

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension



### Cedar County Extension

2008

107 Cedar Street  
Tipton, IA 52772  
Phone: (563) 886-6157 or toll-free 1-888-886-8344  
Fax: (563) 886-2356  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar)

### County Extension Staff

#### Bob Owen

County Extension Education Director  
Cedar and Muscatine Counties

#### Joyce Coppess

Office Manager and County Youth Coordinator

#### Gaylene Gilbert

4-H Expansion Coordinator

#### Charles "Rick" Rickey

Consumer Horticulture Assistant  
(June to September)

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

Mike Boyle  
Extension Council Chair  
Cedar County

Robert F. Owen  
County Extension Education Director  
Cedar & Muscatine County

### Field Specialists Serving Cedar County

#### Agriculture

Greg Brenneman, *Ag Engineer*

Denise Schwab, *Beef/Livestock*

Patrick O'Malley, *Commercial Horticulture*

Virgil Schmitt, *Field Agronomist*

Jim Jensen, *Farm Management*

Larry McMullen, *Swine*

### Business and Economic Development

Sean Galleger, *Business & Industry*

### Families

Wendy Petersen, *Family Life*

Vera Stokes, *Nutrition & Health*

Phyllis Zalenski, *Resource Management*

### Youth & 4-H

Janet Martin, *Program Development*

### Healthy People

Families First of Cedar County is a non-profit organization that connects social service providers through a collaborative effort to address needs of families in Cedar County. ISU Extension Field Specialist, Wendy Petersen provides leadership to this group as they address the need for parenting education and quality child care.



During 2008, Families First supported two specific efforts. Two parent education series were offered in West Branch and Clarence. Also, a one-day event was held to recognize child care providers which included a story telling event for families. "Celebrate Our Stars" not only provided a story teller and interactive

family activities but acknowledged Cedar County child care providers for their Quality Rating Scale efforts. QRS, is a voluntary rating system that allows a child care provider to receive a rating based on the type of child care they provide.

### Healthy Environments

Local ISU Extension programs offered in pesticide applicator training and manure nutrient management strive to educate producers about how they impact the environment. Annually, more than 150 Cedar County producers receive timely information from Field Specialists as they learn new ways to protect the environment and keep up to date for their certification requirements.



## 2008 Cedar 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.

Chair – Mike Boyle, Tipton

Vic-Chair – Jean Driscoll, Mechanicsville

Secretary – Rhoda Barnhart, West Branch

Treasurer – Devin Schroeder, Lowden

Council members:

Dr. Alan Beyer, West Branch

Linda Jacobsen, Tipton

Jennifer VanOort, Clarence

Karen Stueland, Tipton

\* Vacant

\* Tim Dolan's untimely death on January 30, 2008, has left a vacancy on the Extension Council which will be filled during the November 4, 2008 election.



**We connect you to Iowa State University.**

We are your local link to make connections for campus enrollment, continuing education, campus visits, campus exhibits, conferences, camps, and sporting events.

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

**October 2008**

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

## Healthy Economies

The economic implications of agriculture has been challenging in 2008. A late, cool spring and severe flooding caused producers to push their pencils in making planting and replanting decisions. ISU Extension field specialists held an emergency crop production meeting in June to provide timely information for producers.

During the meeting, alternative crops to consider were discussed, plus the economic implications of replanting, as well as an overview of crop insurance and government programs. Several farm-program representatives and insurance agents were present to respond to specific questions.

In March, a new web based tool, *Program Builder*, was introduced to 25 community leaders, local city officials and others. *Program Builder* is an on-line database of community and economic development tools to help strengthen the quality of life throughout Iowa. As a follow-up, this tool was explored further by a group in Clarence considering ways to strengthen their community.

## 4-H is youth development

In existence for over 100 years, 4-H is known to teach youth life skills they can use for a lifetime. Today that is still true.



The tradition of 4-H in Cedar County continues to be strong with Community 4-H Clubs in all parts of the county. Regular club meetings give youth and volunteer adults the opportunity to explore the five 4-H outcomes – leadership, citizenship,

communication, knowledge and personal life management. These five areas are seen year-round through the community service activities, projects that are exhibited during the Cedar County Fair, and the fun activities held throughout the year.

In an effort to expand the 4-H program, a new staff member was added in Cedar County. Gaylene Gilbert started in August and is exploring interest in starting a Safety Education in Shooting Sports (SESS) club, contacting local libraries about offering Clover Kids for youth in kindergarten through third grade, and the possibilities of a community garden special interest group. All of these have great potential.



Just completing its fifth year, the Summer Discovery program continues to reach more than 250 youth each summer. Designed as a half-day program lasting for one week, the program is offered by four teachers, each with an assistant. All eight communities in Cedar County are provided with a fun, hands-on, interactive, science-based program. This year, families were invited to an end-of-the-summer activity where the youth involved their family in some of their favorite summer science experiments.

