

## Regional Extension News Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Mitchell, Worth

Interim for Bremer and Black Hawk

December 2011

### Regional Director Darts

- **Build Relationships!** This is a great time of year to develop and build relationships with current and potential partners. Stop by and drop off one of the ISU Extension wall calendars or Garden calendars for them to use. You can meet many in the community who you might be collaborating with during the coming year.
- **Understanding our community** is an important job. During the last Executive Director meeting a tour was taken of Grain Millers, Inc. located in St Ansgar, Iowa. We learned much about the history of the operation, the people who work to produce many quality products. We might have even seen the oat flour that made your Cheerios! After the tour **Major Programs** for next 3 months were outlined. The list included:
  - Parenting Fair
  - Crop Clinics and Crop Challenge
  - Washington DC trip
  - Dairy Days
  - Community Gardens
  - Stream monitoring and nitrate testing
  - Gardening Seminar with NIACC
  - Home Show Programs and booth with Master Gardeners
  - Local Foods efforts with 3 grower meetings
  - Master Conservationists Meetings start in July
  - Strengthening Families programs
  - Private Applicator Trainings
  - Estate Planning
  - Early Childhood Development
  - Clover Kids
  - Older Generation Programs with Chamber of Commerce



- **Upcoming Council Meetings** will be dealing with organizing for the coming year. The election of officers, naming depository, appointing committees, approving personnel and fiscal policies and more will be discussed at the meetings. Approval of county budgets will also be taking place.
- **Summit Executive Summary Now Available Online!** The Executive Summary from the Advance: 2011 Leadership Summit now is available as a pdf online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/content/planning-documents>. This summary identifies four highly consistent priorities. We will:
  - Invest in building and supporting meaningful partnerships that align with our mission.
  - Develop and support systems to improve internal communications, coordination, and collaboration.
  - Contribute appropriate people and tools for a system of needs assessment.
  - Develop a sustainable structure and culture to provide professional development for extension employees at every level, as well as county extension council members and volunteers.

**Next Steps:** The ISU Extension and Outreach Administrative Response to *The Advance: 2011 Leadership Summit* will follow, including plans for the organizational structure, a business plan, and a strategic plan in light of these results.

Stay tuned for more exciting things happening for Extension as a result of the Leadership Summit!



## County Connotations

**Floyd County** held a Crop Challenge with about 75 people attending the event in Charles City. The morning was filled with important information for producers to consider for the upcoming growing season and the afternoon provided private pesticide applicator training.



One of three **Cerro Gordo** 4-H First Lego League Teams competed at the regional qualifier on Saturday December 3 at Cedar Falls. The team has worked very hard all season to complete missions and research their project. They have been working on this year's project since August and just finished off their season in Cedar Falls!

**Mitchell County** Intermediate Council held a roller skating party for the community. About 65 young people and one old Regional Director enjoyed skating around in the Event Center in Osage. The event provides a community service to the youth of Osage, builds relationships with the Cedar River Complex, and develops leadership in the youth who conduct the entire event.



Bruce Gaarder, Iowa Corn Growers Association Marketing Director on the left is pictured with **Worth County** 4-H members and sisters Sophia and Angela Benjegerdes along with Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist on the right. Bruce was on hand to congratulate the girls on their National 4-H Club Congress Trip to Atlanta, Georgia and provide them with pin exchange items while they were in Atlanta.

Last month ten 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders met for the first meeting of the new **Franklin County** 4-H cooking club. The meeting kicked off with a fun activity using kitchen utensils and then the students prepared an appetizer and dessert for the holiday season. At the monthly meetings students will learn basic and advanced cooking skills, how to identify and use kitchen utensils and fresh produce identification. The group plans to apply to compete at the "Cook This" competition at the State Fair in August.



**Bremer County** Bremer Extension aided the Wapsie Sportsmen locate and install an pond aeration system on Tot's Lake near Tripoli. The system consists of a piston pump connected via weighted pipes to aerobic bubblers which are sunk to the bottom of the lake. They provide additional oxygen to improve pond bottom decomposition which helps with water quality issues of reducing summer algae growth and winter fish kill.

For the past 4 years, **Black Hawk** County Extension has offered Strengthening Families programming for parents and youth ages 10 – 14 and has recently learned a new way to reach and maintain contact with parents. At the suggestion of a parent, program leaders will be texting parents of upcoming trainings and other pertinent information. In fact, program coordinators are taking the bold step to recruit new families via texting!

We all are bombarded with multiple messages each day, so finding a unique way to communicate with busy people is important to our continued work ahead. Perhaps this will set the benchmark for others.....

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

- [www.extension.iastate.edu/cerrogordo](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cerrogordo)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/franklin](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/franklin)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/worth](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/worth)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/bremer](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bremer)

- [www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/floyd)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu)

**Provided by Gary Hall, Region 3 Extension Education Director**

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