

2010 Stakeholder Report



County Extension Staff

Sue Schwaller
Office Manager
Lisa Meusbarger
Part-Time County Program Coordinator
David Stender
Swine Program Specialist
Brenda Medick
County Youth Coordinator
Barb Kindwall
Part-Time Office Assistant

Staff Serving Cherokee County, but based in other counties

Joel DeJong
Extension Field Agronomist
Beth Doran
Beef Program Specialist
Kris Kohl
Extension Ag Engineer
Chris Mondak
Dairy Program Specialist
Tom Olsen
Farm Management Program Specialist
Joseph Hannon
Commercial Horticulture Program Specialist
Carol Ehlers
Youth Program Specialist
Jan Burk
Family Resource Management Program Specialist
Lori Hayungs
Family Life Program Specialist
Renee Sweers
Families Nutrition & Health Program Specialist
Robert Coacher
CIRAS Account Manager
Abbie Gaffey
Communities & Economic Development Program Specialist
Jane Goeken
Communities & Economic Development Program Specialist
Julie Hlas
Media Relations Specialist

ISU Extension in Cherokee County

209 Centennial Dr., Suite A
Cherokee, IA 51012
Phone: (712) 225-6196
Fax: (712) 225-3173
www.extension.iastate.edu/cherokee

In Cherokee County, it starts with Extension. Together we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Cherokee County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Charles E. Clark
Extension Council Chair

Jerry W. Chizek
Regional Extension Education Director

It Starts With Healthy People

An estimated 76 million people experience a food borne illness each year, with the majority of these originating at retail food establishments. Factors such as purchasing from unsafe sources, time and temperature abuse, cross contamination, poor personal hygiene and improper cleaning and sanitizing are the leading contributors. Training is one way to provide those working in retail food services with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to practice safe food handling and proper cleaning and sanitizing.

In May 2010, eleven restaurant and food service managers from Cherokee County and the surrounding area participated in 8 hours of intensive food safety training through the National Restaurant Association's **ServSafe®** Course offered by ISU Extension. Participants represented many aspects of food service including restaurants, convenience stores, long term care, and school food service.

A 2-hour SafeFood© training course was offered to all foodservice establishments in Marcus in April

2010. Sixteen employees were trained in safe food handling practices.

It Starts With Healthy Environments

Iowa State University Extension, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), provides training and certification programs for **Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicators** in Iowa. Three hundred eighty pesticide applicators attended continuing instruction courses in Cherokee County to meet requirements to safely handle and apply pesticides.



Fifty-four **Commercial and Confinement Site Manure Applicators** participated in initial certification and recertification training sessions to comply with state law pertaining to land application of manure. Manure applicator certification is designed to

help applicators use manure as an asset and avoid water quality problems due to improper application. Manure can be managed to minimize environmental impacts while optimizing economic benefits for all parties.

It Starts With Healthy Economies

PQA Plus® was developed by the Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition to be a continuous improvement program. The coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants, and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being.

TQA® was introduced in 2002 by the Pork Checkoff as a quality assurance program designed specifically for transporters, producers, and handlers of pigs. It encourages dedication to transporting and delivering the highest quality, safest pork product possible to remain competitive in the global market.

Collectively, more than 1,700 individuals across Iowa completed certification in 2009. In Cherokee County, 40 producers received training in PQA Plus®, and 14 individuals received TQA® training.

In addition, 32 Cherokee County youth participated in the **4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA)** program which has the same goal to produce the safest food possible.

In November 2009, 34 agribusiness leaders attended an **Ag Outlook & Management Seminar** in Cherokee. Extension grain and livestock marketing specialists, livestock specialists, and farm management specialists provided an evaluation of market conditions, expected trends in crop and livestock potential and management implications. Participants received an overview of the agricultural industry and learned how changes could affect Iowa producers.

Office space was provided for local SCORE volunteers to meet with and provide free counseling to active and emerging small businesses. **SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives)** is a nonprofit association which is



dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide. Both working and retired executives and business owners donate time and expertise as business counselors.

Pesticide Applicator Training Impacts Environment

The recertification programs for private pesticide applicators provide an immense measure of benefit to the public and the environment as each program addresses pertinent and emerging issues associated with safe and efficient pesticide use and pest management.

In Cherokee County, post-training evaluations indicated that the programs were successful and well received. Overall, 98% of the respondents rated the programs as excellent or good. In addition, 54% of the respondents strongly agreed that the information presented was useful for their farm operations.

To determine if the programs had an impact on the participants, the evaluation examined specific areas to assess intended behavioral changes toward safer pesticide use practices. As a result of the programs, 53% of participants said they would have materials on hand in case of a pesticide spill. Seventy-four percent reported that they already made sure to use pesticide resistant gloves when handling pesticides, 63% check preharvest intervals for late season pesticide applications, and 72% record and maintain restricted use pesticide application records.

The post-training evaluation also examined if participants had successfully adopted new pesticide safety activities as a result of the previous 2008-2009 training program. Sixty-eight percent said they practiced proper sprayer cleanup procedures and 52% said they check nozzle output and replace worn or inaccurate nozzles on spray booms.

This successful program continues to deliver positive results, impacts the safety and economic well being of our rural residents, and indirectly impacts other citizens through a cleaner and safer environment.

Cherokee County Extension Council



(L-R) Guy Fishman (Vice-chairperson), Donna Amundson (Secretary), Dave Appleby (Treasurer), Jack Shea, Chuck Clark (Chairperson), and Tom Bindner. Missing from photo: Brenda Werthman, David Whited and Lynn Winterhof.

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:

- Address ag credit challenges
- Continue work with SCORE (Counselors for small businesses)
- Intergenerational transfer of assets and estate planning
- Separate marketing classes for men and women
- Environmental tree management
- Meet projected youth community club goals
- Preserve University research
- Extension visibility

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

December 2010