

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



Madison County Extension

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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 Madison County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

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Special Interest 4-H Clubs Build Healthy Futures for Madison County Youth

4-H and youth programs and activities continue to be an important priority in the ISU Extension Office of Madison County. Madison county parents continue to value the life skill benefits gained through their children's participation in the 4-H program. In fact the 4-H enrollment grew by 9% in 2009.



A large portion of this growth can be attributed to two new special interest 4-H clubs started in Madison County: Babysitting Club and Videography Club. Through participation in the clubs, youth were able to learn new

skills related to their interests while gaining valuable leadership and communication skills in a safe and positive environment. New members are always welcome in Babysitting Club and Videography Club and the ISU Extension Office of Madison County continues to look for future initiatives that will engage youth in their communities.

Extension Master Gardeners Provide Consumer Horticulture Education and attract many to annual programs.



The ISU Extension Office of Madison County continues to partner with volunteers to deliver educational programming and



Madison 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.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Youth Development & 4-H
- Financial Management for all ages
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community Development



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

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October 2009

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[Master Gardeners] continued materials for the community. The Madison County Extension Master Gardeners are great examples of this type of partnership. Through this partnership 5 educational programs were offered. Two of the five programs were opened up to other counties and states. In January, Dr. Paul Domoto presented a fruit tree pruning workshop that attracted over 150 participants from 8 counties. In June, the Extension Office, Master Gardeners and Fons & Porter Quilting partnered to offer "The Gardens of Madison County Tour" which featured local gardeners and quilts in the Winterset area. Through strong volunteers like the Master Gardeners, Extension programming in Madison County will continue to grow.

Ag Risk Management Meetings provide decision making information for producers

ISU Extension in Madison County continues to be the place that local ag producers call for research based unbiased information on a wide variety of farm management decisions. In 2009 when producers were searching for information on changes in Farm Service Agency programs and crop insurance decisions, Farm Management Program Specialist, Steve Johnson provided two programs that offered research based, unbiased information related to producer questions and needs. In addition to the February and March programs Madison County producers also came to the Extension Office for information on cash rent, land values, asset

transition and feed cost solutions for livestock operations.



Healthy families through the Family Nutrition Program

32 adults graduated from the eight session Family Nutrition Program in 2009. The program is funded through a partnership between the Madison County Extension Office, Madison County Empowerment Board, and Iowa State University. Graduates from the program not only show increased knowledge related to good nutrition habits for their family,



but they gain valuable tools to keep themselves and their families healthy through increased activity. After participants graduate, they are asked to summarize their experiences. One participant commented, "The program taught me the foods my family and I should eat, but more importantly helped me to plan ahead for my meal preparation and save money while still eating healthy, two things I didn't think could work together."

The Family Nutrition Program in Madison County continues to grow as new partnerships are made with likeminded agencies and an increased attention to family food dollars.