

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

Nick Podhajsky
Extension Council Chair

Allen Ricks
Regional Extension Education Director

Safety Day a Success



On October 31, 2008, Dysart-Geneseo Elementary students participating in Ag Safety Day learned how to identify and respond to hazards on the farm and in the community. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade learned how to take responsibility for their own safety, respect parents' safety rules, identify farm safety hazards and share safety tips with their family and friends. Community members used hands on experiences to teach camp participants lifetime farm and home safety lessons. Sharing and applying the lessons learned, students will help to reduce the number of rural children who die or are injured in accidents. Those assisting with the day camp were Frank Albertsen, ISU Tama County Extension; Susan Beichley, Tama County Farm Bureau; Louis

Beck; Union High School FFA; Union High School students and community members.

Beef Blast Introduces Students to ISU



An educational tour focused on beef nutrition was held on the Iowa State University campus on March 26, 2009. Forty-nine youth and six adults from 12 counties participated in this trip geared towards youth in 9-12th grades. 4-H members spent the day with ISU faculty and staff learning about beef anatomy and physiology. The hands-on experience allowed them to dissect a rumen, explore what happens in the rumen, and learn the science behind cattle feeding. They also learned about basic beef nutrition, developed a ration using ISU designed software, and learned about animal welfare issues facing the beef industry.

Tama County Extension Council

Nick Podhajsky, Chairperson; Judy Morrison, Vice-Chairperson; Judy Widmayer, Secretary; Ann McMullin, Treasurer; Jim Ledvina; Janelle Murty; Duane Petty; Sherri Scarf; and Ginger Werner

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:

- Strengthen Youth program
- Continue Tri-County Ag meetings
- Continue all Ag Programs
- Strengthen Family programs



**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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October 2009

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Young Cattlemen Group Builds Network

Keeping young producers involved in the cattle industry with a strong focus on profitability has been a challenge. The goal of this program was to establish a core group of young cattlemen, custom design educational programs and discussions to meet their needs, and serve as a support system to each other.



A key group of 30-40 young cattlemen in Tama, Poweshiek, Benton, and Iowa counties were invited to participate in the project starting in 2007.

In the first two years, 37 producers have participated in the group. The topics covered this winter included: the cost of late calving cows, keeping the lender happy, adding value to calves, risk management, environment and manure, marketing strategies, and controlling input costs.

An effort in 2008 was to get participants to begin working on a farm business plan by breaking it down into three questions per session. Twenty one producers had completed at least part of the business plan.

Of the 17 participants who completed the final survey:

- 12 said they completed a written marketing plan.
- 14 said they re-evaluated the use of production technologies such as implants, ionophores, electronic tags, etc, in their operation.
- 10 completed a mission statement and business goals.
- 12 compared the financial status of their operation to benchmarks.

- 15 met or identified one new producer they could contact with questions or concerns about their beef operation.
- 5 went on-line to update their farm plan.
- 10 shared their business plan with their lender or financial partners

Farm Succession Workshop Addresses Sensitive Topic

On March 3, 2009, Tama County Extension hosted a workshop for young farmers and business people to introduce business and estate succession concepts and provide insights for engaging a discussion on these topics with the ownership generation. Even though some did not currently own their farm or business, they were made aware of the need to know how to make a successful transfer of land and assets.



Attendees were introduced to a number of planning tools and options that are available to build a succession plan for their family's business. Planning for the future can be a sensitive topic, so making an effort to talk about it is an important first step. The differences that shape one's viewpoint, and how one might use that information to approach the subject of succession planning were discussed.