

2011 Points of Pride



County Extension Staff

Bill Arndorfer
Butler-Grundy County Extension Educator
Andrea Traeger
County Youth Coordinator
Brenda Everts
Office Assistant

Grundy 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.

Extension Council Members

Glenn Johnson, Nate Stewart, Chris Tobias, Linda McMartin, Ryan Bakker, Matt Buttjer, Diane Haupt, Janelle Koenigsfeld, Bonnie Shinn

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Agriculture economic development
- New agricultural enterprises, opportunities and linkages
- Identify leadership opportunities
- Mentor programs (role models)

ISU Extension in Grundy County

703 F Avenue, Suite 1
Grundy Center, IA 50638
Phone: (319) 824-6979
Fax: (319) 824-6601
www.extension.iastate.edu/grundy

Get inside Extension and discover how we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension and Outreach meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Grundy County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Glenn Johnson
Extension Council Chair

Bill Arndorfer
Butler-Grundy County Extension Educator

Healthy People

Helping young people develop healthy habits is an important focus of ISU Extension and Outreach youth programs. The Healthy Meals workshop, held this past January, taught 15 youth about the food pyramid, how to make nutritious meals and how to plan a food budget.

4-H

One hundred fifty-nine fourth through 12th grade students participated in 4-H this past year. 4-Hers have the opportunity to choose from over 45 different project areas, so they are able to pursue and learn more about their particular interests. Sixty clover kids engaged in 4-H learning activities as well.

Volunteers

To help youth make the most of their 4-H experience, 4-H leaders and other volunteers generously gave



their time and talents to provide important leadership and support to 4-H members in Grundy County.

Day Camps

Three summer day camps provided 61 kindergarten to third grade students the opportunity to help build interest in science while promoting the skills of observing, comparing, communicating and applying.

Healthy Environments

In an effort to bring safety to the forefront of youth and adults' minds, and prevent bad habits from forming, Grundy County Extension sponsored

the county-wide Progressive Agriculture Safety Day for third and fourth grade students. Youth learned valuable lifelong lessons on how to avoid dangerous situations both on the farm and at home by engaging them in hands-on workshops and demonstrations. This year's safety topics included: fire, grain bin, chemical, tractor visibility, farm machinery and PTO, electrical, sun, gun and outdoor, first aid and



reaction time. Participants are encouraged to go home and share what they learned with family members and others. Success results when students practice what they learned and share it with another. A child reminding a parent or grandparent to put a safety shield in place demonstrates what the child learned while reminding others of the need to put "safety first."

Healthy Economies

The Tri-County Ag Marketing Club provides an opportunity for producers to learn and practice marketing strategies. The club provided farmers the opportunity to learn from marketing experts as well as from each other. Topics included: Crop Marketing Outlook, Managing Crop Margins, Commodity Fundamental and Technical Analysis, Crop Insurance and Managing Crop Risks. Twenty-five percent of those who completed the post-program evaluation reported the economic impact to their farming operation, based on practices implemented as a result of the club sessions, ranged from \$1000 to \$15,000 per farm operation.

Additionally, Grundy and Black Hawk county extensions collaborated to offer a joint farmland leasing meeting that had over 80 participants. Those in attendance learned about trends in farmland values, leasing practices, determining cash rental rates, flexible cash leases and legal issues.

Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners have been very active in Grundy County over the past year. The local organization holds a plant sale every spring. Proceeds from the plant sale are used to provide continuing education to current master gardeners and interns as well as to the general public. This past year they used some of their funds to support the Master Gardener summer webinar series and the Trough Gardening Workshop that was held during the Grundy County Fair. Additionally, the funds are used to offer a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who is majoring in a horticultural program. They also provided over 190 hours of community service to the citizens of Grundy County.

Barn Quilts of Grundy County

The Barn Quilts of Grundy County continues to grow and draw tourists into Grundy County. Currently, 65 barn quilts are on display throughout the county. Local businesses and specialty shops benefit directly from increased sales from those who travel and shop throughout the county as they search for the unique barn quilt patterns. Partners include the Grundy County Extension office, Grundy County Development Alliance, area businesses, barn owners and other interested parties. The project is supported with revenues from barn quilt merchandise sales and grants. Since its inception in 2003, this project idea has been adopted in over 35 other counties throughout

Iowa. Watch for the ISU Extension and Outreach video clip highlighting this project.



Continuing Instructional Courses

Recertification training and education is provided to private and commercial pesticide applicators as well as confinement and commercial manure applicators. ISU Extension and Outreach provides research-based information to ag professionals and producers through the Pro Ag and Crop Advantage programs. Grundy County Extension is an important information source in the county. Citizens looking for research based answers to their questions contacted the local office for answers that were provided by trained staff and through ISU publications and educational materials.

... and justice for all
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

October 2011

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach