

## DIVERSE AGRICULTURAL SEMINARS COMING SOON

Local agriculturists will be interested in some rather diverse class offerings within the next two weeks. Extension offices deal with a diversity of interests daily. The four items listed below will likely interest many local readers.

The annual **Cache County Crops School** will be held February 15 in the southwest conference room at BATC (1301 N 600 W). The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the presentations will cover a variety of topics. Tim Douglas will update participants on the status of International Hay Markets, which have helped keep the price of hay high. Tom Sharp, IFA Agronomist, will discuss fertilizer and herbicide considerations for common Cache County crops. Michael Bouck, Utah Crop Improvement Association, and Justin Clawson, Utah Ag Experiment Station, will share research data on fall seeded forages and recent variety releases for winter wheat. Methods of controlling moss in irrigation systems will be discussed by Ray Manning of Providia Management. Dr. Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho Extension Specialist, will teach about Yellow Stripe Rust, Dwarf Bunt and Nematodes in small grains. Another interesting presentation will be team taught by NRCS agent David Mabey and progressive local growers who have had success using Direct Seeding methods. The final presentation will be an update of Fumitoxin use by Scott Oldham, Utah Department Agriculture and Food. Lunch will be provided by IFA Agronomy. Participants will also receive 4 Continuing Education Credits which can be used toward renewal of their pesticide license.

A **Small Flock Poultry Seminar** will be held February 16 in the Multi-purpose Room in the Cache County Administration Building. We organized this seminar because an increasing number of families are raising chickens in their backyard. Many individuals like the idea of becoming somewhat self reliant by producing their own eggs and meat. Others contend that a few chickens help to keep the insects under control. Some people simply enjoy the company a few well-mannered poultry can provide. There is every indication that small-scale poultry numbers will continue to increase.

Dr. David Frame, Utah State University Extension Poultry Specialist, will teach the class. Dr. Frame has authored a series of research-based Fact Sheets for small scale poultry growers. Two popular publications, "Basics for Raising Backyard Chickens" and "Considerations in Raising Small Backyard Flocks of Poultry in Population-dense Communities" will be discussed at the meeting. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Seating is limited, so please RSVP at the Extension office or call 752-6263. The class will go from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

**Managing Risk in the Dairy Industry** is the title of a workshop to be held February 23 at the Coppermill Restaurant. Co-sponsored by USU Extension and USDA- Risk Management Agency, the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The first two presentations will help dairy producers consider options of managing volatility in milk and feed prices. Futures and/or Options and Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) Dairy Insurance will be specific items of discussion. Two additional presentations, taught by USU Extension specialists, will consider livestock nutrition and preventative herd health programs. We think the meeting will be very practical and useful. Please RSVP to the Extension office (752-6263) to help us plan a meal count for the famous Coppermill Buffet.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual **Diversified Agricultural Conference** will be held at the Davis Conference Center in Layton on February 22-24. This conference is designed to help farmers, ranchers, and small acreage owners explore new ideas and consider alternate ways of doing business in today's marketplace. Tours will be a significant part of the conference and agritourism will be a major part of the discussion. Early registration is \$40 per person. Additional information is available at [www.DiverseAg.org](http://www.DiverseAg.org).