

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

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## **MASTER MATRIX FOR SITING ANIMAL CONFINEMENTS ADOPTED BY 62 IOWA COUNTIES**

DES MOINES – More than half of Iowa counties have formally adopted a resolution to use the master matrix in evaluating the proposed sites of animal confinements.

Counties have until Jan. 31 to adopt the resolutions and submit them to the DNR for use during 2004 and January of 2005.

“The master matrix provides a way for counties to evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts of confinement operations that need a construction permit,” said Reza Khosravi, acting supervisor of DNR’s animal feeding operations.

Producers in participating counties must meet more stringent requirements than state law normally requires of the confinement feeding operations that need a construction permit.

The 62 counties that have filed the resolutions with the DNR include: Adair, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Davis, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Kossuth, Linn, Lucas, Lyon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, O'Brien, Page, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Van Buren, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek and Worth.

Another five counties adopted a resolution prior to January 1 and will have to readopt a resolution in order to use the master matrix. They are: Butler, Dallas, Louisa, Osceola,

and Wright. Those counties have been contacted and are expected to resubmit the resolutions.

A map of the participating counties can be found on the DNR website at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/feedlot/files/04cermap.pdf>.

**For more information, contact Reza Khosravi at 515-242-6128 or Tammie Krausman at 515-281-8382.**

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## **GASOLINE DEMAND AND PRICES VOLATILE AFTER HOLIDAY**

**DES MOINES** — According to the Iowa DNR's Jan. 15, 2004, fuel price survey, gasoline prices are \$0.14 higher than one month ago, averaging \$1.56 for a gallon of self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline. The price increase was due to higher crude oil prices and market speculation. Currently gasoline supply is relatively comfortable and demand is low. However, market traders continue to bid up the price of gasoline based on fears of future short supply in the spring and summer and strength in crude oil, heating oil and natural gas prices.

“Although our gasoline supply is currently strong and demand is low, prices will remain vulnerable to market speculation,” said Jennifer Moehlmann, DNR energy analyst.

According to the Jan. 15 survey, prices across the state ranged from \$1.45 to \$1.65 per gallon and are \$0.17 higher than this time last year. Retail conventional unleaded gasoline prices in Iowa are \$0.02 higher than the national and regional averages of \$1.54 per gallon.

The average price for regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.54 per gallon. Ethanol-blended gasoline currently represents 63.9 percent of the market share.

Crude oil finished trading on Jan. 16 at \$35.08 per barrel, \$1.70 more than last month. One year ago, crude was \$33.93 per barrel. Crude oil prices have risen upon trader concerns regarding levels of supply. National crude oil inventory is at 264 million barrels, 3 percent lower than the previous year and below the normal range. The DNR expects crude oil prices to remain volatile while U.S. inventories are relatively low, with prices ranging between \$32 and \$36 per barrel.

The average price of self-serve diesel fuel on Jan. 15 was \$1.56, up \$0.06 from last month and \$0.04 higher than the regional average of \$1.52 per gallon. Diesel fuel was \$1.51 per gallon one year ago.

### **Propane**

The Jan. 12 survey found the average retail price of propane was \$1.09 per gallon. This is \$0.06 higher than the previous month and 21 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$0.90 per gallon). The Iowa average retail propane price is \$0.25 below the regional average of \$1.34. Midwest propane inventories are 14 percent higher than last year at this time and are in the normal range of the five-year average. Traditionally, propane prices begin to rise during cold weather, hitting their peak in late winter. Propane prices are also tied to crude oil and natural gas price trends.

### **Heating Oil Prices**

The Jan. 12 survey found the average retail price of No. 2 heating oil was \$1.18 per gallon. This is \$0.03 higher than last month and 4.4 percent above the price of heating oil at this time last year (\$1.13 per gallon). The Iowa average retail heating oil price is \$0.14 below the regional average of \$1.32. Midwest heating oil inventories are the same as at this time last year and are in the normal range of the five-year average. Traditionally, heating oil prices begin to climb in the fall, hitting their peak in late winter.

### **Natural Gas**

Natural gas closed at \$5.51 on Jan. 16, \$1.15 lower than last month and 1.8 percent lower than one year ago. The DNR expects natural gas prices to remain volatile and trade based on the weather forecast, with colder temperatures increasing prices and warming trends decreasing prices. Consumers are expected to pay 10 to 30 percent more for natural gas this winter, but that number could change if the winter is significantly colder or warmer than normal.

#### MOTOR FUELS SURVEY

<b>Self-Serve</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded	1.42	1.56	+0.14
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.39	1.54	+0.15
Premium Unleaded	1.53	1.67	+0.14
Diesel	1.50	1.56	+0.06
<b>Full-Serve</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded	1.70	1.78	+0.08
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.65	1.74	+0.09
Premium Unleaded	1.85	1.86	+0.01
Diesel	1.59	1.54	-0.05

#### HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	<b>December 15</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>Change</b>
Propane	1.03	1.09	+0.06

#2 Heating Oil	1.15	1.18	+0.03
Natural Gas	6.66	5.51	-1.15

**AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES**

	<b>December 15</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Ames	1.43	1.59	+0.16
Cedar Rapids	1.43	1.49	+0.06
Council Bluffs	1.36	1.54	+0.18
Davenport	1.35	1.52	+0.17
Des Moines	1.41	1.59	+0.18
Dubuque	1.43	NR	
Fort Dodge	1.43	1.52	+0.09
Iowa City	1.43	1.56	+0.13
Sioux City	1.34	1.55	+0.21
Waterloo	1.30	1.55	+0.25
Webster City	1.47	1.65	+0.18
Average Metro Price	1.41	1.54	+0.13

**AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN RURAL IOWA**

	<b>December 15</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Northeast	1.38	1.55	+0.17
Northwest	1.41	1.58	+0.17
Southeast	1.41	1.56	+0.15
Southwest	1.46	1.57	+0.11
Rural Area Average	1.41	1.56	+0.15

**WHOLESALE PRICES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS AROUND IOWA**

<b>Unleaded (cents per gallon)</b>	<b>December 11</b>	<b>January 8</b>
Des Moines	88.54	100.55
Dubuque	88.92	101.18
<b>Diesel Fuel (cents per gallon)</b>	<b>December 11</b>	<b>January 8</b>
Des Moines	90.93	95.12
Dubuque	91.73	95.61

**For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann at (515) 250-5238.**

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**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LAUNCHES SUSTAINABLE DESIGN COURSE**

IOWA CITY – Engineering and urban planning students returning this semester at the University of Iowa will have an opportunity to learn about pollution-saving practices through a new sustainable design course.

More than 15 guest lecturers from Iowa and across the nation will take turns teaching the course, called *Contemporary Topics in Civil Engineering: Sustainable Systems*. The Iowa DNR has helped coordinate topics and speakers, including environmental experts on water quality, green building design, risk management, energy efficiency and numerous other topics.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the DNR to help influence the next generation of environmental stewards,” said Jan Loyson, pollution prevention coordinator at the DNR.

The DNR’s award-winning Pollution Prevention Intern Program helped initiate the new course. The intern program places Iowa college students in industries to help identify and implement pollution prevention practices. Anna Forkan, summer of 2003 intern at Tone Brothers, Inc. in Ankeny, and the University of Iowa Engineers for a Sustainable Future group made the connection between the DNR and the University of Iowa to establish the College of Engineering class.

“No other university has a partnership in sustainability like this in their engineering program,” said Anna Forkan, campus coordinator. “We’re empowering students to take responsibility for the environment.”

Guest lecturers for the class include Liz Christiansen, Iowa DNR deputy director, Yale University Professor Tom Graedel, Dr. Richard L. Sandor, chairman and CEO of Chicago Climate Exchange, Inc., Dr. Reggie J. Caudill from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and others.

Supervising professors for the course are Dr. Jerald Schnoor, Dr. Keri Hornbuckle and Mr. Mike Valde.

The course is funded by the Center for Global and Environmental Research, EPA Region 7, Rebuild Iowa, Department of Energy, University of Iowa Speaker’s Bureau and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**For more information, contact Jan Loyson, P2 intern coordinator at (515) 281-3142; e-mail: [Jan.Loyson@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jan.Loyson@dnr.state.ia.us) or Anna Forkan, campus coordinator at (319) 321-8915; e-mail: [aforkan@engineering.uiowa.edu](mailto:aforkan@engineering.uiowa.edu).**

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## **ELECTRONIC MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AFTER FEBRUARY**

DES MOINES – Starting March 1, the DNR will no longer accept electronically-submitted manure management plans.

“The DNR is discontinuing the electronic version because we are revising all manure management plan forms to incorporate the phosphorus index and to combine the forms

required by state and federal government,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding operations program.

Combining the forms is expected to take about one year, but the electronic MMP hasn’t been updated to include recent changes in state law, so it will not be available until all the forms, paper and electronic, are updated.

“We think this decision will make plans more accurate for producers and easier for field offices to review,” Tinker said.

Producers who have formerly used the electronic version may use a new, shorter form to submit their annual MMP updates unless they have had extensive revisions to their last plans, Tinker said. The complete version of the MMP will be required for those producers.

Eventually the redesign of the plan will allow Iowa producers to fill out only one plan to meet state and federal requirements and federal cost-share eligibility.

Use of a phosphorus index will not be required for many producers until 2008, said Tinker. However, recent changes in federal law mean that producers applying for federal cost-share must have comprehensive plans and to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements would require a different plan.

By working with NRCS and EPA, we can simplify the process so that producers only have one plan to complete, Tinker said.

The shorter form of the MMP will be mailed to producers who need to file an annual update to their plan. The longer version is available under animal feeding operations on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

**For more information, contact Gene Tinker, coordinator, at 515-281-3103.**