

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



Muscatine County Extension

2008

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Phyllis Zalenski, *Resource Management*

Youth & 4-H

Daleta Christensen, *Program Development*

Get inside Extension and discover how we support healthy people, healthy environments, and healthy economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Muscatine County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Mary Wildermuth
Extension Council Chair
Muscatine County

Robert F. Owen
County Extension Education Director
Muscatine & Cedar County

Healthy People

In partnership with the Muscatine Community School District and a variety of agencies, the PROSPER project in Muscatine is showing change amongst families in Muscatine. Researchers from Iowa State University are now able to demonstrate that compared to other communities in Iowa that are a part of this research project, Muscatine youth are delaying the use of alcohol and other substances.



Since 2003, more than 2000 seventh grade youth have participated in *Project Alert* and over 200 families have registered for the *Strengthening Families Program*. These two

programs are evidence-based programs and when implemented with fidelity are proven to address behavior and substance related problems. By sustaining these programs, the role of parenting in Muscatine is also changing.

Healthy Environments

Master Gardeners continue to "grow" and offer citizens of Muscatine County various ways to improve their own personal environments.



As educators, Master Gardeners are continually learning about new gardening techniques and assisting homeowners and others in making good decisions, using research-based information.

2008 Muscatine County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected Extension Council that guides local educational programming by partnering with staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents the issues and people of the county.

Chair - Mary Wildermuth, Muscatine
Vic-Chair - JoAnn Christofferson, Nichols
Secretary - Bonnie Reeb, Muscatine
Treasurer - Donald Paul, Muscatine

Council members:

Jay Brady, Muscatine
Steven Peterson, Letts
Emma Mae Pruitt, Nichols
Barb Smith, Moscow
Joan McQuillen, Moscow



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Healthy Environments - continued

For the past seven years, the Art of Gardening has been a partnership with Muscatine Community College and has provided hundreds of individuals with timely information on insects, trees, annuals and perennials, and other topics of interest to homeowners.

Also, Master Gardeners have offered home garden tours and hands-on workshops where homeowners can learn new techniques by getting their hands dirty.

Since the Master Gardener program was restarted in 1995, more than 200 individuals have completed Master Gardener training in Muscatine County. In 2007, more than 1800 hours of volunteer service were recorded by Muscatine County Master Gardeners.

Local ISU Extension programs offered in pesticide applicator training and manure nutrient management heavily impact the environment. Annually more than 150 Muscatine County producers receive timely information from Field Specialists as they learn new ways to protect the environment and strive to meet their certification requirements.

Healthy Economies

The economic implications of agriculture has been challenging in 2008. A late, cool spring and severe flooding caused producers to push their pencils in making planting and replanting decisions. ISU Extension field specialists held an emergency crop production meeting in June providing timely information for producers.

During the meeting, alternative crops to consider were discussed, plus the economic implications of replanting, as well as an overview of crop insurance and government programs. Several farm-program representatives and insurance agents were present to respond to specific questions.



4-H is youth development

In existence for over 100 years, 4-H is known to teach youth life skills they can use for a lifetime. Today that is still true.

A couple of new livestock related efforts implemented the past couple of years include a Premier Livestock Exhibitor contest and a Production Lamb project.

Premier exhibitor contestants must demonstrate their knowledge of beef, swine, or sheep by participating in an interview, skillathon, a written exam, and the results they receive in the show ring or livestock judging contest. Top contestants in each division receive college scholarships provided by Central State Bank of Muscatine.



Sheep Production project members participate in a series of learning activities that teach the basics of sheep production. This project has proven to be of interest to those that know little about sheep production and was a great way for the family to learn together.

Throughout the year, 4-H members have many ways that they can explore new ideas and learn from others. 4-H continues to be a major focus of what Muscatine County Extension offers youth and families.