



For the Citizens of Clarke County

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Partnerships help Iowa State University Extension create a better future for all Iowans. Together we can improve quality of life in Iowa. Here are a few examples of ISU Extension partnerships at work in Clarke County.

Clarke County’s Hispanic Community continues to grow. To create an environment of inclusion extension programming delivered educational events/activities to bring Hispanics and the traditional population together. The Community Diversity Garden had 13 families (about half Hispanic) gardening 32 10’X20’ plots. Over half the plots were gardened by Hispanics. Begun in 2003 the garden has expanded and grown each year. Through demonstration plots the Master Gardener coordinator has been able to expand the variety of vegetables planted and increase the number of gardeners growing a fall garden. Fall gardening extends the production and harvest of fresh vegetables for the garden’s families. The Garden remains a collaborative effort of eight community partners.

The office has the “Tip of the Month” in both English and Spanish (“Consejo del Mes”) on the large plate glass window. The office maintains a display of publications in Spanish. Lunch and Learn found ten individuals who brought their lunch to a local church basement to learn basic Spanish and/or English. As the group was small we taught both languages simultaneously. The interchange between the Spanish speakers and English speakers is critical to building inclusion in the community.

Summer Day Camp program reached 163 Clarke County youngsters. The day camps were held in both Osceola and Murray. Reaching K-6th grade students, the day camps provided a safe educational summer event for 48 different participants. There were 32 K-3rd graders and 16 4th-6th graders. Held at the Murray School and Osceola’s East Lake the camps included Blooming Buckets, Farm Safety, GPS, Water Wonders, Cooking Up Fun, Christmas in June, Stitches of Fun, Clover Kids, Train Travels, Space Exploration, Puzzles, and Fishing Frenzy. Each day camp was designed to be safe, fun, energetic and educational. The programs were designed by a summer intern and delivered with the aid of camp assistants that were paid or received silver cord hours for volunteerism. The intern and assistants were all Clarke County youth gaining valuable job experience.

Clarke County Extension brings Iowa State University to you



Clarke County cattlemen learned about feeding alternatives and identification policies.

Iowa State University Extension serves Iowans through six program areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Business and Industry; Communities; Families; 4-H Youth Development; and Continuing Education. Clarke County Extension brings the university to you.

Feed and Herd Management for Beef Cows remains a major challenge for Clarke County's beef producers. Training was held on animal/premise identification and the growing availability of co-products. Led by our ISUE Livestock Field Specialist and supported by Clarke County Cattlemen's Association, beef producers learned about progress with our national ID program and Iowa's premise ID program. Both programs affect every producer as we adjust to the demands of dealing with bio-terrorism and making sure our food supply remains safe. With the growth of ethanol plants across Iowa, the availability of distiller's grains offers money saving opportunities in meeting the nutritional needs of our beef operations, both cow herds and feedlot operations. These programs reached over 50 cattlemen.



Families learned to "Just Say No" at SAFE and Youth First drug, alcohol, and tobacco free activities.

S.A.F.E. and Youth First reached a broad audience of Clarke County youth in 2006. Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE) and Youth First combined to provide drug, alcohol and tobacco free activities. A New Year's Eve Bash had 122 junior/senior high students attend. A spring Disco Dance-Off had 63 junior high participants. A smoking cessation seminar reached 50 adults. A bullying seminar reached all of Murray's 7th through 12th graders. Health Fairs in Murray and Osceola made contact with 240 people. Thursday Night in the Park had 200 parents and youth participating. Even though the evening was rainy and cool, a family swimming party drew 25 people. SAFE continued to build a coalition of community partners interested in creating a positive, safe environment in which our young people can grow and prosper.



Clarke County 4-Her's show livestock at our new fairgrounds.

Clarke County's New 4-H Fairgrounds takes shape and continues to grow. Moved in 2004, the 4-H fairgrounds have slowly grown. In 2006 it significantly expanded to provide more facilities for Clarke County's 4-H youth to exhibit their projects. Centered on a major fund raising effort to match a \$350,000 DEKKO grant, key buildings and utilities were added to the fairgrounds. With the additions, the 4-H program saw each animal show (meat and companion) grow in numbers. The community's support for the livestock show reached new heights with the sheep, goat and swine prices averaging three times the market value. Beef, a more value intensive project, averaged 1.3 times the market value. Support for the 4-H program through the sale of pies reached over \$3000. With more improvements being made for 2007, the strength of the program can only grow.

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

Our Mission - ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.