**Private Pesticide Applicator—PSEP Testing Only—Taylorville**

- The Pesticide Safety Education Program (also known as Private Applicator Training) will be provided to area farmers and others needing a private applicators license to purchase and apply restricted-use products. Registration is needed prior to the December 8th testing date.
- Program will be held at U of I Extension Building, 1120 N. Webster St. in Taylorville. Call 217-287-7246 to register or online at:
  - [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm)
- **No registration fee.** Testing will start at 10:00 a.m. Please arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of start time. Test session should end by 12:00 noon.

**PSEP Testing Only Information !!!**

**Private Applicator –Test Only, Litchfield on March 16th, 2012**

- PSEP - Test Only will be offered in Litchfield at Lincolnland Community College site on March 16th, 2012 at 1 Lincolnland Drive starting at 1:00 p.m. and lasting until 3:00 p.m. Call 217-532-3941 for more information. Phone registration only at this time. Web registration at the start of the New Year - 2012 will be found at: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm)
- For other sites and locations in Illinois contact the Illinois Dept. of Ag at 217-785-2427.
- **Commercial Pesticide Training and Certification Clinics in Illinois** can visit the website: “www.pesticidesafety.illinois.edu” for other training and testing sites and to:
  - Register for Clinic
  - Order study materials
  - Read Illinois Pesticide Review newsletter
  - Download fact sheets
  - Learn about pesticide safety
University of Illinois Extension will host a **Soil and Water Management Workshop** for **Certified Crop Advisors** on **February 16, 2012**. The workshop is planned to provide **4.5 hours of CEU’s in Soil and Water Management**. This workshop will be a web conference presentation, using Telenet and PowerPoint.

Registration fee for Certified Crop Advisors and others interested in the workshop will be **$45 per person** (lunch included). **Advance registration is required no later than Monday, February 13.** The workshop is scheduled to run from **8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Extension Unit 18—Montgomery County, Hillsboro office at #1 Industrial Park Drive. Call 532-3941 for advance registration.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>♦ Biochar and Soil Quality</td>
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<td>♦ Atmospheric Deposition and Soil/Water Quality</td>
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<td>♦ Tiling, Biofilters and Water Quality</td>
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<td>♦ Foliar Diseases of Corn and Residue Management</td>
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<td>♦ Irrigation Scheduling</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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**Heart of America Grazing Conference—January 25 & 26**

The 11th Heart of America Grazing Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn, Mt Vernon, IL on **January 25—26, 2012**. This conference will provide livestock producers with the latest information on forages, grazing techniques and pasture management. Topics being covered include the benefits of grazing and adding clover to pastures, mob grazing, role of novel fescues, grazing for parasite prevention, use of co-products in grazing programs, dairy grazing, pasture management, and cover crops. For more information visit the conference registration website:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/hoa/

**New Horticulture Educator for Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery Counties—Unit 18**

Andrew Holsinger is the new Extension Educator, Horticulture for Unit 18 serving Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery counties. His program focus will be in ornamental horticulture and fruit and vegetable production.

Holsinger is a native of southern Illinois and graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a bachelor’s degree in Plant and Soil Science with a specialization in landscape horticulture and a master’s degree in Plant and Soil Science focusing on woody plant propagation. He has prior fruit tree experience from working at a peach orchard.

Holsinger will be coordinating the Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery counties—Unit 18 Master Gardener programs. He is glad to be aboard the University of Illinois extension team and looks forward to meeting growers and gardeners alike and exploring the exciting world of extension! Andrew can be reached at 217-532-3941 in the Montgomery County, Hillsboro office.

**Upcoming Program for 2012—“Green” Energy and Technology Series 2012**

Extension staff working in environmental and energy stewardship across the state are planning a “green” energy and technology series for the homeowner for the spring/summer 2012. This program will cover topics of interest in several disciplines related to renewable energy, conservation, and include some of the latest research efforts into “green” energy and power. Look for program announcements on the Extension—Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery, Unit 18 website, http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cjmm, in the coming months.
Biomass Furnace will be in operation starting on the week of December 12, 2011 at the U of I Extension Office in Taylorville
Stop by our office any time to see our furnace system that utilizes locally grown perennial grasses and Q and A on bioenergy, biomass heat and power.

Guide for Private Well Owners in Development for 2012

- Water systems across the state from municipalities to private wells are often monitored for a variety of quality indicators ranging from nitrate to arsenic. Public/municipal water systems follow a set routine to analyze what water contains and then apply appropriate methods to reduce risk by using a variety of treatments processes that are available.
- University of Illinois Extension is collaborating with the Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute to launch a study of water samples that will be drawn from private wells across the state.
- **How you can become involved:** We anticipate being able to work with 10 private well owners in the Unit 18 area that includes Christian, Montgomery, Macoupin, and Jersey counties.
- To allow for an orderly enlistment of potential private well owner sites that meet the well-site selection criteria (parameters beyond geographic area have yet to be determined), local offices will begin accepting contact information from willing volunteers after January 1, 2012.
- Well owner volunteers will be required to complete a survey to collect background information on the type of well and to assess well owners general understanding of proper well management.
- This effort will result in follow-up workshops with local well owners and the development of a guide for well management.
- For more information call Gary Letterly at 217-287-7246 or Jersey County, 618-498-2913, Macoupin County, 217-854-9604, or Montgomery County, 217-532-3941.

2012 University of Illinois—Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery Counties, Unit 18 Agronomy Day

The 2012 U of I Christian, Jersey, Macoupin & Montgomery Counties, Unit 18—Agronomy Day will be held on February 9 (Thursday), 2012 at the LLCC site in Litchfield. Presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will wrap up before lunch. We have scheduled the following presenters and topics on this year’s program:

- Emerson Nafziger/Dennis Bowman—Agronomic Topic—TBA
- Mike Gray—Soybean Insect Abundance and Bt Challenges Caused by Corn Rootworms in 2011
- Darrell Good—Crop Price Outlook
- Carl Bradley—Fungicide Resistance
- Robert Bellm—Herbicide Resistance Management
- Gary Letterly—Biomass/Bioenergy Crops in Illinois

If you plan to attend, **you must notify** either the Macoupin County, Carlinville (217-854-9604) or Montgomery County, Hillsboro (217-532-3941) Unit 18 office by no later than February 1, 2012.
Address Service Requested

Please help us cut our postage costs!
We will continue to send a paper copy to those who do not have e-mail access, but if you
would like your Ag & Natural Resources newsletter sent electronically, please e-mail your
name and e-mail address to christian_co@extension.uiuc.edu to let us know.

Upcoming Programs

• December 8, 2011 Taylorville 10 AM—Private Applicators Test Only
• Jan. 25 & 26, 2012 Heart of America Grazing Conference—Mt Vernon
• February 9, 2012 Agronomy Day in Litchfield (LLCC site)
• February 16, 2012 Soil & Water Management Workshop—Hillsboro
• March 16, 2012 Litchfield 1 PM—Private Applicators Test Only
• Spring 2012 “Green” Energy and Technology Series—TBA
• For more information on any of the listed workshops or activities contact (217) 287-7246.

For more information on any of the listed programs or activities, contact Gary Letterly, U of I Extension Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery, Unit 18, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator at
(217) 287-7246 or email to letterly@illinois.edu. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in our
programs, please contact the U of I Extension Unit 18 Montgomery County office in Hillsboro (217) 532-3941.

Gary A. Letterly, U of I Extension Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
United States Department of Agriculture / Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.