

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



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Bremer County Extension – Serving you since 1918

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In Bremer County, it starts with Extension. Together we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Bremer County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Kenny Hennings

Extension Council Chair

Ron Lenth

County Extension Education Coordinator

HEALTHY PEOPLE



Healthy food from Waverly Sharing Garden for local hungry

Bremer citizens, rural and urban, of all ages benefit from these local Extension healthy efforts:

- Producing free nutritious vegetables to the hungry at church meal sites from the new Waverly Community Sharing Garden from plots damaged by 2008 floods.
- Aid Bremwood School to develop their garden to help feed and educate their students
- Co-sponsor with Farm Bureau our annual Farm Safety Day for over 300 grade school students
- Teach nutrition at After School classes
- Nutritional education display at Tripoli and Waverly Farmers Markets
- Educational programs for area seniors
- Exhibits at John Deere Engine Works Health Day
- Produce from extension gardens to Oran Food Pantry for the needy

Good habits begin when we are young. Bremer 4-H provides all youth with projects to help educate, build confidence and nurture relationships that last a lifetime. Bremer County has 18 Clubs with 307 members in grades 4-12 and a very rapidly growing Clovers program of 107 in grades K-3. Projects range from clothing to cattle to leadership.



Some of our award winners at
2011 Bremer County Fair



Ag Safety Day class on
electrical safety

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS



Stalk nitrate sampling 138 fields to aid in nutrient management and watershed quality

A major investment in time and grants to protect our streams and groundwater is continuing as good stewards of our land for the next generation.

- Stream nutrient and quality testing three county streams for six months on nine locations to determine quality and condition
- Extensive cornstalk nitrate testing on 47 farms and 138 fields to evaluate fertilizer and manure usage.
- Providing Pesticide Applicator Training and certification for 207 farmers.
- Providing certification classes for city, county and private chemical applicators
- Serving on Bremer SWCD and Cedar Valley Resource and Development (RC&D) boards
- Working with Cedar River Coalition for flood mitigation
- Programs on managing Emerald Ash Borer plus working with area foresters and agronomists on land management issues
- Providing manure sampling services to producers
- Work with City of Plainfield to improve their public drinking water supply



Insect trap at Test Plot to protect crops

HEALTHY ECONOMIES

To share in improving the quality of life in our Bremer communities and address their needs, Extension projects include:

- Aided City of Tripoli on Main Street improvement program, planning for parks and bike trails, and creating business directory
- Work with area economic development efforts
- Coordinated the Bremer Barn Quilt project which has grown from three to over 40 locations for Agri-tourism
- Sponsoring day care provider classes on business management
- Joint sponsoring Bremer Corn and Soybean Field Variety Test Plot
- Wrote grants for area non-profit groups
- Weekly radio program on important issues



Hand painted bridge for downtown Tripoli project



Bremer County Master Gardeners do many projects to benefit the community



Bremer County now has over 40 Barn Quilt locations

Bremer County Extension Council & Staff



The nine-member, elected council provides guidance on programming, budgeting, personnel, and strategic issues. They represent a cross section of rural and urban, locations, and Bremer County interests. They guide the staff to meet the present and future educational needs of the community.

LOCAL IMPACT

The Waverly Community Sharing Garden

Working with area churches, Wartburg College, city and civic volunteers, ISU Master Gardeners and Extension transformed a block of 2008 flood damaged land into a locally grown garden to produce healthy produce for needy and food insecure citizens.

After extensive renovation, the plots produced hundreds of fresh vegetables, which were donated to area church meal sites. Extension demonstrated how raised beds increase yields, plus gave meetings on food preservation. The City of Waverly donated the land and plans are for second garden in 2012.



Raised beds raise many vegetables in a small space

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

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... and justice for all

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