

April 2011

Region 3 Extension Report

By Gary Hall, Regional Extension Education Director



Program Specialist/County Coordinators Meet

Determining how to work with both internal and external audiences was a goal for the Program Specialists and County Coordinators meeting held on March 30 at the Borlaug Center near Nashua. The Irish theme of the meeting provided participants with a better understanding of the heritage of staff and how we can work together as a team to become more effective in serving the public.

Plant Propagation Meetings for Cerro Gordo and Floyd Counties

Cuttings from various plants were used in the making of a Forsythe Pot at a plant propagation meeting held in Mason City for 32 participants. Rick Pleggenkuhle provided everyone with a pot, cuttings and knowledge of how to propagate their own plants. Another Plant Propagation workshop will be taught by Bob Hauer in Charles City.



Office Assistants Network

Staff from each of the counties met in the Franklin County office. Everyone shared various programs taking place in their county and provided updates from their offices. Staff changes, county fair dates and discussion on how to provide customer care without pulling out your hair were all discussed.

Regional Director Darts

- The next regional Extension Council meeting is May 18th at 7 p.m. in Mason City. We will look at staffing patterns, employment, and our legal responsibilities.
- Alan Ricks, Region 9 Director (Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Grundy, Tama Counties), retired April 15.
- During the interim of approximately 8 months in finding a new Director for Region 9, Gary will work with Black Hawk and Bremer County.
- While in Mitchell County on April 1st, Gary's car was decorated with dead flowers from the landscape of the Extension office. Extension Staff are resourceful people who never let anything go to waste!



Council Happenings

Councils have been conducting staff performance reviews. The target is to have the reviews complete by July 1.

Mitchell County has hired Heather Lombardo (picture at left) to fill the .6FTE Office Assistant position. Rozanne Mehmen will retire from that position April 28. Thanks to Rozanne for nearly 20 years of service!



Tyler Mitchell is working as a Coop Student in the Extension office of Floyd County. He has had a wide variety of experiences and knows now there is much more to Extension than 4-H.

Franklin County has hired Michelle Sackville to take over the PROSPER program from Beverly Peters. She brings great experience and enthusiasm to the position.

Worth County was just notified that it will be receiving \$36,751.25 in grants from the Worth County Development Authority. The funds will be used for concrete for the beef barn and a new livestock scale.

The Master Gardener Help Desk will be starting up in May to answer horticultural questions. The Help Desk is located in Mason City. All Master Gardeners in Region 3 encouraged to provide assistance.



Population: Extension Regions 1900 – 2010: A recently released review of the 2010 census data for the 20 ISU Extension regions showed the changes among the regions were variable with 10 regions experiencing an increase in population and 10 registering a decline between 2000 and 2010. Most of the regions that increased were located in a band from central Iowa eastward to the Quad Cities area. The regions that lost population tended to be in northern, western, and southern areas of Iowa. Region 3 lost 3.6% compared to 2000. The report is included with this newsletter. What implications does this data mean to us in meeting the needs of our clients?

For upcoming events and programs, visit our county web pages:

www.extension.iastate.edu/cerrogordo

www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd

www.extension.iastate.edu/franklin

www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell

www.extension.iastate.edu/worth

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