

Extension Notes

Personal Column for February 16, 2010

By Gary Hall, Iowa State University Regional Extension Education Director

ISU Extension Open for Business

Extension is open for business and ready to serve your information and educational needs! As the regional director for Iowa State University Extension, I am trying to bring together the best that the region has to offer and sharing those resources with you.

Through collaboration in this region we can provide important information to you that will create healthy people, healthy environments and healthy economies.

County Councils are working on various staffing plans to further develop these goals. The Council in Cerro Gordo is actively seeking an Extension Program Coordinator to work in the agriculture and horticulture programming. Floyd County is working with a shared staff member for horticulture questions. Franklin County Council has hired Beverly Peters, retired County Extension Education Director, to work three days a week developing family programming, working with the PROSPER grant and some administrative duties. The Extension Council in Mitchell County is planning on hiring Neil Wubben, retired County Extension Education Director, for about a day a week during the growing season to answer questions. The Worth County Council has hired Dennis Johnson to continue his programming work full time.

ISU Extension field staff assignments have also been evaluated and realigned. The following program specialists will be serving our five county region.

Gail Castillo is the Region 3 Youth Development Program Specialist. She has many years of experience in curriculum development, program facilitation, group processes, leadership, grant procurement and networking. Gail will be responsible for assisting the five county youth coordinators and local 4-H programs.

Russ Euken will continue as livestock specialist. He will be working with beef and swine throughout the region. Mark Storlie will continue as the Extension Swine Specialist for part of the region.

John Holmes will become our regional Extension Agronomist. John will take over the reins from George Cummins who has retired.

Don Hofstrand has been named the Farm Management Specialist. Don has expertise in value-added agriculture and is Co-Director of the Ag Marketing Resource Center.

Kapil Arora has been named the Extension Ag Engineer with expertise in water quality, soil conservation practices, manure management, composting, and environmental regulations.

Extension education to families will be coordinated by three specialists. Brenda Schmitt serves as the family resource management specialist; Jill Weber is the nutrition and health specialist; and Beverly Berna will cover the family life specialist area for retired Janet Brown.

Derek Thompson will serve Region 3 as the account manager for CIRAS (Center for Industrial Research and Service). ISU Extension continues to offer programming to communities and has specialists available that serve the entire state.

Contact information for the county Extension offices and program specialists can be found on the web at www.extension.iastate.edu or call the Regional Extension office in Mason City at 641-423-0844.

ISU Extension supports healthy people, healthy environments and healthy economies. The ISU Extension offices in each county will remain open and continue to serve local tax-payers with research and education on a wide variety of issues. Try us out and find how Extension is open for business.

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Note to media:

Staff photos can be downloaded from: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/emms/staffph/>

Attached image: Region 3 counties.