

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



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www.extension.iastate.edu/osceola

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

Kent Rusche

Extension Council Chair

Cheryl Heronemus

Regional Extension Education Director

4-H & Youth Programs

Osceola County 4-H program had 120 members enrolled in 8 clubs led by 16 leaders. The County Council consists of 11 youth.



Clover Bud Day Camp

The **Osceola County Clover Buds** program reaches children in first through third grade. They meet once a month after school, October through May and in the summer for the fair and clover camp. The leaders and volunteers assist the children with learning new things in a supportive, creative, challenging and fun environment. Activities experienced include health and well-being, community service, discovering individual strengths through creative play and fun non-



Sewing clinic for 4-H members

competitive games. Children are taught the 4-H pledge and they learn that 4-H stands for head, heart, hands and health.

Ag in the Classroom is a 6 week program sponsored by Farm Bureau and facilitated by Extension Staff. Fourth grade children at Sibley-Ocheyedan schools are educated in the fundamentals of agriculture in Iowa. Knowing where food comes from and how it got on to the table is the main program goal. Hands on experiences like visiting a local dairy and beef farm, handling live animals in our classes, starting plants and having a "Who made my Pizza Party" help to make a lasting impression.



Kent Rusche-Chair; Dan Breuker-Vice Chair; Brenda Thole-Secretary; Don Hibbing-Treas.; Tim Hibma; Kari Schultz; Todd Ackerman; Nancy Nasers

Osceola 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.

The council has identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Providing after school opportunities for middle school youth
- Expansion of Youth & 4-H programs
- Help families manage in tough times



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We are your local link to make connections

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

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NW Iowa On-farm Research

ISU Extension, the Iowa Corn/Soybean Initiative, ISU Research and Demonstration farms and the NW Iowa Experimental Association formed a partnership to form the Northwest Iowa On-farm Research project which is now in its 5th year in Lyon, Sioux and Osceola Counties in the NW corner of Iowa. The goals of this project are to implement on-farm research projects that are beneficial to the cooperator and other NW Iowa farmers; to cooperate with producers to provide up-to-date research that affects their operation; and to provide unbiased, statistically analyzed data for farmers on compared production practices. Crop production questions are answered using replicated randomized studies. Projects are simple, informative and practical. Over 20 producers have worked cooperatively with Extension the past four years, and have conducted over 130 replicated trials. Some have been unique to one site; others have been repeated in several locations over several years. Examples include corn and soybean plant population comparisons, corn and soybean foliar fungicide trials, soybean seed treatments trials, corn and soybean trait comparisons, tillage system experiments, seed treatment trials, and planting speed evaluation. See results from previous years at the NW On-farm Research web page at:

<http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu/>.

ACRE Meetings

Meetings were held throughout northwest Iowa to provide information on the 2008 Farm Bill's new ACRE option. The meetings were a joint effort between Farm Service Agency and ISU Extension. Overall there were 41 meetings attended by 1705 individuals. FSA personnel presented the basics of the ACRE option and Ron Hook, ISUE Farm Management Specialist provided economic analysis of the potential payments under the ACRE option and the DCP option. Ron also provided analysis for individual farmers during the period leading up to the sign-up deadline.

Farmland Leasing Meeting

The traditional farmland leasing meetings were held in most northwest Iowa counties during July and August. 219 participants attended nine meetings held in the area. The meetings were designed to provide current information on farmland ownership and leasing topics. Ron Hook, ISUE Farm Management Specialist discussed the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, land value and cash rent surveys, "Calculating a "fair" Cash Rent", flexible leases, and the 2008 Farm Bill's ACRE option.

Managing Tough Times

The economic downturn affects many Northwest Iowa families. ISU Extension designed web sites and resources to help families, businesses and communities tackle tough times. Citizens can participate in blog conversations, "ask an expert," and a variety of other options to find answers and information every day, any time of day.

www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes