

Allee Demonstration Farm 2001 Report

Lyle Rossiter, superintendent

The Allee Demonstration Farm has become an important educational site for grade school children, 4-H Club members, college graduates, business professionals, and visitors. We encourage everyone to visit the farm to view the sustainable farming practices and livestock production. For information call Lyle Rossiter at (712) 272-3512. More information about the Allee farm can be accessed at the following website: www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/index.html.

Located on the farm is the 1891 Queen Anne Victorian Mansion, an Allee Farm landmark, which has the honor of being named to the National Registrar of Historic Places. More than 1,200 guests visit the mansion annually. For more information on this unique home, contact the Newell Historical Society President, Marilyn Monson at (712) 272-4566.

The Allee Mansion was the site for meetings by the following groups in 2001:

- Twenty-seven members from the multistate university sustainable farming graduate class held their annual meeting, with emphasis and discussion on organic versus conventional farming methods.
- Twelve private organic feed processors from Washington State University, while touring Iowa, met to discuss recruitment of producers to sell organic corn and soybeans for feed processing on the West Coast.
- Fifteen members of the Northwest Iowa Organic Chicken Producers held two planning meetings to discuss production, processing, marketing, and transportation logistics for their product.
- Forty-eight Newell-Fonda Community School third grade students toured the Allee Farm and mansion to share educational experiences of local history and to see the

flower gardens, cattle, and pigs in the pasture-farrowing operation.

- Six executive board members of the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association held a land acquisition meeting.

Use of the Allee mansion as a central meeting point for educators, business personnel, as well as visitors from throughout the country, has become an integral part of stimulating the sustainable agricultural visibility of the ISU Allee Demonstration Farms.

A major event for the ISU Allee Demonstration Farm was the Garden and Acreage Day held in August 2001. Seventy-nine visitors participated in discussions, demonstrations, and presentations concerning:

- An heirloom copper-wire tomato trial, numerous garden vegetables, and flower gardens.
- An organic poultry demonstration showing use of movable chicken tractors full of organic broiler chickens (an alternative method of rearing range chickens).
- An organic fruit orchard (apple, peach, plum) established this year by the Newell Boosters 4-H Club. The club received a \$1,000 grant from the National 4-H Council for development of the project.

The projects listed above have been educational and interactive for participants in the area of sustainable agriculture. These events have provided hands-on experience and have established a forum for an exchange of information. These events accounted for 331 attendees. Another 397 visitors came to the farm, for a total of 728 guests visiting the Allee Demonstration Farm in 2001.