

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

Al Grigg

County Extension Education Director

4-H & Youth Programs

During the 2007-2008 4-H enrollment year 200 youth were enrolled in 11 clubs and were led by 18 volunteer leaders. Workshops held throughout the year included: cooking, sewing, visual arts, rabbit, and poultry which involved 58 participants. Junior Camps were held with 17 junior 4-Hers participating in one local & one multi-county day camps. To finish up the year 155 county 4-Hers exhibited at the fair.



Enrichment classroom experiences were offered in three school districts, with 384 students participating in school enrichment activities through Iowa State University at all grade levels.

The Clover Kids after school program was a success with 125 participants. The program was offered to grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade in the local schools.



Agriculture in the Classroom program is facilitated by Iowa State University and is sponsored by Farm Bureau of Lyon County. The program is presented over six weeks. The students learn about agriculture in Iowa including grains, livestock, value-added agriculture and how agriculture affects them on a daily basis. The kids enjoy a field trip to a local dairy. Three schools in Lyon County participate in the program: Doon Christian middle room - 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades, Little Rock - 4th grade, and Central Lyon - 4th grade.



Council Members: Bruce Bonander, Jo DeJong, Diane Peters, Arlys Rozeboom, Jerry Sandbulte, Bob Tilstra, Gary Twedt, Susan Wiertzema & Dennis Winkowitsch.

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:

- Community Economic Development
- ISU Student Recruitment
- Environmental Issues
- Youth Education



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.

October 2008

Root Clinic

Lyon and Osceola County Extension hosted their sixth annual Root Clinic with Farmers Coop Society Elevator and their branches September 5, 2008. The annual program featured Al Grigg, County Extension Director and Joel DeJong, Extension Agronomist discussing the soil types and soil structure and what can be learned from the soil below the surface.



Free water was found at less than six feet of depth in the soil pit. It was also learned that the corn roots stopped at the four foot level and the soybean roots stopped at the three foot level. The corn roots were also showing evidence of compaction in the top six inches of soil, most likely from working the soil while still a little too wet. The corn hybrid planted April 27 was a 104 day hybrid and was just beginning to dent on September 5. The soybeans were dark green in color and were not yet filling the top pods.

Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families Program is a program for parents and youth ages 10 – 14. The program has six sessions to help parents build on their strengths in showing love and setting limits, youth develop skills in handling peer pressure and building a positive future, and help the families grow together. The program was a success with four families participating.

Improving Human Health

ISU Extension partnered with Sanford Fitness Center, Rock Rapids, to present health and nutrition information. Lower Your Blood Pressure, a program offered in March by ISUE, helped participants learn about steps to take (food, life style) to reduce blood pressure and keep blood pressure under control. Programs offered at worksites reach people with health and nutrition information. ISU Extension presented a program at Pella Corporation, Sioux Center, in January – Eating Healthy-Being Healthy...working on New Year Resolutions – as the plant kicked-off a lunch 'n learn series for employees. Lyon county residents are among this companies regional workforce.

ISU Research Garden

The Northwest Iowa Demonstration Garden in Rock Rapids was planted for the 4th year in a row. The garden featured several varieties of watermelons, heirloom tomatoes, herbs and annual flowers. Mulch was donated and spread by a local 4-H club. Master Gardeners and other volunteers tended the garden. The children's garden included annuals and perennials that would attract butterflies.



The garden tour was well attended and garden produce was distributed to volunteers, low resource households and at Central Lyon School to students and their parents at a "fruit and vegetable" social where families sampled locally grown watermelons and tomatoes.