

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

Dennis Winkowitsch

*Extension Council Chair*

Cheryl Heronemus

*Regional Extension Education Director*

### 4-H & Youth Programs

2008-2009 was again a huge success in Lyon County. The 4-H Program had 193 members enrolled in 11 clubs lead by 17 leaders. The members were involved in workshops and camps throughout the year which included Winter Junior Camp, sewing, visual arts, cooking, beef and horticulture. There was great participation at the Lyon county fair with 111 non livestock exhibitors showing 516 exhibits and 220 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors.



Discovering 4-H through Clover Kids for Kindergarten through 3rd grade reached over 100 participants in the county. Clover Kids learned about Apples, Our Country, Winter Fun, and Nutrition & Exercise. Enrichment classroom experiences were offered reaching 489 youth

across the county. The programs offered were Ag in the Classroom, Growing in the Garden, Microscopes & Cells and Rockets. Other youth programs offered county wide were Safety Days for 4 to 7 year olds, teaching children how to be safe at home, on the farm and around water. Other safety tips were also taught. A babysitting clinic was also held for 5th through 8th graders.

### Managing Tough Times

The economic downturn affects many Northwest Iowa families. ISU Extension designed web sites and resources to help families, businesses, communities tackle tough times today and tomorrow. [www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes) Blog conversations, "ask an expert," – a variety of options are available to find answers and information any day, any time of day.

### ACRE Meeting

Two meetings were held at the Forster Center in Rock Rapids to provide information on the 2008 Farm Bill's new ACRE option. The meetings were a joint effort between Farm Service Agency and ISU Extension. The March 31 meeting



Dennis Winkowitsch - Chair; Diane Peters - Vice Chair; Bob Tilstra - Treasurer; Craig Madsen - Secretary; Dustin Bosch; Jo DeJong; Jerry Sandbulte; Gary Twedt & Susan Wiertzema

## Lyon 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:

- Agriculture
- Youth
- Nutrition
- Economy



**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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was attended by 150 and the July 14 meeting was attended by 79. FSA personnel presented the basics of the ACRE option and Ron Hook, ISUE Farm Management Specialist provided economic analysis of the potential payments under the ACRE option and the DCP option. Ron also provided analysis for 12 individual farmers at the Lyon County FSA office on August 10.



## Farmland Leasing Meeting

Lyon County Extension sponsored a farmland leasing meeting at the Forster Center in Rock Rapids on August 11. Over 25 participants attended the meeting designed to provide current information on farmland ownership and leasing topics. Ron Hook, ISUE Farm Management Specialist discussed land value and cash rent surveys, "Calculating a "fair" Cash Rent", flexible leases, and the 2008 Farm Bill's ACRE option.

## NW Iowa On-farm Research

ISU Extension, the Iowa Corn/Soybean Initiative, ISU Research and Demonstration farms and the NW Iowa Experimental Association formed a partnership to form the Northwest Iowa On-farm Research project which is now in its 5th year in Lyon, Sioux and Osceola Counties in the NW corner of Iowa. The goals of this project are to implement on-farm research projects that are beneficial to the cooperator and other NW Iowa farmers; to cooperate with producers to provide up-to-date research that affects their operation; and to provide unbiased, statistically analyzed data for farmers on compared production practices.

Crop production questions are answered using replicated randomized studies. These projects are simple, informative and practical for cooperators.

Over 20 different producers have worked cooperatively with extension over the past four years, and have conducted over 130 replicated trials over that time. Some have been unique to one site; others have been repeated in several locations over several years. Examples include corn and soybean plant population comparisons, corn and soybean foliar fungicide trials, soybean seed treatments trials, corn and soybean trait comparisons, tillage system experiments, seed treatment trials, and planting speed evaluation. See results from [previous years at the NW On-farm Research web page at: <http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu/>.



## Spend Smart. Eat Smart

This ISU Extension web site helps people learn more about their food-shopping practices, and changes they could make to save money and eat healthier. A variety of options and interactive activities are available, including short food preparation how-to videos.

[www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings)  
Recently, 53% of site users rated it "excellent." 53% used the cost of food at home calculator option. 79% adjusted one or more food buying habits. 85% increased their understanding of substituting time or knowledge/skills to save money at the supermarket. 88% increased their food-buying skills. 83% increased their ability to identify and include nutritious foods in the family diet.