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|-------------|----------|
| Worth       | Mitchell |
| Cerro Gordo | Floyd    |
| Franklin    |          |

## Region 3

### Extension Education Director Report

By Gary Hall, Regional Extension Education Director

#### Legislative Forums



Two forums were attended on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> where I met with Senators Merlin Bartz and Amanda Ragan and Representatives

Sharon Steckman and Linda Upmeyer. I gathered information about issues they were hearing. Forums are useful places to hear issues people are dealing with and then think about how Extension can address those issues. Outcome: Representative Upmeyer asked if I had heard of any cuts to Extension. She said she wasn't aware of any cuts that were proposed and she would be surprised if there were any after the tremendous cut we took two years ago. Senator Bartz shared the same sentiment.

#### Customer Service



Four Mennonite Farmers came to the Private Applicator Training in Stacyville, Iowa on February 17<sup>th</sup>. They came

in and filled out their forms and then paid their \$20 and took a seat. As they sat in the crowd of about 50 other farmers they were a little uncomfortable. They had been studying for the private applicator test and everyone seemed so relaxed.

After determining that this was training instead of a test they approached me asking if they could take the test. I explained, "You sure can take the test but at another location, date and time and we would be glad to send you the

brochure with all the testing dates and locations. We can just use the forms already filled out to send you the information." As they were preparing to leave, one of the farmers said, "So do we get our money back?" We had almost forgotten to return their fee! Everyone laughed and joked about how the money could be put to other good uses as the money was handed back.

Outcome: Even though these farmers had come to the wrong event they left with a smile on their face and a positive experience with ISU Extension.

#### Budget



Lots of work was accomplished with Program, Personnel and Budget Committee meetings. A proposed budget has been presented and in some cases, approved. The Council approved a budget proposal including a tax asking and total expenses.

Cerro Gordo – \$224,612 ask, \$330,512 expenses  
Floyd – \$174,000 ask, \$271,949 expenses  
Franklin – \$160,000 ask, \$212,633 expenses  
Mitchell – \$157,307 ask, \$207,597 expenses  
Worth-- \$150,286 ask, \$286,401 expenses

#### Working on Social Media



Accounts have been set up for Twitter, Facebook and a blog for Region 3 Extension. These will be useful tools in communication

with staff and the people of Region 3. You can find me in twitter and facebook through my email of [garyhall@iastate.edu](mailto:garyhall@iastate.edu). The blog is located here:

<http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/region3/>  
Plans are to start populating the pages with happenings in Region 3 and current events.

### County Highlights



**Cerro Gordo** -- Joseph Hanna, ISU Commercial Horticulture Specialist, presented the Fruit and Vegetable Soil Fertility and Irrigation Workshop to 16 participants. Clover Kids sessions had 12 registered for the six Saturday sessions. Six month performance evaluations were completed for four staff members.

**Floyd** --Over 20 youth are participating in the Clover Kids Program with a waiting list! The ice on the roof is just a memory since heat tape is working well. Council positions are now full.

**Franklin** --A great Private Applicator Training at the Windsor Theater in Hampton complete with popcorn and concessions. The VITA site is having a lot of activity for the volunteers to complete tax returns.

**Mitchell County** --A new Clover Kid Coordinator, Heather Lombardo, is taking over the program and doing a great job. Personnel Committee is meeting to consider staffing for the office.

**Worth County** -- Crop Clinic was another successful event with about 250 attending. Continued support from County Supervisors for Extension is awesome.

### New Council Members in Region 3

Welcome to all the new Council members. It is great to have you all on board. Thank you for being willing to serve.

**Cerro Gordo**—Jason Saffold

**Floyd**—Sue Bortz, Julie Knecht, Bill Mead, Chuck Souder

**Franklin**—Jodi Wohlford

**Mitchell**—Erin Bramer, Josh Olson, Perry Weigle

**Worth**—Sarah Hagen



### Coming Events

For Region 3

- February 28, County Coordinator's Meeting
- February 28, Cerro Gordo Council Meeting
- March 1, Franklin County Council Meeting
- March 2, Worth County Council Meeting
- March 4-6, Home and Landscape Show, Mason City
- March 8, Mitchell County Council Meeting
- March 9, Regional Program Specialist and Coordinator's Meeting, Borlaug Center, Nashua
- March 16, Legislative Day in Des Moines
- March 15, Town and Country Breakfast, Osage
- March 15, Floyd County Council Meeting
- March 16, Ag Breakfast, Mason City
- March 17, NEIARA Field Day, Nashua
- March 17, Mitchell Co Master Gardener Meeting
- March 21-25, Extension Week
- March 24, Estate Planning Workshop, Osage
- March 25, Worth County Open House
- March 26, Women Around Ag, I35 Country Inn
- April 2, ChickFest, Charles City
- May 18, Regional Extension Council meeting

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Provided by Gary Hall, Region3 Extension Education Director

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