

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

Mike Boldon

Extension Council Chair

Glen W. Easter

County Extension Education Director

Summer Day Camps

The opportunity for summer day camps returned to Clarke County in 2008. CYC Johnson conducted eight day camps for K-6 graders. Reaching this age group provided a safe educational summer event for 50 different participants. The camp themes included Crafty Creations, Food & Fitness, Blooming Buckets, Fun & Games, Build a Book, Christmas in June, Cooking Up Fun and Healthy Habits.



Each camp was designed to be fun, engaging and educational. Camp assistants were recruited through the 4-H Council and Silver Cord program. Assistants were all Clarke

County youth gaining valuable job experience.

Pasture Walk for Weed Control

Maintaining grass and legume in pastures is a constant struggle. With rising price of fertilizer, weed control is of every increasing importance. The Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Dow AgroSciences, Iowa State Extension and the Clarke County Cattlemen teamed up to conduct a pasture walk in June that focused on weed control measures. Test strips were sprayed in advance for weed control, especially thistle control.





Clarke County Extension Council

Clarke County Extension Council members include Mike Boldon, Carol Reisinger, Mary Jo Schade, Ronda Schrod, Kevin Klemesrud, Rich Stephens, Terry Jacobsen, David Downing, and Darrell Mateer.

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:

- Youth
- Small Business Development
- Child Care
- Community Diversity



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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Pasture Walk for Weed Control (Cont.)

As producers arrived, a weed identification activity with 30 common pasture weeds was conducted. After the Cattlemen served supper the pasture walk was conducted for the thirty producers attending. Combining identification of weeds, test strips, and an evaluation of a pasture allowed the 32 producers to take home skills and information for immediate use.

Clarke County 4-H Fairgrounds Rolls to Completion

What began in 2004 with an estimated construction time of five years, the new fairgrounds was formally completed with the addition of the new event center/exhibit building in 2008. Clarke County's 4-H Clubs were a major contributor to the fundraising efforts. As money was raised buildings were constructed with the show barn, a sheep/swine barn and beef barn being first. The swine barn, grandstand arena, horse arena and campground followed.



In 2008 the main event center/exhibit building and horse barn was constructed. Total cost of the new grounds has risen to nearly two million dollars. From 2003 through 2007 the exhibits were shown at the Southwestern Community College (SWCC) facility a half mile from the fairgrounds. SWCC's cooperation during this period was outstanding. The 4-H horse show had been a one-day event for the past five years,

with horses being housed back on the grounds for the duration of the fair in 2008.

The new facility has help create a steady growth in 4-H participation during the same period. The completed fairground means that all exhibits are exhibited at one site that is very accessible (handicap as well) and modern. The community at large now has a facility available for community activities, livestock show, horse events, weddings, sales, RV storage, tractor pulls, demo derbies and many other uses. The impact of the new fairgrounds will be observed and felt by the community for many years to come.

Child Care Nutrition

Clarke County's Child Care Food Program grew significantly in 2008. Helping day care providers for 24 years the program grew to 36 cooperating childcare providers. Covering Clarke, Decatur and southern Warren Counties reaching 496 children. Eighteen providers were located in Clarke County. The USDA food program sponsors healthy meals and snacks. Cooperators much follow USDA nutrition guidelines in preparing their meals and snacks for the children. About \$13,000 per month is awarded in support of healthy choices. The program provides training each year



to the providers. The coordinator makes announced and unannounced visits to the homes to ensure compliance.