

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

Curtis Brooks

Extension Council Chair

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County Extension Education Director

Staff Serving Fremont County, but based in other counties

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Mary Beth Kaufman,

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Crops

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Healthy People

Parents with children birth to age five have the opportunity to participate in the Growing Strong Families program in Fremont County. By participating in monthly visits with the Parent Educator they receive **research-based** information about child development, parenting, nutrition, and resource management.



Last year, 63 families participated in the Growing Strong Families Program. Through those home visits, a total of 108 children were seen, as well as 50 prenatal visits. Eighteen families seen were identified to be at risk as defined by the Corner Counties Empowerment Area (CCEA). The program was funded by

a \$35,882 grant from CCEA. Family structure included 34 unwed mothers. Eleven mothers and one dad were under age 20. Fourteen families have participated in the program for over 12 months.

Healthy Environments

What began as a wish by a 4-H youth to have more shade near the cattle chutes at county fair became an identified need in the community. Extension and Silver Skylarks 4-H Club received a matching grant from Aquila and Trees Forever Community Program to plant and care for 17 trees around the county fairgrounds.





(Cindy Bebout, Teresa Johnson, Kris Wood, Curtis Brooks, Carl Jardon, Brandon Schaaf, Randy Hickey, Keith Jones, Janet Lechner-not pictured)

Fremont 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:

- Crop Production & Farm Management
- Utilization of Co-products
- Horticulture & Pest Management
- Youth Development



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.

... and justice for all

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Healthy Environments continued

The fair board provided matching funds to purchase the trees. The fairgrounds have only three mature trees to provide shade and recent winter ice storms caused them damage. The public grounds are used several times per year for county fair, rodeo, saddle club events and personal use.

The tree planting program will improve energy savings, air and water quality, wildlife habitat and help preserve the land. In addition to serving as a community service project, the Silver Skylarks 4-H Club members learned about the importance of trees, species diversity, proper planting and caring for trees.

The scope of the project for next year may be expanded to offer backyard trees for county residents.

Healthy Economies

Recent high fertilizer cost is placing more pressure on farmers to utilize alternate sources of plant nutrients. Plant Food Solution (PFS) is an alternate fertilizer source derived from soybean processing and is spread on more than 20,000 acres annually in Southwest Iowa. The problem was that PFS had not been field tested as a potential fertilizer in corn but was being utilized as such. With support from the manufacturer, Doug Doty initiated a multi-year on-



farm research project to address key questions and concerns about PFS. The project will conclude in fall 2008

with a new recommendation for the use of PFS in corn fertility.

The new research will benefit the bio-industry by supporting the practice of PFS use in corn fertility, as an alternative to more costly water treatment disposal.

The recommendation states that PFS provided crop available nutrients N, P, K, and S and can be applied at moderate rates to supply a portion of these nutrients in the corn fertility program without negative plant or soil effects. The rate applied should be based on crop nutrient needs. Management practice should include routine soil testing to keep phosphorus and sodium from increasing to levels that would have negative plant, soil, or environmental effects.

Extension Impact

Extension **IS** the link to research-based information in Fremont County. Annually we received nearly 800 walk-in or phone inquiries and average over 2,000 web visits per month. We track information that clients seek including such things as bag worms, web worms, green striped maple worm (pictured below), soybean aphids, replant decisions,



water testing, pasture management, moles, parenting, nutrition, canning, school enrichment programs, youth development activities, 4-H Club participation and more. **How can Fremont County Extension better serve you?**