

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 . . .

- Healthy lifestyles
- Finances/budgeting
- Economic development
- Environment
- Youth development
- Regional foods



HEALTHY ECONOMIES

The Midtown Family Community Center provides a safe, fun learning environment for youth and their families in Midtown, one of Sioux City's most diverse and economically challenged neighborhoods. Sioux City, the Jones Street Neighborhood Coalition, and ISU Extension support the center in partnership. Extension's Woodbury County 4-H program manages and staffs the center that reaches more than 200 youth per year through evening and summer programming. 4-H day camps at the center provide learning opportunities for youth in science, engineering, and technology and through hands-on activities developed by ISU Extension. The center provides education and leadership opportunities for youth that encourage them to stay in school, get an education, and lift themselves out of poverty. Also, their parents can participate in the workforce, knowing their children are safe.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

Twenty-one high school student volunteers are teaching younger students about character through ISU Extension's Boomerang program at West Monona School. High school student teams facilitate the 17 weekly lessons with fourth and fifth grade students in the classroom. Both the young participants and student team teachers learn more about themselves and gain a deeper appreciation for each other and the value of practicing good character. Together they learn about



THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY
4-H CLUB PROGRAM NOW
REACHES 500 YOUTH.



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

responsible decision-making and provide service through sharing what they learn during a school/community celebration at the end of the program.

The Plymouth County 4-H club program now reaches 500 4-H members.

Increased membership helps strengthen 25 local community clubs. Plymouth County 4-H'ers join more than 24,000 youth in Iowa in the largest out-of-school educational program in the country. Education is the mission of this historic ISU Extension youth program. Local club meetings, conferences, workshops, trips, and fairs are all key components as ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development helps youth build leadership, citizenship, communication, and life skills they carry with them into adulthood.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The Northwest Iowa On-Farm Research Project benefits producer cooperators and other farmers.

ISU Extension, the Iowa Corn/Soybean Initiative, ISU Research and Demonstration Farms, and the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association are partners in the project. The partners cooperate with producers to provide up-to-date research that affects their operations as well as unbiased, statistically analyzed data for farmers on compared production practices. Crop production questions are answered using replicated randomized studies and projects that are informative and practical for the cooperators. Twenty producers have participated over the past five years, conducting 160 replicated trials. One example compared tillage with no-tillage in soybeans. Leaving residue on the field surface reduces erosion and improves water quality due to reduced sediment load in streams. However, these practices are adopted much faster if an economic benefit can be demonstrated. The results showed that there is no reduction in yield potential when using no-till, and costs can be reduced by fewer trips through the field.

FUTURE PLANS

"Flavors" is the newest face of ISU Extension—partnering with others to promote and provide education on local foods. The program is creating a local producer directory and guide to local flavors. Free to list and free to access, Flavors will make information about where to buy locally grown food and crafts more accessible and easier to use. Laura Kuennen, the regional foods coordinator, has swept the area "hungry for homegrown," taking notes and photos, interviewing local producers at farmers markets, and documenting unique local businesses, food-related events, and other flavorful happenings. Track progress and stories on her blog located at <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/regionalflavors/>.

The directory and guide soon will be available on an upcoming Flavors website. Flavors is part of the Regional Foods System Working Group that supports education, conducts research, and facilitates partnerships to increase investment and support of community-based, economically sustainable, and environmentally and socially responsible regional food enterprises.