

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

Carol Reisinger

Extension Council Chair

Glen Easter

County Extension Education Director

Summer Day Camps

The opportunity for summer day camps was strong in Clarke County in 2009. CYC Johnson conducted twelve day camps for K-6 graders. Reaching this age group provided a safe educational summer event for 50 different participants. The camp themes included Crafty Creations, Food & Fitness, Blooming Buckets, Fun & Games, Christmas in June, Cooking Up Fun, Money Matters, Babysitting Basics, two Agricultural Safety Camps, a Luau and Healthy Habits.



Each camp was designed to be fun, engaging and educational. An AmeriCorps Volunteer was hired to co-lead the program. Camp assistants were recruited through the 4-H Council and our two High School's Silver Cord programs. The AmeriCorps Volunteer and assistants were all Clarke County youth gaining valuable job experience.



Child Care Nutrition

Clarke County's Child Care Food Program grew significantly in 2009. Helping day care providers for 25 years the program grew to 42



Clarke 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.

Clarke County Extension Council includes Carol Reisinger, Chair; Mike Boldon, Vice-chair; David Downing, Secretary; Ronda Schrodt, Treasurer; Randy Barnard, Kevin Klemesrud, Darrell Mateer, Mary Jo Schade, and Richard Stephens.

With the current restructuring status of Iowa State University Extension the council has identified that 4-H Youth programming will continue to be a high priority. Other program priorities are being considered as the council continues to meet.



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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[Child Care Nutrition] continued participating childcare providers. The program covers Clarke, Decatur and southern Warren Counties reaching 650 children from 390 families. Nineteen providers were located in Clarke County. The USDA food program sponsors healthy meals and snacks. Participating families much follow USDA nutrition guidelines in preparing their meals and snacks for the children. About \$15,000 per month is awarded in support of healthy choices. The program provides training each year to the providers. The coordinator makes announced and unannounced visits to the homes to ensure compliance.

Community Diversity Garden Enhances Healthy Living

The Community Diversity Garden celebrated its seventh season in 2009 with land and water furnished by Clarke County Farm Bureau. Fourteen families and two organizations raised food in 24 plots with three demonstration plots. Families may consume or sell their food. Demonstrations included a comparison plot between organic



and traditional gardening, an edible vine tunnel, an herb garden, and two plots of 3 varieties of aronia berries. 66% of the plots were gardened by Hispanic families. The Southern Iowa (Osceola)

Garden Club maintains a perennial flower garden near the entrance to the garden area. An open house and mini field day is held annually in June with Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey in attendance. This garden is based solely on volunteer leadership that will carry forward as extension is restructured.

Agri-Tourism To Get a Bust in Clarke County

Discussions began in 2005-06 about creating a permanent home for the old iron activities. Facilitation of the group was provided by Clarke County Extension. During the winter of 2007 the group formulated a business plan and completed the 501c3 paperwork for creation of the Southern Iowa Agricultural Heritage Foundation. With a loan the Foundation purchased 270 acres of land in Clarke County. An Agricultural Heritage Park that will focus on the role of antique tractors



and machinery in Iowa's history is to be developed with a museum, restoration shops, demonstration areas, a campground and a show area. Rich Stephens, Chairman of the Board, states "The facilitation provided was the key to taking the groups ideas and putting them into action. Progress would not have been made without the facilitation."