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Iowa State University Extension in Osceola County provides relevant programs that 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.

Jason Brockshus

Extension Council Chair

Al Grigg

County Extension Education Director

Osceola County Holds Farm City Mixer



Osceola County is recognized in the State of Iowa as the county whose economy is most dependent upon agriculture. With the population of Osceola County decreasing along with such a small amount of land base and manufacturing industry, it becomes a challenge for the county to raise enough money through taxes to provide the services wanted & needed by the citizens. To help citizens better understand the interdependent role

of all business, both agricultural and manufacturing, a Farm City Mixer was conducted on August 14, 2007. The theme of the event "Understanding our Potential by Building Understanding" was chosen to showcase how the economy of the county is interdependent upon all business within the county. 162 people participated in the Farm City Mixer. Another Farm City Mixer is planned for 2008.

Extension Brings 3rd Graders Back To "Pioneer Days"



Extension's Pioneer days is a new school enrichment project started this past year for local 3rd grade students. Children were able to take part in several different stations of daily activities, practiced by our fore-fathers.

Included in these activities were the preparing of food, outdoor cooking, milking a goat and caring for livestock, an opportunity to use antique tools and a

discussion and example of a type of pioneer shelter.

64 children took part in this afternoon event which was held in Sibley's Robinson Park. This looks to be an annual event!



Iowa State University Extension: In sync with Osceola County

Impact of Daycare in Northwest Iowa



Quality childcare continues to be a major program effort in Iowa. Extension Family life staff in NW Iowa have been working with home providers and childcare center staff to improve the quality of care of children in NW Iowa.

This past year, 60 home providers and 41 day care center staff received training to learn how to evaluate and make plans to improve the quality of their programs.

Approximately 417 families and 710 children in northwest Iowa have benefited from the improvements that have been made in these day care settings.

County Extension Council

Jason Brockshus

Chairperson

Kent Rusche

Vice-Chairperson

Melanie Seivert

Treasurer

Nancy Watterson

Secretary

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Council Member

Deb Kohn

Council Member

Deb Kusters

Council Member

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Council Member

Brenda Thole

Council Member

4-H & Clover Kids in Osceola County



Osceola County had 140 members participate in 4-H for the 2006-07 years in 8 clubs around the county with an additional 22 children participate in the Clover Bud program held after school.

The 4-H Department is always busy with an activity throughout the year with the Fish Iowa Clinic and FSQA training & project workshop in January. Our annual Carnival held in March. Animal ID's are due in April

and May with State Conference held at the end of June. July and August tend to be a couple of our busiest months with our county fair going on as well as getting the State Fair, Clay County Fair and AK-SAR-BEN entries ready and sent off. The 4-H year ends on September 15 with the kids' record books due to leaders October 1st, and due into our office by November 1. We round out the year with an Awards Banquet in November to reward our youth and leaders for everything they have accomplished.

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:

- Community Economic Development
- ISU Student Recruitment
- Environmental Issues
- Youth Education

Service Project Commemorates Iowa State University's 150 Years



ISU Extension initiated community service projects in every county to celebrate Iowa State University's 150 years.

Osceola County Extension celebrated ISU's 150th Birthday by inviting the public, Iowa State Alumni and Dr. Jeff Iles from the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture to join us in helping plant a Maple tree in honor of ISU's birthday. We planted the tree on the east side of the 4-H Building at the Osceola County Fairgrounds. We also buried a time capsule in front of the 4-H Building as well

as the addition of a flag pole that will hold both the ISU flag and 4-H flag.



**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.