

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



Ida County Extension Staff

Kathy Schmidt

County Extension Education Director

Susan Redenius

County Youth Coordinator

Marla Seuntjens

Office Assistant

Ida County Extension

209 ½ Moorehead Avenue

Ida Grove, IA 51445

Phone: (712) 364-3003

Fax: (712) 364-3529

www.extension.iastate.edu/ida

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

Rod Jensen

Extension Council Chair

Kathy Schmidt

County Extension Education Director

Staff Serving Ida County, but based in other counties

Bob Coacher

CIRAS

Beth Doran

Feedlot/Beef

Carol Ehlers

Youth

Eldon Everhart

Commercial Horticulture

Abbie Gaffey

Communities

Julie Hlas

External Relations

Kris Kohl

Ag Engineering

Mark Licht

Crops

Chris Mondak

Dairy

Tom Olsen

Farm Management

Merle Pochop

Business & Industry

Dave Stender

Swine

Renee Sweers

Health/Nutrition

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Healthy People

ISU Extension has a strong commitment to youth, adults, and communities.

Ida County Extension conducted a five-session "Family Storyteller" program in Ida Grove in April, 2009, and in Holstein in June, 2009. Sixty family members were involved in this program targeting parents and children under seven years of age to increase the amount and quality of time parents and children spend together in literacy activities.



During the month of March, 2009, we held a five-session "Strengthening Families" program in Holstein. Ten families, including parents and children ages 10-14, participated in building communication skills to help solve problems together.

Extension provided education through "Eat Healthy to Control Your Weight" and "Spend Smart, Eat Smart" to Midwest Industries employees in October, 2008, in Ida Grove. Extension also took part in the Women's Health Expo held in Ida Grove in April, 2009.



Our Ida County 4-H clubs involved over 125 youth and countless volunteers of all ages who came together to share and benefit from one another's talents. 4-Hers in Ida County prepared and hosted workshops on beekeeping, poultry exhibition, and showmanship. Interaction with youth took place through school enrichment projects, summer library programs, community activities including Kids Fest, and of course the Ida County Fair!



(Back row, left to right) Kyle Rohlk, Dale Friedrichsen, Jolene Riessen, Klint Cork, and Lori Phillips (Front row, left to right) Tammy Neubauer, Rod Jensen, and Todd Vohs
Missing from photo - Clint Conover

Ida 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.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Families
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Business and Industry

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.

Healthy Environments

Ida County Extension presented a three-hour session on “Going Green” to 84 Galva-Holstein High School students in April, 2009. This was in conjunction with an all “green” event sponsored by the school. This same program was shared with over 250 younger students at the Farm Safety Days held at the Ida County Fairgrounds.

ISU Extension continued to work with environmental issues. Through the many pesticide and manure applicators workshops offered, we continued to provide the training necessary to keep our ag clientele certified and up-to-date on the latest safety regulations. Meetings were held in Ida Grove and Holstein in February, 2009, to help provide education concerning the new Farm Bill.

Ida County 4-Hers were involved with environmental issues through Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) trainings. Lawn mower safety, poison prevention, and fire safety programs were conducted in the Galva-Holstein elementary school during April, 2009.

Healthy Economies

Ida County Extension hosted a community conversation on the facts relating to the food, feed, and fuel debate in December, 2008. The program entitled “Iowa’s Bio-economy Community Conversation II: Food, Feed, and Fuel” involved eight local community leaders who provided input in identifying the research, policy, and educational needs necessary to address the questions people have on using corn and soybeans as ingredients for ethanol and biodiesel production instead of the traditional food and feed uses.

Twenty-six producers learned to use the various grain marketing tools available in the current volatile markets through “Winning the Game: Tool Time”. This program held in Holstein, was conducted by Ed Kordick, Iowa Farm Bureau Director of Market Education and Information, and Ron

Hook, ISU Extension Farm Management Program Specialist.

The years 2008 and 2009 were noted for record high feed costs that pressured all livestock producers, including horse owners. Because of this, ISU Extension in Ida County held a meeting in November, 2008, featuring the top 10 ways to control feed costs and improve horse nutrition. Horse owners significantly changed their management. Eighty percent of the owners scored their horses body condition; 60% used this and the weight of the horse to determine the amount of feed to be fed; and 80% figured how much a “scoop or slice” weighed and fed feedstuffs based on this weight. Eighty percent evaluated the kind and quality of hay they fed and planned to rotationally graze pastures, improve weed control and avoid overgrazing. Sixty percent of the participants were able to reduce total feed cost with savings ranging from \$222 to \$372 per horse owner.



... and justice for all
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