

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

Mark Drost

Extension Council Chair

Dale Miller

County Extension Education Director

Youth Learning Leadership

Helping youth see themselves as leaders in their own communities was the goal for 20 middle school age 4-H members in the Ricochet Leadership program. Youth learned by doing many of the leadership skills during the adventure-based experience. Young people need to try to find their place in the world around them. Ricochet lets them try on different roles and engages them in activities of doing, reflecting and applying their leadership skills.



At the conclusion of the leadership training, the young leaders identified and adopted service projects in their own communities.

Master Gardeners Promote A Healthy Environment

During the past year, 17 horticulture programs were presented to 312 people. Many programs and calls were about plant and tree care following the extreme weather conditions of the past two years.



Our trained Master Gardener volunteers provided nearly 900 community service hours answering plant and landscape questions and sharing their knowledge with people throughout Marion county. Master Gardeners also served as instructors for several Junior Master Gardener meetings providing demonstrations and learning activities.



(Front row - Rosemary Worrall, Nancy Harsin, Kisha Jahner, Cindi Dale, Back row - Mark Drost, Craig Greene, Keith De Bruin, Randy Thill, not pictured - Carol Van Dyk)

Marion 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:

- Positive youth development through youth leadership, citizenship, and life skills training
- Agriculture risk management
- Leadership training and economic development
- Healthy families and childcare
- Natural resource management for a healthy environment



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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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Beef Producers Receive Risk Management Training

Beef producers across Marion County have applied improved management skills to their cow-calf herds after participating in the Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference. The event co-sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, ag businesses and a regional network of volunteers. The conference presents valuable topics, new technological advances and cattle industry services to producers.



More than 70 people attended a pasture walk program, toured farm pastures and joined the discussion on fencing alternatives, watering, forage species and managing grass and legume pastures. The Pleasantville area event featured speakers from Iowa State University Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cargill Nutrition.

Area beef producers participated in the Iowa Beef Center Risk Management Series in Pella, one of six sites for the Regional Beef Center Risk Management project funded by USDA Risk Management Agency, with programs and evaluation completed by Iowa State University and Kansas State University. Sixty percent of the 570 participants said they have learned at least one new management technique for their farm business.



Family health and food safety

Local families and food store employees received training on food safety and germ transmission at the ISU Extension Germ City display at the Hy-Vee store in Pella. Hundreds of children and adults learned how germs are transmitted by people and how to prevent the spread of germs using good hand washing techniques and family hygiene.

A broad-based multi-community educational effort provided assistance to families managing personal finances and making healthy food choices. Local families participated in a two day showcase event. Over 60 booths and exhibitors provided information on ways people could stretch their family dollar. Extension information was represented at 5 different displays including Master Gardeners providing home vegetable production education and demonstrations, Farmers Market production information and financial planning and budgeting advice.

The registered attendance was 562 with many more people participating. Extension staff and volunteers distributed nearly 450 Spend Smart, Eat Smart publications. Same day news coverage was featured on two state-wide television networks.