



**INLA**  
IOWA NURSERY &  
LANDSCAPE  
ASSOCIATION

## IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

# NEWS

### Best Field for College Studies? Agriculture.

About 60,000 ag jobs will be available annually in the U.S., but there's only 35,000 agriculture graduates to fill them

A report from [USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Purdue University](#), released Monday, has found tremendous demand for recent college graduates with a degree in agricultural programs.

An estimated 57,900 high-skilled job openings are available annually in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environment fields, the report found, but there are only about 35,400 new U.S. graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture related fields, 22,500 short of the jobs available annually.

"There is incredible opportunity for highly-skilled jobs in agriculture," USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a press statement Monday. "Those receiving degrees in agricultural fields can expect to have ample career opportunities. Not only will those who study agriculture be

likely to get well-paying jobs upon graduation, they will also have the satisfaction of working in a field that addresses some of the world's most pressing challenges."

The report also shows that women make up more than half of the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environment higher education graduates in the United States.

College graduates with expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment are essential to our ability to address the U.S. priorities of food security, sustainable energy, and environmental quality. Graduates in these professional specialties not only are expected to provide answers and leadership to meet these growing challenges in the United States, but they also must exert global leadership in providing sustainable food systems, adequate water resources, and renewable energy in a world of population growth and climate change.

### Opportunity Pulls Population Away from Rural Counties

Census Bureau population estimates indicate the number of people living in rural counties has declined for the fourth year in a row. It's the first period of population decline for rural areas as a whole.

Rural out-migration is the result of opportunities pulling young people to urban areas, said Paul Lasley, a professor of rural sociology at Iowa State University, but he tells Brownfield Ag News there's also a push factor that has cause people to leave rural areas. "The investment cost prohibits many young people from becoming self-employed business persons or self-employed farmers," said Lasley.

"Those barriers are really part of that push factor."

People still want the quality of life of a rural community, according to Lasley. That's evident because of the growth of rural counties that lie within commuting distance of urban centers. Natural change to rural population will likely continue its gradual downward trend because of low fertility rates and an aging population, which, said Lasley, is not good.

[Brownfield Ag News](#) reports on the topic. The fewer people who remain in rural areas, said Lasley, the costlier it gets for those people to stay there.

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## ISU CAL Students Win Overall Prize at Judging Conference

By: [Oskaloosa Herald Online](#)

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Students from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences made up the Iowa State University teams who won the overall award among four-year institutions at the April 8-10 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference.

The conference top award, called the Sweepstakes Award, was presented for the teams' good showing in 10 agricultural subject matter contests.

Among the 823 contestants at the conference, participating for Iowa State University were: Allie Ferguson, junior in agronomy, of New Sharon: Ag Communications. Josh McDanel, sophomore in environmental science, of Oskaloosa: Soil Judging, placing seventh.

Adam Striegel, junior in agronomy, of What Cheer: Ag Knowledge Bowl and Crops, placing fifth.

Constants at the conference competed on 26 teams from four-year schools and 25 from two-year schools at the event hosted by Black Hawk College in Moline, Ill. Iowa State University teams ranked first in agricultural communications, agribusiness, crops, and meat animal and livestock management; were second overall in ag computer skills, livestock judging, dairy judging, and **horticulture**; and the soil judging team ranked fifth.

NACTA is a professional society founded in 1955. Members include public and private post-secondary schools, with divisions for two- and four-year institutions.

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## House Passes Measure to Block Obama's EPA on Clean-Water Rule

By: *Ag Web*

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The Obama administration's plan to expand protections for waterways and keep them free of pollutants would be blocked by a measure the U.S. House passed on Tuesday.

Farmers, ranchers, builders and manufacturers backed the effort in the Republican-led House to halt the Environmental Protection Agency's work on the new standards, and begin a lengthy process to rework the plan.

"This rule would threaten jobs and result in costly litigation," Pennsylvania Republican Bill Shuster, the measure's primary sponsor, said before the vote. "With this bill we can tell the administration and the EPA to do it right this time."

The dispute over what is deemed a "water of the U.S." and subject to federal oversight is one of this year's most pitched environmental battles, drawing bipartisan condemnation. A similar bipartisan measure is advancing in the Senate. President Barack Obama's administration threatened to veto it. The House bill Tuesday passed 261-155, short of a veto-proof majority.

The EPA wants to put under federal jurisdiction ponds or streams that have a significant nexus to a larger river, lake or bay, even if the smaller body of water flows just a few weeks a year. Opponents fear it could mean permission would be needed from federal regulators to even dig a small ditch or install a culvert.

The EPA says a revamp is necessary to clarify guidelines made muddy by Supreme Court rulings, and it has pledged to fix problems farmers and lawmakers raised about its proposal in the final regulation. That rule is set to be issued as soon as next month.

"I would not rise to support the proposed rule," Oregon Democrat Peter DeFazio said. "But I would suggest a better way to proceed is let them publish the final rule," and then take action if it's not fixed, he said.

The House measure would force the agency to withdraw its plan and consult state leaders before issuing a new version.

## The INLA Job Board

.... is a handy tool!

### Current Opening: Purchasing Manager

Foster's, Inc., the Midwest's leading wholesale distributor of lawn & garden, outdoor décor and landscaping supplies is seeking an experienced individual to lead our product acquisition team. Qualified candidates should forward their resume to [sales@fostersinc.com](mailto:sales@fostersinc.com) or mail to: President, Foster's, Inc., PO Box 2674, Waterloo, IA 50704-2674.

Full Job Description and to access the job board on the website please go to: <http://iowanla.org/job-postings/>



### ADVERTISE WITH US!

Placing an ad within the INLA monthly newsletters is a great way to reach fellow industry professionals across the state and beyond.

Whether you're selling products or services, we'll help you get the word out.

Call the office at 515-262-8323/800-383-1682 or email Joan O'Brien for more details.

## 4th Annual INLA Service Day Save The Date!

The fourth Annual INLA Service Day will be Friday, September 11, 2015. The project's location is being planned by the INLA Board. This will be a fun filled event with lunch provided. We had a great group of volunteers at the ISU Campus in Ames last year and we would love to see even more participate this year. More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Questions? Contact Joan O'Brien by email [joano@agribiz.org](mailto:joano@agribiz.org) or by you can call the INLA Office at 515-262-8323.



### HRI Funds Key Pollinator Research Projects

The [Horticultural Research Institute](http://horticulturalresearchinstitute.org) is pleased to announce it will grant \$125,000 in financial support for four key projects as part of the Horticultural Industry Bee & Pollinator Stewardship Initiative. In 2014, the Horticultural Research Institute established a "Horticultural Industry Bee & Pollinator Stewardship Initiative" with three primary goals. First, to convene a task force to develop a bee and pollinator stewardship program, including creation of best management practices for plant production. Second, to identify and fund research that will help answer key science questions and fill gaps needed to design and refine the stewardship program. Third, to seek to positively position the horticultural community and its customers by collaborating with other compatible groups interested in augmenting pollinator habitat and protection.

## INLA Committee Meeting - July 8, 2015

**All members are welcome to join our committee meetings,  
10 am on July 8 at the Reiman Gardens in Ames, IA.**

INLA Committees (Tradeshow, Membership, and INCP) will meet at 10 AM at Reiman Gardens. Lunch will be provided after the meeting adjourns. If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien. Email: [joano@agribiz.org](mailto:joano@agribiz.org) or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



## 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.