

Healthy people, environments, and economies start with Extension. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Iowa a better place to live.
You'll be amazed at what we do.

2010 Stakeholder Report



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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.

KEY ISSUES:

We identified these priorities for current and future programming in this region . . .

- Youth opportunities
- Financial literacy
- Healthy lifestyles
- Competitive information for agriculture
- Water quality/nutrient management
- Human development
- Community development
- Business development
- Bio-economy
- Consumer horticulture



HEALTHY PEOPLE

Lack of high-quality education for parents and child care providers has been identified as a key need for the region. Two programs in Audubon, Carroll, Greene, and Guthrie Counties addressing this need are the Families Together program, which was composed of three 90-minute workshops held this year, and the Partnering 4 Families Empowerment Area (P4F), a collaborative group whose purpose is to promote the well-being of young children. The Partnering 4 Families group faced limited funding for 2009-10, and in the interest of maintaining this highly desired program, ISU Extension staff members sought and obtained limited funding from the County Extension Councils in the four counties. This funding has enabled staff to continue much-needed parent and child care provider educational efforts in each of the counties.

This year, 3,313 youth were served through Region 12 youth programming, with 1,057 currently enrolled in 4-H. Both Green and Guthrie counties reached their goal of a 3 percent increase in 4-H and youth program participation.

HEALTHY ECONOMIES

The Corn and Soybean Initiative (CSI) is an effort to better serve the needs of Iowa's corn and soybean growers. CSI is supported by the College of Agriculture and ISU Extension. The initiative's mission is



..and justice for all

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HEALTHY ECONOMIES (CONT.)

to partner with agribusiness retailers to provide science-based crop production information to Iowa corn and soybean growers to increase their productivity and global competitiveness, while also conserving the environment. According to CSI Manager Clarke McGrath, "Our team of field agronomists spends a lot of time working on issues that growers and agribusiness want answers for. This year, just a small cross section of our on-farm research included trials looking at corn nematode seed treatments, earlier crop planting dates, cutting-edge fertilizer products, and foliar fungicides. As the plot information comes in this fall, growers and agribusiness use the results to help make production decisions for 2011." This year's CSI activities included workshops, field days, on-farm trials, field visits, and employee training.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The third Western Iowa No-till event was held this year, with a fourth year in the planning stages. Twenty-two sponsors from a wide regional area supported the event, including many who set up show booths to demonstrate new and emerging technology in no-till/reduced-till management. Speakers included the Iowa secretary of agriculture, ISU specialists, NRCS staff, and regional no-till producers. ISU Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and soil and water conservation districts from a four-county area collaborated.

There are more than 160 Master Gardeners currently in the region. Some of the Master Gardener services provided this year included: park upkeep in Guthrie Center, fairground flower planting and maintenance, community garden support in Denison, children's programs, a bus tour of central Iowa gardens, planned landscape features at retirement home, flower beds around historic Carroll Depot, Crawford County Extension Hortline, church and neighborhood planting projects, and the Master Gardener's annual plant sale.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2010-11, we are focusing on identifying needs in our counties; listening to producers, parents, youth, community partners, and others to work toward what local and national data and trends show us. The definition of needs and goals helps us to address the hopes and dreams for our state. Four broad goals will guide the work being done: 1) to support transition plans and initiatives that allow counties to move forward in our restructured system, 2) the identification of training needs and appropriate training opportunities for staff and Extension Council members, 3) collaboration with program specialists and county staff to increase programming and 4) increase networks and collaboration across the region in support of economic development. We will continue to strive to make ISU Extension in Region 12 a trustworthy, diverse and accessible educational resource strengthened by positive relationships.