

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension



### Dickinson County Extension

1600 15<sup>th</sup> Street • Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
Phone: (712) 336-3488 • Fax: (712) 336-3498  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/dickinson](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dickinson)

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

### County Extension Staff

#### Karen Byers

*County Extension Coordinator*

#### Christina Ostovic

*Program Coordinator*

#### Bev Miller

*Office Manager*

#### Barb Utech

*Office Assistant*

#### Dennis DeWitt

*Livestock Specialist*

#### Susan Reiser

*Extension Council Chair*

#### Karen Byers

*County Extension Coordinator*

### Staff Serving Dickinson County (Based in other offices)

#### Jan Burk, Clay County

*Resource Management Specialist*

#### Jane Goeken, Clay County

*Community Specialist*

#### Julie Hlas

*External Relations Specialist*

#### Ron Hook, Osceola County

*Farm Management Specialist*

#### Paul Kassel, Clay County

*Crops Specialist*

#### Kris Kohl, Buena Vista County

*Agricultural Engineering Specialist*

#### Chris Mondak, Sioux County

*Dairy Specialist*

#### Rhonda Rosenboom, O'Brien County

*Family Life Specialist*

#### Jerry Weiss, Pocahontas County

*Swine Specialist*

#### Denise Wyland, Lyon County

*Nutrition & Health Specialist*

### Healthy People

Dickinson County Community Gardens were created in 2009 to provide residents the opportunity to learn gardening skills; access local gardening space; and have a safe, economical source of fresh produce.



Participants in the community garden project were responsible for publicity, planning, planting, caring for, and harvesting the garden.

Three garden spaces in Spirit Lake were donated by local businesses, organizations, and individuals. In total, 28 families feeding nearly 100 people benefitted by learning how to grow, and preserve their own food; decrease their grocery bills; and consume more fresh vegetables.

They hope to increase garden space throughout communities in Dickinson County to benefit even more people educationally, nutritionally and financially.

### Healthy Environments

Iowa State University Crop Specialist, Paul Kassel, was quick to respond to summer hail damage concerns. Local meetings were held to help producers assess severe hail damage and manage crops for the best economic benefit.



"Hail events in July caused severe crop damage in the communities of Rossie, Royal (Clay County) and Terril (Dickinson County) totaling nearly 5,000 acres," reports Kassel.



Front Row: Susan Reiser, Jen Johnson, Todd Ahrenstorff, Sue Boettcher. Back Row: Rich Martin, VerDon Schmidt, Connie Purchase, Steve Brueggeman, Cari Wallace.

## Dickinson 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:

- Healthier Lifestyle Choices
- Growth of Youth and 4H Programs
- Quality of Life for Older Iowans
- Personal Financial Security



**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, sporting events, and more.

... 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, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Fall 2009

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

## Healthy Environments continued...

“Much of the corn in these damaged areas suffered stand and defoliation loss – so those fields have little yield potential. For soybeans, we expect about one-third of a crop yield in these hail damaged areas.”

Statewide, Iowa State University Extension responded to hail damage concerns with meetings and research-based information. A website link was also created to answer questions about financial issues, assessing and salvaging crops, harvesting issues, emergency forage and more. Additional hail damage information is available at: [www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecover/info/haildamage.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/disasterrecover/info/haildamage.htm)

## Healthy Economies

The mission of the Dickinson County Endowment Fund (DCEF), “to improve the quality of life and promote a healthy economy for our county”, aligns well with the ISU mission and delivers financial assistance for 3 youth initiatives:

1. “*Ricochet: An Extreme Leadership Adventure*” provides hands-on learning experiences to develop youth leadership skills. More than 300 students have been impacted with a 9-week exploratory class and service project component. The program is facilitated by a group of trained local community leaders. Partnerships with youth, adults, and community leaders have lead to its success. A middle school participant commented, “One thing I plan to do as a result of my participation in this leadership experience is to go do something good for the community.” For more information on this leadership program, visit:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ricochet>

2. “*Red Cross Certified Babysitter Training*” is another successful youth program delivered by Extension with financial support from DCEF. Participants gained confidence and skills needed to become safe and responsible babysitters. They also learned basic first aid and how to react in an emergency. In total, 7 trainings were held free of charge for 88 youth in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.



3. “*LASCAR – the Lakes Area Student Council Annual Retreat*” also received support from DCEF to hold its 8<sup>th</sup> annual event. Student council members from the three community school districts took part in a day-long retreat to help bridge connections among students and the community. They participated in character development activities and a service project to pack 100 school backpacks with supplies for students in Dickinson County.

## 4-H Impact Story

The Dickinson County 4-H Program had more than 50 new members and volunteers due in part to new special interest clubs such as: a Saturday Sewing Group, a Robotics Group, a Fishing Club, and a Safety Education Shooting Sports Group. Let’s keep striving to make the best better!

