold a beef show in March.

Ability: Table a Motion

Business: Invite a State FFA Officer to the Banquet.

1. Name the three divisions of the Program of Activities.

(Page 35, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Student Development, Chapter Development, Community Development

2. What does the cross section of the ear of corn on the FFA Emblem represent?

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“The cross section of the ear of corn provides the foundation of the emblem, just as corn has historically served as the foundation crop of American agriculture. It is also a symbol of the unity, as corn is grown in every state of the nation.”

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5. How many taps of the gavel signals the members to stand?

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“Three taps of the gavel is the signal for all members to stand in unison on the third tap.”

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Creed Speaking* CDE Questions
Version A

1. In the fourth paragraph, you stated “... playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.” What does that statement mean to you?
 2. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
 3. In the third paragraph, you stated “... producing and marketing the product of our toil.” Describe two new production or marketing methods for ag products.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Creed Speaking* CDE Questions
Version B

1. What does the phrase “in less need for charity and more of it when needed” mean to you?
 2. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
 3. What does the FFA Creed mean to you?

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Creed Speaking* CDE Questions
Version C

1. What does the phrase “with a faith born not of words but of deeds” mean to you?
 2. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
 3. What are the “best traditions of our national life”?

2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Creed Speaking* CDE Questions
Version D

1. Why did you choose to participate in the Creed Speaking CDE?
 2. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
 3. What does “I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others” mean to you?

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE*

Topics

Version A

2007-08 General Themes:

- a.) Agriscience and Technology;
- b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations;
- c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

How will by-products of the Biofuels industry (Dry Distillers Grains, Wet Distillers Grains, etc.) affect Iowa's agriculture economy?

How is US agriculture working with other countries to combat a possible Bird Flu epidemic?

What are the potential impacts on food safety in Iowa with the recent issues such as the ground beef recall by Cargill?

**2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE*
Topics
Version B**

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

What affect does the rising average age of today's farmers have on Iowa agriculture?

What is the most important international issue currently facing American agriculture?

What work is being done to increase efficiency in the biofuels industry?

**2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE*
Topics
Version C**

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

What new changes to the Farm Bill will affect agriculture?

What marketing strategies can Iowa grain producers use to be more profitable?

How does approval of genetically modified crops in the Far East affect Iowa agriculture?

**2008 Iowa FFA Association
Sub-District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE*
Topics
Version D**

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Do the availability of genetically modified crops hurt or help the family farmer?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a producer-owned cooperative?

How important or unimportant is a strong Asian economy to Iowa agriculture?

Generic Employment Application

Employer Name:

Job Number:

Position:

Date:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (Last, First, Middle)	Telephone Number
Address	Message Number
City/State/Zip	E-mail Address

Are you legally authorized to work in the United States? Yes No

Are You Applying For:	What Shift(s) Will You Work?	May We Contact Present Employer?
<input type="checkbox"/> F/T <input type="checkbox"/> P/T <input type="checkbox"/> Temp	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings <input type="checkbox"/> Nights	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY - Begin With Most Recent Employment

Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number

MILITARY - Branch of Service:

Describe any military training received relevant to the position for which you are applying:

EDUCATION/TRAINING - Include Technical/Academic Achievements/Courses

Have you obtained a high school diploma or GED certificate? Yes No

School	Name & Location	Diploma/Degree	Subject Of Specialization
College/University			
Specialized Courses & Training			

CLERICAL SKILLS - To Be Completed for Clerical Positions

Typing, WPM		Medical Terminology <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Legal Terminology <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
List Specific Computer Skills –			

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL INFORMATION - To Be Completed for Licensed/Registered Positions

Idaho Registration No.	Expiration Date	Certificate No.	Expiration Date
If not licensed in Idaho, have you applied? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If licensed in another state, list:	

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS - List Other Specific Skills You Have to Offer for This Job Opening:

--

REFERENCES - Give the Names of Three Persons Not Related to You

Name	Address	Telephone	Occupation

The information on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DISTRIBUTES THIS FORM SOLELY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF EMPLOYERS AND APPLICANTS, AND DISCLAIMS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS FORM IS COMPLETED OR USED IN THE HIRING PROCESS.

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version A – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: Donate \$200 to the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Ability: To Suspend the Rules.

Business: Send the officer team to the Washington Leadership Conference.

Ability: To Refer to a Committee.

Business: To hold an antique tractor pull.

Ability: To Rise to the Point of Order.

Business: To purchase a DVD player for the classroom.

Ability: To Adjourn.

Business: Plant decorative grasses at the nursing home.

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if an amendment that is offered receives no second?

(Page 15, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Without a second, the motion dies for lack of support.”

2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a vote to table a motion resulted in a tie?

(Page 23, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“The presiding officer is not permitted to vote unless: 1.) his/her vote will break a tie (to pass a motion), or 2.) his/her vote will make a tie (to defeat a motion).

3. Two taps of the gavel are used for what action?

(Page 8, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Two strokes are used to call a meeting to order.”

4. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member began to discuss the motion to take a motion from the table?

(Center Section, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

Motion to Take from the Table is not Debatable. The member should be called out of order.

5. Business can be referred to two types of committees. Name the two types of committees.

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Any business matter may be referred to a standing or permanent committee or to an ad hoc or temporary committee.”

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version B – Judge's Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: To conduct a farm safety day camp.

Ability: To Lay a Motion on the Table.

Business: To build a town welcome sign.

Ability: To Amend a Motion.

Business: To purchase a small planter for the test plot.

Ability: To Reconsider a Motion.

Business: To organize an FFA 4th of July Picnic.

Ability: To Change the Presiding Officer.

Business: To send members to the District Greenhand Fireup.

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if the point of order to which a member had risen was not appropriate?

(Page 56 from 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"When a point of order is not clearly supported by an authority or is not considered appropriately raised, the Chair may rule, "The point of order is not sustained." Reasons for this decision should be given. Any member not agreeing with this decision may Appeal from the Decision of the Chair."

2. How many amendments can a single motion have on the floor at one time?

(Page 46 from 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"A motion may not have more than two amendments on the floor at the same time."

3. One tap of the gavel is used for what action?

(Page 8, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"One stroke of the gavel is used to announce the result of a vote, to get attention, or to indicate that members should be seated.."

4. Name four countable voting methods.

(Page 21 from 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"Countable voting methods include: raising hands, standing, marking paper ballots, calling the role of members, circulating a mechanical voting device"

5. As presiding officer, what would you do if a vote resulted in a tie?

(Page 23 from 1994 edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"When a vote results in a tie, the motion fails. A tie is not a "more than half" for the affirmative side, so a simple majority is not achieved."

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version C – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.

Business: To purchase the FFA New Horizons Magazine for the school library.

Ability: To Appeal from the Decision of the Chair.

Business: To hold an FFA Sweetheart Dance for Valentine’s Day.

Ability: To Take from the Table.

Business: To refinish a tractor as a chapter project.

Ability: To Adjourn.

Business: To donate a refinished tractor to the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Ability: To Rise to the Point of Order.

Business: To tour the local golf course.

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member moved to refer a matter to a committee, and the motion to refer received no second?

(Page 15, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Without a second, the motion dies for lack of support.”

2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member who had voted on the losing side moved to reconsider?

(Page 64, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“The motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted on the prevailing (victorious) side.”

3. What are two advantages of referring items to a committee?

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“...Is to secure more detailed information on a matter that is before the assembly, before taking action on it.”

“... Allows for more informal discussion of an item of business that can be given during a business meeting.”

4. As the presiding officer, what would you do if a member made remarks on a motion before it was seconded?

(Page 15, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Once another member “seconds” the motion, it can be discussed by the group and a vote taken.” The member who discussed before the second should be called out of order by the chair.

5. Business can be referred to two types of committees. Name the two types of committees.

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“Any business matter may be referred to a standing or permanent committee or to an ad hoc or temporary committee.”

2008 Iowa FFA Association

Sub-District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version D – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.
Business: Request a State FFA Officer Chapter Visit.

Ability: To Lay a Motion on the Table.
Business: Hold a chapter ski trip in March.

Ability: To Change the Presiding Officer.
Business: Send five members to the District Leadership Camp.

Ability: Refer to a Committee.
Business: Send the officer team to the Washington Leadership Conference.

Ability: To Reconsider a Motion.
Business: Plant flowers at city hall.

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if the point of order to which a member had risen was not appropriate?

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Radio Broadcasting CDE

Sub-District Level - Iowa FFA Association

2007-08

Land values continue rise: Survey

Lesson No. 1 in the world of \$4 corn may be that it breeds big increases in other areas, such as farmland values.

The most recent survey of farmland values in Iowa shows prices which had risen only 2.9 percent between March and September last year suddenly skyrocketed 13.6 percent in the past six months.

That amounts to a statewide increase of 16.5 percent over the past year.

"That's what \$4 corn can do for you," says Troy Louwagie, a realtor with Hertz Land Management.

Louwagie conducts the land trends and values survey for the Iowa Farm and Land Chapter No. 2 REALTORS Land Institute, an organization of farmland Realtors in Iowa.

Participants in the survey were asked to estimate the average value of Iowa farmland as of March 1.

All nine crop reporting districts showed an increase, and the jumps ranged from 4.9 percent in South Central Iowa to 20 percent in North Central Iowa for September-March.

Louwagie says the reason is simply corn prices have shot up the past six months.

"All the other issues, the interest rates, the 1031 exchanges, all those get overshadowed when you suddenly get \$4 corn," he notes.

The next question, he says, is what will happen with corn prices in the coming months.

If corn prices remain high, land prices may continue to climb, he says.

If corn prices level off or drop land prices likely will stabilize or even drop.

So, the question now will be whether this past six months will amount to a very big blip on the radar screen or whether it will be the beginning of a long-term land price increase.

The increases over the past six months for different crop reporting districts are:

>13.1 percent for Central Iowa;

>12.1 percent for East Central Iowa;

>20 percent for North Central Iowa;
>18 percent for Northeast Iowa;
>12.1 percent for Northwest Iowa;
>4.9 percent for South Central Iowa;
>16.2 percent for Southeast Iowa;
>15.4 percent for Southwest Iowa; and
>10.5 percent for West Central Iowa.

The state average price for land yielding more than 160 bushels per acre is \$4,313 as of March 1, compared to \$3,797 on Sept. 1, 2006.

The averages, as of March 1, for each crop reporting district are:

>\$4,646 for Central Iowa;
>\$4,607 for East Central Iowa;
>\$4,499 for North Central Iowa;
>\$4,606 for Northeast Iowa;
>\$4,339 for Northwest Iowa;
>\$3,246 for South Central Iowa;
>\$4,456 for Southeast Iowa;
>\$3,931 for Southwest Iowa; and
>\$4,490 for West Central Iowa.

Expert says rust found on dead leaves a first

The Asian soybean rust confirmed in the state by Iowa State University and the USDA this past week is a learning opportunity for experts and farmers.

Greg Tylka, ISU plant pathologist, says the case is a first because most rust has been confirmed on green-leaf samples.

On March 8, he says an independent crop consultant brought in two baggies, one containing seeds and pods and one with parts of a dead soybean leaf.

"It is almost unbelievable," Tylka says. "We were extremely lucky."

When the chocolate brown soybean leaf was examined, experts found rust pustules on it.

They were able to break open some of the pustules to get spores and tried to get them to grow in a water solution.

"None of them (the soybean rust spores) germinated," says Tylka.

"There is no concern," he says about the spores from this case spreading rust in 2007.

After looking at the sample, experts found it contained the telltale signs of white mold, which look like mice or rat droppings, Tylka notes.

After talking to X.B. Yang, another ISU plant pathologist, he says the amount of white mold evidence in the samples was very high.

Therefore, the yields in the field were affected by white mold as well. Some reports say the field yielded about 30 bushels per acre.

The field was near a river in Mahaska County near New Sharon, according Bob Wells, Iowa State University Extension farm management specialist in Mahaska County.

Someone who works in the area called Tylka and reported the area had 25 inches of rain over five weeks. The field reportedly was planted late to a fuller-season variety.

Tylka says a soybean sentinel plot near Keota had no signs of Asian rust.

"Rust wasn't widespread in that area," he says.

In addition, Tylka says there have been no other confirmed reports of soybean rust. He says some farmers are blaming soybean rust for low yields.

Tylka reminds farmers that 25 inches of rain in five weeks in August would set up nearly ideal conditions for white mold. Therefore, white mold might be to blame as well as soybean rust for low yields.

Experts from Iowa State University and other organizations were scheduled to check out the field this past week. They were going to look for soybean leaves in the field and the area to further understand what happened.

While experts were able to confirm rust on the soybean leaves when they were dead, Tylka says it is more important to look for signs of the disease earlier.

Fields should be scouted for soybean rust in July and August, he says.

While he was told it was tough to scout soybeans due to the wet conditions, it means the person was scouting during that period.

Almost all rust has been diagnosed on soybean material that has been green or turning yellow, Tylka notes.

If farmers see anything turning sour with their bean crops, they should pull a sample for testing, he advises.

If farmers have a sample they suspect of having soybean rust, they can call a first detector, which is most likely a crop consultant who has been

trained to identify the signs from other diseases.

The first detector should take the sample to a triage member, such as an Extension person, to further check for soybean rust.

The first detector or triage member then will make arrangements to take the sample to the ISU lab.

If this "fast track" system is followed, there is no cost to the farmer for the sample. The sample goes to the front of the line for testing.

Overall, this case should serve as a reality check that soybean rust can happen in Iowa, and farmers and experts can learn from it.

Farmers can get more information about soybean rust from their county Extension office or at the Iowa State University soybean rust Web site at www.soybeanrust.info.

Ford, Minnesota officials discuss ethanol

ST. PAUL (AP) -- Ethanol-blended fuel is easier to buy in Minnesota than anywhere, making this state particularly interesting for automakers looking to experiment with the corn-based fuel.

Ford plans to build 250,000 E85 vehicles this year, and fuel availability will be important. In Minnesota, 190 gas stations — almost a third of the national total — sell E85, which is 85 percent ethanol.

State Commerce Commissioner Glenn Wilson, Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson and departing Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Matt Kramer recently met with Ford officials to talk about ways Minnesota can work with Ford to increase ethanol usage and public awareness.

The group discussed ideas such as adding E85 symbols to highway exit signs and creating educational brochures for buyers of flexible-fuel vehicles.

Minnesotans already drive about 185,000 hybrid and flex-fuel vehicles, Kramer said.

HE SAID during the meeting, one Ford executive did rough calculations and estimated only 3 percent of the drivers who could use alternative fuels were actually using the cheaper corn-based fuel.

Education could change that, because many drivers don't know their cars can use E-85 fuel, Kramer said.

The meeting comes about three months after Gov. Tim Pawlenty appealed to Ford executives in Detroit to work with them to find ways to keep the St. Paul plant open.

Pawlenty offered to spend state money to establish an alternative-fuel research center with Ford, which would be linked to the assembly plant.

The Ford group included Mary Culler, Ford's director of governmental affairs, Brian Rippon, a Ford policy manager, and Dick Baker, a corporate
2007 Iowa FFA Sub-District Radio Broadcasting Script – Page 4

technical specialist.

Ford and General Motors are promoting ethanol and have partnered with VeraSun Energy Corp., an ethanol producer in Brookings, S.D. that is building an ethanol plant in southern Minnesota.

Health concerns cause antibiotic opposition

The proposed approval of a new cattle vaccine could turn into a political football, says a Kansas veterinarian.

Cefquinome, an antibiotic manufactured by Intervet, did not receive approval this past fall from the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee. However, the FDA is still considering approving the drug for use in cattle.

"FDA cannot refuse the product if the company meets all the requirements set forth for approval, and Intervet has done that," says Larry Hollis, Extension beef veterinarian at Kansas State University. "The only way approval can be denied is if it's stopped politically."

Intervet says Cefquinome is the "active ingredient of various Cobactan formulations, which are licensed in Europe for the treatment of respiratory disease, mastitis, septicemia and foot rot in cattle and/or swine."

These fourth-generation cephalosporins have been used in Europe for treating veterinary and human infectious diseases. Intervet says there have been no problems. However, several U.S. organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), are opposed to the approval of Cefquinome because of human health concerns.

"The AMA is concerned by data that have accumulated on the use of a third-generation cephalosporin in food animals," said Michael Maves, CEO and executive vice president of the AMA in a letter mailed to the FDA committee this past fall.

"The only third-generation cephalosporin approved for use in these animals in the United States is ceftiofur, which is widely used in cattle, chickens, and turkeys, in part because there is no withdrawal time. With the unrestricted use of ceftiofur, data from the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) indicate that ceftriaxone-resistant *Salmonella* and *E. coli* have emerged and spread in the United States. Ceftriaxone is commonly used for the treatment of severe infections, and the spread of resistance to this agent is therefore of clinical concern. Given the current outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 in this country, this increase in resistance is particularly troubling."

Hollis says there are other antibiotics on the market that can do the same things as Cefquinome.

"Do we need the product? My contention is we don't," he says.

But, Hollis is concerned about possible ramifications if the drug is not approved.

"Do we want to give politicians the chance to block it? If we do, then you can kiss the money all these companies are putting into research goodbye," he says. "They aren't going to be willing to take the chance."

Hollis says if beef is properly prepared, there is little chance of picking up any form of resistant bacteria.

"Intervet is following the letter of the law here," he says. "I would hate to see this become a political issue."

Eradication of feral swine priority

DES MOINES (AP) -- They can weigh up to 300 pounds and are like snuffling, rooting machines.

Wild hogs not native to the United States are roaming through at least 39 states and alarming wildlife officials by their population growth in northern states, such as Iowa and Michigan.

"They destroy the natural habitat that's out there," said Angi Bruce, who heads the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) southwest wildlife bureau. "It basically looks like a plow has gone through the area."

FERAL SWINE, numbering an estimated 4 million nationwide, can spread disease if they come in contact with domestic pigs. That is a big concern in Iowa, the nation's top pork producer.

The rooting and wallowing activities of the creatures, which tear apart the earth to search for food, have also forced some farmers to repeatedly replant fields.

While feral swine have plagued warmer states for years, they are a recent problem in Iowa, with wildlife officials working to eradicate them since 2004.

About 100 of the animals are thought to be in Southern Iowa, and officials said because they are such prolific breeders, 70 percent must be killed off each year just to keep that number in check.

The wild pigs are a combination of escaped or neglected swine and imported Eurasian wild boars, said Gail Keirn, a spokeswoman for the the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Under a national wildlife disease management program, Keirn said researchers will collect and test wild pigs in up to 25 states to look for the presence of classical swine fever.

People also can become infected with diseases from feral swine. Keith Massey, who grows crops and raises hogs in Southeast Iowa, contracted the bacterial disease brucellosis from his sows that were exposed to wild pigs.

He experienced night sweats for weeks, took numerous shots and months of antibiotics, and was forced to have all his animals euthanized.

legislation making it illegal to import and release the animals. Some outfitters resisted, arguing any ban would hurt their business.

So, wildlife officials are left trying to eradicate the animals as best they can. Their efforts include trapping and killing the animals, and educating the public and outfitters on the importance of containing them. They are also tracking the wild pigs' location in a geographic database.

The Iowa agency said it would prefer landowners and hunters trap and not kill the savvy swine. That is because larger groups can be caught, tested for diseases and killed before the rest are scared off.

"When people hunt them, it educates them, it spreads them out," Bruce said. "It makes them secretive and harder to trap."

States with the greatest number of wild pigs are California, Florida, Hawaii and Texas.

While some migrate across borders, others are released for hunting purposes.

Most states with feral swine allow hunters to kill the animals year-round without permits or licenses in an effort to control their populations.

In California, wild pigs are devastating to many species, but are good for a few others, including native bunch grasses that benefit from their rooting behavior that eliminates competing grasses, said Doug Updike, a senior wildlife biologist the California Department of Fish and Game.

However, he said most people agree the animals should be killed.

"Hunters, of course, prize them and want to take them home and eat them, and private landowners just want them gone," he said.

Packer control not hurting livestock producers: USDA

DES MOINES -- After years of study, the USDA's Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), says packer ownership or control of livestock is not harming farmers.

The 2002 farm bill included a provision directing GIPSA to study the issue, a provision that was a compromise added to the legislation after efforts to add language regarding competition and packer ownership of animals was defeated.

Congress appropriated money for the study in 2003, and it was released last week.

GIPSA Administrator James Link, a former Texas cattleman raised in rural Kansas, discussed the study during a stop here this past week.

The bottom line, Link says, is the study showed no broad negative economic effect on farmers or consumers from packer ownership or control of livestock.

When asked about enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, he said the government is enforcing the law as written.

When there is proof of packers discriminating against producers or fixing prices the government will act, he says. But, without such proof, there is little that can be done.

"We're doing the best we can," Link says.

"There's nothing in there that says they can't be big."

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, was one of the principal authors of that farm bill. He was not surprised by or happy with the USDA results.

"We know what's happening out there (in the country)," Harkin says.

"Quite frankly, I just don't think USDA is trying to provide any solution for producers."

Also with packers owning or controlling much livestock and only a few packers dominating the market, "livestock market becomes a contradiction in terms," Harkin adds.

Jeff Schnell, public policy director for the Iowa Pork Producers Association, says there is a vast difference between the pork and cattle figures when it comes to packer ownership or control over animals.

Many contracts are based on cash prices, he adds, and there is some question of whether 11 percent of the animals going to the cash market is enough of a foundation on which to base those prices.

There is also some question of whether that 11 percent is a consistent number or whether it varies dramatically from day to day or week to week.

Those questions are important when looking at concentration.

Mark Salvador, national policy adviser for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, says the organization's members are concerned about the state of the market and encourage any research into how it works and whether it works.

The group also supports a strong federal antitrust enforcement role.

"We think USDA oversight of the Packers and Stockyards Act should be enhanced," he says.

Link says the study, which was contracted to consulting firm RTI International, didn't show packer control of livestock hurt farmers or that restricting that control would help farmers.

The study included researchers from several universities and addressed questions, such as how ownership can affect quality, risk and price.

Researchers concluded about 38 percent of the fed cattle market was either owned or controlled by packers (only about 5 percent by direct ownership and the rest by contract arrangements).

That number rose to 44 percent for sheep and lambs.

But, it leaped to 89 percent for hogs.

Researchers disagreed on how many hogs were owned by packers with the number ranging from 20 to 30 percent. Many more animals are raised under contract.

The researchers added they expect those figures to remain relatively constant for hogs and cattle, but they think it will rise for sheep.

First dirt turned for FFA center

ANKENY -- The smell of freshly turned dirt was sweet for a group of FFA members and supporters gathered here Monday for the groundbreaking of the new Iowa FFA Enrichment Center.

"I was 4 years old when this idea was started," said Ryan Borcherding, 2007-2008 Iowa FFA president. "But, we've been able to keep that dream alive."

The enrichment center is an idea hatched in 1992 when state officers and leaders began to see the need for more space for FFA activities. Originally planned for a location in Altoona, it will be built on the campus of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Ankeny.

The center not only will serve the state's 12,000 FFA members and 240 ag education instructors, but it also will be used by DMACC for ag classes.

The decision to partner with DMACC was key, noted Ed Wiederstein, an Audubon farmer and former state FFA president who headed the capital campaign to raise the \$13 million necessary for the project.

"That was important," says Wiederstein, explaining it helped ensure the building would be fully used and also guaranteed the FFA wouldn't need to constantly be raising money for upkeep once the building was built.

"I'm not one who likes asking people for money," Wiederstein said. "But, when you believe in something as strongly as I believe in FFA, it's not as hard."

Steve DeWitt, publisher of Iowa Farmer Today and Iowa FFA Foundation Board president, said, "Today is especially meaningful as I look upon the construction site with two perspectives: One of a donor and another as president of the Iowa FFA Foundation Board. It gives me great pleasure to see our plans coming to fruition."

When completed, the 60,000-square-foot building not only will house FFA offices and meeting rooms but also will have space for DMACC programs in ag business, horticulture and veterinary tech.

But, all of that began with a basic idea in 1992, according to Doug Reynolds, state FFA president in 1991-92.

"That's when this whole initiative started," he said, explaining a building next to the FFA headquarters in Mitchellville had been available for rent.

When it went up for sale, the FFA tried to buy it but came up short.

Leaders then began to think bigger, and thought not only of more space but of forming a vision for what a real FFA Enrichment Center might be. They bought land near Altoona and began raising funds.

But, the plan ran into continual roadblocks. Not until FFA leaders met with DMACC officials in 2004 did the new idea of a shared facility take off.

However, through all that time, Reynolds said, "we never lost sight . . . of the vision and the dream of the FFA Enrichment Center."

Major donors to the project include: Iowa Farmer Today, Harry Stine, Dennis Albaugh, Monsanto, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Ankeny, John Deere Des Moines Works and John Deere Credit, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Cargill, GROWMARK, Titan Tire, Nationwide Foundation, FCS America, Rabobank, Ertle Co., Kent Feeds, Land O'Lakes, Don Lamberti, Steve Dakin and Dakin Ag, West Liberty Foods and Steve Juelsgaard

Missourian named 2007-08 National FFA President

INDIANAPOLIS --- Growing up in the small Northwest Missouri town of Eagleville, Zach Kinne only had 30 members in his FFA Chapter.

This year, he will lead and inspire more than 500,000 members from across the country.

Kinne was selected from a field of 40 to become the 2007-08 National FFA president at the recent 80th National FFA Convention. He is the son of Keith and Shelley Kinne, who own a registered Angus seedstock herd.

"We are so excited for Zach and his family," says John Kleiboeker, Missouri Beef Industry Council director. "They are just wonderful people."

Kinne, a University of Missouri student in the College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources, interned at the council over the summer and continued this fall.

"In fact, technically he is still on the payroll," Kleiboeker says laughing.

Kleiboeker extended his internship because of Kinne's personality and work ethic. Two things he says will go well with him as National FFA president.

"He is so humble and gracious to people, but he also has a strong willingness to take the reins and lead," he says,

Kinne was in charge of the council's Lunch and Learn series, which brings together farmers and ranchers with consumers, businessmen and local government officials.

"It educates them on beef moves from the pasture to the plate," Kleiboeker explains.

"Zach organized everything," he adds. "From making contact with cattlemen,

to developing the guest list, ordering food and leading the event."

Kinne also represented the council during all five weeks of the Missouri FFA Camp this summer. There, he had the opportunity to visit with FFA members about the beef industry.

"He really puts it all together as a young person in agriculture," Kleiboeker says. "And, the national committee recognized that."

For the next year, the North Harrison FFA chapter member will travel more than 100,000 miles meeting top leaders in business, government and education. He will visit more than 40 states and participate in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting ag literacy.

"I believe it is the purpose of a national officer to plant the seeds of knowledge, hope and inspiration in others," Kinne said in a news release.

"There is nothing I would rather do than to have this opportunity to commit myself to the betterment and growth of FFA, its members and the American agriculture industry."

CORN Futures - 19:40 - Wednesday, 7 November

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
Dec 2007 (CZ7)	384-2s	-1-4	390-0	390-4	382-2	385-6	11/07/2007
Mar 2008 (CH8)	401-2s	-1-6	407-0	407-4	399-4	403-0	11/07/2007
May 2008 (CK8)	411-6s	-1-2	416-0	416-4	409-6	413-0	11/07/2007
Jul 2008 (CN8)	420-4s	-1-4	425-4	426-0	418-4	422-0	11/07/2007
Sep 2008 (CU8)	426-2s	-1-4	430-4	430-4	424-4	427-6	11/07/2007
Dec 2008 (CZ8)	432-4s	-1-0	436-4	436-4	429-0	433-4	11/07/2007
Mar 2009 (CH9)	439-4s	-1-0	441-0	441-0	435-4	440-4	11/07/2007
May 2009 (CK9)	442-4s	-2-0	442-0	443-0	440-0	444-4	11/07/2007
Jul 2009 (CN9)	446-4s	-2-0	444-0	447-0	443-4	448-4	11/07/2007
Dec 2009 (CZ9)	430-0s	-1-4	432-4	432-4	427-2	431-4	11/07/2007
Mar 2010 (CH0)	434-4s	-1-0	433-0	434-4	433-0	435-4	11/07/2007
Jul 2010 (CN0)	440-0s	-1-4	440-0	440-0	440-0	441-4	11/07/2007
Dec 2010 (CZ0)	430-0s	-2-4	433-4	433-4	428-0	432-4	11/07/2007

SOYBEANS Futures - 19:41 - Wednesday, 7 November

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
Nov 2007 (SX7)	1023-6s	-5-6	1032-0	1035-0	1018-4	1029-4	11/07/2007
Jan 2008 (SF8)	1038-4s	-6-0	1046-4	1051-0	1031-0	1044-4	11/07/2007
Mar 2008 (SH8)	1053-0s	-6-0	1062-0	1065-0	1046-0	1059-0	11/07/2007
May 2008 (SK8)	1056-6s	-4-2	1064-4	1068-0	1049-4	1061-0	11/07/2007
Jul 2008 (SN8)	1059-2s	-5-2	1068-0	1070-0	1055-0	1064-4	11/07/2007

Aug 2008 (SQ8)	1043-0s	-3-0	1054-0	1054-0	1040-0	1046-0	11/07/2007
Sep 2008 (SU8)	1006-0s	-6-0	1018-0	1018-0	1006-0	1012-0	11/07/2007
Nov 2008 (SX8)	976-4s	-5-2	982-0	985-0	972-0	981-6	11/07/2007
Jan 2009 (SF9)	980-0s	-6-0	984-0	984-0	977-0	986-0	11/07/2007
Mar 2009 (SH9)	980-0s	-6-0	984-0	984-0	980-0	986-0	11/07/2007
Jul 2009 (SN9)	985-0s	-7-0	985-0	985-0	985-0	992-0	11/07/2007
Nov 2009 (SX9)	934-0s	-5-0	933-0	935-0	933-0	939-0	11/07/2007

LIVE CATTLE Futures - 19:42 - Wednesday, 7 November

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
Dec 2007 (LCZ7)	94.875s	-0.875	95.700	95.750	94.700	95.750	11/07/2007
Feb 2008 (LCG8)	98.050s	-0.750	98.700	98.700	97.950	98.800	11/07/2007
Apr 2008 (LCJ8)	98.475s	-0.450	98.650	98.750	98.025	98.925	11/07/2007
Jun 2008 (LCM8)	93.825s	-0.475	94.250	94.250	93.450	94.300	11/07/2007
Aug 2008 (LCQ8)	93.850s	-0.550	94.150	94.250	93.650	94.400	11/07/2007
Oct 2008 (LCV8)	97.225s	-0.525	97.100	97.350	97.100	97.750	11/07/2007
Dec 2008 (LCZ8)	97.750s	-0.525	98.050	98.275	97.750	98.275	11/07/2007
Feb 2009 (LCG9)	98.750s	-0.250	98.900	98.950	98.700	99.000	11/07/2007
Apr 2009 (LCJ9)	98.875s	+0.075	98.900	98.900	98.875	98.800	11/07/2007

FEEDER CATTLE Futures - 19:42 - Wednesday, 7 November

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
Nov 2007 (FCX7)	107.750s	-0.475	108.050	108.200	107.400	108.225	11/07/2007
Jan 2008 (FCF8)	107.175s	-0.900	108.075	108.150	107.100	108.075	11/07/2007
Mar 2008 (FCH8)	107.925s	-0.700	108.150	108.150	107.450	108.625	11/07/2007
Apr 2008 (FCJ8)	109.900s	-0.650	110.300	110.500	109.500	110.550	11/07/2007
May 2008 (FCK8)	111.100s	-0.575	111.250	111.250	110.650	111.675	11/07/2007
Aug 2008 (FCQ8)	112.250s	-0.750	112.500	112.500	111.900	113.000	11/07/2007
Sep 2008 (FCU8)	112.000s	-0.250		112.000	112.000	112.250	11/07/2007
Oct 2008 (FCV8)	112.000s	-0.500		112.100	112.000	112.500	11/07/2007

LEAN HOGS Futures - 19:43 - Wednesday, 7 November

Contract	Last	Change	Open	High	Low	Prev. Stl.	Time
Dec 2007 (LHZ7)	51.475s	+0.350	51.400	51.800	50.950	51.125	11/07/2007
Feb 2008 (LHG8)	59.000s	-0.350	59.400	59.650	58.900	59.350	11/07/2007
Apr 2008 (LHJ8)	65.100s	-0.025	65.100	65.350	64.900	65.125	11/07/2007
May 2008 (LHK8)	71.950s	+0.050	71.600	71.950	71.600	71.900	11/07/2007
Jun 2008 (LHM8)	75.675s	+0.025	75.600	75.725	75.250	75.650	11/07/2007
Jul 2008 (LHN8)	75.100s	+0.100	74.850	75.175	74.800	75.000	11/07/2007
Aug 2008 (LHQ8)	73.100s	+0.175	72.925	73.300	72.900	72.925	11/07/2007
Oct 2008 (LHV8)	67.500s	+0.200	67.300	67.500	67.250	67.300	11/07/2007

Dec 2008 (LHZ8) 67.200s +0.325 67.000 67.200 66.900 66.875 11/07/2007

IOWA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY GETS A NATIONAL AUDIENCE

More than 4 million Americans will learn about Iowa's renewable energy industry and its reliance on agriculture as the hit show "American Chopper" begins its new season on The Learning Channel, with a show filmed in the fields of Iowa.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Renewable Energy Chopper is the first E-85 chopper created by the talented crew of the "Orange County Choppers." The chopper runs on 85 percent ethanol, has spinners in the wheels to symbolize wind energy, a 3-D sculpted body featuring corn and soybeans to showcase Iowa's leading position in developing ethanol and biodiesel and a leather seat featuring hog and cattle images to show the critical link between renewable energy and livestock.

"The Teutuls had a great time when they came to Iowa to get inspiration for their first 'green chopper' and learned a lot about Iowa's renewable energy industry," said IFBF President Craig Lang. "Until they came to Iowa, they had no idea that the industry was so reliant on agriculture. Now, the rest of the nation gets to learn about Iowa and all the things that agriculture can mean for ending our nation's reliance on foreign oil," said Lang.

The chopper is part of an Iowa Farm Bureau-led movement called "Join the Ride Iowa" (www.jointherideiowa.com) to encourage the development and use of renewable energy.

The OCC 'green' chopper was raffled to raise money for the American Lung Association of Iowa's Clean Air Choice campaign to promote clean energy initiatives. It raised more than \$113,000. The winner of the chopper raffle is a fifth-generation Wayne County Iowa farmer, Michael Murphy. The father of four said he's a regular viewer of "American Chopper" and a big fan of the Teutuls. "I was surprised to find out that they were finally building a 'green' bike," said Murphy. Indeed, the nationally-famous Teutuls have plans in development to begin an E-85 'green' commercial chopper line, using what they learned from building the Farm Bureau chopper. The Iowa Farm Bureau Renewable Energy Chopper build will be featured October 11 and 18 on the Learning Channel's "American Chopper" show, airing 8:00 p.m. Central time, 9:00 p.m. Eastern.

Weather

Tonight: mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Low in the lower 30s. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: partly sunny. High around 50. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday Night: mostly cloudy early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Low in the upper 20s. North wind near 5 mph shifting to the south after midnight.

Friday: partly sunny. High in the lower 50s. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: partly cloudy. Low in the mid 30s. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday And Saturday Night: partly cloudy. High in the mid 50s. Low in the lower 40s.

Veterans Day: partly sunny. High around 60.

Sunday Night: mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Low in the mid 40s.

Monday: mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers. High in the mid 50s.

Monday Night: mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Low in the lower 40s.

Tuesday: mostly cloudy. High in the lower 50s.

Tuesday Night And Wednesday: partly cloudy. Low in the lower 30s. High in the mid 40s.

A Folksy Guy, in Recovery, Is About to Land Millions

On his daily radio talk show, Glenn Beck portrays himself as an average guy, a recovering alcoholic and a comedian who regularly injects humor into his conservative politics.

This week he can add another description: very wealthy.

Premiere Radio Networks, a subsidiary of [Clear Channel Communications](#), is expected to announce today that it is extending Mr. Beck's contract. Two sources with knowledge of the deal said it was valued at \$50 million over five years, through a combination of salary and profit-sharing from syndication.

In signing the deal, Mr. Beck, 43, becomes the newest – and youngest – entrant into an exclusive club of highly compensated radio stars. The new contract would make Mr. Beck the third highest-paid talk radio host, surpassed only by [Rush Limbaugh](#), the most popular terrestrial talker for two decades and whose show is also syndicated by Premiere, and Sean Hannity, whose [Citadel Broadcasting](#) show is routinely ranked second.

The salaries apparently mirror [Arbitron](#)'s radio audience measurements, which show that Mr. Beck is the third most popular radio host in the advertiser-friendly 25- to 54-year-old demographic.

The higher salaries are being driven by several trends in media that have traditional terrestrial radio companies bidding for talent. The talk-radio format exploded in the 1990s, gaining hundreds of new affiliates across the country, much of it on the back of Mr. Limbaugh. But Mark Fratrik, the senior radio analyst at the consulting firm BIA Financial Network, said the radio industry has suffered from a general malaise in recent years, partly brought about by increased competition for advertisers and the rise of alternative audio sources like the iPod and satellite radio.

"All of these contracts pale in comparison to [Sirius Satellite Radio](#)'s half-a-billion dollar contract with [Howard Stern](#)," said Frederick Moran, an analyst for the Stanford Group. "Radio needs to ensure that it still gets some top talent in order to compete against satellite radio as well as other channels like the Internet."

But the talk-radio format still has some advantages, especially listener loyalty. "The audiences are large enough that they are able to generate

substantial advertising revenues," Mr. Fratrik said. "Radio is still a very effective medium, in so far as getting a message out."

Even Don Imus, who lost his five-year, \$40 million contract with CBS Radio this year after making racially and sexually vulgar remarks about the Rutgers basketball team, signed a new deal last week with Citadel. The contract details were not disclosed, but Citadel hopes Mr. Imus's reputation has recovered enough to attract his listeners.

Mr. Beck delivers almost a million listeners in an average quarter hour, according to spring 2007 Arbitron data. Charlie Rahilly, the new president of Premiere, noted that Mr. Beck has shown a 16 percent listener increase in the demographic in the past year.

"That's certainly the right direction for the media business," Mr. Rahilly said.

Mr. Limbaugh, the reigning king of talk radio, averages 3.4 million listeners in a quarter hour. The demographic trends give Premiere hope that Mr. Beck is grooming a new generation of listeners. "Most talk radio skews older than Glenn's," said George Hiltzik of the talent agency N. S. Bienstock, which represents Mr. Beck. "The selling demographic is 25- to 54-year-olds. One of the reasons Glenn's doing so well is because he is appealing to a younger audience than most talk-radio hosts."

In a format that tilts heavily toward males, Mr. Beck also attracts more females than most other talk-show hosts. His three-hour morning program is carried by nearly 300 stations across the country. Mr. Beck, who entered the syndication market just six years ago, said his brand of authenticity and candor was refreshing in a society of sound bites and spin.

"I guess I'm too stupid to self-edit, so I tell people exactly the way I feel," Mr. Beck said in an interview. "I truly believe radio is the most powerful medium there is. It's really treated so many times as a bastard child of other mediums. It is the most effective medium, when it's done right, because it reaches right into the listeners and connects with them on a one-on-one level."

That engagement can extend to the advertising. Michael Harrison, the publisher of the industry magazine *Talkers*, said commercials read by hosts have proved to be the most enduring and effective form of radio advertising.

"These people are worth what they're being paid because they're directly responsible for bringing in that kind of business," Mr. Harrison said.

With the backing of Clear Channel, Premiere is thought to be relatively stable, although the company does not break out the unit's earnings. Westwood One Inc., one of Premiere's chief competitors, has reported declines in revenue and market share recently. Another competitor, ABC Radio, was recently sold to Citadel Broadcasting.

Many top radio personalities benefit from partial or full ownership of their programs. Through a company called the Mercury Entertainment Group, Mr. Beck employs his own staff and licenses the radio content to Premiere. In addition to producing Mr. Beck's radio show, the company co-produces an

evening talk show starring Mr. Beck for CNN Headline News, stages two live tours a year, and publishes a companion Web site.

Mr. Beck is often accused of making inflammatory remarks. Last November, interviewing the first Muslim member of Congress on television, he said: "What I feel like saying is, 'Sir, prove to me that you are not working with our enemies.'" Last month, speaking about the California wildfires, he said: "I think there is a handful of people who hate America. Unfortunately for them, a lot of them are losing their homes in a forest fire today."

Mr. Beck's contract symbolizes the contrast between the folksy personalities and personal fortunes of high-profile radio hosts.

"It's one of the ironies of our culture that people are able to hold two truths in their minds at one time as fans," Mr. Harrison said. "They like the image of a person, and relate to them as a regular guy, knowing all along that these so-called regular guys are megarich multimillionaires."

Mr. Beck said he has wrestled with that contradiction. "I've never been dishonest with my audience," he said. "My audience knows I don't always travel commercially. I don't flaunt it, but I don't hide it."

Bee Movie (2007) :A Drone No More: No Hive for Him!

Bees rarely fly in a straight line. They hover and zigzag, with a purpose known only to the collective brain of the hive. The most genuinely apian aspect of ["Bee Movie,"](#) DreamWorks' new animated movie about, well, bees, is that it spends a lot of its short running time buzzing happily around, sniffing out fresh jokes wherever they may bloom. There is a plot – the usual big, elaborate story with the usual important messages about saving the planet, living together in interspecies harmony and believing in yourself – but it's a little beside the point. The real fun is the insect shtick.

The DreamWorks Animation formula, exemplified in the mighty ["Shrek"](#) franchise (and imitated by would-be rivals at Sony and Fox), is to charm the children with cute creatures and slapstick action while jabbing at the grown-ups with soft, pseudosophisticated pop-cultural satire. "Bee Movie," directed by Simon J. Smith and Steve Hickner and animated by several hundred industrious drones, pushes this strategy almost to the point of dispensing with the kid stuff altogether.

There are a few splendid cartoon set pieces – including a funny, thrilling bee's-eye tour of New York, from Central Park flora to the surface of a tennis ball to the inside of a speeding car – that show off the latest computer animation techniques. But most of the film's creative energy is verbal rather than visual, and semimature rather than strictly juvenile.

Which is hardly surprising. As everyone knows by now, the leading man (and one of the screenwriters and producers) is [Jerry Seinfeld](#), whose sitcom, almost a decade off the network air, lives on in syndication and in the endless recycling of memorable one-liners by a certain type of pathetic Gen-Xer. (Not me, though. I'm the complete opposite of every film critic you've ever met. I'm the master of my domain.)

Mr. Seinfeld provides the voice and attitude for Barry B. Benson, a young bee who has reached the stage in his accelerated bug lifestyle when he must choose a career. The hive where he lives is a highly regimented place, where the bees, conditioned by 27 million years of evolution, work without a break in the same job for their whole lives. Visually, this world resembles a sweet, sunny, corporate version of [Fritz Lang's "Metropolis."](#)

Barry's nerdy pal, Adam ([Matthew Broderick](#)), accepts his drone future as part of the natural order of things, but Barry is a maverick, an individualist yearning to break out of the conformist world of the social insects.

He may also remind some viewers of Benjamin Braddock, the alliteratively named hero of ["The Graduate,"](#) a film that "Bee Movie" cites in a few amusing scenes. Not that Barry has an affair with a middle-aged mama bee (all bees are children of the queen, a biological fact the film notes only in passing). Instead he flies even farther from the nest, so to speak, falling in love with an actual human being, a Manhattan florist named Vanessa who speaks in the irresistibly sweet voice of [Renée Zellweger](#).

When you stop to think about it, the prospect of romance between a bee and a person raises some potentially awkward, not to say physiologically outlandish, questions. But of course you're not supposed to think about it. The moral of the story – one of them, anyway – is that we and the bees are interdependent and that we should respect their hard work.

This lesson is satirically driven home in a courtroom plot that erupts just as the love story starts to get sticky. When Barry discovers that honey is sold in supermarkets, and that it is harvested from captive bees held in smoky, shoddy fake hives, he sues the human race, going after some of its notorious bee abusers. These include [Ray Liotta](#), who sells his own brand of honey, and [Sting](#), whose name is obviously offensive to bees. (Both celebrities make cameo voice appearances, as does [Larry King](#), playing a character called Bee Larry King. It's funnier than it sounds. Or maybe it's exactly as funny as it sounds.)

Even when playing an animated bee, Mr. Seinfeld does not demonstrate great emotional range. His comfort zone as a performer ranges from peeved to perplexed to moderately psyched, with occasional bursts of obvious exaggeration to indicate that he is at least aware that more intense states of feeling exist. But his detachment works in the movie's favor by defusing its sentimental impulses.

Perhaps because of its star's background in stand-up comedy, "Bee Movie" makes overt a conceit that is usually left implicit in animal-kingdom cartoons, namely that species is the cartoon version of ethnicity. Barry and his tribe are not just bees. They identify as "Beeish" – I'm sure "Benson" was something else back in the old country – and worry about their children dating wasps. On his travels Barry meets a mosquito who speaks in the voice of [Chris Rock](#) and who refers to his despised and misunderstood brethren as "bloods."

These riffs on identity politics, a durable if sometimes risky source of humor in American pop culture, give "Bee Movie" an extra fillip of comic vitality – the hint of a sting, if you will, in an otherwise soft and fuzzy entertainment.

"Bee Movie" is rated PG (Parental guidance suggested). A few scary moments and mild hints about, er, the birds and the bees.

Republicans Join Vote to Override Water Bill Veto

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 — Congressional Democrats escalated a confrontation with President Bush over federal spending on Tuesday as the House overrode Mr. Bush's veto of a popular water projects measure and approved a \$215 billion bill to pay for health, education, labor and veterans programs despite a veto threat.

The vote on the water measure was 361 to 54, far more than needed to reject the veto. If the Senate follows suit, it will be the first time Mr. Bush has had a veto overturned.

After a long night of skirmishing on the House floor, 222 Democrats were joined by 47 Republicans in finally approving the \$215 billion spending bill. Voting against the measure were 142 Republicans.

With an eye to the 2008 elections, Mr. Bush and Congressional Republicans are trying to re-establish the party's faded reputation for fiscal responsibility, while Democrats are working to portray Republicans as being out of touch with the priorities of ordinary Americans.

Mr. Bush has threatened to reject several of the already overdue spending bills, and the [Office of Management and Budget](#) on Tuesday renewed its opposition to the health and veterans package, saying it included an "irresponsible and excessive level of spending" and improperly tied disputed domestic dollars for health, education and labor initiatives to veterans money.

But Democrats said it was Mr. Bush and his Republican allies who were acting irresponsibly by resisting slight increases to pay for improvements in health care and education while simultaneously seeking nearly \$200 billion in new deficit spending this year to pay for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"If the president wants to talk about priorities, let's talk about what is really important to the American people," said Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#), Democrat of California. "I'd rather have a war on cancer than fritter away many more dollars in Iraq."

The amount in dispute is a relatively modest level of federal money — \$22 billion out of almost \$1 trillion in overall discretionary spending, spread across 12 bills. But both sides say the numbers obscure larger issues, such as the recent Republican record on spending matters, the Congressional appetite for pet projects known as earmarks and the coming battle for control of Congress.

Mr. Bush and Republican leaders are taking a harder line on spending out of a belief that voters in 2006 punished them for allowing federal spending to creep upward in the last six years and creating a costly new [Medicare](#) drug benefit. But not all Republicans are toeing that line. On the veto override

on Tuesday, 138 Republicans joined 223 Democrats in easily overcoming the president's objections, and all of the annual spending bills have had solid bipartisan support.

Money for every federal agency is at risk if Mr. Bush and Congress cannot come to terms in the coming weeks. The end result in the worst case could be a shutdown of government services — an outcome both the administration and Congressional leaders say they are eager to avoid.

The government is operating under a stopgap measure that expires Nov. 16. But lawmakers would extend that deadline through Dec. 14 as part of a Pentagon spending measure making its way to the floor.

Democrats say the president's unwillingness to yield on spending increases is creating a needless confrontation, a showdown that Representative David R. Obey, the Wisconsin Democrat who is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, this week called a "manufactured crisis." Others agree.

"The president is appealing to a very small conservative base of people, his last few friends in the country, to say, 'I am conservative,'" said Senator Patty Murray of Washington, a Democrat involved in mapping the party's spending strategy. "But the problem is, he is playing with American lives while he sends his message to his friends."

In increasingly caustic terms, Mr. Bush has assailed Democratic leaders for their push for more money and as being too slow in getting the required spending bills to the White House.

"Considering how eager they are to spend your money, it's shocking it's taken so long to do so," Mr. Bush told grocery goods manufacturers last week.

Democrats have struggled for weeks to fashion a consensus strategy for confronting the president on the spending legislation, and the House and Senate have been at odds over how to proceed. "There is a lot of confusion up there," said Jim Nussle, director of the Office of Management and Budget. "We are not sure how to deal with them."

As a first step, Democrats this week chose to combine the nearly \$151 billion measure that pays for a wide variety of health and labor programs — and which the president has threatened to veto — with a popular \$64 billion veterans measure the president has said he will sign even though it exceeds his limit by \$4 billion.

The health bill exceeds the president's spending allotment by about \$10 billion — almost half of the amount at issue. But some of those increases are designated for highly popular initiatives like National Institutes of Health research and federally financed community health centers. Those centers, in line for an added \$225 million for new and expanded facilities, have been hailed for delivering economical care to the nation's uninsured, with Mr. Bush calling them a "really good use of taxpayers' money."

Republicans have objected to merging the health and veterans bills and Senate Republicans said Tuesday that they would use a procedural tool to try to force Democrats to send Mr. Bush the health bill on its own.

"There is no reason to put the veterans and our active-duty military and all of their needs that would be met immediately into a bill that has nothing to do with this issue and which the president has given the signal he is going to veto," said Senator [Kay Bailey Hutchison](#), Republican of Texas.

Other Republicans say a focus on the overall \$22 billion divide is misleading, because the increases, when extended over five years, would amount to \$204 billion. "That throws off the effort to balance the budget and puts pressure on the need to raise taxes," said Representative Paul D. Ryan, Republican of Wisconsin. Republicans also intend to highlight earmarks to show the bills contain wasteful spending. Democrats say that Republicans spearheaded the expansion of earmarks when they controlled Congress and that such projects are sought by both sides. They point to a Congressional Research Service report that shows the Republican-led Congress regularly exceeded administration's spending limits when emergency and war money was factored in and that the president never balked. They also said Republicans routinely merged spending bills when they were in charge.

"This is not a unique procedure, notwithstanding some of the hand-wringing you will hear," said Representative [Steny H. Hoyer](#) of Maryland, the Democratic majority leader.

Republicans defended their push to override the public works bill, saying that the water projects had been stalled for years and that each would require another vote before the money was actually spent.

But some of their colleagues warned they were acting at their political peril. "The American people long for a Congress and a national government that will embrace fiscal discipline and reform," said Representative Mike Pence, Republican of Indiana.

What the Largest Corn Crop in History Means for Ethanol Producers

Based largely on the demand for ethanol, farmers this year planted a record 92.9 million acres of corn. The USDA Crop Progress Report released in early August indicated corn production was forecasted to yield a record-setting 13.1 billion bushels—approximately 10 percent higher than the previous record set in 2004. What effect will this size of a crop have on corn prices and the profitability of the ethanol industry?

Obviously, corn prices are a large factor in determining the profitability for ethanol producers. The high corn prices that cut into ethanol plants' profitability in February were based largely on speculative activity. As cash prices were paced to reach record highs, traders spoke of the immediate increase in demand created by newly constructed ethanol plants. However, at the time, many of these "newly constructed" plants weren't slated to become operational until 2008 or 2009. Therefore, the market was essentially priced-based on a demand the United States would not reach for several years. Motivated by high corn prices and the perceived possibility of a corn shortage, farmers eagerly planted a record corn crop.

By mid-July, as speculative and non-commercial traders backed out of the market, prices leveled to more comfortable cash prices around \$3 per bushel, which delighted ethanol producers and allowed them to remain profitable. The combination of less speculative buying, record planted acres and high yield projections have since kept corn cash prices at reasonable levels. Corn prices traditionally fall as harvest nears, but this year's increased number of end users (primarily ethanol plants) will surely support the crop. Taking these factors into account, most analysts predict a neutral trading range during harvest season. However, ethanol producers could get an even better short-term deal on corn if there proves to be an overabundance of corn and a lack of grain storage.

With a shortage of storage, farmers will be forced to store the grain on the ground. In most cases, if handled correctly, corn can be kept over winter this way. However, this is corn that's readily available, and farmers will be looking to move it. If this is the case, corn cash prices could fall to the mid-\$2 range, further boosting profitability for ethanol producers. In fact, some commercial traders have already begun to encourage grain producers to store corn themselves, if they can, to keep it off the market. From that standpoint, it is difficult to foresee a bullish concern about not being able to source enough corn in the near future. Although looking forward, as more of the crop is secured in storage, prices are not likely to remain as low. Based on the new paradigm created by ethanol producers, and in terms of profitability, corn at or around \$3 per bushel is a bargain. As we move into 2008 and 2009, markets might tighten and ethanol producers should prepare for higher cash prices as some key market factors are likely to shift.

For example, next year's corn crop might not be near the record we are likely to set in 2008. Banking on the prospect of \$5 or \$6 corn, many farmers invested additional input and financial resources to produce this year's record crop. Expecting larger profits, farmers planted corn on marginally productive land that is better suited for other crops, such as soybeans or wheat. After failing to reap the profits farmers expected from this year's crop, it should be expected that many of these farmers will divert those acres away from corn in 2008. If this is the case, profitability will continue to tighten as corn becomes less abundant and more ethanol plants become operational.

Another key market factor that is likely to affect plant profitability is the spike in ethanol plants coming on line in the next 18 to 24 months. This addition in ethanol production might actually surpass the country's current demand. Yes, the demand for corn-based ethanol is still on the rise and will be for a number of years, but the pace at which it will grow is still undetermined. As the petroleum industry strives to comply with stricter environmental standards, ethanol will remain the primary blending agent in gasoline. Currently, most states blend ethanol at rates up to 10 percent per every gallon of gasoline, but increases in blend percentages are expected as additional environmental restrictions are legislated and enforced. For example, California is now moving from its 5.7 percent blend rate to 10 percent blends in the near future. This increased blending rate is expected to increase ethanol usage by as much as 700 MMgy in the state. Many feel that this transition will happen within the next year, much sooner than legally mandated.

These and future marked increases will further cement ethanol as a valued niche within the gasoline industry and the long-term demand for ethanol

will continue to grow, but legislation and implementation of these standards does take time. The growth in demand is likely to be a more slow and gradual increase that will build over the next two or three years.

Ethanol production continues to increase at record paces with an estimated 135 plants now in production—up from approximately 110 at the beginning of the year—as well as another 64 plants in the construction phase. As these additional plants end construction and start producing ethanol, the overall supply being produced is expected to outpace demand over the next one or two years. The potential, temporary excess supply will likely keep ethanol at discount prices during a time when corn prices are likely to rise—resulting in a drop in plant profitability.

Ethanol consumption is expected to continually climb due to increased blending regulations. The renewable fuel standard (RFS) calls for 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol by 2012. This has made it more appealing for ethanol producers to increase production. Many in the industry expect the RFS to continue increasing. However, the current production capacity (expected to reach near 13 billion gallons) in operation and construction will likely outpace the increase in demand over the next couple years. In the short term, higher feedstock prices in addition to construction and production costs will likely continue to tighten margins in the coming months and years.

Even though many factors will play into the overall price level of ethanol, it is likely that wholesale ethanol prices on the futures market will fluctuate between \$1.50 and \$2.50 per gallon. This would most likely attribute to rack (terminal) prices from the \$2 to \$3 per gallon range. As supplies become more available in the near future, it is likely that ethanol markets will soften and decrease the short-term profitability of ethanol plants in some areas.

Overall, this year's corn crop will produce cheaper-than-expected input costs for ethanol producers, but they should not expect that to translate into higher extended levels of profitability. The well-established plants that have some time and efficiencies under their belt, as well as much of their debt paid off, are most likely to come out of a possible tight market more readily adaptable than plants carrying a large debt load.

Discovery May Revolutionize Ethanol Production

AMHERST, Mass. — A University of Massachusetts microbiologist may have unearthed a microscopic organism that could revolutionize the production of ethanol.

Susan Leschine is receiving national attention for the discovery of the microbe in the soils off a hiking trail on the western side of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Better yet, one of the nation's top three ethanol producers, VeraSun Energy of Brookings, S.D., has agreed to provide millions of dollars in financing to develop the microbe. Several private equity companies are also providing investments.

"It's fantastic," said Leschine, who started 30 years ago as an assistant professor at the Amherst campus. "It's very encouraging."

She has long studied microbes that attack certain plants.

The organism, called the Q-microbe, may be her most important finding.

The Q-microbe has some unusual abilities, Leschine said. It can break down a huge range of plant materials — including sugar cane waste and wood pulp — and convert them into ethanol, an alternative fuel for vehicles now produced from corn in this country.

Cellulosic ethanol, as it is called, could eventually replace corn-based ethanol and dirty fossil fuels. Cellulosic ethanol promises to be cleaner than corn ethanol, and it would use renewable waste materials for the fuel, keeping corn for food.

Leschine said it is widely recognized that the ethanol industry needs to evolve into utilizing materials that are not used for food.

Leschine is also the founder and chief scientist of SunEthanol of Amherst, a year-old company that has licensed the technology from UMass.

SunEthanol's goal is to develop a pilot plant by 2009 that would use the Q-microbe for cellulosic ethanol.

Leschine and Thomas Warnick, a research assistant, worked together in a laboratory to figure out the novel microbe in 1998.

Warnick collected the soil sample from Quabbin in the early 1990s.

She said there is probably something special about the soils that produce enough of the microbes to allow their extraction.

The big advantage of the microbe is that it promises to simplify and dramatically reduce the costs of converting biomass into ethanol.

Companies now need to spend millions of dollars to add enzymes for producing ethanol.

But the Q-microbe produces its own enzymes. In one move, it releases enzymes that break plant material into sugar, and then converts the sugar into ethanol.

The process was successful in a laboratory. Now, with the new financing, Leschine's company can find out if the microbe can perform on a much larger scale.

Jef Sharp, president and chief executive officer for SunEthanol, said he is thrilled about the investments by VeraSun and "top-notch" private equity companies such as Battery Ventures of Waltham.

"It's indicative of the importance of the technology and where the world is right now," he said.

Sharp said he is optimistic about the potential for the company to help free America from its dependence on oil from the Middle East.

The company plans to launch trials to test the best possible conditions for the microbe to operate. The company's goal is to make cellulosic ethanol a big part of the solution for making the country energy-independent.

According to DTN, a research service in Omaha, about 130 ethanol plants are operating in the country, while about 90 are under construction.

It may take 1,000 to 1,500 plants, including cellulosic ethanol facilities, to meet the nation's fuel needs for transportation.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version A – Secretary’s Copy

Ability: To amend a motion.
Business: Request a National FFA Officer for the Banquet.

Ability: To rise to the point of order.
Business: Conduct a bicycle safety program.

2008 Iowa FFA Association

District Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities

Version A – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To amend a motion.

Business: Request a National FFA Officer for the Banquet.

Ability: To rise to the point of order.

Business: Conduct a bicycle safety program.

1. On the FFA Emblem, what does the rising sun signify?

(Page 16, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“The rising sun signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity.”

2. Why is it important to use an established order of business at each chapter meeting?

(Page 40, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“When members know what to expect, they can participate more effectively. ... The most important reason for using the order is that significant items will not be overlooked and the maximum participation of members will take place.”

3. Which officer serves as the chairperson of the POA public relations committee?

(Page 37, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

The Reporter

4. Name four of the six responsibilities of Sentinel.

(Page 37, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“1. Assist the president in maintaining order. 2. Keep the meeting room, chapter equipment, and supplies in proper condition. 3. Welcome guests and visitors. 4. Keep the meeting room comfortable. 5. Take charge of candidates for degree ceremonies. 6. Assist with special features and refreshments.”

5. Name the four levels of FFA Membership?

(Page 19, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Active, Honorary, Alumni, Collegiate

**2007 Iowa FFA Association
District *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Version B – Secretary’s Copy**

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Ability: | To refer to a committee. |
| Business: | Hold a fundraiser for the local nursing home. |
| | |
| Ability: | To table a motion. |
| Business: | Landscape the elementary school. |

2007 Iowa FFA Association

District Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities

Version B – Judge's Copy

Ability: To refer to a committee.

Business: Hold a fundraiser for the local nursing home.

Ability: To table a motion.

Business: Landscape the elementary school.

1. On the FFA Emblem, what does the plow signify?

(Page 8, 05-06 Official FFA Manual)

“The plow signifies labor and tillage of the soil, the backbone of agriculture and the historic foundation of our country’s strength.”

2. Define Program of Activities?

(Page 7, 05-06 Official FFA Manual)

“A Program of Activities (POA) serves as a road map for planning activities and accomplishing goals on the local level.”

3. Which officer serves as the chairperson of the Public Relations Committee?

(Page 17, 05-06 Official FFA Manual)

The Reporter

4. Name four of the seven responsibilities of Chapter Officers.

(Page 16, 05-06 Official FFA Manual)

“1. A genuine desire to be part of a leadership team. 2. A willingness to accept responsibility. 3. A sincere desire to work with all chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal and chapter goals. 4. A commitment to lead by example. 5. A knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state, and national FFA constitutions, bylaws and programs. 6. A working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. 7. An ability to memorize official ceremonies.”

5. What does three taps of the gavel signify?

(Page 25, 05-06 Official FFA Manual)

“Three taps of the gavel is the signal for all members to stand in unison on the third tap.”

2008 Iowa FFA Association
District *Creed Speaking CDE* Questions
Version A

1. What are some of the “hours of discouragement” mentioned in the second paragraph for today’s agriculturalists?
 2. Is the FFA Creed relevant to you as a high school student? Why?
 3. What are examples of the “best traditions of our national life” mentioned in the last paragraph?

2008 Iowa FFA Association District *Creed Speaking CDE* Questions Version B

1. What are the “joys and discomforts of agricultural life” that have affected you in the past?

2. At what conventions was the Creed adopted and revised?

“...and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.”

3. What are the “best traditions of our national life”?

2008 Iowa FFA Association

District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE Topics*

Version A

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

What are agricultural researchers doing to create newer, safer food sources?

How can agriculture create more demand for biofuels?

Will food prices rise as a result of higher commodity prices?

**2008 Iowa FFA Association
District *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE Topics*
Version B**

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

How does the importation of potentially infected livestock affect the United States markets?

What role will cloning play in livestock and crop production?

How can we establish and maintain a safe and abundant global food supply?

2008 Iowa FFA Association

District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version A – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To Amend a Motion.

Business: Sell calendars as a fundraiser.

Ability: To Appeal from the Decision of the Chair.

Business: Construct a greenhouse for the school.

Ability: To Rise to the Point of Order.

Business: Purchase an FFA Flag for the classroom.

Ability: To Refer to a Committee.

Business: Repaint the elementary school playground equipment.

Ability: To Take from the Table.

Business: Plant 10 acres of pumpkins.

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if the point of order to which a member had risen was not appropriate?

(Page 56, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“...the Chair may rule, ‘The point of order is not sustained.’ Reasons for the decision should be given.”

2. What are two advantages of referring matters to committees?

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“...to secure more detailed information on a matter that is before the assembly, before taking action on it”

“A committee can also be given the power to act for the organization.”

3. What is the difference between a qualified and an unqualified motion to adjourn?

(Page 26, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“The unqualified motion to adjourn does not specify a time for the meeting to adjourn or a time when the next meeting will be convened.”

“The qualified motion to adjourn specifies a time when the meeting will be adjourned, or a time when the next meeting will be convened.”

4. Name four of the five classes of motions?

(Page 12, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

Main, Privileged, Subsidiary, Incidental, and Unclassified

5. What are the two reasons a presiding officer is permitted to vote?

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“1) his/her vote will break a tie (to pass a motion), or

2) his/her vote will make a tie (to defeat a motion).”

2007 Iowa FFA Association

District Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Version B – Judge’s Copy

Ability: To Amend a Motion.

Business: Purchase a new American Flag for the classroom.

Ability: To Appeal from the Decision of the Chair.

Business: Start an FFA Alumni Chapter.

Ability: To Rise to the Point of Order.

Business: Visit Legislators in Des Moines.

Ability: To Refer to a Committee.

Business: Tour the new Ethanol Plant.

Ability: To Take from the Table.

Business: Send 10 members to State Convention.

1. Why is an Appeal from the Decision of the Chair used?

(Page 53, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“An Appeal from the Decision of the Chair is an incidental motion that is intended to safeguard majority rule by preventing the Chair from improperly controlling the action of the body.”

2. As presiding officer, what would you do if there are already two amendments on the floor when a properly recognized member offers a third amendment to the original motion?

(Page 46, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“A motion may not have more than two amendments on the floor at the same time.” The member who submitted the third amendment should be called out of order.

3. As presiding officer, what would you do if a motion received no second?

(Page 16, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“If no one seconds the motion, the Chair states: ‘Motion dies for lack of a second,’ raps the gavel once, and moves on to the next item of business..”

4. Name three of the five classes of motions?

(Page 12, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

Main, Privileged, Subsidiary, Incidental, and Unclassified

5. What is the primary purpose of referring an item of business to a committee?

(Page 43, 1994 Edition of “Mastering Parliamentary Procedure”)

“...to secure more detailed information on a matter that is before the assembly, before taking action on it.”

**Radio Broadcasting CDE
District Level - Iowa FFA Association
2007-08**

Soft Winter Wheat Market More Inflated Than Should Be

Even with new, higher price limits - Minneapolis Hard Red Spring Wheat continues to close limit up -- and because of that -- will now have a price limit of 1.35 a bushel.

Yesterday the front month contracts for old wheat closed another 90 cents higher -- with March wheat now at 18.53/bu.

DTN Market Analyst Elaine Kub says millers are just that short of wheat - they have to have it.

But she says this is creating a problem for soft wheat prices in Chicago - because with Minneapolis limit up all the time -- traders can't get into the market -- so they are going to Kansas and Chicago instead.

That's inflating those prices far higher than the fundamentals show they should be.

Kub notes that with these new price limits - it means when wheat starts dropping - its going to drop hard.

If \$3 gas is back, is \$4 far behind?

Regular gas around the Columbia region generally is above \$3 a gallon, again.

But could drivers be paying \$4 a gallon by Memorial Day?

It's not far-fetched.

February usually is a pretty cheap time of the year for fill-ups.

And prices rise in the spring.

More drivers take to the road for Easter and school spring breaks. Plus, refinery output falls with the annual change to smog-reducing summer blends of gas.

National averages between \$3.50 and \$3.75 this spring are not out of the question, predicted Tom Kloza, an analyst for the Oil Price Information Service.

"The records just keep on coming," said Brian Milne of gas-industry tracker DTN, who agreed with Kloza's forecast.

And that could be the good news.

Kloza's prediction of \$3.50 gas is based on a smaller-than-usual spring rally because drivers are buying less gas.

So what happens with a rally like in the past few years?

Gas could reach \$4.17 to \$4.75 a gallon, Kloza predicted.

Still, Kloza maintains that prices shouldn't get that far because \$3.25 a gallon is a "tipping point" where people will cut their gas consumption.

"Hence, a rise to \$3.50 to \$3.75 ... should breed some demand destruction," he said.

Palmetto State gas-price averages are usually about 15 cents below the national norm because South Carolina's state fuel tax is among the country's lowest.

South Carolina was one of just six states with gas averaging under \$3 on Thursday. Columbia's average also was just below \$3, but many stations around town were charging prices above the mark Thursday.

Thanks to \$100 per barrel oil, the Midlands' average gas price has risen 14 cents since Friday, according to AAA data.

And local prices are rising faster than the national norms.

That's because an oil refinery explosion in Texas this week is pressuring prices on fuel from the Gulf of Mexico, where South Carolina gets its gas, Milne said.

The last time it took three Washingtions to get a gallon of gas in the Midlands was around Memorial Day.

Columbia's record remains \$3.23 set in the days after Hurricane Katrina cut off the Carolinas' gas supplies in 2005.

Now it appears that record might fall this spring.

"It's hard to see where gas prices fall off the cliff," Milne said.

Farm Bill Compromise: "We've got to get this moving," Says Chairman Peterson

Reuters writer Charles Abbott reported yesterday that, "A top U.S. lawmaker on Friday said he will offer a compromise next week on the \$286 billion farm bill including tighter limits on subsidies, a key goal for the White House, which has threatened to veto the bill."

"'We've got to get this moving,' Rep. Collin Peterson, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, said on Friday."

Mr. Abbott stated that, "'I'd like to make an offer to the Senate on

Wednesday...which I believe the president will sign,' he said. 'The Senate is not in agreement with what we're looking at.'"

(Note: To view detailed differences between the House and Senate passed versions of the Farm Bill, see this excellent interactive summary that was posted recently at the House Agriculture Committee Online.)

Mr. Abbott also noted in his Reuters article from yesterday that, "Bush said on Wednesday he would veto the farm bill if it raises taxes or does not tighten limits on farm payments. The administration wants to end crop subsidies to roughly 40,000 high-income farmers and landowners.

"'We, obviously, can't go anywhere near as far as they want to go,' Peterson told Reuters. He declined to outline his proposal on that area but said, 'Some senators are not going to be happy.'"

The article also pointed out that, "Peterson said his draft would include a program to convert surplus sugar into fuel ethanol. He also said a proposal by sugar producers to create a new set of rules on sweetener trade with Mexico was dead and would not be in the draft."

(Note: See also a statement from the administration on this issue, which was released yesterday; as well as this article from the Des Moines Register's Philip Brasher, "Corn refiners scuttle deal limiting sugar imports").

"House leaders are expected to appoint their negotiators early next week to work with senators to write a final version of the farm bill.

"'We should give up our President's Day break. We should stay here and get this thing done,' said Peterson. Congress plans to recess from February 18 to 22 for the President's Day federal holiday."

DTN Political Correspondent Jerry Hagstrom reported yesterday ([link requires subscription](#)) that, "House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., said Friday that he wants to make an offer to the Senate on a farm bill compromise next week."

"Peterson said he hopes House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., will appoint conferees on the bill Tuesday so there could be a bicameral meeting Wednesday."

Mr. Hagstrom went on to explain that, "In a speech to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Peterson said he believes the process must move forward because the current extension of the 2002 farm bill expires on March 15. He declined to provide reporters with details of his proposal, but said it would be made public after cost estimates are received. Peterson said he and his staff would work through the weekend with the Congressional Budget Office to prepare a proposal."

"Pelosi and House Agriculture ranking member Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., have been involved in the process, Peterson said. He also said Bush administration negotiators have been more flexible in recent weeks, but that the offer will not be a deal with the White House. 'We think we have an offer that we won't like and they [the White House] won't like, but that they'll be able to sign.'"

Meanwhile, Steve Miller reported on Friday at the Rapid City Journal Online (South Dakota) that, "House ag committee negotiators are edging closer to an agreement with the White House on a new farm bill, according to Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-S.D.

"Herseth Sandlin, a South Dakota Democrat, said she disagreed with Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., who blamed the farm-bill holdup on the failure of the House to name its members to a conference committee that will iron out differences between the House and Senate farm bills.

"'We haven't appointed ours yet for good reason,' Herseth Sandlin said Thursday in a phone interview."

Mr. Miller indicated that, "She said the primary reason for the delay in getting a new farm bill has been the Bush administration's dispute with Southern state Republicans over the income qualification limits for farm payments.

"'My understanding at this time is that many of the senators in both parties don't believe the president will follow through on a veto threat,' Herseth Sandlin said.

"She said she believes Bush will veto the bill if he doesn't get some of the reforms he is demanding, particularly on payment limits.

"But Herseth Sandlin said House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and the White House have been edging closer to an agreement."

The article also pointed out that, "'It was important to Chairman Peterson to figure out if the administration was going to be negotiating in good faith and truly finding common ground,' she said. 'He didn't reach the point where he thought that was possible until just last week,' she said.

"Herseth Sandlin said the parameters of the agreement include moving closer to the administration's proposal to limit payments to farmers with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$200,000."

And near the article's conclusion, Mr. Miller reported that, "Herseth Sandlin said she couldn't provide specifics of the tentative outline but said that from what she understands, 'it's only a slight modification from the overall terms.'

Commodity prices making history for agricultural industry

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — "We're looking at new times — situations we simply haven't seen before."

That was one of Darin Newsom's first comments about commodity markets given to Virginia grain and soybean farmers at the groups' annual conference. Newsom, senior commodities analyst for DTN, said the changes in markets should cause strategic changes in how farmers sell their commodities.

The rising commodities markets have attracted a lot of non-commercial investment. Hedge funds and large international index funds are growing in the commodity markets, causing more volatility in prices, he said.

Until now, the major commodities were largely driven by supply, and that is still the case with wheat, Newsom said, but corn has shifted to a demand-driven market and time will soon tell for soybeans.

Ending stocks in wheat have declined for years and with poor harvests around the world last year, wheat stocks are at a 30-year low. Newsom said once harvesting begins this year, wheat prices should fall some, in anticipation of an increased supply.

The surging ethanol industry has put a new demand on the corn market, causing the shift to demand driven. The shift is changing the perception of what high and low prices are, and the market has yet to find its "price trading range," Newsom said.

"The extraordinary has become the ordinary," he said. "These markets are changing the perception of what's extraordinary."

Newsom said the fate of the soybean market hinges on the upcoming harvest in South America, and if prices come down, it will remain a supply-driven market.

The volatility caused by noncommercial investment has led some local elevators to stop hedging because of the risk and high capital needs. That is leaving large commercial buyers to hold more cash grain, causing a "lack of convergence" between the delivery price and futures market, and that is causing basis levels to weaken, he said.

The weak dollar in the United States is making exports more attractive to other countries and is helping to sustain the trend, Newsom added, as well as the strength of the Brazilian real.

With new investors in commodity markets, Newsom said farmers can have "the opportunity to handle this like any other investment." He said there will be more limited forward contracting with farmers spreading out their sales while the rising trend continues.

Rising fertilizer prices have accompanied the rising commodity prices, but Jerry Gulke, analyst for Strategic Marketing Services in Rockford, Ill., said there's more going on with fertilizer than supply and demand.

When natural gas prices spiked in 2005, it sent a signal to nitrogen suppliers that farmers would accept higher prices for the fertilizer, Gulke said. Now, however, natural gas wholesale prices are less than half what they were in 2005 and have remained flat since the spike, but nitrogen prices have gone up more than 200 percent. Why? Gulke said nitrogen suppliers are taking advantage of the profitability in agriculture and fertilizer has become the "new commodity" on the world stage.

Gulke said by his figures, the cost of production for nitrogen fertilizer domestically is about \$230 per ton and \$270 per ton for imported fertilizer. A price of \$500 per ton to the farmer would carry more than a

100 percent markup on domestic fertilizer, Gulke said. In past years, he said a 15 percent markup was the norm.

"They're on a roll and they know that we'll pay for it," he said.

For smaller countries, higher commodity prices make growing grain more attractive than buying it, and it has created a worldwide demand for nitrogen fertilizer, Gulke said.

The weak dollar in the United States, while good for commodity prices, makes importing fertilizer less attractive and is helping keep the price up, Gulke added.

Both Newsom and Gulke said the one "wild card" in the markets is if the United States falls into a steep recession.

Gulke said the surge in biofuels production will need new price models that incorporate energy needs, and market analysts will start to look two to three years out rather than a year at a time.

"I think for all intents and purposes, we are creating history," he said.

Weather Report

Winter storm watch in effect from Monday morning through late monday night,

Tonight: mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Not as cold. Low in the upper 20s. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: a chance of rain or snow in the morning, then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. High in the mid 30s. Temperature steady or slowly falling in the afternoon. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph shifting to the northeast 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation near 100 percent.

Monday Night: cloudy. Snow likely in the evening, then a chance of snow after midnight. Areas of blowing snow after midnight. Breezy, colder. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 4 to 7 inches. Low 15 to 20. North wind 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday: mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Breezy, colder. High in the mid 20s. Northwest wind 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: partly cloudy. Colder. Low 5 to 10 above. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday And Wednesday Night: partly cloudy. High in the mid 20s. Low 10 to 15.

Thursday: partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of snow. High in the lower 30s.

Thursday Night: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Low 15 to 20.

Friday And Friday Night: partly cloudy. High around 30. Low around 15.

Saturday: sunny. High around 40.

Saturday Night: partly cloudy. Low in the lower 20s.

Sunday: mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. High in the lower 40s.

Corn (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	Last Update
CORN Mar 08	C8H	5244	5240	5240	5194	5222	-22	1:21P Feb 22
CORN May 08	C8K	5374	5354	5372	5320	5350	-24	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Jul 08	C8N	5494	5470	5486	5440	5466	-26	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Sep 08	C8U	5510	5470	5500	5450	5476	-32	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Dec 08	C8Z	5530	5500	5516	5454	5502	-26	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Mar 09	C9H	5614	5556	5604	5540	5592	-22	1:21P Feb 22
CORN May 09	C9K	5644	5614	5634	5610	5634	-10	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Jul 09	C9N	5674	5654	5670	5654	5670	-4	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Sep 09	C9U	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CORN Dec 09	C9Z	5272	5276	5324	5272	5306	34	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Mar 10	C0H	5340	0	0	0	5364	24	1:21P Feb 22
CORN May 10	C0K	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CORN Jul 10	C0N	5380	0	0	0	5400	20	1:21P Feb 22
CORN Dec 10	C0Z	5144	5144	5210	5144	5200	54	1:21P Feb 22

Soybeans (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	Last Update
SOYBEANS Mar 08	S8H	14056	14060	14220	13994	14200	142	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS May 08	S8K	14246	14240	14400	14174	14382	134	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Jul 08	S8N	14394	14380	14540	14330	14526	132	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Aug 08	S8Q	14284	14370	14420	14310	14410	124	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Sep 08	S8U	14040	14120	14130	14070	14100	60	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Nov 08	S8X	13784	13750	13910	13700	13904	120	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Jan 09	S9F	13854	13800	13980	13780	13970	114	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Mar 09	S9H	13860	13790	14000	13790	13974	114	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS May 09	S9K	13770	13650	13880	13650	13880	110	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Jul 09	S9N	13750	13760	13930	13760	13920	170	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Aug 09	S9Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SOYBEANS Nov 09	S9X	13190	13180	13300	13170	13274	84	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Jul 10	S0N	12950	0	0	0	13050	100	1:24P Feb 22
SOYBEANS Nov 10	S0X	12980	13050	13100	12900	13100	120	1:24P Feb 22

Wheat (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	Last Update
WHEAT Mar 08	W8H	10294	10260	10510	10180	10494	200	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT May 08	W8K	10454	10400	10660	10300	10644	190	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Jul 08	W8N	9690	9680	9870	9570	9864	174	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Sep 08	W8U	9760	9640	9930	9640	9922	162	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Dec 08	W8Z	9830	9790	10010	9724	9994	164	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Mar 09	W9H	9900	10000	10050	10000	10050	150	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT May 09	W9K	9800	0	0	0	9950	150	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Jul 09	W9N	9000	8950	9140	8940	9100	100	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Sep 09	W9U	9020	9000	9130	9000	9130	110	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Dec 09	W9Z	9100	9100	9160	9100	9160	60	1:23P Feb 22
WHEAT Jul 10	W0N	8920	8900	9050	8870	9000	80	1:23P Feb 22

Live Cattle (CME)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	Last Update
LIVE CATTLE Feb 08	LC8G	91.925	91.85	92.05	91.55	92	0.075	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Apr 08	LC8J	94.5	94.55	94.8	93.85	93.975	0.525	- 1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Jun 08	LC8M	94.625	94.625	94.775	94.075	94.4	0.225	- 1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Aug 08	LC8Q	97.35	97.25	97.5	96.8	96.9	-0.45	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Oct 08	LC8V	102.125	102.1	102.25	101.725	102.025	-0.1	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Dec 08	LC8Z	103.3	103.25	103.4	102.925	103	-0.3	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Feb 09	LC9G	104.25	104	104.15	103.9	104.1	-0.15	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Apr 09	LC9J	103.85	103.85	103.85	103.75	103.75	-0.1	1:20P Feb 22
LIVE CATTLE Jun 09	LC9M	101.4	101.4	101.45	101.4	101.45	0.05	1:20P Feb 22

Lean Hogs (CME)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	Last Update
LEAN HOGS Apr 08	LH8J	64	63.85	64.4	63.45	63.5	-0.5	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS May 08	LH8K	73.275	73	73.1	72.4	72.95	0.325	- 1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Jun 08	LH8M	78.6	78.2	78.75	77.5	77.85	-0.75	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Jul 08	LH8N	79	78.7	79.2	78.1	78.55	-0.45	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Aug 08	LH8Q	78.825	78.6	79	78.25	78.65	0.175	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Oct 08	LH8V	72.9	72.7	73.05	72.35	72.5	-0.4	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Dec 08	LH8Z	73.825	73.6	73.95	73.15	73.25	0.575	- 1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Feb 09	LH9G	77.6	77	77.5	76.55	76.95	-0.65	1:20P Feb 22
LEAN HOGS Apr 09	LH9J	79.7	79.4	79.8	78.9	78.9	-0.8	1:20P Feb 22

USDA MARKET NEWS--AFTERNOON CATTLE REPORT **02/22/08**

	VOLUME	USDA TOTAL RANGE	DTN PRACTICAL RANGE	DTN WT AVG
KANSAS STEERS	CONFIRMED CASH SALES - TODAY: No trade reported		0 WEEK TO DATE:	0
HEIFERS	No trade reported			
NEBRASKA STEERS	CONFIRMED CASH SALES - TODAY 3,067 143.00-146.00		5,151 WEEK TO DATE: 145.00-146.00	7,684 145.67
HEIFERS	1,303 145.00-146.00		145.00-146.00	145.10
TEXAS STEERS	CONFIRMED CASH SALES - TODAY: No trade reported		276 WEEK TO DATE:	315
HEIFERS	No trade reported			

COMMENTS: At the time of this close only a light trade had developed in NE, with prices steady/firm with last weeks weighted average. The South remained at a standstill.

5 AREA LV STR AVE PR&WT: \$No test	HIDE & OFFAL: \$10.83 -.10
CARCASS EQV INDEX CHOICE (600-900#)	SELECT (600-900#) #OF HEAD
LIVE BASED 136.89	130.86 128,620
BOX BASED 136.21	134.45 107,861
AVE INDEX 136.55 -.31	132.66 -.13 236,481
BEEF CUTOUTS CHOICE (600-900#)	SELECT (600-900#)
148.21 -.70	146.45 -.36

118.16 LDS CH CUTS / 71.94 LDS SEL CUTS / 24.88 LDS TRIM / 61.90 LDS GROUND

BOXED BEEF TREND: Weak on moderate demand & offerings

COMPREHENSIVE WEEKLY CUTOUT VALUE: Week ending 02/15 \$149.95 +2.93

CUTTER 90% 350# UP C/O: \$119.72 -1.08

NAT'L BONELESS BF TRIM: 45.56 lds / Gen stdy on mod dem & offers
90% TRIM: 06 lds / WT AVG: \$149.56 / Generally steady

ABCDE AFTER QUOTE REPRESENTS DAYS SINCE LAST REPORTED MARKET TEST.
FI KILL(WTD) FRI 123(596) WK AGO 122(609) YR AGO 123(606) MIX: THUR SH101/CB24

SAT 24(620) WK AGO 15(624) YR AGO 30(636)

	WEEKLY CANADIAN CATTLE IMPORTS:.	
	FEEDERS	SLAUGHTER S&H
Week ending: 2/16/08	17,915	19,883
Week ending: 2/09/08	17,006	18,807
Change from previous week:	-1,091	+1,076

DTN Midday Grain Comments 02/22 12:04

Wheat Hits Limit Up Again

Nearby Minneapolis wheat surges back above \$19, other wheat contracts and the soy complex are firm at midday with corn seeing light losses.

MARKET SUMMARY:

The U.S. stock market indexes are lower. The interest rate products are higher. The dollar index is lightly. Live cattle are mixed and lean hogs are lower. Energies are higher with crude up 65 cents and precious metals are narrowly mixed.

CORN:

Corn trade has been steady to a nickel lower with trade 1 to 3 lower at midday. The USDA Forum items are noted limiting upside in corn, but a good weekly sales number and firm outside market items have limited downside. Acreage numbers both from the USDA Forum and Informa on Thursday were seen at 90 million acres, which was higher than most expected. The USDA Forum produced a 08/09 balance sheet with a 1.243 billion bushel carryover number this morning. They used a 154.9 bushel per acre yield, which may be hard to see with more marginal acres coming into production and some longer-term forecasts calling for below trend-line yields. Outside market items are providing light support. The weekly export sales came in at 1.141 million tons which was above expectations between 800,000 to 1 million tons. The export sector remains supportive with the higher prices not slowing down the exports. The pace remains 20 percent ahead of the normal pace with sales at 80 percent of the annual USDA goal with half the year yet to go.

SOYBEANS:

Soybean trade is firmer at midday, but we have a soft tone after reaching our highs around 11:20 a.m. Means are 3 higher on new crop and 7 higher on old, meal is narrowly mixed and soybean oil remains on its bullish rampage with futures 60 to 70 higher and at the daily highs. The range has been widely mixed with nearly beans trading around 8 lower early in the session and reaching 14 higher a short while ago. The USDA Forum gave a 71 million acre number yesterday and Informa kept their number in line with their January estimate at 69 million acres. The balance sheet coming from the USDA Forum this morning used a 42.1 bushel per acre yield, and a 169 million bushel carryover. Their balance sheet is viewed as friendly

by most even at the current levels as we can ill afford any production problems. The weekly export sales came in at 630.6 thousand tons, expectations ranged from 300,000 to 450,000 tons; meal sales were at 48.6 million bushels for old crop and 31.7 mb for new crop, which were below expectations and bean oil sales were at 27,000 tons, which was at the high side of expectations. Look for active afternoon trade.

WHEAT:

Wheat trade is the 60 cent limit up on old crop Minneapolis with the March contract at \$19.25; new crop is back over \$11 with futures up a quarter. Kansas City is up 12 around 12 cents and Chicago is up 7. The weekly export sales came in at 101 thousand tons of old crop and 137.5 of new crop which was at the low end of expectations. The USDA Forum balance sheet for 08/09 used at 42.8 bushel yield, 2.33 billion bushel production number and a 538 million bushel carryover, which is double that of the current year. This did little to hold wheat down today with the trend turning higher this week after pressure the past two weeks.

Wildlife Habitat

Brad Thompson bought his 800-plus-acre property in two different tracts—one in 1999 and the other in 2004. He faced the same challenges on both. In addition to the overgrown brush, pine trees were planted fencerow to fencerow—not ideal wildlife habitat.

The Greenwood, S.C., property owner started by thinning the 15-year-old trees to around 100 trees an acre and selling the harvested trees for pulpwood. Then he hired a hand crew with backpack sprayers to attack the sweet gum and hardwood brush.

"For trees, clearing the understory is just like weeding a garden," says Thompson. "It improves the tree growth and wildlife habitat. When you clear the brush out from under the trees, it lets the sunlight reach the forest floor. Then you get a lot of herbaceous growth. The wildlife can eat the wildflowers and legumes."

Thompson also hired a hand crew for herbicide application. "I had them leave the dogwoods both for the aesthetics and because the berries are food for wildlife," he says.

He continues to keep the brush under control with hand spraying, usually in the late summer and early fall. And unless there is a drought, he tries to spray one-third of his property a year.

Thompson generally has the crew use a solution of 4% glyphosate (Roundup is an example) and 1½% amazapyr (Chopper). "The combination gives good control on a broad selection of hardwoods."

After thinning, Thompson hired a helicopter to fertilize over the top of the trees with 200 pounds of nitrogen and 25 pounds of phosphorus an acre. He says the fertilizer helps the growth of both the trees and the tender vegetation under the trees.

Controlled burns are another tool he uses to keep down brush and to promote the growth of young, green plants under the trees.

However, he does not burn after he has fertilized. "We didn't want to scorch the trees," he explains. "The nitrogen is stored in the needles."

Thompson tries to burn about half his property a year—in a checkerboard pattern of 20 to 50 acres each—to encourage the quail population.

"Burning encourages more pioneer species of weeds and legumes, and keeps the brush from getting too thick to hunt. Quail eat insects on the young vegetation. Legumes also produce seed that the quail eat in the winter. They provide really good brood habitat."

Brad Thompson's dual strategy of timber and quail management with both herbicides and controlled burns appears to be working.

The thinned and fertilized pines are growing toward the more lucrative sawtimber market. As for the quail, he says, "when we bought the place we probably had four coveys. Now, there are probably 16 over the whole place. You can hear birds all over the property now."

Quarterly
Hogs and Pigs
National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA
Washington, D.C.

Released December 27, 2007, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Quarterly Hogs and Pigs" call Bruce Boess at 202-720-3106, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

U.S. Hog Inventory up 4 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2007 was 65.1 million head. This was up 4 percent from December 1, 2006, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.16 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.0 million head, was up 5 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2007 pig crop, at 28.0 million head, was up 4 percent from 2006 and up 7 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.03 million head, up 3 percent from 2006 and up 4 percent from 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.24 for the September-November 2007 period, compared to 9.11 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.98 million sows farrow during the

December 2007-February 2008 quarter, up 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 5 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for March-May 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are up slightly from 2007 and up 4 percent from 2006.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent last year.

Cold
Storage

National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA
Washington, D.C.

Released February 22, 2008, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Cold Storage" call David Colwell at (202) 720-8784, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, turkey, pork, and chicken.

Butter stocks were up 21 percent from last month and up 26 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 7 percent from the previous month and up 5 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 23 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 25 percent from last month and up 48 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on January 31, 2008 were up 11 percent from the previous month and up 14 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 32 percent from last month and up 18 percent from January 31, 2007.

Good Years Ahead for U.S. Agriculture

John Otte February 22, 2008

The outlook for U.S. agriculture has rarely, if ever, been more favorable. That's how USDA's new chief economist, Joe Glauber, opened Thursday's Agricultural Outlook Forum in Washington, D.C.

"World economic growth should average 3.5% per year over the next decade, up from 2.9% annual growth since the turn of the century," he explains. "Growth in developing countries, projected to average 5.8% over the next 10 years, will boost food demand."

Second, our weakening dollar boosts exports to partially offset strong commodity prices. Sustained exports will contribute to higher ag commodity prices and boost cash receipts.

Third, world oil demand is rising due to strong global economic growth in highly energy dependent economies in Asia. Ethanol returns should stay high, attracting more expansion in ethanol production.

Net farm income to rise

Glauber forecasts 2008 net farm income at \$92.3 billion, up 4.1% from 2007's \$88.7 billion and 51% higher than the 10-year average.

Favorable returns to the farm sector translate into another year of rising asset values, particularly land," he says. "Declining ratios of debts to assets and equity point to a financially strong farm economy."

USDA projects value of 2008 crop production will rise \$30.6 billion or 21% above 2007 to \$174.6 billion. But livestock cash receipts will sag about 2% to \$138.7 billion. Small declines in value across cattle, hogs, poultry and dairy will contribute to that decline.

Production costs are projected to rise to almost \$280 billion, up 9% from 2007, following an 11% hike last year. Feed costs forecast at \$45 billion, are up 18%, after rising 25% last year.

Sharply higher feed costs in the face of lower livestock sales income will put the financial squeeze on livestock producers.

Manufactured inputs (fertilizer, fuels, electricity and pesticides) are forecast to total \$47 billion, up 14% on top of a 12% hike last year. Some inputs will rise even faster. January's index of prices paid for fertilizer is up 32% on the year. "Higher fertilizer prices largely reflect crop area expansion here and abroad, a growing dependence on imports and the weak dollar," notes Glauber.

Food price inflation to accelerate

Glauber's calculations suggest consumer food prices will rise 3% to 4% in 2008 compared to the 4% hike in 2007.

Larry Pope, president and CEO of Smithfood Foods, expects food inflation to run 10%, 12% or even 15%. "It's going to happen," he says. "Costs are simply rising too fast. We are facing the reality of \$5 corn, when we thought \$4 corn would never be a reality for an extended time. High feed costs are worldwide. Our hog production operations in Easter Europe face \$9 corn.

"Producing 20 million hogs a year, we have more reason than anyone to be concerned about feed costs," he adds. "We're reducing our swine breeding herd.

"U.S. food costs will rise," says Pope. "Maybe that is simply a cost to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We better start telling U.S. consumers that food prices will rise because it will happen."

Smithfield Begins Sow Reduction

Compiled By Staff

February 20, 2008

Smithfield Foods Inc. announced Tuesday afternoon plans to begin reducing its U.S. sow herd by 4-5%, or 40,000 to 50,000 sows, which ultimately will result in production of 800,000 to one million fewer market hogs annually. The company currently raises 18 million market hogs per year.

The company said it will begin phasing in these reductions immediately, citing record-high grain costs, with a potential to escalate, given current U.S. government policy "favoring corn for ethanol. The announcement comes at a time when hog production, after the longest period of profitability in history, is losing considerable money due to record-large hog and pork production and breakevens that have risen from the low-\$40s, lean live hog basis, last year to about \$50 today.

'Vantage Point' Peaks at No. 1

Oscar weekend is a typically slow one at the box office, and while this was really no exception, **Vantage Point** performed quite strongly to open at No. 1 and beat out a slew of rivals.

The political thriller grossed \$24 million, according to Sunday's estimates, and that was despite the drubbing it got from critics and shrugs it got from audiences (who skewed old and awarded the film a ho-hum B- CinemaScore review). That debut figure is also the second best of Dennis Quaid's career (following *The Day After Tomorrow*'s \$68.7 mil); it's a bit down from Forest Whitaker's opening high point (*Panic Room*'s \$30.1 mil); but it is the top bow ever for Matthew Fox (who, to be fair, has acted mostly in TV).

Certainly, as anticipated, *Vantage Point* benefited from a dearth of fresh formidable foes; the next five movies in the rankings are all holdovers. **Jumper** came in at No. 2 with \$12.7 mil, an unsurprising 54 percent drop from its winning debut. **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (No. 3) was next with \$12.6 mil, a nice 34 percent decline from its somewhat disappointing opening last weekend. **Step Up 2 the Streets** (No. 4) brought in a solid \$9.8 mil on a 48 percent drop. And **Fool's Gold** continued to hang around in the top five, grossing \$6.3 mil in its third frame.

In fact, you have to go all the way to No. 7, where 12-week player *Juno* and newcomer **Be Kind Rewind** tied with \$4.1 mil, to find the next new film. And you have to leave the top 10 altogether to find the others: **Witless Protection** banked a bad \$2.2 mil, and **Charlie Bartlett** was a complete nonstarter, grossing just \$1.8 mil.

It's no surprise, then, that the usually slow Oscar weekend was even slower than usual this time; overall, the box office was down 7 percent from the same frame a year ago.

But enough of all that, because I know what's really on everybody's mind today. As Billy Crystal used to sing, it's...a...wonderful night for Oscar, Oscar, Oscar! How do the Best Picture candidates look going into the big show, box office-wise? Well, the aforementioned **Juno** is the clear financial champion, with \$130.4 mil – just a hair shy of the \$132.4 mil that last year's Best Picture winner, *The Departed*, grossed in sum. **No Country for Old Men** is next with \$64.2 mil in the bank; **Atonement** (\$49.4 mil) and **Michael Clayton** (\$48.5 mil) are neck and neck; and **There Will Be Blood** has drilled up a \$35 mil gusher.

Magellan, Buckeye Partners Studying Midwest Ethanol Pipeline

Compiled By Staff February 20, 2008

Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P. and Buckeye Partners, L.P. announced Tuesday they have begun a joint assessment to determine the feasibility of constructing a dedicated ethanol pipeline. The proposed ethanol pipeline system would safely and efficiently deliver renewable fuel ethanol from the Midwest to distribution terminals in the northeastern United States. The proposed pipeline could have the capacity to supply more than 10 million gallons of ethanol per day, enough to meet the needs of millions of northeastern motorists who purchase 10% ethanol blended gasoline or higher ethanol blends such as E85. The pipeline would gather ethanol from production facilities in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota to serve terminals in major markets such as Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and the New York harbor. The project, which preliminarily has been estimated to cost in excess of \$3 billion, would span approximately 1,700 miles and would take several years to complete.

The feasibility of this project is dependent upon the successful outcome of ongoing studies addressing technical and economic issues associated with the transportation of ethanol via pipeline, stated the companies. Congressional support and assistance is necessary for a project of this nature given the changing federal policies associated with renewable fuels. In addition to assessing governmental support, financing and technical issues, Magellan and Buckeye stated that the feasibility study would also review construction requirements, construction costs, project economics, regulatory issues and other matters. The technical and feasibility studies could be complete in the latter half of 2008.

Companies Sharing Insect Control Technology

Compiled By Staff February 19, 2008

On Tuesday, Syngenta and Dupont signed a royalty-bearing agreement that will give Dupont company Pioneer Hi-Bred access to Syngenta's insect control for corn, MIR162. Pioneer gets a non-exclusive, global license to the technology along with stacking rights.

"We are pleased with this important commitment which further demonstrates the quality of Syngenta's biotech trait pipeline," said Davor Pisk, Chief Operating Officer Syngenta Seeds. "This agreement will accelerate the rapid adoption of Syngenta proprietary technology to better protect growers' corn crops worldwide."

Currently under regulatory review by the United States and major corn export markets, MIR162 is expected to receive regulatory approval from the U.S by the end of the year.

"With access to this trait, we have a great new tool to build on our insect control product offerings," said Paul E. Schickler, DuPont Vice President and General Manager and President of Pioneer. "The addition of MIR162 to our already strong insect control trait portfolio will provide growers with a superior product choice in controlling the broadest range of insect pests."

Containing a gene that is both structurally and functionally different than any technology currently available, MIR162 protects above-ground corn from a variety of insects.

Animal Cruelty Charges Filed

Compiled By Staff February 18, 2008

On Friday, two former employees of the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company were charged by the San Bernadino District Attorney for felony animal cruelty. On Sunday, USDA announced additional actions as a result of the ongoing investigation.

"USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has evidence that Hallmark/Westland did not consistently contact the FSIS public health veterinarian in situations in which cattle became non-ambulatory after passing ante-mortem inspection, which is not compliant with FSIS regulations," says Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. "Because the cattle did not receive complete and proper inspection FSIS has determined them to be unfit for human food and the company is conducting a recall."

Operations at Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing remain under suspension by FSIS. The products destined for the Federal food assistance programs, including the National School Lunch Program, will now be removed from schools and other holding facilities and destroyed.

"We applaud state and federal actions to investigate and correct the situation it found in this single plant among the thousands that work every day to deliver our high-quality, nutritious and safe beef products to consumers in this country and around the world," says Dave Bateman, chairman of the Cattlemen's Beef Board. "The beef checkoff remains committed to doing what it can to maintain these high standards."

The Office of the Inspector General and the Food Safety and Inspection Service continue the investigation. We will respond immediately if further findings warrant. Details about this recall and USDA actions are available at www.usda.gov/actions.

Study Shows Technology May not be Cause of Increased Corn Yield Trends

Compiled By Staff February 20, 2008

As part of a study to see if corn yield trends have accelerated since the mid-1990s, agricultural economists at the University of Illinois looked at the impact of weather and technology on corn yields in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana from 1960 to 2007.

"There has been considerable discussion in the agricultural community that improved technology has caused corn trend yields to increase at an increasing rate in recent years," says Scott Irwin, who prepared the study with former graduate student Mike Tannura and Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics colleague Darrel Good. "There has been a fairly widespread acceptance that a new and higher trend began in the mid-1990s, and it should be used as a starting point for estimating future yields."

However, they found that most of the increase since 1996 is the result of more favorable weather than the area had over the past 20 years. There is some evidence from other university trials and producers that increased yields may be a result of stacked trait corn hybrids, but the researchers say large-scale yield data needs to be examined before assuming an increase in corn trend yields is the result of biotechnology.

The full report "[Are Corn Trend Yields Increasing at a Faster Rate?](#)" can be viewed online at the University of Illinois Extension farmdoc site.

"This is important not only to individual producers," Irwin says, "But also to current policy debates about the amount of additional acreage that will be needed for corn production in the future to meet ethanol-driven demand growth."

The authors say research by Louis Thompson in 1969 and 1975 about weather and technology's affect on corn yields suggests that a historical weather cycle may be at work. Thompson concluded that cooler weather between warmer than normal temperatures had led to higher production.

"More unfavorable weather for the development of corn followed in 1980, 1983, and 1988," Irwin says. "This further identified the 1960s through the early 1970s - the period that Thompson first studied - as a favorable weather period."

Whether or not you draw a parallel between weather patterns from 1960-1972 and 1973-1995, Irwin says history suggests being cautious about trying to project recent and favorable weather patterns into the future.

2008 Iowa FFA Association
State *Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities*
Secretary's Copy

Ability: Take a motion from the table.

Business: Tour the Chicago Board of Trade.

Ability: Change the presiding officer.

Business: Donate books to the elementary school library.

2008 Iowa FFA Association

State Conduct of Meetings CDE Abilities

Judge's Copy

Ability: Take a motion from the table.

Business: Tour the Chicago Board of Trade.

Ability: Change the presiding officer.

Business: Donate books to the elementary school library.

1. Name the three integral components of Agricultural Education?

(Page 7, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“Classroom/Laboratory, Supervised Agricultural Experience, FFA”

2. What is the official salute of the FFA organization?

(Page 17, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

The Pledge of Allegiance

3. What does the eagle at the top of the FFA Emblem signify?

(Page 16, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“The eagle is a national symbol which serves as a reminder of our freedom and ability to explore new horizons for the future of agriculture.”

4. Name the seven general duties of all officers.

(Page 36, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

“1. A genuine desire to be a part of a leadership team. 2. A willingness to accept responsibility. 3. A sincere desire to work with all chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal, and chapter goals. 4. A commitment to lead by example. 5. A knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state, and national FFA constitutions, bylaws and programs. 6. A working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. 7. An ability to memorize official ceremonies.”

5. In order, name the ten parts of an established order of business for a meeting according to the FFA Manual?

(Page 40, 06-07 Official FFA Manual)

Opening Ceremony, Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Officer Reports, Special Features, Unfinished Business, Committee Reports, New Business, Ceremonies, Closing Ceremony, Entertainment/Recreation/Refreshments

2008 Iowa FFA Association State *Creed Speaking* CDE Questions

1. What are some of the “hours of discouragement” mentioned in the second paragraph for today’s agriculturalists?
 2. Is the FFA Creed relevant to you as a high school student? Why?
 3. What are examples of the “best traditions of our national life” mentioned in the last paragraph?

2008 Iowa FFA Association

State *Extemporaneous Speaking CDE Topics*

2007-08 General Themes: a.) Agriscience and Technology; b.) Agrimarketing and International Agricultural Relations; and c.) Food and Fiber Systems.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

What will be the effect of rising farmland prices in Iowa?

What does US Agriculture need to do to stay competitive in the world market?

What new advancements in biotechnology will change agriculture's future?

Generic Employment Application

Employer Name:

Job Number:

Position:

Date:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (Last, First, Middle)	Telephone Number
Address	Message Number
City/State/Zip	E-mail Address

Are you legally authorized to work in the United States? Yes No

Are You Applying For:	What Shift(s) Will You Work?	May We Contact Present Employer?
<input type="checkbox"/> F/T <input type="checkbox"/> P/T <input type="checkbox"/> Temp	<input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings <input type="checkbox"/> Nights	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY - Begin With Most Recent Employment

Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number
Dates From	To	Company Name	City, State
Titles and Duties –			
Reason for Leaving:		Supervisor's Name	Telephone Number

MILITARY - Branch of Service:

Describe any military training received relevant to the position for which you are applying:

EDUCATION/TRAINING - Include Technical/Academic Achievements/Courses

Have you obtained a high school diploma or GED certificate? Yes No

School	Name & Location	Diploma/Degree	Subject Of Specialization
College/University			
Specialized Courses & Training			

CLERICAL SKILLS - To Be Completed for Clerical Positions

Typing, WPM		Medical Terminology <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Legal Terminology <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
List Specific Computer Skills –			

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL INFORMATION - To Be Completed for Licensed/Registered Positions

Idaho Registration No.	Expiration Date	Certificate No.	Expiration Date
If not licensed in Idaho, have you applied? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If licensed in another state, list:	

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS - List Other Specific Skills You Have to Offer for This Job Opening:

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REFERENCES - Give the Names of Three Persons Not Related to You

Name	Address	Telephone	Occupation

The information on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

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2008 Iowa FFA Association

State Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Abilities/Questions

Judge's Copy

Ability: To Call for the Orders of the Day.

Business: Record Public Service Announcements for FFA Week.

Ability: To Receive a Motion to Reconsider.

Business: Conduct a Bicycle Safety Program at the Elementary.

Ability: To Rescind.

Business: Start a Chapter Swine Cooperative.

Ability: To Appeal from the Decision of the Chair.

Business: Design a landscaping plan for the nursing home.

Ability: To Recess.

Business: Donate \$500 to the Iowa FFA Foundation.

1. How soon after a motion has been postponed indefinitely can it be brought up again?

(Page 49, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"The motion which has been postponed can be introduced in a later meeting, but only as a new motion."

2. What is the purpose of a motion to object to the consideration of a question?

(Centerfold Left Side, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"Stop offensive or inappropriate measures"

3. What kind of motion is a motion to lay on the table?

(Centerfold Left Side, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"Subsidiary Motion"

4. Define an incidental motion.

(Page 13, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"Incidental motions are actions that are presented while another motion, such as a main motion, is being considered."

"Incidental motions must be decided before action is taken on the question to which they are related."

5. Why would an organization vote to suspend the rules?

(Page 61, 1994 Edition of "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure")

"This incidental motion is desirable when the best interests of the organization are served by a temporary suspension of one or more of the written rules that govern its operation."

Radio Broadcasting CDE

State Level - Iowa FFA Association

2007-08

SPRING CLEANING: EAST SAC WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS THE 35 FFA PROJECTS AWARDED \$50,000 BY IOWA FARM BUREAU

The deep freeze of 2007/2008 is thawing, and that means many Iowans will soon be trying to make their lawns look like the fairways at Augusta National. But educational studies being conducted by groups like the East Sac FFA Chapter may make them rethink how aggressively they apply the extra fertilizer. With the help of a \$2,000 FFA Environment First Grant from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), the Chapter will receive training through the IOWATER program and conduct a study that examines fertilizer levels in the soil and water contamination at Blackhawk Lake in Lake View.

"We're trying to raise awareness and promote land and water stewardship," said East Sac advisor Scott Johnson. "By educating current users and future users of our resources, maybe we'll see a reduction in all types of fertilizer application amounts and the number of applications." According to Johnson, the chapter is hoping to begin its training and testing this spring.

East Sac was one of 35 FFA chapters - located in 33 counties across Iowa - that received a total of \$50,000 in funding from the IFBF to support programs that improve environmental quality in their communities. This year's applicants were encouraged to consider projects that analyze water quality protection and odor mitigation, two high priority issues with evolving solutions.

The FFA Environment First Grant Program is sponsored by the IFBF in conjunction with the Iowa FFA Association. Since the program began in 2002, Farm Bureau has awarded nearly 340 grants totaling more than \$460,000. The grants are announced during National Ag Week, March 16-22.

"Environmental stewardship is a high priority for Farm Bureau members, and the FFA Environment First Grant Program is a great vehicle to share our enthusiasm for environmental education and action with our local communities," said IFBF President Craig Lang.

Iowa FFA advisor Dale Gruis echoed Lang and thanked Farm Bureau for its continued support of FFA. "We're grateful that the Iowa Farm Bureau has renewed its longtime commitment to the environment and the FFA," said Gruis. "This program gives FFA members a chance to take environmental learning into their communities, and we couldn't give them that opportunity without Farm Bureau's support."

FFA chapters were able to apply for up to \$2,000 in funding for activities to be conducted this calendar year. The winners will be recognized at the Iowa State FFA Convention in April.

COBS, NOT KERNELS SOUGHT FOR NEW IOWA ETHANOL PLANT

Ethanol manufacturer Poet plans to use corn cobs supplied by Iowa farmers as a feedstock for a new cellulosic plant in Emmetsburg, Iowa. The company aspires to be a leading large-scale producer of cellulosic ethanol, according to farmer investors.

It would take an estimated 270,000 acres of corn to supply enough cobs and kernel hulls to produce 30 million gallons of ethanol. Collecting cobs efficiently while harvesting corn remains a challenge, but several farm equipment manufacturers are researching technology with Poet that can get the job done.

In other Poet news, the company recently said it will move ahead with plans to build two ethanol plants in Indiana, despite the weakening market. A plant in Alexandria, Ind., is scheduled to open next month; a North Manchester, Ind., plant should open this fall.

CONGRESS EXTENDS FARM BILL 30 DAYS TO APRIL 18

The existing farm bill has been extended 30 days to give lawmakers and White House officials additional time to craft new farm policy. The Senate unanimously approved the extension yesterday, followed by a voice vote in the House last night.

"Although regrettable that it was necessary, Congress' additional extension of the 2002 farm bill through April 18 will allow staffers to continue work on the legislation during the Spring Recess," American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said.

Lawmakers have not been able to agree on how to fund the new farm bill, and President Bush and White House agriculture officials have vowed repeatedly to veto legislation that is too costly and does not demonstrate reform sufficiently.

An editorial in today's edition of The Wall Street Journal takes an extremely dim view of federal farm policy. The editorial also cites AFBF's support of "a new \$5.1 billion emergency 'trust fund' for farmers." In the fourth paragraph, the WSJ editorializes, "So sweeping is the American Farm Bureau's victory that of the 22 crops that now receive price supports, 18 receive a more generous payment scheme under the Senate bill and 12 in the House bill."

The editorial concludes, "The only good news is that President Bush is threatening to veto this budget buster over its taxes, trade distortions and subsidies for the rich. The veto threat is at least causing the Members to think twice, and may actually improve the bill. But the best outcome would be if this monster died of its own, greedy weight."

ETHANOL INDUSTRY CREATED 238,000 JOBS IN 2007

According to a new economic analysis of the U.S. ethanol industry, conducted by John Urbanchuk of LECG, LLC, a global expert services consulting firm, "the increased activity resulting from ongoing production and construction of new capacity supported the creation of 238,541 jobs in all sectors of the economy during 2007."

Corn (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	
CORN May 08	C8K	5246	5350	5446	5350	5446	200	
CORN Jul 08	C8N	5370	5464	5570	5464	5570	200	
CORN Sep 08	C8U	5400	5510	5600	5510	5600	200	
CORN Dec 08	C8Z	5396	5500	5596	5500	5596	200	
CORN Mar 09	C9H	5474	5624	5674	5624	5674	200	
CORN May 09	C9K	5520	5684	5720	5684	5720	200	
CORN Jul 09	C9N	5540	5712	5740	5710	5734	194	
CORN Sep 09	C9U	5260	5460	5460	5420	5420	160	
CORN Dec 09	C9Z	5190	5310	5390	5300	5390	200	
CORN Mar 10	C0H	5250	0	0	0	5444	194	
CORN May 10	C0K	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CORN Jul 10	C0N	5284	5474	5474	5474	5480	194	
CORN Dec 10	C0Z	5150	0	0	0	5340	190	

Soybeans (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	
SOYBEANS May 08	S8K	12570	13040	13070	13040	13070	500	
SOYBEANS Jul 08	S8N	12720	13220	13220	13220	13220	500	
SOYBEANS Aug 08	S8Q	12660	13100	13160	13100	13160	500	
SOYBEANS Sep 08	S8U	12400	12770	12900	12770	12900	500	
SOYBEANS Nov 08	S8X	11890	12100	12390	12094	12390	500	
SOYBEANS Jan 09	S9F	11970	12270	12470	12260	12470	500	
SOYBEANS Mar 09	S9H	12060	12480	12560	12480	12560	500	
SOYBEANS May 09	S9K	12170	12470	12670	12470	12670	500	
SOYBEANS Jul 09	S9N	12180	12590	12680	12590	12680	500	
SOYBEANS Aug 09	S9Q	12180	0	0	0	12680	500	
SOYBEANS Sep 09	S9U	11400	0	0	0	11900	500	
SOYBEANS Nov 09	S9X	11250	11750	11750	11700	11750	500	
SOYBEANS Jan 10	S0F	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SOYBEANS Jul 10	S0N	11500	0	0	0	12000	500	
SOYBEANS Nov 10	S0X	11300	0	0	0	11780	480	

Wheat (CBOT)								
Contract	Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg	
WHEAT May 08	W8K	10200	10500	11150	10500	10674	474	
WHEAT Jul 08	W8N	10184	10500	11100	10500	10684	500	
WHEAT Sep 08	W8U	10290	10640	10940	10640	10824	534	
WHEAT Dec 08	W8Z	10394	10690	11240	10690	10904	510	
WHEAT Mar 09	W9H	10500	10800	10890	10800	11020	520	
WHEAT May 09	W9K	10400	0	0	0	10900	500	
WHEAT Jul 09	W9N	9894	10040	10280	10040	10280	384	
WHEAT Sep 09	W9U	9950	0	0	0	10330	380	
WHEAT Dec 09	W9Z	10030	0	0	0	10380	350	
WHEAT Mar 10	W0H	9700	0	0	0	10380	680	
WHEAT Jul 10	W0N	9700	0	0	0	10150	450	

WHEAT	Dec 10	WOZ	9700	0	0	0	10150	450
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Live Cattle (CME)

Contract		Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg
LIVE CATTLE	Apr 08	LC8J	90.425	90.5	91.2	90.4	91.15	0.725
LIVE CATTLE	Jun 08	LC8M	90.85	90.55	91	90.25	90.85	0
LIVE CATTLE	Aug 08	LC8Q	94.8	94.75	94.95	94.25	94.725	0.075
LIVE CATTLE	Oct 08	LC8V	99.85	99.8	100.5	99.75	100.45	0.6
LIVE CATTLE	Dec 08	LC8Z	102.025	102.05	102.8	102	102.8	0.775
LIVE CATTLE	Feb 09	LC9G	103.9	103.975	104.5	103.975	104.425	0.525
LIVE CATTLE	Apr 09	LC9J	103.85	103.85	104.6	103.85	104.3	0.45
LIVE CATTLE	Jun 09	LC9M	100.95	101	101.7	101	101.6	0.65

Lean Hogs (CME)

Contract		Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg
LEAN HOGS	Apr 08	LH8J	56.3	56.9	58.1	56.8	57.9	1.6
LEAN HOGS	May 08	LH8K	68.4	68.2	69.25	68.2	69.175	0.775
LEAN HOGS	Jun 08	LH8M	71.5	71.7	72.7	71.625	72.6	1.1
LEAN HOGS	Jul 08	LH8N	75.375	75.5	76.05	75.15	75.325	-0.05
LEAN HOGS	Aug 08	LH8Q	75.575	75.8	76.8	75.8	76.7	1.125
LEAN HOGS	Oct 08	LH8V	70.95	71.15	71.95	70.95	71.95	1
LEAN HOGS	Dec 08	LH8Z	73.9	73.9	74.55	73.9	74.35	0.45
LEAN HOGS	Feb 09	LH9G	77.45	77.25	78.1	77.25	77.975	0.525
LEAN HOGS	Apr 09	LH9J	79.7	79.8	79.95	79.65	79.65	-0.05

ORANGE JUICE (CSCE)

Contract		Sym	Prev	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg
ORANGE JUICE	May 08	@OJ8K	112.9	0	116.9	111.1	112.3	-0.6
ORANGE JUICE	Jul 08	@OJ8N	116.45	0	119.8	114.7	115.75	-0.7
ORANGE JUICE	Sep 08	@OJ8U	120.25	0	120.5	117.8	119.25	-1
ORANGE JUICE	Nov 08	@OJ8X	123	0	126.1	122.4	121.75	-1.25
ORANGE JUICE	Jan 09	@OJ9F	126.65	0	129.75	125.5	125.65	-1
ORANGE JUICE	Mar 09	@OJ9H	128.25	0	0	0	127.25	-1
ORANGE JUICE	May 09	@OJ9K	130.5	0	0	0	129.5	-1

US Navy Confirms Suez Canal Shooting 03/25 12:32

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) --An American cargo ship under contract to the U.S. Navy fired warning shots at a small Egyptian boat while passing through the Suez Canal, the U.S. military said Tuesday. Egyptian authorities said at least one man was killed, but the U.S. said an investigation was under way and it had no reports of casualties.

The Global Patriot, which was under short-term charter to the Navy's

Military Sealift Command, entered the canal from the Red Sea at Suez after dark Monday when it was approached by several small boats, according to U.S. and Egyptian officials.

The U.S. Navy has been careful about the activities of small boats near their warships since the 2000 suicide attack by an explosives-packed motor boat on the USS Cole in Yemen killed 17 sailors.

A U.S. Navy security team aboard the Global Patriot fired the warning shots, said Lt. Nathan Christensen, deputy spokesman for the U.S. 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain.

"The boats were hailed and warned by a native Arabic speaker using a bullhorn to warn them to turn away. A warning flare was then fired," said a statement from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. "One small boat continued to approach the ship and received two sets of warning shots 20-30 yards in front of the bow."

The statement added that "all shots were accounted for as they entered the water." It also said that "initial reports indicate that no casualties were sustained on either vessel."

The New York-based company that owns Global Patriot also said the reports they received indicated there were no injuries or casualties during the incident.

"The reports we have from the ship command were that there were some flares fired at the approaching small boats and ... there were no injuries or casualties to anyone whatsoever," said Hormoz Shayegan, vice president of Global Container Lines Limited. He said the crew of the vessel was unarmed.

An Egyptian security official at the canal, however, said that after the warning shots, a man was shot dead in the small boat and that the three other men with him were wounded.

The body of the man, Mohammed Fouad, was taken to a hospital morgue, then transferred to the Ibrahim Nafie mosque ahead of burial, the head of the union of seamen in Suez, Abbas al-Amrikani, told The Associated Press.

We are praying over his the body right now," al-Amrikani said by phone over audible sounds of prayer. "I saw the body. The bullet entered his heart and went out the other side." He added that Fouad was 27 years old.

The Egyptian government had no immediate comment. The state news agency MENA reported an Egyptian was killed "when an American ship opened fire."

Small boats selling cigarettes and other products often swarm civilian ships moving through the canal. The merchants know not to approach military vessels, but the Global Patriot looked like a civilian vessel, said the security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"We are very conscious of being in heavily trafficked areas and we as professional mariners try to keep people from getting too close," 5th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Lydia Robertson told The Associated Press by phone from Bahrain. "Our team did take the appropriate steps to take those measured steps to warn the vessels that were getting too close."

Robertson said the same rules of engagement applied for warships as for those under contract.

In Washington, the State Department said Washington took the issue seriously and would work with Egypt to prevent similar incidents. Spokesman Sean McCormack said he expected Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Egyptian Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi would touch on the matter at the State Department later Tuesday in a private meeting that is likely to focus on the security situation in the Gaza Strip. Tantawi also was to meet with Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday.

Egyptian officials said the ship was continuing its journey through the canal and was expected to arrive at Port Said near the Mediterranean by nightfall.

The Global Patriot is registered to the New York-based Global Container Lines and, according to the company Web site, the vessel trades between the United States, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and East Africa.

Some 7.5 percent of world sea trade passes through the canal, which at its narrowest is 120 yards wide. The canal is a major source of foreign currency for Egypt.

Palestinians to Deploy in West Bank 03/25 12:34

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel's defense minister on Tuesday said he would soon allow 600 foreign-trained Palestinian police to take up positions in a volatile West Bank town in a gesture aimed at helping the moderate Palestinian government restore law and order.

Palestinian officials, however, said the town, Jenin, does not require additional forces. And they said Israel is still not doing nearly enough to bolster moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in his life-and-death showdown with the militants of Hamas — such as removing roadblocks, dismantling illegal West Bank outposts or releasing prisoners.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak's announcement came at a sensitive time in peace efforts. U.S.-backed peace talks have made little visible progress since they were launched last November, and Israel has come under growing international pressure to help prop up Abbas. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is expected in the region next week to check up on progress.

Speaking to reporters at an army base in the West Bank, Barak said the Palestinian officers would be deployed in Jenin, a town in the northern West Bank where Israeli soldiers frequently clash with Palestinian militants.

He did not say when the police would arrive, but said he would discuss the issue at a meeting Wednesday with the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad.

As part of the peace process, the Palestinians have pledged to crack down on militant groups. While Fayyad says he is capable of reining in gunmen,

Israel maintains a large troop presence throughout the West Bank, saying Palestinian forces are not yet ready to take charge.

The 600 Palestinian officers have been receiving special training in neighboring Jordan since January under a program funded by the U.S.

Jenin is known as a stronghold of West Bank militants and Israel frequently conducts military raids to hunt down wanted men. But Palestinian security officials say they have largely restored quiet to the town and already have some 2,000 officers there, adding they were perplexed by Barak's gesture.

"We didn't apply for more forces in Jenin. We have enough," said Diab al-Ali, a top Palestinian security commander in the West Bank. "The only demand we have for Jenin is that Israel hand the city over to us."

Palestinian officials say what matters is not the number of Palestinian forces deployed in a particular area, but whether Israeli troops refrain from carrying out arrest raids in West Bank towns.

Israeli forces routinely enter West Bank towns, including Jenin, in search of wanted men, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is undermining their efforts to restore control.

Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel Razak Yehiyeh told The Associated Press that Palestinian forces are indeed being trained in Jordan, but there was no need to send them to Jenin.

Also Tuesday, Israel hooked up 27 villages in the Jenin area to its electricity grid. It now provides power to about 15,000 villagers who had been depending on their own generators. France funded the \$18 million project.

Barak said he is considering other measures to bolster the Palestinians and improve the negotiating climate. Among them are allowing Palestinian forces to obtain additional vehicles and "non-lethal" weapons, such as rubber bullets, and helping Palestinian businessmen move freely between the West Bank and Israel.

However, Barak has made similar pledges in the past without taking action. And on Monday, he rejected a key Palestinian demand, saying he would not remove any of the hundreds of Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank for now.

The Palestinians and the international community, including Mideast envoy Tony Blair, say the travel restrictions are stifling the West Bank economy. Israel says the measures are needed to prevent attacks.

EU Biodiesel Industry Falters

LUPLOW, Germany (DTN) -- Inside a gray Communist-era building near Luplow, Germany, an engine powered by rapeseed oil runs at full speed, churning out sauna-like heat.

Local farmer Andreas Tornow, his voice growing louder as he moves to shut down the motor, explains that it is a symbol of his farm's self sufficiency: He grows, harvests, crushes and uses his own rapeseed oil to fuel -- and heat -- his operation.

He also grows hemp, which contains almost as much oil as rapeseed. But the real treasure is the grassy top of the plant that's already being used as a biogas feedstock in many parts of rural Germany.

Biogas, a combustible gas created from decomposing biological waste, typically contains 50 to 60 percent methane, which can be used to run power and heat generators in rural areas. And while biodiesel gets a lot of headlines, the Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants, or UFOP, reports that biogas production is experiencing the biggest boom in EU agriculture these days.

From 2002 to 2006, Germany's net imports of rapeseed increased from about 304,200 metric tons to 1.3 million, according to the June 2007 USDA Foreign Agriculture Service report. During that time, Germany converted from an 844,000-metric-ton rapeseed-oil net exporter to an 832,000-metric-ton net importer.

This means German rapeseed farmers recently have faced greater competition from producers in other nations, and they have grown less likely to get involved in direct ownership of biodiesel plants.

Bernd Voss, farmer and vice chairman of the Federal Bureau of the Association of Peasant Agriculture in Wilster, Germany, said German farmers who have tried to run biodiesel plants have been unsuccessful.

For example, a German farmer cooperative that owned a 250,000-metric-ton, or 75-million-gallon, biodiesel plant north of Hamburg recently decided to sell the business to a large international company. That company has decided to add 400,000 metric tons of production capacity to the same plant that farmers couldn't afford to run.

Voss said the German government's decision to begin taxing biodiesel in the past two years along with increased production costs forced the farmers to sell.

"They underestimated the cost and difficulty of being in the energy business," he said. "As far as farmers are concerned, they can do with or without biodiesel."

But biogas is another story. In Germany alone the number of biogas plants increased from 1,900 in 2005, according to Anaerobic Digestion Network, to about 3,500 in 2007, according to the German Energy Agency.

German law offers a bonus for farmers and others who capture waste heat, including that from biomass, for residential or business use. The law grants energy producers access to the electric grid. That's part of the reason that Tornow is a proponent of biogas.

"I'm convinced that the only solution is a decentralized system with biofuels," Tornow said. "Big companies come into the market and are buying

up land, he said, but our resources are not big enough." With biogas, "we don't have to mess with transportation costs" and "smaller independent growers can split up from the big players."

Tornow said he pushes farmers to look beyond their roles as feedstock suppliers to "big food" and "big biodiesel" and to take on a new mindset: energy farmer.

Energy farming is a new concept to German farmers, but it is catching on fast as farmers look to diversify their operations beyond traditional crops, Voss said.

For his part, he'd like to see farmers invest in technologies that use biomass to make fuels or to generate electricity and heat, and with his help many Germans rural communities are developing biogas plants custom-designed to fit specific needs and biomass limitations. For example, a plant within 10 miles of Voss' farm in northern Germany uses enzymes to convert prairie grass and manure to biogas.

The biogas produced at the plant, which is also equipped with solar panels, may soon provide heating and electricity to area residents; it also fuels cars designed to run on biogas.

Voss said these projects are important because they create new markets for farmers to sell hay and other biomass that traditionally has been considered waste products.

The EU Commission offers a subsidy of 45 Euros per hectare (about \$28.60 per acre), for farmers to grow rapeseed for biodiesel production, Voss and Tornow said. However, Voss said 45 Euros is not enough money considering all the paperwork involved. And both say the EU is not interested in funding the type of small-scale projects, such as rapeseed-fueled heat generators, that could benefit farmers most.

The irony is that farmers who grow biomass crops to produce biogas, for example, can turn out four to five times more energy per hectare than by growing rapeseed for biodiesel, Voss said.

The good news is that in the past 10 to 15 years there have been changes in EU agriculture policy, which previously limited how land could be used. Now farmers have more leeway to decide what crops to produce and how to market them -- essentially freeing up farmers to grow more crops for biomass and other ventures.

While biodiesel production generally has been good for German and EU agriculture, because it has established a price floor for rapeseed, the farmer really is not a part of the biodiesel industry and its future doesn't look as bright as it once did, Voss said.

The farmers he represents in EU-wide energy and agriculture policy discussions, Voss said, believe biodiesel production using rapeseed is unsustainable.

That's because the German countryside has been maxed out in the amount of land good for growing rapeseed, and both food and fuel are competing for the same crop.

In 2004 there were 37,000 acres planted to energy crops for biogas production in Germany, according to the German Biogas Association. That number grew to 222,400 acres in 2005 and 467,000 acres in 2006. Estimates are that that number will grow to about 11.1 million acres by 2030. For now these biomass crops are mostly corn, but there are others besides hemp in development, including sunflowers, sugar beets and Sudan grass.

To put that growth into perspective, UFOP said that in 2006 there were about 3.5 million acres of rapeseed in Germany, which has about 29 million acres of arable land.

"As of yet the rapeseed farmer is not hurting from the trouble in the biodiesel industry," Voss said. "Up to now farmers did not get good prices. The role of the farmer is to sell the rape. But he doesn't know what happens to the rape."

In 2007, Voss said, the price he received for rapeseed increased by more than 60 percent from 2006 levels. Yet he continues to plant about the same 12 hectares, or 30 acres, of rapeseed each year.

Tornow said that instead of selling all of his rapeseed to large pressing mills that eventually sell or convert the oil to biodiesel, he has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in his own small-scale rapeseed crusher. It presses about 800 metric tons, or 240,000 gallons of oil, from 2,000 metric tons of rapeseed each year. The remaining rapeseed he sells to area mills.

He installed engine-conversion equipment and rapeseed oil tanks on his tractors and other farm machinery that now run mostly on rapeseed oil produced on his own farm -- all for a price similar to what it costs to buy a combine, he said.

"For the first four years it was only about saving money. Now we are making a profit and have some energy security," he said.

Aside from using a little biodiesel to help start tractor engines on his 2,600-acre farm, where he also grows wheat, barley, rye and hemp, Tornow is spending little on fuel at a time when crude oil prices have hit new highs.

"Now we are at a point where we can exist independently of what is happening in the world," he said.

The biodiesel industry's struggles, said Dieter Bockey, managing director for UFOP, has led the organization to encourage its farmer and oilseed crusher members to invest their money outside of biodiesel.

There are about 480 small oilseed crushers in Germany with the overall potential to crush 1 million metric tons, Bockey said. It is a relatively robust industry of its own with plenty of market potential outside of biodiesel as a feedstock.

"We recommend making investment only in pure oil and not biodiesel," he said.

LaNina Debate Rages On....

The debate rages on on whether or not LaNina will be a dominant factor in the Corn Belt this season. NOAA and Iowa State Climatologist Elwyn Taylor predict LaNina will strengthen all the way through August and increase the likelihood of drought and below trendline yields.

While DTN Meteorologist Bryce Anderson says based on western Pacific sea surface temperatures the condition is moderating...which means no LaNina related dryness for the 2008 growing season.

Taylor is watching temperatures in the central Pacific, but more importantly predicting LaNina based on the Southern Oscillation Index. However, Anderson says sea surface temperatures in the western Pacific have much more impact on weather patterns in North America.

Anderson says they are using data that has been collected off the coast of South America every two weeks since the late 1950s and early 1960s and it has an accurate track record.

Soft Winter Wheat Market More Inflated Than Should Be

Even with new, higher price limits - Minneapolis Hard Red Spring Wheat continues to close limit up -- and because of that -- will now have a price limit of 1.35 a bushel.

Yesterday the front month contracts for old wheat closed another 90 cents higher -- with March wheat now at 18.53/bu.

DTN Market Analyst Elaine Kub says millers are just that short of wheat - they have to have it.

But she says this is creating a problem for soft wheat prices in Chicago - because with Minneapolis limit up all the time -- traders can't get into the market -- so they are going to Kansas and Chicago instead.

That's inflating those prices far higher than the fundamentals show they should be.

Kub notes that with these new price limits - it means when wheat starts dropping - its going to drop hard.

Chairman Harkin: Direct Payments "Still on the Table"

DTN writer Chris Clayton reported yesterday that, "While the Bush administration has demanded more cuts and no tax increases in the farm bill, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said the real negotiations are just beginning on the budget baseline and revenue for the farm bill.

"'The fact is we are going to have to come up with some more money above baseline,' said Harkin. 'The administration, I'm sure, at some point will come forward and recommend where we get the money. They haven't yet. Then we will counter that and we will work it out. I hope they are not totally inflexible on some of the revenue portions we've got on the Senate side. That would not be good to have an inflexible position on that.'"

Mr. Clayton noted that, "Senators return to Washington, D.C., next week with staff from the Senate and House already working on details of the farm bill. Informal talks between the Bush administration and lawmakers also are under way. Harkin acknowledged in a call with agricultural reporters that the biggest challenge in farm-bill conference talks would be reaching an agreement with the Bush administration on funding the farm bill.

"'That is going to be some pretty tough negotiations,' Harkin said."

With respect to direct payments, (related graphical illustration of direct payments by commodity is available here, and related background on direct payments and Farm Bill funding can also be viewed here) the article explained that, "Throughout the farm bill debate, Harkin has been willing to cut some of the \$5.2 billion sent to farmers every year in direct payments. Harkin could not get support for those plans in the Senate Agriculture Committee, but a tough negotiating stance by the administration could lead to such cuts, which are 'still on the table,' Harkin said.

"'That issue of direct payments becomes even more important,' Harkin said. 'Do we need to keep giving direct payments to farmers who have all of these high prices? That's still there.'"

And the DTN article also pointed out that, "Until now, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., has taken the early lead in negotiating with the Bush administration on the farm bill, but Peterson is clearly frustrated with the results. In recent interviews, Peterson has said his talks have yielded little, other than the administration has no specific suggestions to find offsets and will offer no new revenue sources."

In a separate update posted yesterday at the DTN Ag Policy Blog, Mr. Clayton provided this analysis of the Farm Bill reconciliation process: "So we have the two committee chairmen in this negotiating process clearly divided on their positions. Yet, both also are attempting to talk with the administration separately, rather than come to terms and negotiate as one unified voice for congressional Democrats on the farm bill.

"[Secretary of Agriculture] Conner, meanwhile, has been going around letting everyone know that neither financing package approved by the House nor the Senate is acceptable to the administration. And it has been made clear to everyone involved now that Conner speaks for the administration on

the farm bill. The administration's main point: any tax increase is a non-starter.

"All of this public budget debate makes Saturday a little more interesting. Conner, Harkin and Peterson will all have their first forum together on the farm bill on Saturday at the Pheasants Forever Pheasant Fest meeting in St. Paul, Minn. The Pheasant Fest folks are interested in the conservation programs, and it will be worth noting just how close or distant these three are on the conservation title of the farm bill."

Philip Brasher, writing in today's Des Moines Register, also reported on recent Farm Bill developments and focused on comments made by Chairman Harkin regarding direct payments; "Some crop subsidies could be cut as lawmakers search for ways to pay for a new farm bill, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Ia., said Thursday.

"'As far as I'm concerned, direct payments are still on the table,' he said, referring to the more than \$5 billion in fixed annual payments that grain and cotton farmers receive.

"Iowa farmers and landowners collect about \$500 million a year in such payments.

"The House and Senate resisted reducing those subsidies in writing their versions of the farm bill and got money instead from increasing corporate tax revenues, prompting a White House veto threat."

The Register article noted that, "Some critics of farm programs have argued that the fixed farm payments aren't justified at a time when prices for corn, soybeans and other commodities are at record levels. Harkin initially favored reducing the payments but couldn't get support for the idea from fellow senators. The American Farm Bureau Federation recently reiterated its opposition to reducing the subsidies.

"But given the high commodity prices, 'the issue of direct payments becomes even more important,' Harkin said."

More specifically, the Farm Bureau noted last Friday that, "Although neither the House nor Senate versions of the farm bill call for cuts in direct payments, Farm Bureau continues to express strong opposition to this.

"'Some opponents of farm policy look at current high prices for most agricultural commodities and assume this is a 'good time' to lower government supports. It is critical to remember farm bills are written for the long-term rather than the short-term. While we certainly hope the good prices we are now enjoying for most commodities continue, there is certainly no assurance this will be the case,' wrote [AFBF President Bob Stallman]."

Detailed Forecast

Des Moines Area

Tonight: partly cloudy. Colder. Low in the lower 30s. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph with gusts to around 25 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight.

Wednesday: mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. High around 50. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: rain showers likely in the evening, then rain showers likely and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Low in the mid 30s. East wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday: rain showers likely in the morning, then rain showers likely and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. High in the lower 40s. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Thursday Night: mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow and rain. Low in the upper 20s. Northeast wind around 15 mph.

Friday: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. High in the lower 40s.

Friday Night And Saturday: partly cloudy. Low in the mid 20s. High in the upper 40s.

Saturday Night: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Low in the lower 30s.

Sunday: mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. High in the upper 40s.

Sunday Night: partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Low in the mid 30s.

Monday: mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain showers. High in the lower 50s.

Monday Night: partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Low around 30.

Tuesday: mostly sunny. High in the upper 40s.

National Weather Service

NORTHEY INVITES IOWANS TO CONFERENCE ON BUILDING RAIN GARDENS

Proper Design, Installation and Maintenance to be discussed at March 27 Workshop in Ankeny

DES MOINES - Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northeby today encouraged interested Iowans to consider attending a workshop on Rain Gardens for Managing Stormwater Quality on Thursday, March, 27th in Ankeny. The conference will focus on the proper design, installation and maintenance of rain gardens.

Individuals that attend will receive a special certificate of training in "Rain Gardens for Managing Stormwater Quality."

"In the past management of storm water in our urban areas have only focused on preventing flooding, not protecting water quality. New technologies and strategies that allow us to do both will be demonstrated at this workshop," Northeby said. "It's important that individuals across the state do everything they can to protect the state's water supply and rain gardens are an excellent way for residents in urban areas to participate."

The conference will feature discussion on a wide variety of topics, such as the function, design and landscape positioning of rain gardens, maintenance and success stories. Engineers, landscape architects, municipal staff, consultants, landscape designers, contractors, landscapers, horticulturalists, biologists and students should attend.

"Many rapidly growing communities and the developers working there have an interest in making the investment necessary to improve water quality, but don't necessarily have the expertise. This workshop is designed to provide guidance on how and where to build a rain garden," Northeby said.

The program is sponsored by the Iowa Storm Water Partnership, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, and the Iowa Storm Water Education Program.

For more information contact Wayne Petersen at wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov or 515-281-5833. A full schedule for the day can also be found on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's website at www.iowaagriculture.gov/newsAndEvents.asp

NORTHEY ANNOUNCES MARCH GOOD FARM NEIGHBOR AWARD WINNER

The Couser Family of Nevada Receive Recognition

DES MOINES - Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today announced that William and Nancy Couser of Nevada in Story County are the winners of the March "Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award."

"The Couser family exemplifies the qualities that this award was designed to highlight. They are livestock producers that take care of their animals, their land, and their neighbors," said Northey. "The family is very involved in their community, works out rotations with neighbors during harvest and is always there to lend a hand."

In nominating the Couser's for the award, their neighbor Dr. Ronald Huhn said, "Bill is a very innovative guy, you give him a problem and he has two or three solutions to solve it before you finish telling him about your problem."

The Couser's have a custom spraying, custom seed corn picking, cattle feeding and crop production operation. They're currently working with ISU Extension on feedlot waste research or other research as needed. Bill is involved in the Cattlemen's Association, is the Lincolnway Energy Board President, and serves on the Nevada Economic Development Commission. Bill and Nancy have two sons.

The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor award is made possible through the financial support of The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. WHO Radio's *Big Show* will broadcast live from the Couser farm on Tuesday, March 25. Deputy Secretary Karey Claghorn will present the award to the family during the broadcast.

The award recognizes Iowa livestock producers who care for their operations and their neighbors and is named for Gary Wergin, a former WHO Radio broadcaster who helped create the award.

To nominate, a neighbor should write a letter or e-mail explaining why their neighbor should receive this designation. Applications may be submitted to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Attn: Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, Henry A. Wallace Building, Des Moines, IA 50319 or emailed to tess.capps@idals.state.ia.us.

Northey, a corn and soybean farmer from Spirit Lake, is serving his first term as Secretary of Agriculture. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are the opportunities in renewable energy, conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture.

Forecasters say odds favor dry year

Tile lines may be running full this spring, but a La Nina currently perched in the Pacific could lead to drought conditions later this summer, according to several weather experts.

The forecasters agree the La Nina, caused by cooling temperatures in the Pacific Ocean off Ecuador, is the largest factor to determine if a drought forms during the upcoming growing season.

Elwynn Taylor, Iowa State University Extension climatologist, says the newest computer models show a La Nina event stretching into June.

That likely will affect spring planting and the growing season, note the weather experts.

At the moment, there is plenty of soil moisture.

Taylor says in a survey of 4,000 farmers from Ohio to Nebraska, more than 80 percent of the field tile lines are running. That shows there is plenty of soil moisture.

Harry Hillaker, climatologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture, agrees and adds many Iowa rivers are running higher than normal.

Warmer temperatures this past week helped melt some of the snow in Iowa, particularly south of Interstate 80, he says. However, there is plenty of snow left to melt in other areas, particularly in Northeast and East Central Iowa.

Hillaker says a LaNina normally brings a drier March and that is how this year has started. Moving into April, he says the month could be wetter than normal.

Taylor advises farmers to watch the weather in Arkansas because those conditions generally move north, one month later. Texas and Arkansas currently are wetter than normal, he says.

Pat Guinan, University of Missouri climatologist, says higher precipitation in Iowa, Wisconsin and Northern Illinois increases the risk of spring flooding into Missouri.

He says rain and snow have helped recharge soil moisture in Missouri after the state experienced dry conditions in 2007.

However, Taylor advises farmers to pay careful attention to planting and soil conditions during spring. He says excess moisture conditions could prevent plants from developing deep roots.

Moving into May, Hillaker says weather conditions could begin to dry. If the LaNina continues into June, conditions could turn dry and affect the plants.

Hillaker says 17 times out of 23, past LaNinas have been drier than the long-term average in April to October.

There is not a strong correlation between a LaNina and temperatures, he says.

Guinan says a LaNina might not have a big effect on his state.

"For Missouri, it is a toss up for the summer," he says about chances of below, normal or above-precipitation amounts.

However, Guinan says Northern Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northern Illinois are forecasted to have below-normal precipitation levels in the summer.

He says Missouri farmers should pay attention to May weather conditions because they are typically a good indicator of the summer weather pattern.

Overall, Missouri appears to be heading back to a more-normal weather pattern, Guinan notes.

The 1990s was one of the wettest decades on record, he says. However, in five of the past six years, the state has experienced drought.

Hillaker says August and September have the best odds of being cooler than normal during a LaNina event.

However, Taylor says there are factors besides LaNina that could increase the drought risk for the upcoming growing season.

Sixteen of the past 17 droughts have started in the Southeast, he says. Tennessee to Georgia suffered through a severe drought in 2007.

Conditions in some of those areas have now improved, but parts of the Southeast are still listed as being in a drought, according to the recent U.S. drought monitor.

"It is a risk indicator," Taylor says.

In addition, he cites history as a risk indicator.

Typically, Taylor says there is drought nearly every 19 years. The last major drought in the United States occurred in 1988.

Overall, he says there is a 70 percent chance the national average corn yield will be below trend line, which is 150.6 bushels per acre.

New ag chief hits ground running

There has been no shortage of problems or concerns to face for new USDA Secretary Ed Schafer.

Since taking office in January, Schafer, the former governor of North Dakota has been thrust into the middle of negotiations for the new farm bill. (Editor's note: Since this interview during the first week of March, Congress extended the current farm bill until April 18).

He also has had to address the nation's largest meat recall in response to poor handling of animals at a California plant, and has been asked to respond to the latest announcement of another case of BSE (mad-cow disease) in Canada.

Lee Agri-Media recently interviewed Schafer via telephone while he participated in the National Farmers Union annual convention in Las Vegas.

Lee: Can a permanent disaster element be part of a successful farm bill that won't be vetoed by the president?

Schafer: I think the president's been very clear that he wants to see a safety program in the legislation. What shape that safety net legislation is going to take, we don't know yet. But, he's been adamant of saying no permanent disaster declaration.

That's been driven by the fact that that \$5 billion, or depending on your score it could be \$6.5 billion it's a big pot of money that's above and beyond the baseline increase that they have already. The spending issues here are what's driving that conversation.

The president wants a safety net program out there and will sign legislation with a good safety net program in place. Whether in the end we're going to see a permanent disaster title or we're going to see an increase in safety net programs or (something) other, for instance, as House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson has suggested.

You know there are just other ways of doing it, and we don't know what that final form is going to take yet.

Lee: The administration has recently altered its farm program payment cap position, saying now the adjusted gross income limitation must be lowered and include a hard cap at no more than \$500,000. Originally it proposed an adjusted gross income of \$200,000. Why the change?

Schafer: It's an effort to understand some of the issues out there in that adjusted gross income cap for a high-valued producer in some areas of the country where you have some different input considerations, etc.

When we were looking at this past week, the administration said we need to move forward. We're trying to compromise, we're trying to come up with ways to get this farm bill on the table because the president wants to sign a new farm bill this year, so we tried to make some movement to allow that to happen.

Lee: In the latest House proposal, part of the funding for the bill comes from tax enforcements that were included in the president's budget, but the president has said that isn't acceptable. Why not?

Schafer: The president, as you know, has set course for the budgets to provide a balanced budget by the year 2012. In identifying funding sources in an effort to get to that target . . . if we identify funding sources and continue to increase spending to increase the size and scope of government we're not going to make the goal.

Lee: Do you still plan on having country-of-origin labeling implemented by Oct. 1?

Schafer: USDA will be prepared to implement on Oct. 1. That's a policy that's driven by the legislative branch. It's been on hold and up and down, and whatever. We've missed a couple of the rule-making publishing deadlines, but we'll be in a position to have interim guidelines in place, which have the force of the guidelines, and we'll be prepared to implement

country-of-origin labeling come Oct. 1 should the legislative branch still allow us to do so.

Lee: Canada recently announced another case of BSE (mad-cow disease), which is its seventh since its feed ban was put into effect in 1997. It appears that policy isn't working out as they had hoped, as there have been more cases of BSE after the feed ban than before. Do you feel this poses a significant threat to the U.S. cattle industry? Do you feel it's appropriate Canada and the United States have a "controlled-risk" designation?

Schafer: I think it is working, with their national ID system up there . . . and no designation says that you have totally no cases of BSE. As a matter of fact, we know Canada has them and that's why they got the limited-risk designation as a nation because the incidences is very small.

The fact it was found, identified, contained and did not enter the meat supply – nor did it go out and get exported into the U.S. as a live animal – either way the process worked. So, I would contend the rules do make a difference, that we have started to identify the cases.

And, of course, they're getting identified because we're doing testing of millions of animals instead of not even being aware of it before. So, in that case, I think the system has worked well.

As far as should the U.S. and Canada both be limited-risk, the answer is yes. The limited-risk designation doesn't say it's BSE-free. It says there is a limited risk of it and at the same time, its measures are in place so it will not infect herds. We are convinced the isolated incidences of BSE in Canada do not pose a threat or risk to the beef industry in the United States.

Lee: Even with the resignation of Fidel Castro, the administration has said it will continue its trade embargo. Do you feel this policy has been successful?

Schafer: There are so many factors involved, the least of which is agriculture.

What we do know is the policies of the Castro regime, including his brother, Raul, have lent themselves to people living in poverty, to no new investments in infrastructure, to the policies that lent themselves to putting a society on hold from the 1950s with a do-nothing attitude there. All those things are involved in the Cuban crisis, if you want to call it that.

The good news is agricultural imports to Cuba have been increasing. While we are limited to cash sales, the pure thing is the people need the food, (and) they can't generate it on their own.

Lee: What is the difference between trading with Communist China and North Korea, compared to Cuba?

Schafer: The one difference that I can see, in China the government policies are allowing a huge emergence of the middle class. People have more disposable income; they're getting better jobs; they're getting paid better; they're getting their own homes; they're moving into a more

capitalistic society and away from the central-control Communistic society.

That's what we feel, appropriately, is moving in the right direction eventually giving people rights and opportunity and financial gain on their own without the government.

That's not happening in Cuba. That community has been on hold. The middle class isn't emerging, it's decreasing — more people on poverty, more problems with infrastructure, more lessening of business influence.

Roads, ethanol, odor key legislative items

DES MOINES --- Roads, ethanol and odor research are overshadowing hogs and local control in the Legislature.

Iowa lawmakers are past the halfway mark of the 2008 legislative session and have passed the first major legislative funnel, when bills must have passed out of committee to remain alive.

The major items affecting agriculture that remain on the active agenda are a bill regarding ethanol and other biofuels, another about on-farm research into odor control on livestock farms, and several addressing the broad idea of improving the state's roads and infrastructure.

The biofuels bill is high on the agenda.

"We really want to remove the obstacles that prevent us from using more biofuels," says Joe Johnson, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation state policy adviser.

That's also the way Sen. David Johnson, R-Ocheyedan, sees it. He says there is strong bipartisan support for the idea of eliminating barriers to more biofuels use, but lawmakers are still working through the details.

For example, the Legislature this past year passed a bill including incentives for the installation of E85 pumps and tanks at gas stations. One of the items they are considering this year is to allow incentives for installation of new blender pumps at stations. Those pumps would allow drivers to choose a blend as they pump their gas. The fuel would be stored in separate tanks and blended on site.

If the Environmental Protection Agency and the auto industry agree to allow E15 or E20 or E30 blends of ethanol, the blend system would avoid forcing stations to put in additional tanks. If that doesn't happen, pumps could still offer E10 or E85.

The biofuels bill could offer incentives to retailers to offer higher blends of biodiesel or to install biodiesel pumps.

There was a move earlier this year by Sen. Jack Kibbie, D-Emmetsburg, to remove ethanol stickers from the pumps but that effort died. Still, Joe Johnson says, the idea was not without merit.

One idea still alive is a bill regarding odor research.

Officials from Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Department of Agriculture worked to develop a comprehensive proposal to study a variety of odor-control strategies on farms.

These strategies have been shown to work in small projects, but the three entities say they want to conduct wide spread on-farm statewide research.

Although there is opposition to that proposal from groups, such as Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement which say it will benefit only large livestock operations, most farm groups support the idea, saying it will benefit large and small producers.

There appears to be strong bipartisan support for the idea. The challenge is finding the money. The proposal calls for spending \$4 million a year for several years.

Gov. Chet Culver's proposed 2008-2009 budget includes \$1 million. Most lawmakers say the budget is very tight this year.

The third big-ticket item alive in the Legislature is the idea of improving Iowa's infrastructure.

While the outlook is good for some action this year, it appears likely lawmakers will be back at the drawing board trying to find money for infrastructure again next year, Sen. Johnson says.

The challenge is the Iowa Department of Transportation has estimated an additional \$200 million is needed every year for the next 20 years if Iowa keeps up with its infrastructure needs.

Farm Bureau leaders said they think the fairest way of raising that money is to increase the state's gas tax because it tax those who use the roads and also it would raise at least some of the money from out-of-state drivers.

But, Culver stated in December he would not support a gas tax increase this year. Because of his opposition, that idea appears to be dead for the year.

Lawmakers have discussed raising vehicle-registration fees and several other items (including increased registration fees for pickups, which are lower than those for cars). However, those proposed fees will likely only raise about \$16 million the first year because they would apply only to new vehicles.

That dollar figure would rise over time, but it may be difficult to reach that \$200 million a year figure without a fuel tax increase.

FWP say wolves killed cattle south of Dillon

BOZEMAN - The state wildlife agency says three wolves will be hunted and killed after two livestock calves were killed south of Dillon.

The agency says wolves killed a calf, and are suspected in the death of another, in the Sage Creek area. USDA Wildlife Services investigated the incidents over the weekend.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokeswoman Mel Frost says three wolves have been seen in and among cattle for a couple of weeks. One wolf is radio collared and was tracked traveling alone until late this winter.

Frost says Fish, Wildlife and Parks decided Monday to lethally remove all three wolves based on current and past depredations in the same area.

Custom grazing may be option due to hay, corn cost concerns

AMES --- More producers might be taking a look at custom grazing for their cow herd due to rising hay and corn costs.

Joe Sellers, Iowa State University Extension beef specialist in Chariton, believes producers looking at this option need to make sure it fits their operation.

"With this, you are basically bringing your cattle to someone and pay them a per head, per day fee to take care of them," Sellers told producers at the Iowa Cattlemen's Association convention here Jan. 8.

Sellers and retired ISU Extension livestock specialist Carl Neifert recently surveyed operations that offer custom grazing. The survey indicated 76 percent of those operations were at capacity.

"There are fewer pasture acres out there, so producers are looking for something like that to help with their cattle," Sellers said.

Several operations surveyed indicated they developed a custom grazing program as part of their farm's long-range plan.

Neifert said when producers are looking into custom grazing, there are several things that should be included on any lease, such as:

=Know your client – check out the owner's credentials, credit history, prior clients and references.

=Know the cattle – record the weight and body condition of cattle as they go into the custom-grazing program, along with disposition, health status and genetics.

=Have a written agreement – this should thoroughly cover management and financial aspects of the agreement.

Included in this should be supplemental feeding, care and cattle movement during drought conditions, arrival and removal dates, health supplies and treatments, dates of payment, and all potential grazing inputs.

=Match the capacity of the pasture to the cattle and grazing season – don't overestimate a pasture's production capacity.

=File a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) statement to protect income interest.

=Establish a prompt payment schedule and obtain final payment before cattle are removed;

=Communication – visit with the owner regularly to establish trust, and keep the owner informed about good and bad events.

=Cover all your costs, including fixed and variable costs.

=Consider surcharges or incentive payments as a reward for better management or for extra labor.

"We really think one of the major issues is communication," Neifert says.

"No one likes a surprise."

With pasture acres shrinking, Sellers adds producers may need to become more inventive when looking for land.

Possibilities include public land, land owned by conservation groups, or land purchased by absentee owners who use it primarily for recreational purposes.

"Most wildlife specialists will say that land is better managed by allowing some form of controlled grazing," Sellers says.

"Talk to those folks and explain how it can benefit their land, and you might find some pretty good pasture."

Sellers also recommends a template be developed to follow when it comes to the use of public land for grazing.

"I think there is a real opportunity to find more pasture out there," he says. "There's still a lot of work to do."