



Denise Wyland & James Roemer at the 2006 Garden Tour



Leaders Forum participants



Alternative Technologies Field Day participants

## For the Citizens of Lyon County

Al Grigg  
Lyon County Extension Education Director

Lyon County Extension  
710 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E, Suite 103  
PO Box 348  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246  
Telephone: 712.472.2576  
Fax: 712.472.2578  
E-mail: agrigg@iastate.edu  
Web site: www.extension.iastate.edu/lyon

### Staff serving Lyon County

Loralie Wibben  
Office Assistant  
Katie Metzger  
Program Assistant/Youth Coordinator

Denise Wyland  
Nutrition & Health Field Specialist  
Joel DeJong  
Crops Field Specialist  
Beth Doran  
Beef Field Specialist  
Eldon Everhart  
Commercial Horticulture Field Specialist  
Amy Fuglestad-Nahnsen  
Youth Field Specialist  
Jane Goeken  
Communities Field Specialist  
Julie Hlas  
External Relations Field Specialist  
Ron Hook  
Farm Management Field Specialist  
Kris Kohl  
Ag Engineer Field Specialist  
Chris Mondak  
Dairy Field Specialist  
Rhonda Rosenboom  
Family Life Field Specialist  
Dave Stender  
Swine Field Specialist

### Lyon County Extension Council Members:

Bruce Bonander, Virginia Klaassen, Mark Leuthold, Mark Metzger, Rodney Mogler, Diane Peters, Arlys Rozeboom, Brenda Vanden Top & Dennis Winkowitsch

Iowa State University Extension delivers educational opportunities that make life better, healthier, safer, and more profitable for individuals and communities. Here are a few examples of the many ways ISU Extension in Lyon County delivers to citizens.

**Northwest Iowa Research Farm Garden** - This is the second year for the Northwest Iowa Demonstration Garden in Rock Rapids. The garden featured more than 40 varieties of bell, sweet, hot and ornamental peppers, as well as a “food pyramid” garden, unusual green melons, ornamental amaranth, and 8 cultivars of geraniums. The garden was mulched to keep the weeds down. A children’s garden was added at the southeast corner, where kids learned about how Native Americans planted their gardens. A mailbox was added for visitors to pick up a map of the garden. The garden tour was well attended. The garden was also used for youth educational workshops and tours.

**Master Gardener** - The Lyon County Master Gardener program gained 4 new master gardeners this year. Active Master Gardeners helped the Demonstration Garden in Rock Rapids become a success, as they helped plant, weed, water, and mow. They also took a leadership role in mulching the garden this year which helped with weed control and moisture retention.

**Leaders Forum** - 56 participants joined “Leaders Forum” for a six-session program. They explored topics such as: Why Regional Planning, Changing Demographics of Northwest Iowa, Discovering our Hidden Impacts, Place Does Matter, Succeeding in Spite of It, and The Time is Now to for You to Act. Participants learned that by acting together as a six county region they have more power than acting as six individual counties. Participants represented communities in Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O’Brien, Plymouth and Cherokee counties.

**PPAT Training** - The Private Pesticide Applicator Training program is one of the largest training programs that ISU Extension does annually. During the 2006 training period, nearly 19,000 private pesticide applicators received their annual training requirements. Also during the 2006 training period, nearly 9,000 people received training for a commercial applicator license. Lyon County trained 372 private applicators and 25 commercial applicators.

**Alternative Technologies Field Day** - ISU Extension and the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association hosted an Alternative Technologies Field Day featuring the John Fluit, Jr. feedlot, Lyon County, and the Wayne Dekkers feedlot, Sioux County. These feedlot owners are two of six Iowa feedyard owners who are piloting alternative technologies to manage manure from their open beef feedlots. 60 participants viewed solids settling systems, a vegetative infiltration basin and vegetative treatment areas. They were able to explore promising technologies that are more economical to build, more aesthetically pleasing than total containment systems and yet, may still protect the environment.



Clover Kids participants



Katie Metzger with Growing in the Garden participants



Babysitting Clinic participants

## Lyon County Extension delivers

In Lyon County, Iowa State University Extension delivers research-based educational opportunities to manufacturers, families, youth, agribusinesses, and communities to advance Iowa's economy in the following ways:

**4-H in Lyon County** - During 2006, 207 youth were enrolled in 12 4-H clubs led by 18 volunteer leaders. 169 members exhibited at the county fair, an 84% participation rate. Workshops held throughout the year included a bottle-bucket calf workshop, sewing workshop, gardening workshop, and beef workshop. Enrichment classroom experiences at all grade levels were offered in all three school districts with 545 students participating.

**Ag in the Classroom** - Fourth grade students at Little Rock Elementary School participated in 5 weeks of classroom activities learning about agriculture and how it affects them as consumers. They also learned about value-added agricultural products and where they come from. The sixth week, 15 students toured a George area dairy. They learned first hand how a dairy operates.

**Clover Kids** - The Clover Kids program was a success this year with 72 youth participating in Kindergarten through 3rd grade at West Lyon, Central Lyon, and George-Little Rock Community Schools. Participants learned: the importance of eating healthy; about trees and why they are important; about money and how to make decisions with it; about the five senses, and about self esteem and why each individual is special.

**Youth Safety Camp** - 68 youth participated in safety day camps conducted by Central Lyon FFA and Lyon County ISU Extension as part of Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. 4-7 year olds and 9-13 year olds participated in the camps. Youth learned about lawn mower safety, PTO safety, tractor safety, sun safety, first aid safety, fire safety, gun safety, water safety, and ATV safety.

**Growing in the Garden** - 22 students from George Elementary School learned about gardening through ISU Extension's "Growing in the Garden" curriculum. 14 youth participated in a series of gardening workshops, which was incorporated with the Northwest Iowa Demonstration Garden in Rock Rapids. Youth learned about planning a garden, planting and caring for a garden, composting, plant parts, garden insects, and Native American gardening.

**Babysitting Clinic** - 42 area youth in 5th-8th grades participated in a babysitting clinic in Lester and Inwood. Health Services of Lyon County, the Lyon County Sheriff Department teamed with ISU Extension to bring this workshop to the community. Participants learned about: setting limits with kids, what to do in emergencies, safe and educational activities to do with children, how to care for a baby, how to prepare easy snacks, hand washing, and first aid and choking.

**Lyon County Website** - Lyon County ISU Extension has developed an attractive, user friendly website and invites everyone to visit it. The website provides public access to information about events, activities and news related to ISU Extension and Iowa State University. For more information, go to: [www.extension.iastate.edu/lyon/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/lyon/)

### Lyon County Extension Funding:

Federal Tax expenditures:	8.1%
State Tax expenditures:	19.6%
Total County expenditures:	20.6%
ISU Grant expenditures:	11.6%
ISU User fee expenditures:	6.6%
Adult Volunteer time (estimated):	33.5%

For each dollar that Lyon County spends for Extension programs, local citizens can gain the benefit of 39 cents in federal tax funds; 95 cents in state tax funds; and \$1.63 of volunteer time.

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**Our Mission - ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.**