

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

Nick Burley

Extension Council Chair

Jerry Chizek

County Extension Education Director

HEALTHY PEOPLE

Being a mother to a growing pre-teen girl is a challenge. Through the Girl Talk program, girls in the 5th and 6th grades, along with their moms or other female role models, had a unique opportunity to participate in a program designed to facilitate communication between moms and daughters. The program promoted positive self-esteem, and presented facts to help the girls make good life choices. Girl Talk programs were held in three Calhoun County school districts reaching 28 girls and their moms. The program was presented by ISU Extension and Calhoun County Public Health.

Babysitting clinics were held in three communities as after-school programs during January – March, 2009. Thirty-six youth received six hours of instruction on food safety and healthy snacks, toy safety, first aid, and emergency procedures. Calhoun County Public Health assisted ISU Extension with CPR training. Additional program materials were sponsored by Iowa Telecom.



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

After a widespread hail storm on August 9, 2009, ISU staff organized two regional meetings on August 13th to discuss the hail severity, damage losses, grain and stalk quality, and harvest. Between the two meetings in Yetter and Wall Lake, over 100 producers were in attendance. In September, another two meetings were held in Callender and Wall Lake to discuss the quality issues of the hail-damaged corn. Nearly 125 producers heard presentations on ear molds, on-farm storage concerns, feeding light test weight corn, and nutrient carryover.

October 2009



Calhoun County Extension Council

Nick Burley – Chairperson
Ron Buse – Vice-Chairperson
Michelle Dischler – Secretary
Barb Sexton – Treasurer
Richard Black, Marvin Blair,
Sue Hammen, Emily Melody,
and Dianne Scheffler

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, the Council represents the issues and people of the county.

These local issues have been identified as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Grapes industry & farmers markets.
- Regional leadership development and philanthropy.
- Money management and entrepreneurship.
- 4-H community club membership.



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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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A six-hour Conservation Field Day was conducted at the University 40 Park near Lohrville for 142 6th graders from four county schools in May, 2009. The purpose of the day was to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about the natural resources around them. Sessions were conducted on Soils, Insects, Global Positioning Systems, Low-Impact Camping, Fishing, and Bluebirds.

HEALTHY ECONOMIES



People across the U.S. were questioning the use of the traditional food and feed crops of corn and soybeans for ethanol and biodiesel production. A community discussion entitled "Iowa's Bioeconomy Community Conversation II: Food, Feed, and Fuel" was held in November, 2008. Ten local community leaders met to learn about Iowa's role in meeting the national demand for food, feed, and fuel. Participants suggested ISU Extension educate people about conservation issues, continue research on topics ranging from the economic feasibility of conservation practices to agricultural water use, and reach out to people not involved in agriculture to understand how agriculture is working to benefit everyone who consumes food and energy.



For over four years, ISU Extension staff have proctored commercial pesticide applicator tests for residents at the minimum-security North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) in Rockwell City. The program started initially from a need of the NCCF to have additional help with pesticide applications in the

facility's gardens, lawns, and greenhouse. Over the years, nearly forty men have tested in the areas of agricultural weed, insect, and disease management; fruit and vegetable pest control; ornamental, turf, and greenhouse pest management; right-of-way; termite control; and community insect management. The program's intent was to get current NCCF residents back into their communities with the additional education necessary to gain meaningful employment to support themselves and their families. Divine Word Missionaries financially supported the program during 2008 and 2009.

Additional Ways ISU Extension Impacts Calhoun County

The ISU Extension – Calhoun County office facilitated and assisted with the Calhoun County Community Foundation. In April and July, 2009, a combined \$101,950 in grants was awarded to thirty-six projects from nine communities. These grant dollars were leveraged by nearly \$251,000 from other funding sources to complete these projects.



The ISU Extension – Calhoun County office managed two farmers markets in Calhoun County during 2009; one for 20 weeks in Rockwell City and the second for 13 weeks in Manson. Both markets brought locally-grown produce and baked goods to area residents. A total of 34 vendors participated in the two markets for at least one week, including 15 first-time vendors.



It's easy to get the information you need from ISU Extension-Calhoun County. Just give us a call at 712.297.8611, email us at xcalhoun@iastate.edu or access the abundant resources available via our website: www.extension.iastate.edu/calhoun