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News and Notes

State FFA Awards Day– Includes several changes



FFA Awards Day is Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. Due to campus scheduling and remodeling changes may occur from year to year.

The 2008 event will see a change in room location for the introductory announcements

gathering area and the conclusion meeting area will be moved. This will include a new location for FFA member pictures and announcements of area winners. Watch the Listserv for details on this topic.

We continue to tweak the event according to your comments and suggestions. Plans for campus parking and food service will be repeated in 2008. Recommended parking will be within one or two blocks of several of the ACES buildings and will be identified prior to April 5th. Information will be made available regarding buildings in which interviews will be held and a map will be provided.

If you wish for the food service to continue, it must be successful for the campus club and we encourage committee members and FFA members to patronize the service.

University of Illinois faculty and staff will be asked to serve on interview committees again this year. Many of volunteers have participated in past years, while others will be new to the process. In order to supply an unbiased opinion to the interview committee, we ask for your patience and treat the U of I folks with respect.

Several of the details for Awards Day have not been finalized prior to the deadline for the March issue of *News and Notes*, so keep an eye on the listserv for additional details. *ITCS Staff*

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Illinois mAGic Kit – now available

The *Illinois mAGic Kit* (AK-28) is now available from ITCS Instructional Materials. It includes 8 math, 10 English language arts, 11 social studies, and 7 science lessons focused on the state of Illinois. Lessons can be selected to match your region of the state, such as northern, western, or southern Illinois.

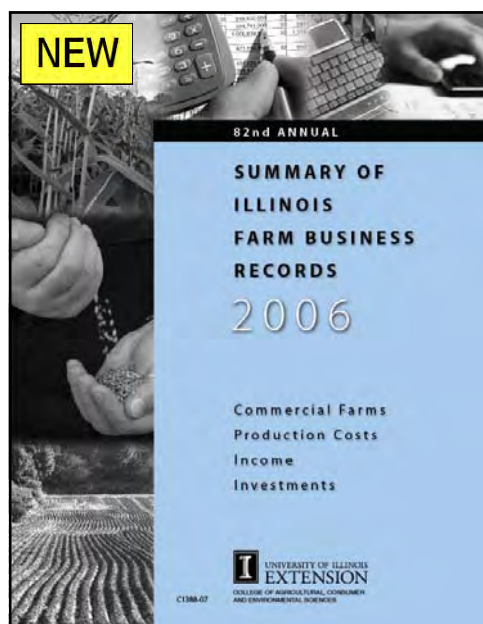
The kit includes the necessary components for each lesson. It can be purchased as a complete package that includes components, a printed curriculum manual, and a CD-ROM version of the manual. Or the CD-ROM version of the manual (AK-28.2) is available for purchase separately. Please see the tear sheet for pricing. *NRW*



EZ Records - Agriscience Record Book

Agriscience enterprises now have a new set of record book insert pages, available as part of EZ Records and as printed record book inserts. Specific pages have been created providing tables and spaces for recording agriscience enterprise activity. A new set of insert pages is required for each enterprise (experiment). Selected additional pages are available for the printed record book, such as the record of experiences, literature review, conclusion, and procedure used.

EZ Records makes the insert pages available without any additional expense— just select the agriscience category when creating a new enterprise. *DW*



82nd Annual Summary of Illinois Farm Business Records: 2006

C1388-07, the *82nd Annual Summary of Illinois Farm Business Records: 2006* is now available for \$8.00 from ITCS Educational Publishing (order online at pubsplus.uiuc.edu after January 15, or call 800-345-6087 toll-free).

This newest annual update of farm business records for the state of Illinois provides both historical perspective and a big-picture view of farming across the state. It is full of information critical to spotting market trends, making major financial decisions, and comparing similar operations.

Each edition covers:

- Per-acre return and cost figures
- Yearly changes in net farm income for grain and livestock enterprises and average yields
- Economic trends and patterns that provide benchmark figures for a wide range of expenses, including seed, pesticides, fertilizers, equipment, land, buildings, and labor. *MB*

Horticulture Science Kit

NEW

The *Horticulture Science Kit* (AK-26) is a new kit available for secondary students. The lessons and activities are designed as introductory material to plant taxonomy, growing media, plant pests, breeding and genetics, and impact of biotechnology. It is appropriate for use with middle and high school students.

The kit was created through cooperation with industry, community colleges, and the agriculture literacy program. Each lesson is formatted in a similar manner to the mAGic kits, including state standards, student worksheets, and time progressive activities.

The kit includes the necessary components for each lesson. It can be purchased as a complete package that includes components, a printed curriculum manual, and a CD-ROM version of the manual. Or the CD-ROM version of the curriculum manual (AK-26.2) is available for purchase separately. Please see the tear sheet for pricing. *NRW*

Horticulture Careers Kit

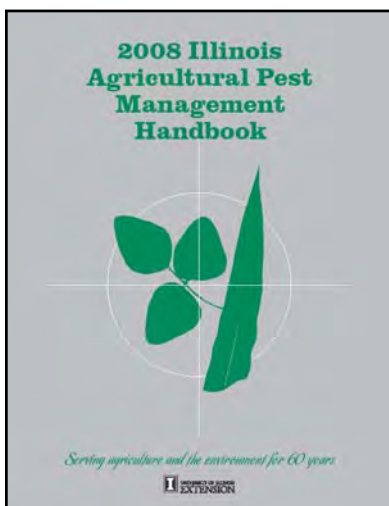
NEW

The *Horticulture Careers Kit* (AK-27) is a new kit available to introduce students to the different areas of the horticulture field. The lessons and activities are created to familiarize individuals with the culture, terms, and responsibilities in each employment area. This includes mock designs, interviews, and other activities.

The lessons in the kit include:

- Growing Opportunities in Horticulture
- Landscape Design
- Careers in Turf Management
- Retail Industry
- Research and Development
- Selling: Landscape Lingo
- Applying Art to Plant Design
- Plant Patents
- Marketing

The kit includes the necessary components for each lesson. It can be purchased as a complete package that includes components, a printed curriculum manual, and a CD-ROM version of the manual. Or the CD-ROM version of the curriculum manual (AK-27.2) is available for purchase separately. Please see the tear sheet for pricing. *NRW*



2008 Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Handbook

The definitive source for annual updates of insecticide and herbicide use in Illinois, the *2008 Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Handbook* (IAPM-08) is now available. This research-based publication provides the most reliable reference for professional agricultural input suppliers and their clients. The handbook addresses the laws and regulations governing chemical recommendations and restrictions, so you can be sure that your advice is accurate, timely, and legal. It provides the latest insect management, weed, and disease management strategies for field and forage crops, commercial vegetable crops, and selected noncrop areas. *MO*

mAGic Kits and Curriculum CD-ROMs **NEW**

All the Multidisciplinary Agricultural Integrated Curriculum (mAGic) Kits are now available for purchase. If you have ordered a kit and have not received it in a timely manner, please contact our customer service representative at 1-800-345-6087.

The kits include the necessary components for each lesson. They can be purchased as a complete packages that include components, a printed curriculum manual, and a CD-ROM version of the manual. Or the CD-ROM version of the curriculum manual is available for purchase separately. The Curriculum CD-ROMs contain a PDF version of the printed activity guide found in each kit. You do not need to purchase a CD-ROM separately when purchasing a complete kit. The CD-ROM is included in the printed notebook.

Please see the tear sheet for prices of each kit. Note that Illinois residents receive special pricing due to development funds from the Board of Education. They should select the product number with ILAK– prefix.
NRW

AK-20 Poultry mAGic Kit

Students will uncover interesting facts about U.S. poultry production through exercises and hands-on experiments. They'll learn about the anatomy and nutritional value of an egg. They'll also learn about the history of egg production and find out how poultry dishes are prepared around the world.

AK-21 Insect mAGic Kit

Students will learn about the impact of insects on crop production through a variety of lessons and activities. Mapping exercises let students follow butterflies on migration patterns. Students track a day in the life of an insect and learn about wingspan, life cycles, anatomy, and social hierarchy patterns of common insects.

AK-22 Soil mAGic Kit

Soils are alive, as students will discover through the lessons in this kit. Students will learn to conduct experiments in soil pH, create soil profiles, and understand the components of soil. They will also unveil the history of crop rotation and dig into the Dust Bowl.

AK-23 Dairy mAGic Kit

Hands-on exercises let students explore the process of using milk, acids, enzymes, and bacteria to make cottage cheese, yogurt, and ice cream. Students will find out how much milk one cow produces in its lifetime. They'll also dive into history, and they'll learn about issues of supply and demand in the dairy industry.

AK-24 Plant mAGic Kit

This kit offers problem-solving activities in plant propagation, production, and processing. Students will conduct experiments to learn about plant differences and plant ecosystems. They'll also sequence plant products, research the discoveries of George Washington Carver, and look at the impact of crops on the national economy.

AK-25 Machine mAGic Kit

Students will learn about the history of farm machinery and the impact of modern farming techniques on families and communities. They'll also learn how inventors John Deere and Cyrus McCormick helped shape modern agriculture. Hands-on exercises let students identify machinery parts and estimate farm machinery costs.

2008 IAVAT Livestock Career Development Event

The 2008 IAVAT Livestock CDE will be held at the University of Illinois on Tuesday, April 29, beginning at 10 a.m. **Like past years, this event may include several changes, so please watch the listserv for details.** A team may consist of five (5) members with the three (3) highest participant scores constituting the team score. The event will consist of seven rings as described below. There will be no question classes. *NRW*

Judging three (3) rings as follows:

1. One ring of breeding or market hogs.
2. One ring of breeding or market beef.
3. One ring of breeding or market sheep.

Evaluate three (3) rings of keep-cull females (50% production records and 50% conformation):

1. One ring of breeding swine.
2. One ring of breeding beef.
3. One ring of breeding sheep.

Scoring Note: Keep-Cull classes consist of eight (8) animals, from which the participants must identify the four most desirable animals. If a participant fails to select four animals or selects more than four animals they will receive zero (0) points.

Grade one (1) ring of five (5) animals in each of the following: (note: swine grading has been eliminated)

1. One ring of slaughter cattle on USDA yield and quality grades.

Suggested references available on the tear sheet

1. Judging Booklets

J100a	Judging Beef Cattle
J140a	Judging Sheep
J160a	Judging Swine

2. Units

U1061	Using Livestock Production Records
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3. Videotapes

V100	Visual Appraisal of Yearling Beef Heifers
V101	Selection, Attributes, and Faults
V102	Placing and Discussion of Commercial Chianina Heifers
V103	Oral Reasons in Livestock Judging

4. CD-ROMs

MDS130	EPDs and Performance Data Interpretation
MDS150	Practice Judging Livestock
MDS151	Evaluating Beef Cattle
MDS152	Practice Judging Beef Cattle
MDS153	Practice Judging Swine
MDS154	Practice Judging Market Lambs

2008 IAVAT Dairy Cattle Career Development Event

The 2008 IAVAT Dairy Cattle CDE will be held at the University of Illinois Dairy Farm on Tuesday, April 29, beginning at 10:00 a.m. A team may consist of five (5) members with the three (3) highest participant scores constituting the team score. The event will involve judging seven (7) rings of cows and/or heifers on type, one ring of cows on combined type and production (50% type and 50% production) and one pedigree ring. Official placings and reasons will be placed on the ITCS Instructional Materials web site a few days after the contest. PLEASE NOTE! Instructors will be assigned to hold dairy cattle during the event. *NRW*

Suggested References Available on the Tear Sheet

1. **Judging Manual**
J200 Judging Dairy Cattle



Notes for Instructors Attending Dairy and Livestock CDEs

1. For the April 29th Livestock and Dairy Cattle CDEs, all teams should report to the Stock Pavilion on Pennsylvania Avenue in time to complete registration. Teams may begin registering at 8:00 a.m. Fees are \$7.00 per participant for IAVAT members and \$28.00 per participant for nonmembers. Make checks payable to IAVAT. Preregistration is optional, but strongly recommended due to the large number of participants. Preregistration is due to the IAVAT State Office by April 1st.
2. Participants will need to bring a clipboard and a couple of sharpened pencils for filling the Scantron sheet.
3. University of Illinois biosecurity measures will be enforced for the Livestock and Dairy Cattle CDEs. **Watch the listserv for more details.**
4. Remind all participants that there will be no talking during or between rings, or participants' cards will be taken and the participants will be disqualified. The talking policy will be strictly enforced because the participants will be using the same card for the entire event.
5. **All electronic communication devices are not permitted at either CDE. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, walkie talkies, radio transmitters, and personal data assistants.**
6. Parking for buses and vans has yet to be determined for the event. **Watch the listserv for more details.**
7. Please review the *General Rules for IAVAT Career Development Events* before attending the events. *NRW*

Preregistration for Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event

The deadline for preregistration is Tuesday, April 29th. Tuesday, May 13th is the date for the 2008 IAVAT State Ag Mechanics Event. Teams and individuals should check in at the Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m.

This event is limited to the winning team or alternate team from each section's Agricultural Mechanics Event plus first-place individuals in each phase of the event who are not on the section team. No more than one



member from one school may compete in any phase of the event. Preregistration is required for this event. Each instructor is responsible for preregistering teams or individuals. The preregistration form is included in this issue of *News and Notes*. Teachers should send a copy of the preregistration form and nonrefundable entry fees of \$7.00 per participant for IAVAT members or \$28.00 per participant for nonmembers to James Craft, IAVAT Executive Director, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. **Checks should be made payable to: IAVAT.**

Read the *Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event Rules* booklet carefully. Note that each section is expected to provide two adult helpers. Both students and teachers or helpers must bring and wear safety glasses, and all participants must bring required equipment

and clothing to the event if they expect to participate.

Particular attention should be given to the requirements for welding equipment and clothing, in particular the need for leather high-top shoes. Avoid tennis shoes and jogging shoes, which may not be all leather.

Survey participants are to provide a clipboard for recording field notes. Carpentry participants are required to provide their own sawhorses in addition to their other equipment. Watch the listserv announcements for additional study materials. *DW*

2008 IAVAT Horticulture Career Development Event

The state event will be Tuesday, April 29 on the UIUC campus. All teams **MUST** preregister by April 1 and include fees of \$7.00 per participant for IAVAT members and \$28.00 per participant for nonmembers. Use the preregistration form in this issue of *News and Notes*. Fees must accompany preregistration, which should be sent to the IAVAT office in Springfield. Make checks payable to IAVAT.

On the day of the event, check in at the Stock Pavilion, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Coaches will need to provide a registration card listing participants' names, either using the onscreen form filled out in advance or standing in line to fill out a traditional registration card.

The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center on South Lincoln Avenue. Mark Steber, East Richland, is the 2008 IAVAT Horticulture CDE superintendent.

This year's event is being prepared by faculty and staff members from the Horticulture Department. Due to limited ITCS staff, it important that all teachers assigned to assist with this event arrive in a timely manner. More information will be provided prior to the event via the listserv. *NRW*



Optional Preregistration for Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event due by April 1, 2008.

Entry for Section _____ from _____ High School

A maximum of 5 members are allowed for each team with the top 3 individuals' scores comprising the team score. Event scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

NONREFUNDABLE entry fee enclosed (circle A or B):

A – Member IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$ 7.00 per participant \$ _____
B – Nonmember IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$28.00 per participant \$ _____

Send preregistration form and entry fees to State IAVAT Office, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. Make checks payable to IAVAT.

Coaches must submit a registration form on the day of the event (completed in advance using the [onscreen form](#) or completed at event check in).

Optional Preregistration for Livestock Career Development Event due by April 1, 2008.

Entry for Section _____ from _____ High School

A maximum of 5 members are allowed for each team with the top 3 individuals' scores comprising the team score. Event scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

NONREFUNDABLE entry fee enclosed (circle A or B):

A – Member IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$ 7.00 per participant \$ _____
B – Nonmember IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$28.00 per participant \$ _____

Send preregistration form and entry fees to State IAVAT Office, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. Make checks payable to IAVAT.

Coaches must submit a registration form on the day of the event (completed in advance using the [onscreen form](#) or completed at event check in).

Mandatory Preregistration for Horticulture Career Development Event due on or before April 1, 2008.

Entry for Section _____ from _____ High School

A maximum of 5 members are allowed for each team and all 5 scores comprise the team score.
Event scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

NONREFUNDABLE entry fee enclosed (circle A or B):

A – Member IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$ 7.00 per participant \$ _____

B – Nonmember IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$28.00 per participant \$ _____

Send preregistration form and entry fees to State IAVAT Office, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. Make checks payable to IAVAT.

Coaches must submit a registration form on the day of the event (completed in advance using the [onscreen form](#) or completed at event check in).

Mandatory Preregistration for IAVAT Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event due on April 29, 2008.

Entry for Section _____ from _____ High School

OR _____ **Individual(s)**: Section _____ from _____ High School
(Individuals winning first in section but not from the school representing the section)

(Circle) Agr. Power Carpentry Electricity Surveying Welding

Event scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

NONREFUNDABLE Entry fee enclosed (circle A or B):

A – Member IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$ 7.00 per participant \$ _____

B – Nonmember IAVAT _____ Participants @ \$28.00 per participant \$ _____

Send preregistration form and entry fees to State IAVAT Office, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. Make checks payable to IAVAT.

Coaches must submit a registration form on the day of the event (completed in advance using the [onscreen form](#) or completed at event check in).

FCAE EZ Records Price Subsidy

ITCS has been informed that the budget for the EZ Records subsidy has been consumed and the subsidy has ended. Any EZ Records access code purchases starting February 12, 2008 will again be charged full price, \$6.00 per subscription. EZ Records may be purchased by contacting ITCS toll free at (800) 345-6087 or submitting an order form or purchase order to ITCS Instructional Materials, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, 1917 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820. The catalog number is R2006 EZ Records. EZ Records access codes may be purchased using a credit card from the EZ Records home page, <http://ezrecords.aces.uiuc.edu> by clicking the Purchasing EZ Records link. The Purchase EZ Records window opens, click on the **Online Ordering Form** link is recommended for purchasing with a credit card. Follow the on-line instructions. No shipping is charged and the access codes are sent to the purchaser via e-mail. *DW*



EZ Records

Purchasing EZ Records

One-year Subscription: \$6.00/user/year

Purchasing EZ Records entitles the user to a one-year subscription to an electronic record-keeping system. The software permits the user to create a record book with an unlimited number of enterprises. The purchase of EZ Records generates an access code for the user to create an account. The access code is sent to the purchaser by e-mail at the time of purchase. All components of EZ Records are accessed via the Internet connection.

Purchasing EZ Records with a Credit Card

To buy an EZ Records subscription with a Visa or Mastercard, use our **Online Ordering Form**.

Purchasing EZ Records with a Purchase Order

State Poultry Career Development Event

The 2008 State IAVAT State Poultry CDE will be held at Shelbyville High School on Saturday, March 15th. Registration will be from 9:00 a.m. until 9:45 with the event beginning at 10:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$7.00 per participant for IAVAT members and \$28.00 per participant for nonmembers.

Classes to be evaluated-

- Breaded Chicken Patties
- Place 2 to 3 production rings- placed on past egg production
- Place a carton of eggs, according to the latest USDA standards
- Grade 10 interior quality eggs, according to the latest USDA standards
- Grade 10 exterior quality eggs, according to the latest USDA standards
- Grade 10 broiler carcasses (2 to 6 lbs.), according to the latest USDA standards
- Identify 23 broiler parts
- Take the 2006 written exam consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions

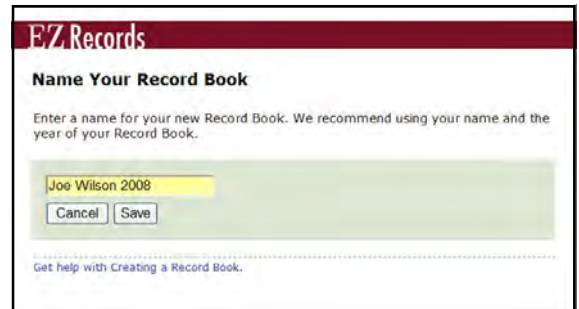
Questions on the exam will be taken from the information in U1052 *Caring for the Small Laying Flock* (out of print); [J120b](#) *Judging and Grading Poultry and Eggs*; and *Poultry Science Manual for National FFA Contest*, No. 0418-4, fourth edition. The manual can be purchased from IMS, Texas A & M University (979) 845-6608. Item [J120b](#) can be found on the tear sheet.

For additional information refer to the *General Rules* and the rules for the *Poultry CDE* from IAVAT. A team may consist of five members with the top three scores used to calculate team scores. The low individuals on the team will not be eligible for individual awards. *NRW*

Record Keeping Notes:

Starting a new record book. To start a new record book the user must login to the Record Book Main Page and click the Create New Record Book link. A window opens permitting users to name the new Record Book, Joe Wilson 2008. Click the Save button and EZ Records will navigate the user to the Record Book Main Page ready to enter enterprise names.

DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE NEW RECORD BOOK. If a user creates a second account, the user will not have the option to view their previous record book without maintaining two accounts and two logins. Users are encouraged to create their new record book using the same login. When the subscription expiration message appears follow the directions describing the renewal procedure.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "EZ Records" with the heading "Name Your Record Book". Below the heading, there is a text input field containing "Joe Wilson 2008". To the right of the input field are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Save". Above the input field, there is a small instruction: "Enter a name for your new Record Book. We recommend using your name and the year of your Record Book." Below the input field, there is a link that says "Get help with Creating a Record Book."

Renewing EZ Records subscriptions. To renew a subscription to EZ Records the user will require a **new** access code. Access codes may be ordered from ITCS. **DO NOT TRY TO RENEW EZ RECORDS UNTIL NOTIFIED THAT THE SUBSCRIPTION IS WITHIN 30 DAYS OF EXPIRING.** A message will appear on the Record Book Main Page (in white text) notifying the user 30 days remain before the subscription expires. This message will count down the days prior to expiration. When the expiration notice appears a renew link also appears. Users may click on the **Renew** link. A window opens asking the user to enter the **new** access code. Enter the **new** access code and click the *Validate Code* button. This action completes the renewal procedure. When complete, the user is navigated to the Record Book Main Page and is able to continue working on their SAE records. Access to all record books is available with the newest record book being the Default record book. Other record book access is available from a pull down menu located near the upper right corner of the Record Book Main Page. EZ Records subscriptions are 14 months in length.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "EZ Records" with the heading "Create or Renew an Account". Below the heading, there is a text input field for "Access Code:". To the right of the input field is a button labeled "Validate Code". Above the input field, there is a small instruction: "To create or renew an account, please enter the Access Code you received after purchasing your registration/renewal." Below the input field, there is a link that says "If you need help with your Access Code, please send email to ezrecords_help@aces.tiuc.edu. Buy/Renew a subscription to EZ Records."

When a subscription has completely expired (14 months have passed) a new window appears. When the user enters their login the software will automatically open the renewal window, requesting a **new** access code. Enter a **new** access code and click the *Validate Code* button to renew the account. Validating the access code renews the account and navigates to the Record Book Main Page. All previous record book data remains intact and within easy access by the user.

Printing EZ Records. To print EZ Records pages users may utilize the same procedure they use to print any windows application. With the page to be printed open, select the pull down menu from File on the tool bar, select print, and the page will print to the designated printer. The Ctrl + P also works to print a page. A third method is to click the Print icon in the tool bar. EZ Records must be printed one page at a time. Each page is printed individually since some pages will only be printed once. After printing pages, users should place the printed pages into their record book binder. The business agreement and budget pages are examples of pages that are only printed once. Printing on colored paper helps to separate enterprise categories, yellow for animal enterprises, blue for agribusiness, green for crop enterprises, salmon for agriscience, and white for the Core records.

Printing EZ Records Cover page. To print the front cover of the record book click the Manage My Record Book link. This will open a window containing the Print Cover link. Click the Print Cover link to print. The cover is populated with the information the user entered during the account set-up procedure and a list of all enterprises. To change any data, use the edit my info link. Edit links are located on the Record Book Main Page. DW

News from Western Illinois University

The Western Illinois University Collegiate FFA and Agricultural Education clubs have had their plates full the past few weeks with fundraisers and high school career development events. On February 9th, WIU hosted the Illinois State FFA Agriculture Issues CDE. We had two schools participate via satellite and five schools compete on campus. A few days later on February 13th, we held the Section 11 Public Speaking CDE. Ten schools and 27 students participated in this event, which went very smoothly. A few weeks later, the Collegiate FFA and Agricultural Education club held a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast to raise funds for both of the groups. We profited nearly \$300 from 7-11 a.m. while we served the food. On Friday, February 29th members from each WIU agriculture group will talk with prospective students at the Ag Open House on the Western campus.

If you know of anyone interested in attending WIU, please email AJ-Baker@wiu.edu

60th Illinois PDCA Calf Sale at the Round Barns

Illinois PDCA will sponsor their annual calf sale on March 29, 2008. The event will be held at the university dairy farm and cattle will be available for viewing prior to the sale. Catalogs will be available and can be obtained by contacting Evonne Hausman at 217-333-2624 or ehausman@uiuc.edu. For more information, visit their web site at <http://events.ansci.uiuc.edu/pdca/> NRW

2008 Hoof and Horn Showdown

The University of Illinois Hoof and Horn Club will host their 2008 Spring Showdown on April 5th and 6th, 2008 at the Champaign County Fair Grounds in Urbana. The judging contest will be held on Saturday, April 5th beginning with registration at 8:00 am and the contest beginning at 9:00 am. Steers and heifers can be checked in from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm on April 5th. The show will be held on April 6th. For more information call 217-333-8394.

View the flyer for premiums at <http://www.ansci.uiuc.edu/news/eventDisplay.cfm?ID=10570>

NRW

2008 Illinois Sheep Shearing School

The 2008 Illinois Sheep Shearing School will be held Friday April 4th and Saturday April 5th at the Livestock Center, Western Illinois University in Macomb. School will begin at 10 a.m. on the 4th and continue till 5 p.m. On Saturday the 5th school will start at 8 a.m. and continue till 3 p.m.

Cost of the school is \$50 per person. Equipment will be supplied by the school. Students will be taught the Australian method of shearing which is used world wide. Additionally, table shearing will be taught on Saturday. Equipment will be available for purchase.

Students will learn about the care and upkeep of shearing equipment and will be supplied with a notebook full of important information. The school is capped at 20 students.

For more information, contact Richard Cobb, Extension Sheep Specialist, at 217-333-7351 or email at arcobb@uiuc.edu



ExplorACES

Join us here in Urbana-Champaign on March 7 and 8 for ExplorACES, celebrating the students and science in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Through hands-on exhibits and interaction with students and staff, prospective students can explore the possibility of fitting the College of ACES into their future.

To find out more, view the ExplorACES Web site at <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/ExplorACES/>, or contact Charles Olson (colson@uiuc.edu), the assistant dean of academic programs. ExplorACES is held the same dates as Engineering Open House. *DW*

U2020 Standards for Measures of Efficiency for 2007

This 6-page manuscript is revised annually utilizing data from the Illinois Farm Business Management Association (FBFM) and the Illinois Statistics Service. The information in U2020 is important to measuring the efficiency of students' supervised experience programs. Also, students starting new SAEP record books can find some livestock and crop budget information here.

U2020 is posted as a free download in PDF format on the ITCS Instructional Materials web page (im.itcs.uiuc.edu). Using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software, you can open the file to view or print it, as well as searching the text—a simple and efficient way to locate needed information. Be sure to review the ITCS Instructional materials Web site regularly for new items. *DW*

Judging Card Update

As noted in the 2007 ITCS Instructional Materials catalog and as announced at IAVAT fall section meetings, this will be the last year we distribute judging cards. To date, these cards have sold out and will not be reprinted:

J999.100 Regular Placing Cards

J999.102 Female Selection Class (Keep-Cull)

Contact the Staff

Orders (800) 345-6087
FAX (217) 333-3917
im.itcs.uiuc.edu

Online ordering
pubsplus.uiuc.edu

Taft House
Fax (217) 333-0005

Nick Wherley, Animal Sciences
wherley@uiuc.edu
(217) 244-5170

Dave Wilson, Agricultural Mechanics
dkwilson@uiuc.edu
(217) 244-5171



**ITCS Instructional Materials
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign**

**ORDERS
Phone 800 345-6087
Fax 217 333-3917**

*Resources for agricultural
education*

News and Notes is published 5 times annually (September, November, January, March, and May) by ITCS Instructional Materials at the University of Illinois. Articles submitted for publication should conform to *News and Notes* specifications (available on request) and be clearly identified. Articles submitted by the 20th day of the month preceding each issue will be considered for publication in the next issue of *News and Notes*. For additional information, contact *News and Notes* Editor, ITCS Instructional Materials, University of Illinois, (217) 244-5170.

Dates to Remember 2008 Calendar of Events

March

- 1 State Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event, UIUC, Urbana
- 15 State Poultry Career Development Event, Shelbyville High School, Shelbyville

April

- 4 State Star Selection, Parkland Community College
- 5 State FFA Awards Day, UIUC
- 29 State Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Livestock, and Horticulture Career Development Events, UIUC, Urbana

May

- 3 State Public Speaking CDE, ISU
- 6 State Agricultural Business Management Career Development Event
- 13 State Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event, UIUC
- 26 Memorial Day, UIUC holiday

June

- 10-12 Illinois FFA Convention, Springfield
- 17-19 IAVAT Annual Conference, Springfield
- 23-25 NAAE Region IV Conference, Bowling Green, KY

**March 2008
TEAR SHEET**

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prices subject to change)*

Qty.	Price	Amt.	Cat. No.	Description
Kits				
_____	150.50	_____	AK-20	Poultry mAGic Kit
_____	350.25	_____	AK-21	Insect mAGic Kit
_____	403.25	_____	AK-22	Soil mAGic Kit
_____	313.25	_____	AK-23	Dairy mAGic Kit
_____	384.25	_____	AK-24	Plant mAGic Kit
_____	351.50	_____	AK-25	Machine mAGic Kit
_____	225.00	_____	AK-26	Horticulture Science Kit
_____	161.00	_____	AK-27	Horticulture Careers Kit
_____	500.00	_____	AK-28	Illinois mAGic Kit
_____	30.00	_____	AK-20.2	Poultry mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-21.2	Insect mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-22.2	Soil mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-23.2	Dairy mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-24.2	Plant mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-25.2	Machine mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
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_____	30.00	_____	AK-27.2	Horticulture Careers Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	30.00	_____	AK-28.2	Illinois mAGic Curriculum CD-ROM
_____	130.75	_____	ILAK-20*	Poultry mAGic Kit
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_____	272.50	_____	ILAK-23*	Dairy mAGic Kit
_____	334.00	_____	ILAK-24*	Plant mAGic Kit
_____	305.50	_____	ILAK-25*	Machine mAGic Kit
_____	195.00	_____	ILAK-26*	Horticulture Science Kit
_____	140.00	_____	ILAK-27*	Horticulture Careers Kit

Other Products

_____	8.00	_____	C1388-07	82nd Annual Summary of Illinois Farm Business Records for 2006
_____	27.00	_____	IAPM-08	2007 Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Handbook
_____	4.00	_____	J100a	Judging Beef Cattle manual
_____	4.00	_____	J120b	Judging and Grading Poultry and Egg manual
_____	4.00	_____	J140a	Judging Sheep manual
_____	4.00	_____	J160a	Judging Swine manual
_____	1.25	_____	J200	Judging Dairy Cattle manual
_____	45.00	_____	MDS130	EPDs and Performance Data Interpretation CD-ROM
_____	49.95	_____	MDS150	Practice Judging Livestock CD-ROM
_____	34.95	_____	MDS151	Evaluating Beef Cattle CD-ROM
_____	29.95	_____	MDS152	Practice Judging Beef Cattle CD-ROM
_____	24.95	_____	MDS153	Practice Judging Swine CD-ROM
_____	24.95	_____	MDS154	Practice Judging Market Lambs CD-ROM
_____	6.00	_____	R2006	EZ Records subscription
_____	1.20	_____	U1016	Using Livestock Production Records unit
_____	40.00	_____	V100	Visual Appraisal of Yearling Beef Heifers video
_____	40.00	_____	V101	Selection, Attributes, and Faults video
_____	40.00	_____	V102	Placing and Discussion of Commercial Chianina Heifers video
_____	40.00	_____	V103	Oral Reasons in Livestock Judging video

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Monthly Feed Prices

Kinds of Feed	January 4	February 25
Corn, No. 2, shelled, bu. ¹	4.36	4.95
Corn, ground, shelled, bu.	4.50	5.09
Grain sorghum, bu. ²	4.51	4.66
Grain sorghum, ground, bu.	4.65	4.80
Oats, bu. ³	3.26	4.04
Oats, ground, bu.	3.36	4.14
Wheat, bu.	8.71	9.71
Soybean meal, 48%, ton	344.60	355.95
Corn silage, ton ⁴	27.51	31.24
Hay, alfalfa, baled, ton ⁵	162.50	162.50
Hay, other, baled, ton ⁵	160.00	160.00
Straw, oat or wheat, ton ⁵	90.00	90.00

¹ Based on prices at country elevators in central Illinois.

² Based on prices at country elevators in southern Illinois.

³ Based on prices at CBOT.

⁴ Estimated silage value as opportunity cost of harvesting crop as grain.

⁵ Based on prices direct off the farm in central Illinois.