

Healthy people, environments, and economies start with Extension. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Iowa a better place to live.
You'll be amazed at what we do.

2010 Stakeholder Report



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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.

KEY ISSUES:

We identified these priorities for current and future programming in this region . . .

- Protecting the environment
- Expand 4-H Youth Development
- Nutrition and health
- Horticulture
- Farm management

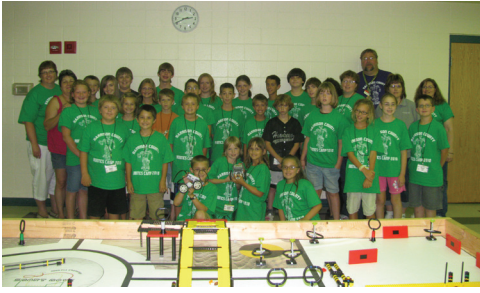
HEALTHY ECONOMIES

Receiving information on risk management is nothing new for ISU Extension clientele, except when the class enrollment consists of 15 women from three states who know the very minimum about commercial horticulture. Starting with that premise, the Annie's Project was selected as the program to be adapted to include aronia berry growers. Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. They focused on several factors including: production, pricing and marketing, and legal and personal risks. As a result of the series of meetings, the majority of the women have had more in-depth conversations with spouses and professionals to determine if growing non-traditional crops such as aronia berries is a wise business decision.

HEALTHY PEOPLE



The LEGO Mindstorms NXT robots are drawing 9-to-14-year-old youth from 13 4-H clubs that are interested in designing, building, and programming robots to solve problems around specific objectives and goals. The special competition gets youth thinking about how they



LEGO LEAGUE
CAN CHANGE
A KID'S LIFE.



...and justice for all
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HEALTHY PEOPLE (CONT.)

might study climate and make changes to positively impact it—on the planet and also in their communities. What youth get from this 4-H club experience is far more than just the fun of working with robots. They learn valuable teamwork skills as they work together to turn all their ideas into successful robot designs and research on how the theme affects their community. They learn important communication and citizenship skills as they prepare a presentation on their research and present it to their community leaders. As one leader remarked, “First LEGO League can change a kid’s life. They begin as your typical 9-to-14-year-old kids, but something happens as their club tackles the challenge. They are asked to think in new ways. They solve problems. They work with leaders and mentors. They fail. They succeed. They begin to ask questions they have never asked before. They teach themselves.”

Growing Strong Families offers families in Fremont and Page counties the opportunity to learn in the comfort of their own home. The parent educator with Growing Strong Families visits individual homes once a month bringing information about child development, parent education, nutrition, and financial management resources. The program is funded by Corner Counties Early Childhood Area. Growing Strong Families helps parents get the services and support they need; encouraging them to become more involved in their children’s development and to achieve their own personal goals. Parents know more about child rearing; use more positive discipline; are more confident about parenting; have better communication skills; have less parenting stress; and are more involved with and securely attached to their children. Families who receive home visits are more likely to have health insurance and a medical home, to seek prenatal and well-child care, and to get their children immunized. Families rely less on public assistance, have a healthier interval between pregnancies, fewer problems with substance use, and less criminal justice involvement.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Montgomery County Extension has promoted a healthy environment through water quality day camps to middle school students in Villisca, Stanton, and Red Oak. Topics included the stream table, ground water flow model, “who’s polluting” role-playing scenario, soil and water conservation, aquatic life in ponds and lakes, water birds and wildlife, and a watershed walk.

FUTURE PLANS

Extension council members across the region have been challenged to be more engaged with program oversight and operations of county extension offices. Region 17 will collaborate with the locally elected members, program specialists and county staff to increase programming through regional and county delivery mechanisms to meet the needs of local residents. ISU Extension will also increase networking and collaboration across the region supporting economic development. As a non-biased source of information, we can truly say, “It Starts with Extension.”