



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 Community Diversity Garden continues to expand. With home gardening space limited for many families, this program tripled in size in three years. With our expanding Hispanic population the garden must be diverse in its audience and presentation. Each year a plot is set aside by Coordinator and Master Gardener, Marilyn Dorland to demonstrate mulching, trellises, fall plantings, and various vegetables not planted by the families. Gardeners receive counseling on southern Iowa growing conditions and cultural practices. With 13 family groups, including Hispanics, Euro-Americans, seniors, a church, individuals, and single parents the garden does represent the community. This year's vine tunnel was a creative new hit for the families. An open house was held for the community in June. The garden is a collaboration of many Clarke County groups. Land and water for the plots is provided by Farm Bureau. Community tools and tillers have been gathered or purchased through donations and grants. Other local partners include Ag Connect, the Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Southern Iowa Resource Conservation & Development Office, County Conservation Board, and the Lions Club.

Murray's Afterschool 4-H Club and Clover Kids programs continue to expand and grow. Now in its third year both programs reach young people that would not otherwise be in 4-H. The afterschool 4-H Club reaches 20 kids that were not in 4-H prior to the program. Begun by our Youth Specialist and now turned over to a volunteer leader, the Koolios club participates in county-wide 4-H activities as any club. However the structure of the club remains adapted to an afterschool model. The club's members have shown at the fair, had a club booth at Thursday Night in the Park, conducted fundraisers, and completed a service project for the Murray teachers. The Clover Kids program reaches K-3 grade children with creative afterschool activities. Two Clarke County 4-H Council members run the program under the advisement of our Youth Specialist. This program reaches 23 kids and introduces them to 4-H as well as educational activities. Both afterschool programs are part of the Murray Schools 21st Century Grant.



Clarke County 4-Hers show both livestock and exhibits at our county and state fair.



Clarke County third graders at the McNay Research Farm Field Day preparing food for lunch. Just part of learning about where our food comes from.



Clarke County and area producers learn the details of securing an area in case of a livestock disease outbreak from a community model.

Clarke County Extension brings Iowa State University to you

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.

FSQA (Food Safety and Quality Assurance) was required by all exhibitors with beef, dairy cattle and goats, swine and sheep for 2005. The Clarke County Fair Board endorsed the FSQA program and made it a requirement in accordance with state guideline to exhibit at the Clarke County Fair. Training programs were held in four locations for Clarke County for Junior and Intermediate/Senior 4-H members. Intermediate and Senior members were given the option to test out. An additional program was held for Clarke Community FFA students. Over 65 4-H and FFA members were trained and/or tested in 2005. This program expands in 2006 to include rabbits, poultry and meat goats.

Clarke County's Third Graders participated in a field day at ISU's McNay Farm. Both the Murray and Clarke Community School's 112 third graders explored rural life and the origins of food. Rotating through food safety and preparation, insects and gardening, ATV safety, beef, farm machinery and an "Amazing Maize Maze" were all part of a day of learning. Clarke County Youth, Nutrition, Livestock and Agronomic Field Specialists, County Directors, Farm Bureau, Soil and Water District staff, research farm staff, volunteers, teachers, and Vocational Agricultural students provided and led the learning experiences. The Clarke County Cattlemen provided and cooked hamburgers for lunch.

Bio-Security of our Food Supplies increases the need for attentiveness to preparation in case of a disease outbreak. Conducted in four locations across southwest Iowa, the Rural Bio-Security Workshop held in Clarke County focused on livestock infectious disease crisis management with an outbreak of foot and mouth disease as the example. Sponsored by ISU Extension Clarke County and Clarke County Public Health Service, 70 livestock producers, businesses, veterinarians, farm organization leaders, county supervisors, city management, state legislatures, law enforcement, public health workers, township trustees, emergency responders, and public health counselors came to learn about effectively responding to emergency planning related to a major livestock disease outbreak.

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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.