



## For the Citizens of Clarke County



In 1903 a group of Iowa farmers cooperated with Iowa State to establish the “extension idea” – taking the land-grant college to the people. Today Iowa State University Extension looks forward to being part of a better future for all Iowans in the next 100 years. Here are a few examples of ISU Extension at work in Clarke County.

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### Staff serving Clarke County

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**Community Diversity Garden** is a collaborative effort to provide gardening plots to low income families and our growing Hispanic community. Partners in the endeavor were Ag Connect, Resource Conservation and Development Council and Clarke County’s offices of Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Soil and Water District. Farm Bureau provides space for plots with potential for continued expansion. An active partner committee coordinates the garden’s activities. Fall tillage has found the garden expanded.

**A Circle of Support Team** was organized in the Clarke Community Schools. Teen stress and depression are serious issues facing the community school, health and family service providers. Clarke County’s team identified priorities and started activities to increase community and school personnel awareness as well as build preventative skills among youth. Teacher training, displays and student led presentation have already reached a large segment of students, teachers and others in the community with anecdotal reports of enthusiastic youth involvement. Our Area Education Agency, school guidance counselors, high school youth and ISUE Youth Field Specialist lead this program.

**Winter Feed Management for Beef Cows** began with a forage testing program. Forages samples were collectively taken and submitted so the data could be compiled for the county. Collected data was used for different beef herd scenarios. A follow up meeting, led by our ISUE Livestock Field Specialist and supported by our Clarke County Cattlemen’s Association, allowed beef producers analyze their forage needs to different production and weather scenarios. Two producers stated “It was the most informative extension meeting they had ever been too. With the information they received, they could specifically apply it to their herd conditions.”



**At Fest entomology project leader demonstrates the capture and mounting of insects to new 4-H members.**



**Consejo del Mes or Tip of the Month presents tips for better family living on the office window in both Spanish and English.**



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## 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.

**Fall Fest**, our annual 4-H recruitment event, once again succeeded in finding new members while allowing current members and our 4-H Council to conduct an experiential activity. A roundtable of presentations on what 4-H is all about, the program serves as the staging event for the new 4-H year. This year learning about horses, beef, entomology, record books, quilting, handicrafts, and 4-H camp served as the backdrop for our evening. Involvement of our ISUE Youth Field Specialist, our 4-H Council and 4-H Leaders insured both a successful recruitment tool and learning experience.

**Partnering with Parents – Walking the Journey Together** is an outreach academy program promoting recommended practices for parent-professional collaboration. This 10-full class day educational series was conducted in Clarke County for area family service professionals. The training allowed continuing education units, certification, or college credits to be obtained. Led by our Family Living Field Specialist, anecdotal comments of participants included: “I feel my individual growth has been considerable.” and “Although I provide service to families I have never been exposed to parenting education as a field. It makes me more empowered to serve families and address family issues.”

**Accessing a New Audience** is always a challenge. The extension office reorganized to display educational materials and our monthly widow displays in both English and Spanish. An additional educational materials display was purchased for the local Latino grocery store to display bilingual materials.

**Third Graders from Clarke County** participated in a one-day field day at ISU’s McNay Farm. The students explored where food comes from and how diversity in our communities creates diversity in the food we eat. Rotating through food safety and preparation, soy and corn products, beef and poultry, and a Hispanic garden were all in a day of learning. Youth, Nutrition, and Agronomic Field Specialists, County Directors, Soil and Water District staff, research farm staff, volunteers, teachers, and Vocational Agricultural students provided and led the learning experiences.

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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

**Helping Iowans become their best.**

... and justice for all  
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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.**