

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



County Extension Staff

Kim Brantner

County Extension Education Director

Mandy Stoaks

County Youth Coordinator

Janice Moore

Office Assistant

Erin Christensen

Growing Strong Families Program Educator

Lori Henrichs

Growing Strong Families Program Educator

Brenda Lisle

Healthy Choices for Healthy Bodies Program Educator

Staff Serving Taylor County, but based in other counties

Alan Ladd

Southwest Area Director

Lynn Adams

Communities

Steven Adams

Communities

Clarke Bredahl

External Relations

Darrell Busby

Livestock

Donna Donald

Family Life

Tim Eggers

Farm Management

Eldon Everhart

Commercial Horticulture

Barb Fuller

Nutrition and Health

Kyle Jensen

Crops

Joyce Lash

Resource Management

Ray Reynolds

Youth Development

Shawn Shouse

Ag Engineering

Taylor County Extension

609 Pollock Blvd.

Bedford, IA 50833

Phone: (712) 523-2137

Fax: (712) 523-2139

Email: brantner@iastate.edu

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

Mary Beaman

Extension Council Chair

Kim Brantner

County Extension Education Director

Healthy People

Growing Strong Families Program invests in young families.

The Growing Strong Families Program visits families in their homes who have children 0-5 years old. Sixty-seven families had regular, monthly visits covering topics such as child development, nutrition, resource management, safety, bedtime concerns, toilet learning, discipline, etc. Within these families, 112 children participated in the family visits. Program educators conducted 760 lessons with families.



Families learned how to play with their child better, increased confidence in caring for their child, and received ideas on how to handle

challenging behaviors. 100 % of families who participated in this survey also indicated that they would recommend Growing Strong Families to others.

Healthy Environments

Ag Awareness Day promotes farm safety.

Lenox, Clearfield and Prescott students participated in Ag Day, a day focused on teaching 229 K – 6th graders about farm safety and agricultural awareness. Students had the opportunity to see farm animals, watch machinery operate, learn about electrical safety, find out the hazards of all terrain vehicles (ATV) and understand grain wagon safety.





Taylor County Extension Council

Mary Beaman, Rod Belding, Curt Johnson, Todd Perdew, Paul Rainforth, Connie Sawyer, Denise Shepard, Kurt Rowan, Dave Walters

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:

- Strong families and communities
- Youth Development
- Nutrition and health
- Agricultural Profitability and sustainability



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.

Ag Awareness Day promotes farm safety.

Many of the youth previously had not had an opportunity to participate in any type of farm safety education. As the number of youth living on a farm decreases, exposing youth to ag awareness in small rural communities becomes critical. “Even if one child remembers one precaution about Ag Day, this could possibly save their life in the future,” said BreeAnn Belding, Lenox 10th grade student and Ag Day Volunteer.

Healthy Economies

Bedford citizens embraced the Horizons Program, a poverty reduction program Iowa State University Extension conducted with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation. This community leadership program garnered 40 people participating in Study Circles, 26 people learning about leadership (LeadershipPlenty), and 365 people (22.5% of population) engaged in community visioning in Taylor County. Bedford developed and implemented many ideas addressing poverty reduction.



Horizons partnered with area churches to select two housing rehabilitation projects to address housing needs. “My Father’s House” provided assistance through volunteer labor and time to a homeowner needing small scale upgrades to their home. Plans are to continue this project as an ongoing effort.

The Spirit, Pride and Attitude committee worked with the local middle/high school to implement the “Pick Up Sticks Project.” Students picked up sticks, branches and debris following this past winter’s ice storms. The community service project benefited the elderly and disabled who were unable to clean up their yards. Preschoolers, 4-H clubs and track team members also cleared debris.

One community group focused on developing more reliable high speed internet service within Bedford especially focusing on home based and small businesses. After researching and investigating this issue, a local referendum conducted in August authorized a local telecommunication utilities board.

A local church and Horizons initiated a backpack project. Backpacks filled with nonperishable food are sent home for the weekend with children who do not have enough food to eat.

Impact

Healthy Choices for Healthy Bodies offered 420 kindergartens – sixth grade students in three counties, an educational program promoting nutrition and health. Students learned how to make lifelong healthy choices including nutritious food choices and being physically active.



“When you can get the kids to talk about healthy choices outside of class, then you’ve made an impact! The program made the kids more aware of what they were putting in their bodies.” 5th grade teacher