

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

Eugene Greiner
Extension Council Chair

Gary Bickmeier
County Extension Education Director

Keokuk Co. Joins Region 15

August 1st Keokuk County joined Johnson, Iowa and Washington, counties where new Regional Director Gene Mohling had previously served as a county director. Mohling already is well acquainted with most of the staff and elected county extension council members in the region, which means he has been able to focus on multi-county cooperative efforts on programming and marketing.

ISU Extension supports healthy people, healthy environments and healthy economies. Users of ISU Extension services should not see many changes in programs in the near future, Mohling said. For example, the fall Master Gardener training that has been a popular program in the past will be offered this fall in Johnson and Iowa counties. Other familiar programs on the schedule include Master Conservationist training, a workshop



in Kalona on financial management for dairy producers, a drainage workshop, a field day at the ISU Southeast Research and

Demonstration Farm in Washington County and the "Pick a Better Snack" nutrition education program for students, which was offered in more than 130 classrooms in 15 schools last year. In the longer term, the restructuring of ISU Extension should provide opportunities for quick response to program needs in the region and allow for a broader marketing effort and greater visibility, Mohling said.

Mohling has his office in the Johnson County Extension Office, but is in Keokuk County on a regular basis and can be reached by calling the Keokuk County Office or by email at mohling@iastate.edu.



(LtoR Kay Witte Elayne Campbell Brad Steinhardt Janis Collins Eugene Greiner Gina Smith not pictured Jina Heisdorffer Scott Swanson Doug Webster)

Keokuk 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:

- Youth
- Older Adults and Community Wellness
- Local Foods



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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Healthy People

In 2008-9 Keokuk County Extension and Annette Shafranek of the Keokuk County Health Center have



presented programs aimed at increasing Health through proper nutrition. The programs were held at the Health Center and featured nutritious meals and educational programs.

Healthy Environments Buy Local programming



Prospective and Current local food producers and food merchants attended the "Sourcing and Selling Locally Grown Food" workshop held on February 23. The workshop included sessions on marketing options, selling direct to grocery stores and restaurants, farmers market sales and Community Supported Agriculture. A survey of Local Food Producers is currently being conducted with Elisabet Humble Local Foods Coordinator.

Healthy Economies

After a phone call from a member of the What Cheer Commercial Club, the Extension Director called a meeting to discuss small business development in Keokuk County. The group members designed a program to both encourage small business growth but also to educate participants concerning the hard facts of small business ownership.

The group felt that a respectable attendance would be 10. Attendance for the program was 34. Of those 21 filled out surveys, and of those 21, 11 were planning to start small businesses, and 4 were already operating a small business.

Several more Extension programs sprang from this one. A monthly small business update series which featured local business people speaking on subjects such as taxes and book keeping, hiring, firing and retaining employees, business longevity (rolling with the punches), and the Keokuk County Career Academy, was initiated.

4H

Statewide counties are pushing to meet a 3% growth goal set by the State 4-H Office.. The Keokuk County 4-H program has been hard at work to obtain that growth. 4H members have encouraged their friends to join, and a new Scrapbooking special interest club called "Keokuk Co. Scrappers" was started, its lead by Christy Gambell and had 18 members.

