

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

2010 Stakeholder Report



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Shelby 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.

The following local issues have been identified as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Positive Youth Development
- Home Horticulture Assistance and Education
- Supporting and Enhancing Local Agriculture
- Collaboration on Family and Community Issues

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In Shelby County, it starts with Extension. Together we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Shelby County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Mat Freund

Extension Council Chair

Terry Torneten

Regional Extension Education Director

It Starts With Healthy People

ISU Extension in Shelby County is dedicated to promoting health and wellness, including promoting food safety through the **ServSafe** program. This two day program, held in March 2010, was designed to educate industrial food providers such as restaurants, school food service staff and hospital staff in and around Shelby County. The goal of ServSafe is to create a more desirable and safe foodservice operation while protecting the establishment against the costly nightmare of a foodborne-illness outbreak. It provides an opportunity for the foodservice individual to learn prevention, regulatory requirements, and how to improve food quality. After training completion and passing the certification exam, the individual is

certified by the National Restaurant Association. Certification is valid for five years.

Individual health and wellness is also a priority. **Holly VanHeel, Nutrition & Health Program Specialist is new to Shelby County** this year and has provided Shelby county residents information about nutrition, food safety and healthy living. Holly provides a wide array of health and nutrition services and information from pressure cooker inspections to her weekly and monthly newsletters to elementary schools, local newspapers and Extension websites. The monthly publication, "WOW" or "Words on Wellness" newsletter is available online to county residents and contains current topics on health and nutrition.

It Starts With Healthy Economies

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a volunteer staffed program that helps low and moderate income families (below 200% of poverty) prepare annual tax returns at no cost. This program has been coordinated by Families Resource Management Specialist Mary Beth Kaufman, based in Shelby County, since 2002. In the 2009 tax year, 173 tax returns were filed through this program, with a total Federal Refund of over \$312,000 being returned to families in a 9 county area. Of these returns, approximately 40 were prepared for residents of Shelby County alone, providing a needed service to local residents and returning spending dollars to the local economy.

It Starts With Healthy Environments

Every year, Shelby County Extension helps to provide continuing education classes for local manure handlers, private pesticide applicators and commercial chemical applicators. In 2010, over **350 local individuals were trained to be better stewards of the environment** while effectively managing crops, lawns, gardens, roadsides and livestock waste.



Farm Safety Education Impacts Rural Youth

Children who live and play in rural communities are exposed to many hazards from agricultural machinery, chemicals, livestock and more. **Farm Safety education** helps kids and parents understand potential hazards, and learn how to avoid them, lowering their risk of injury or death. Shelby County Extension works in partnership with the Occupational Health Department at Harlan's Myrtue Medical Center to educate local youth on Farm Safety issues.



In April of 2010, Myrtue Medical Center hosted **Kidsfest**, a health and safety fair for young children in the county. ISU Extension staff and 4-H'ers were on hand to talk to families in attendance about a 3-D model farm with several "safety hazards" on display. Parents and children had fun trying to find as many of the 35 "hazard areas" as they could, as well as discussing different situations in their own homes that could be dangerous. Over 100 youth registered for a door prize at the table, and many more stopped by just to see the model farm or pick up the safety information that was available.



In June, Shelby County Extension and Myrtue Occupational Health teamed up to organize and host a **Farm Safety Day** for local youth aged 8-13, a project that has been going on for several years. Over 75 kids attended the daylong event, where they saw demonstrations and presentations from local safety experts and ISU specialists on twelve different farm safety topics. Presentations were interactive and many involved hands-on learning opportunities for youth to experience and visualize safety practices. Each child that attended was sent home with a "goody bag" full of safety information and gear to share with their family.

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.