

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

Mike Guy
Extension Council Chair

Alan Keninger
County Extension Education Director

Healthy People

Extension invests in the wellbeing of Iowa children. Seventy-eight percent of Jasper County children under the age of 6 need child care while their parents work. But research shows that 80 percent of Iowa's child care is of poor quality. To improve child care quality, Child Care Resource and Referral (contracted by ISU Extension) offers local training, evaluation, and consultation through



programs such as Home Visits, Iowa Quality Rating System supports, and the Resource Library. These programs help providers meet recommendations for staff training, health and safety, and meaningful adult/child interactions. Sixty-six

recruitment contacts were made to promote registration to child care providers, and 220.5 hours of training were offered in which participants learned about a variety of early childhood topic areas.

Healthy Environments

After school programs provide a quality educational experience for youth and provide a safe place for parents to feel at ease with their children. Juvenile crime triples and parent stress increases between 3 pm and 6 pm. However a study cited by Iowa Afterschool Alliance reports that when employees can access high quality afterschool programs for





Dan Badger, Connie Cannon, Mike Guy, John McLaughlin, Curt Petersen, Sue Samson, Norma Stecker, Barb Stewart, Karna VerPloeg

Jasper 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:

- Bioeconomy & how it affects our lives.
- Growing the entrepreneur culture.
- Improving quality of childcare.



We connect you to Iowa State University.

We are your local link to make connections

for campus enrollment, continuing education, campus visits, campus exhibits, conferences, camps, and sporting events.

... and justice for all

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their children, they are better able to concentrate on work, increase productivity and decrease absenteeism. To help put parents at ease this past year Iowa State University Extension, Jasper County started an Afterschool program at the Colfax-Mingo School District & worked with the Newton YMCA on six programs. We also held 10 day camps during the summer with one hundred forty-five youth attending. Positive youth development is also accomplished through the 4-H community club organization. This past year we had 16 community clubs with 318 members. To enhance the community club experience we also offer three project groups that include Equine Experience, Canine Connection and Safety and Education in Shooting Sports. Overall, Iowa State University Extension, Jasper County impacted 1105 youth in Jasper County.

Healthy Economies

Tax assistance program helps local citizens. With the announcement of the economic stimulus package in January, many low income families and individuals who normally would not need to file a federal income tax return now were required to file in order to receive their stimulus monies. During the 2008 tax season, seven volunteers from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) processed 766 income tax returns. From these returns, \$655,910 was generated for Jasper County residents through stimulus dollars received, tax refunds, and the savings of tax preparation fees. Many of those helped had incomes of less than \$10,000 in 2007, which means the funds received from the stimulus package will account for a 6% increase in their disposable income.



Entrepreneurial & Business Support Plan.

During this past year, Iowa State University Extension, Jasper County in conjunction with Newton Development Corporation, Newton Chamber of Commerce, Des Moines Area Community College, University of Northern Iowa, Small Business Development Center and SCORE held numerous workshops and programs to assist new and current entrepreneurs to become more successful in their business. Programs ranged from personal one on one counseling, Fast Trac, Entrebash and Community Leadership Programs.



The Community Leadership Program had 100% of the participants involved in the program state that they learned about leadership and the importance of their leadership role in their place of work. One comment from the class was, "All CEO of non-profits should be required to take this class."