Biography

John Lawrence,
Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Iowa State University

John Lawrence has served as associate dean for extension in Iowa State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director for Agriculture and Natural Resources for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 2010. As director for Agriculture and Natural Resources, he leads the largest ISU Extension and Outreach program area.

Lawrence also serves as director of the Iowa Nutrient Research Center, established in 2013 by the Iowa Board of Regents. He was a leader in collaborative efforts to develop Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy, a science and technology-based approach to assess and reduce nutrients delivered to Iowa waterways and the Gulf of Mexico.

He has been an Iowa State professor of economics since 1991, and previously served as an extension livestock economist, an assistant director of the Experiment Station and director of the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State.

Lawrence has written extensively for professional and trade journals, extension publications and given more than 700 formal presentations in 24 states, five Canadian provinces, Mexico, Korea, the Netherlands, China and Australia. In 2009, Iowa Farmer Today named him as one of the 25 most influential people in Iowa agriculture over the previous 25 years.

He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Iowa State University in animal science and economics, in 1984 and 1986, and a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri in 1989. Lawrence was raised on a crop and livestock farm near Tabor in southwest Iowa.

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