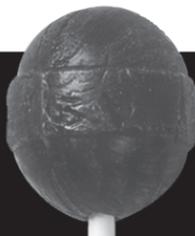


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— M A Q U O K E T A —
SENTINEL—PRESS

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ATV routes committee to be formed

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors informally agreed this week to form a committee to study the possibility of establishing routes for all-terrain vehicles in the county and some communities.

The supervisors' action Tuesday, Aug. 17, came a day after the board discussed the issue with the Maquoketa City Council's Public Safety Committee.

The supervisors agreed to hold a work session at their next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 24, to further discuss the idea.

Supervisors discussed the possibility of forming a seven-member committee that would make recommendations to the supervisors and the Maquoketa City Council.

The committee's membership would include a county supervisor, an elected Maquoketa city official, a law enforcement representative, a member of an ATV club, a representative of the rural area, a representative from the city and a representative of the Jackson County Conservation Board.

Supervisors emphasized that many questions need to be resolved before ATVs can be legally

driven on county roads or city streets.

Current state law prohibits ATVs from being ridden on public roads, except that farmers may drive on roads when necessary to get from one field to another.

State law also allows counties and cities to allow ATVs on designated county roads and city streets, if they wish.

Jackson County and the City of Maquoketa currently have no ATV routes. The supervisors have discussed the issue in the past and have declined to designate routes.

One issue cited by supervisors involves liability issues. Supervisors also have said there is strong opposition among rural residents to allowing ATVs on county roads.

Supervisors said that following the meeting with the council's Public Safety Committee, they felt that the consensus was for the supervisors to create a study committee.

During the committee meeting, supervisors listed several issues they said would have to be addressed before they could allow ATVs on county roads.

One issue would be law enforcement. ATVs would need to be licensed in some way and they

discussed requiring that ATV riders carry proof of insurance.

Issues of noise, dust control, speed limits and other law enforcement, public safety and liabilities issues would have to be addressed.

"There are a lot of questions that would have to be sorted out," said Supervisors Chairman Steve Flynn. "Liability will be the big issue."

Supervisors noted that they have heard about the off-road trail system the State of Wisconsin has developed on former railroad rights-of-way.

ATV enthusiast Jack Rosenberg of Maquoketa and others have talked to the supervisors about the potential to bring tourism revenue into the county by designating ATV trails.

"We're very aware of the potential for dollars coming in, but my concern is, at what price?" said Supervisor Jack Willey.

Supervisors have said they would favor developing an ATV course on some of the conservation board's land. They noted that the conservation board and Daryl Parker, conservation board director, have opposed such facilities.

■ ROUTES,
Please turn to page 3



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, center, and John Whitaker, right, state executive director of the U.S. Farm Service Agency, discuss with Maquoketa area farmer Joel Davison the effects of the late July flooding on his crops and relief measures that are available in the wake of Jackson County having received a presidential declaration as a disaster area. Braley and Whitaker made an hour-long stop at Davison's farm north of Maquoketa on Monday, Aug. 16. While there, they surveyed a 70-acre field, shown here, along the north fork of the Maquoketa River that flooded and ruined a soybean crop. Davison estimated that he lost 200 acres of soybeans in all and may lose 100 acres of corn.

Flood victims urged to file for assistance

Iowans who were affected by the recent severe storms and flooding were urged this week to register for state and federal flood assistance.

"Families and business owners impacted by flooding this summer are eligible for assistance to help rebuild," state Rep. Tom Schueller, D-Maquoketa, said Thursday, Aug. 19.

Farmers with losses due to flooding or other severe weather also may be eligible for assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Schueller said.

After receiving Presidential Disaster Declarations, residents of 32 Iowa counties are eligible for federal individual assistance.

Residents of Clinton County or Jackson

County can go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or (800) 462-7585 (TTY).

Individual assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

In addition, agricultural producers who have persistent losses from recent weather may be eligible to apply for assistance through their local Farm Service Agency office.

Producers should visit www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA and select the State Offices link at the top of the page for more information.

Recalled eggs removed from store shelves

By KELLY GERLACH

Consumers purchasing eggs from Maquoketa stores can rest assured that those eggs are not part of the nationwide recall.

Any and all eggs even remotely suspected of meeting recall specifications have been removed from local store shelves and destroyed.

Wright County Egg Farm in Galt, located in west central Iowa, announced Tuesday that it was voluntarily recalling eggs after some had been linked to salmonella poisoning in Colorado, California, and Minnesota. The recall affected an estimated 320 million eggs across the country.

Eggs packaged under the following brands and distributed between May 16 and Aug. 13 are being recalled: Albertson, Boomsma, Dutch Farms, Farm Fresh, Hillanddale, Kemps, Lucerne, Lund, Mountain Dairy, Ralph's, Shoreland, Sunshine, and Trafficanda.

The recall affects egg cartons labeled with the following plant numbers: 1206, 1413 and 1946. The plant number begins with the letter P, followed by the number and the Julian date, for example: P-1946 223.

They are packaged in varying sizes of egg cartons (6-egg cartons, 12-egg cartons, and 18-egg cartons). They were distributed to food wholesalers, distribution centers and foodservice companies in California, Illinois, Missouri, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Consumers should return the eggs in the original carton to the store where they were purchased for a refund.

Steve Kieffer, corporate risk manager for Fareway Stores, Inc., in Boone, was unavailable for comment at press time. In an Aug. 18 article, Kieffer told the Cedar Rapids Gazette that many of the Fareway stores in Iowa carry the Boomsma brand of eggs. Kieffer told the Gazette that he didn't know how many Fareway stores were affected but that the eggs were immediately pulled from shelves after company officials were notified Friday, Aug. 13.

Kieffer said that not every store carries the Boomsma brand.

■ EGGS, Please turn to page 2