



## **A teen entrepreneur succeeds and brings distinction to Bedford**

Kelly Norris of Bedford, Iowa started the hobby of collecting different varieties of Iris about six years ago and has now taken that interest to another level. He took seven acres of his dad's pastureland and turned it into a blooming Iris farm, known as "Rainbow Farms". He hopes to expand the business from 7 acres and 40,000 Iris plants to other types of flowers and adding more Iris beds in the future. It has grown from a small hobby into a large Iris farm, almost overnight. This is truly one business that is family owned and operated, and the future gets brighter and brighter every time an Iris blooms. Kelly is in his third year of hybridizing and hopes to have some of his varieties registered someday.

The third annual "Bloomfest" will be held during Memorial Day weekend with visitors coming from as far east as Pennsylvania and as far south as Alabama. Touring season begins May 21 and runs through June 5 open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You can call to schedule an appointment for a tour, phone 712-523-2807 or e-mail at [irisfarm@frontiernet.net](mailto:irisfarm@frontiernet.net). They can be found on the Web at [www.rainbowfarms.net](http://www.rainbowfarms.net). Prices range from the affordable \$2.25 variety to the higher priced \$40 Iris - there is an Iris for everyone's budget.

Kelly is the son of Kenny & Krystal Norris and is a senior at Bedford Community High School where he is very active in extra-curricular activities. Kelly is a member of the Bedford H.S. Band, Bedford H.S. Choir, member of Speech and is Vice President of SADOBS (Speech & Drama of Bedford Schools). Kelly has been a member of the Southwest Iowa Honor Band, Southwest Iowa Honor Choir and he was chosen to participate in the All State Choir Choral Festival held at Ames, Iowa.

Kelly is Editor of Dwarf Iris Society of America; Editor - Iowa Bluebird Conservationists; President of the Bedford Downtowners 4-H Club, and Vice President, Bedford Downtowners 4-H Club. Kelly is Director of United Methodist Church Choir; Youth Representative to United Methodist Church Administrative Board; Chairman of United Methodist Church "Plant A Row Campaign"; Business Leader, Entrepreneurial Task Group (Bedford); and Kelly is the contact person for Taylor County, Bluebirds Across NE.

Kelly plans to attend Iowa State University this fall majoring in Horticulture. He will have years of experience before he even enters the classroom.