

## 2011 Points of Pride



### County Extension Staff

Gene Mohling  
*Regional Extension Education Director*  
Amy Green  
*County Youth Coordinator*  
Nancy Adrian  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Allison Kauffman  
*Office Assistant*  
Tom Miller  
*Project Planning Specialist/Ag*  
Lauren Roberts  
*OJT Student*

### Washington 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:

- Expansion of youth program opportunity
- Service to agricultural commodity interests and production
- Support to business and industry, local government, schools and agencies
- Support of family needs, parenting, and resource management

### 2011 Washington County Extension Council Members:

Margaret Brinning, Dennis Lampe, Brad Marek, Sue Janecek, Scott Pemberton, Darrell Steele, Cathy Rich, Ann Williams

### ISU Extension in Washington County

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*Get inside Extension and discover how we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension and Outreach meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Washington County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.*

Kathy Ebert  
*Extension Council Chair*

Gene Mohling  
*Regional Extension Education Director*



### Healthy People

#### Farmers Receive “Stay Safe, Take a Break” Bags

During the fall farmers spend long, hard hours working with dangerous equipment to harvest their crops. Volunteers from Washington County 4-H delivered “Stay Safe, Take a Break” bags to 200 farmers throughout Washington County in October. The bags contained an assortment of snacks, safety items, notepads and pens. These bags are a great way for farmers to be reminded to stay healthy and safe during a busy time of year, but also were made to show appreciation to our farmers throughout Washington County. Farmer Lynda Miksch said, “After a long week of combining, Jim and I really appreciated them. You’ve thought of everything, from food to pain meds, to reflectors, to hand warmers. We could tell those who

packed the bags have ‘been there’ and know what could be needed.” Area sponsors donated cash and supplies to make this project possible.

### Brighton Bear Cub Club After School Program

When the Washington Community School District decided to change their professional development schedule for the 2011-12 school year, it created some needs. School is now dismissed at 1:10 every other Wednesday, which leaves some youth without a place to go. In an effort to provide a safe, supervised, structured environment for Brighton area students on early dismissal days, ISU Extension in Washington County started an after school



program. The program is called the Brighton Bear Cub Club. The group has learned about

community service, sportsmanship, farm safety, first aid, the environment

and recycling, and Pick A Better Snack nutrition education. Brighton Horizons partners with Extension in this program by providing supplies and snacks. The City of Brighton provides the meeting space free of charge.

## Healthy Environments

### Master Gardeners

Eleven Washington County residents completed Master Gardener training in March. Master Gardeners receive training in horticulture through ISU Extension and Outreach and in turn volunteer in programs and projects that enhance their communities. Washington County Master Gardeners manage the gardens at the Washington County Fairgrounds, hold an annual plant sale, make recommendations, have a speaker corps, and assist the extension office in answering gardening and horticulture questions.



## Healthy Economies

### Winter Sheep Field Day

Nearly 150 people from five states attended a winter sheep field day in February at Premier 1 Supplies in rural Washington. The group learned about new and innovative techniques used to maximize sheep production. Topics included feeding alternatives, spring pasture lambing, hair breed sheep, feeding baleage versus silage, and also included a tour of the farms. Speakers were from Premier 1 Supplies, ISU Extension and Outreach, and Superior Farms. The event was sponsored in part by the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board.

### Barn Quilt Capital of Iowa

Barn Quilts of Washington County is a joint effort of Washington Chamber

of Commerce Tourism Committee and ISU Extension in Washington County. The project began in 2007 and now in 2011 Washington County boasts more than 115 barn quilts and has been proclaimed the Barn Quilt Capital of Iowa. The four "themed" driving loops include the Amish Loop, Liberty Loop, Nature Loop, and Agricultural Loop. Bus tours, community clubs and



numerous groups have visited the barn quilts helping boost the local economy by shopping and eating in area businesses.

## Impact Example

### Horizons Holds Poverty Simulation

Have you ever had your utilities disconnected or been unemployed? Have you ever had to get food from a food pantry or not had enough money to buy school supplies for your children? These were a few of the situations Brighton area residents experienced at a Poverty Simulation held in June. The simulation was sponsored by Brighton Horizons and ISU Extension in Washington County and was designed to help increase the understanding of poverty. Attendees were then encouraged to return to their community or place of work and put into action the things they learned. Forty-three people participated in the simulation during which time they were assigned new identities, new families, and living situations. The lives of these families were reduced to four 15-minute time segments, representing one month, during which time they had to pay their bills, apply for a job, get the kids to school, or visit the welfare office. Many families ended the evening with no money or food, evicted, or

with children in foster care. "I thought it was very good, but left me feeling really emotional," said one Brighton resident. "What some people have to go through and I think I have problems sometimes. Everyone who does not live in poverty should have to go through that (the simulation)," she added.



## Staff Serving Washington County, but based in other counties

Amber Bisinger, *External Relations*  
 Greg Brenneman, *Ag Engineering Specialist*  
 Kristi Cooper, *Family Life Specialist*  
 James Fawcett, *Crops Specialist*  
 Himar Hernandez, *Community Development*  
 Jim Jensen, *Farm Management*  
 Byron Leu, *Livestock Specialist*  
 Patrick O'Malley, *Commercial Horticulturalist*  
 Terry Steinhart, *Swine Specialist*  
 Jan Temple, *Nutrition/Health Specialist*  
 Mary Weinand, *Family Resource Management*  
 Bob Wells, *Farm Management Specialist*

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