NEWS RELEASE

University of Minnesota Extension is a 100-year-old partnership between the university and federal, state and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. Through Extension, the University of Minnesota "extends" its resources to address critical public issues in priority areas, including food and agriculture, communities, environment, youth and families. For more information, visit www.extension.umn.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
What is a Fair & Profitable Farm Rental Agreement

FOR RELEASE: November 11, 2013
Dry Venison Jerky Safely

CALENDAR

November 11  Stearns County Extension Office Closed
Veterans Day Observance

November 12  4-H Auction & Project Development (PDC) Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Hillcrest Restaurant, Albany

November 18  Stearns County Extension Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m.
Midtown Office Complex, Room 108, St. Cloud

November 18  4-H Leader Roundtable
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

November 18  4-H Fall Training – “OMG! You’ve Got Parents – Now What?”
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

November 18  4-H Advisory Board Meeting
8:30 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

November 20  Stearns County Dairy Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Charlie’s Café, Freeport

November 23  4-H Stearns/Sherburne Youth Leadership Retreat
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Warner Lake Park Nature Center, Clearwater

November 28-29  Stearns County Extension Office Closed
Thanksgiving Observance
December 16  4-H Advisory Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

December 19  4-H Recognition Banquet (Tentative)
Melrose American Legion, Melrose

December 24-25  Stearns County Extension Office Closed
Christmas Observance

January 1, 2014  Stearns County Extension Office Closed
New Year’s Observance

January 27  4-H Federation Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany
What is a Fair & Profitable Farm Rental Agreement

Worthington, Minn. (10/31/13) — Landlords, farmers, agri-business professionals should make plans to attend one of the informative land rental meetings being held across Central and Southern Minnesota. These free meetings are being provided by the University of Minnesota Extension. Farm land rental rates have never been higher and determining a fair and profitable farm rent agreement is a challenge in today’s economy with volatile corn and soybean prices and record farm land values.

Negotiating a fair rental agreement that satisfies the land owner and the farmer is not an easy task. David Bau, Extension Educator in Ag Business Management, will discuss several ways to determine a fair farm land rental rate for both parties.

Topics covered at the meetings will include local historic and projected farmland rental rate trends, current farm land values and sales, and a worksheet that will help determine a fair and profitable rental agreement. Projected input costs for 2014 will be presented along with current 2014 corn and soybean prices. Examples will use 2014 costs and returns to calculate affordable rental rates for farmers and acceptable rates of return to the landlord at current land values. Flexible cash rental agreements will also be examined.

Make plans to attend one of these meetings now. Attendees will receive several informative worksheets and factsheets that will help determine a fair and profitable 2014 farm land rental rate.

There are 25 workshops that will be held in Albert Lea, Alexandria, Austin, Buffalo, Chaska, Cold Spring, Foley, Gaylord, Gibbon, Hutchinson, Jordan, Lake Crystal, Le Center, Litchfield, Little Falls, Long Prairie, North Mankato, Pipestone, Rochester, St. Peter, Slayton, Sleep Eye, Willmar and Worthington starting in Chaska and Jordan on November 6, 2013 and ending in Long Prairie and Little Fall on December 11, 2013. The schedule can be found at: http://blog.lib.umn.edu/efans/abmnews/2013/10/workshop-what-is-a-fair-and-
pr.html.

Source: Dave Bau, University of Minnesota Extension, 507-372-3900 ext 3906, bauxx003@umn.edu, Extension Educator, agricultural business management
Dry Venison Jerky Safely

By Deb Botzek-Linn, University of Minnesota Extension

ST CLOUD, Minn. (11/5/2013) — Venison jerky is an easy to make flavorful snack. Remember when processing any meat, food safety must be at the forefront. In recent years, illnesses due to Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 from homemade jerky have raised questions about the safety of traditional drying methods.

It is important that the meat strips reach a sufficient temperature in the drying process to kill harmful pathogens that may cause foodborne illness. A food dehydrator, or your oven, should maintain a temperature of at least 145°-155°F for 4-6 hours when drying meat. But, to ensure the meat strips reach a temperature where pathogens are destroyed, the University of Wisconsin recommends heating the jerky (after drying) in a preheated 275°F oven for 10 minutes. This method, as a final step in the drying process, achieves an extra margin of safety and produces a quality jerky product.

Take time to check the temperature of your dehydrator before drying by placing the metal stem of a dial thermometer between 2 trays so that you can read the dial outside the dehydrator. Turn on the dehydrator and allow the temperature to stabilize. Adjust the thermostat as necessary to get the desired temperature. Current research recommends drying temperatures should be 145°F or above. Do not rely on the dehydrator’s temperature settings.

For quality jerky, use only lean meats in excellent condition and trim visible fat. Freezing the venison prior to marinating makes it easier to slice and helps kill any parasites that might be present. Always marinate meat strips in the refrigerator, not on the counter. Dehydrate until a test piece cracks but does not break when it is bent.

Jerky can be stored for 1-2 months at room temperature and in the freezer for up to 6 months. Check out these tested jerky recipes: http://bit.ly/17Dbd0w.

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