

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



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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 Wright County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Mark Lester

Extension Council Chair

Leroy Jensen

County Extension Education Director

Providing Safe and Healthy Food

Consumers expect and deserve safe high quality food when they sit down to eat. Food Safety Quality Assurance, FSQA, is a program that provides 4-H and FFA members with livestock projects an understanding of providing safe food to the consumer. The 4-H livestock project is complete when the end product



on the table is safe and nutritious. Sixty-five 4-H and FFA members completed the FSQA program. There are seven different good practices dealing with livestock projects. At the 2008 Wright County Fair 95 exhibitors sold 6,216 pounds of

sheep, 46,750 pounds of beef, and 45,595 pounds of swine.

Everyday Safety

The third grade students from Eagle Grove and Clarion-Goldfield schools attended a safety field day. The sessions related to the safety of farming, backpacking, first-aid, electricity, lawn mower, fire, weather, ATV, and internet safety. Comments from the teachers were "I thought it was an excellent day" and "very well planned". Some student comments were "Thank you so much for the awesome safety day", and "I really liked the electrical station", "I liked it when you roasted the hot dog" and "I will not climb electrical poles".





Mark Lester, Carol Meyer, Gary Woodley, Larry Severson, Linda Spangler, Darla Tweeten (not pictured: Jana Gangestad, Doug Martin, Elaine Brooks)

Wright 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.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Up-to-date management practices for crop and livestock producers
- Educational programs for families in order that they have a good quality life
- Opportunities for youth to develop life skills
- Programming for new residents



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Economics of Using Wind as an Energy Source

Has there been a payback for investing in wind energy? That was one of the many questions answered at a conference attended by 99 individuals. The conference generated interest from land owners, city and county officials, livestock producers and schools. Presenters from ISU Extension, DNR, Iowa Energy Center, USDA, utility representatives, a farmer and school personnel provided the information and experience related to wind energy. Eighty-three percent of the participants ranked the conference as good or excellent and 89% indicated that the information obtained would be applicable in their decision making on how to use wind as a renewable energy resource. There was a group of ten students that attended the conference in order to evaluate wind energy and determine if it is workable and economical for their school district.



Research Farm Annual Meeting Revitalized

Every March the ISU Research Farm located near Kanawha hosts an annual meeting and education program. Low attendance has been a perennial problem. The board of directors discussed the problem and elected to (1) move the meeting, (2) obtain local sponsorship, and (3) put considerable effort into recruitment. Gold-Eagle Cooperative, North Central Cooperative and MaxYield Cooperative provided

financial support to increase awareness of local research. Ninety-four persons attended the 2008 annual meeting on March 13th. Information was provided on yield response to fungicides and soybean production methods. An overview of local research was also given. In a post-meeting evaluation 81% of those responding rated the meeting as excellent. Sixty-eight percent indicated that they planned to join the North Central Iowa Research Association, to date ten farmers have joined the research association.



Economics of Crop Replanting Decisions

Heavy rains during May and June resulted in 10-20% crop losses due to saturated or flooded soils. Seventy persons attended a crop concerns meeting that discussed late planting and replanting of corn and soybeans. John Holmes, Extension Field Agronomist, reviewed date-of-planting research. Kelvin Leibold, Extension Farm Management Specialist, provided an overview of the crop insurance products and the economics of a replanting decision. Several local crop insurance agents attended the meeting and answered questions pertaining to crop insurance.

School Wellness

At least 2985 families received a monthly school wellness newsletter provided by ISUE called "Growing Up Healthy and Active" for the 07-08 school year.