



**INLA Committee Meeting - June 25, 2013**

**All members** are welcome to join us at Reiman Gardens, in Ames for our committee meeting, on Tuesday, June 25.

INLA will meet to discuss matters pertaining to the convention, membership and certification committees, at 10 A.M. with lunch being provided after the meeting adjourns.

If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien by emailing [joano@agribiz.org](mailto:joano@agribiz.org) or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



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**2013 Farm Bill on the Move in House and Senate**

*By: Joe Bischoff: ANLA*

Just two months ago it was hard to envision a new Farm Bill making its way through Congress before other higher profile issues like immigration reform, the debt ceiling, and gun control were sorted out. However, thanks to strong leadership from the chairs of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, the Senate committee passed its version with a bipartisan 15-5 vote and the House committee passed its version on a 36-10 vote. ANLA and OFA are encouraged by the recent progress. The Senate expects to wrap up floor debate of the bill and pass their version late in the week of June 3rd or early the following week. The House is expected to begin floor debate late in June or early July.

Both versions of the Farm Bill strongly resemble the bills offered last year, with similar approaches to crop insurance, food stamps, conservation programs and research. This year the Senate bill provides about \$23 billion in savings over ten years and the House reports nearly \$40 billion in savings. While funds from many programs will be cut in a new Farm Bill, the specialty crop provisions are proposed to receive modestly expanded funding from their 2008 Farm Bill levels. Provisions which are most important to the nursery and floriculture industry include

Pest and Disease Management (previously Section 10201), and the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN), the Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG), and Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI). In addition, SCRI would receive baseline (mandatory) funding moving forward. The NCPN would be merged into a single program with 10201 – making those funds mandatory, as well.

ANLA, OFA, and state association grassroots partners recently sent a letter to the full Senate urging positive action on the bill. ANLA, and our partners in the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, continue to work the halls of Congress. Until the House and Senate versions of the bill are passed, ANLA will monitor amendments and weigh in as needed. According to Joe Bischoff, ANLA's Director of Government Relations, "the specialty crop programs are well positioned to move forward but we have to keep a keen eye out for amendments that could weaken their role or funding levels."

For a breakdown of the dollar-levels proposed in the Senate and House version of the Farm Bill please see the recent article, "ANLA Farm Bill Priorities Advance in the Senate and House Agriculture Committee Bills."

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## 2nd Annual INLA Service Day!



The second Annual INLA Service Day will be September 11, 2013. The project will take place in Des Moines and will be a fun filled all day event with lunch provided.

We had a great group of volunteers last year and we would love to see even more participate this year

More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Please feel free to call Joan O'Brien with any questions. She can be reached by email at [joano@agrribiz.org](mailto:joano@agrribiz.org) or by calling 515-262-8323.

Hope to see you all there!

## The Tree Boss: Efficient and Fun

*By: ANLA, Knowledge Center*

Handling large B&B material like caliper trees usually takes 2-3 team members. **Hughes Nursery and Landscaping** does it with 1.

Dwight Hughes Jr. introduces the Tree Boss, a piece of in-house designed equipment that supports their company's goals of efficient time management and making nursery and landscape work more friendly to today's workforce. By reducing both labor needs and the heavy physical demands of moving large plant material, Hughes Nursery and Landscaping is saving money and making work more fun.

To view the clip please go to:

<http://www.anla.org/knowledgecenter/premium/index.cfm?view=player&colid=139&cid=370&mfid=5617&StartNum=1&CFID=4728720&CFTOKEN=74758657>



### INLA Job Board

The INLA has a new job board feature on the website.

This feature will be a great tool if you are in the market for a new job or if you are a company looking for talent! Both resumes and job postings are welcome.

Our hope is to create a more efficient way for our industry to interact, when it comes to employment and sustaining our level of professionals.

To access the job board on the website please go to:

<http://iowanla.org/job-postings/>

### Order Your Catalog Today!

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association strives to provide our members the tools and knowledge needed to run a successful business. One of the tools INLA provides are Garden Catalogs that you can provide to your customers.

INLA offers the following catalogs, planners, and care guides: trees and shrubs, perennials, ideas, yard and garden, and planting and care guide.

Attached is the order form for INLA catalogs. Please fill out the form and return it to the INLA office. If you have any questions, please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323.

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## Effort Underway to Get More People Into Gardening

**By: Matt Kelley, Radio Iowa**

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Gardening is being promoted to Iowans through a new statewide initiative that's designed to reach out to people who've never grown anything as well as current gardeners who might be able to grow a little more to give away.

Angie Tagtow is project coordinator for Cultivate Iowa. "We are focusing our efforts on low-resource Iowans to encourage them to think about gardening as a way of not only putting fresh foods on their plates but also saving their food budget and hopefully improving health and food security," Tagtow says.

The project also targets existing gardeners, encouraging them to grow more produce and donate it to a nearby food pantry or community group. Gardening doesn't need to take a lot of time or money, in fact, she says it should save you both commodities. Through gardening,

Tagtow says you can keep some green in your pocket while also putting green on your table. "You don't need to have a back yard to grow a little bit of your own food," Tagtow says.

"If you go to the Cultivate Iowa page and click on the

garden link, we've got some simple steps in which all of us can do to grow some really wonderful vegetables in containers." In fact, using containers as a garden also means fewer weeds to pull.

The website: [www.cultivateiowa.org](http://www.cultivateiowa.org) contains a trove of downloadable information on how to start the process of tilling the soil and growing delicious veggies.

"Tomatoes and peppers are great container garden as well as backyard garden plants," Tagtow says. "Easy to grow, they're some of the best-tasting vegetables that we have and some of the vegetables that we most often eat here in Iowa. So, tomatoes and peppers and greens also do really well whether it's directly sewn into the ground or in containers as well."

To get started, she says, all you really need is a container, potting soil and either seeds or plants. For established gardeners who can grow a little extra to donate, Cultivate Iowa enables them to make pledges, find nearby organizations that accept fresh produce and track their donations.

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## Gardeners Asked to Take Steps to Protect Honey Bees

**By: Dar Danielson, Radio Iowa**

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Iowa State University's Extension entomologists are asking you to be careful about harming honeybees as you get out and about in the warm weather and tend to your plants. Entomologist, Laura Jesse, says insecticides were one of the things mentioned in a recent report on the decline of the honeybee population across the U.S.

Jesse says it's not easy to protect bees while you are trying to rid your garden of pests. "Bees are insects, and yet we have insect pests, so insecticides in general will harm bees. One class of insecticides that we're concerned about right now is a class called neonicotinoids," Jesse says.

She says this class of insecticides is very toxic to bees. And she says the neonicotinoids are systemic. "With most of our spray insecticides where you've got caterpillars, aphids and things, you spray it on and it dries. As long as you aren't treating the plant when it's flowering you are very unlikely to harm pollinating insects," Jesse explains.

"Whereas with the systemic insecticides you can be putting it on long before the plant flowers and the insecticide is in the pollen and nectar. And we don't know how much is in the pollen and nectar and for how long." Jesse says you should determine if the damage to your plant is merely cosmetic, or there is still a problem that

needs to be treated.

"The first step is kind of look —there are still insects here it might be worth treating — and then consider other options. In the case of aphids, you can often blast a lot of them off with a hose and then come back with maybe a soap-based insecticide," Jesse says.

She says always go through the other options before you move in with insecticides. Sometimes people miss the window to treat the insects that have done the damage, but spray anyway. "We call it a revenge spray, where you spray after the damage is done."

Some people might be afraid of being stung and spray bees anytime they see them. Jesse says that's not a good strategy.

She says honeybees and bumblebees are not that aggressive, while the yellow jackets are probably the most aggressive. But Jesse says yellow jackets eat a lot of insect pests and are very beneficial. Jesse says if you have questions you can call her or others at the Iowa State Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic at 515-294-0581.

