

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



2009 Stakeholder Report

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

County Extension Staff

Gary Hall

County Extension Education Director

Alison Roe

County Youth Coordinator

JoAnn Bartusek

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper

Judith Lickteig

Office Assistant

Mary Hamiel

Office Assistant

Janet Brown

Family Life Specialist

Don Hofstrand

Value-added Agriculture Specialist

Brenda Schmitt

Families Financial Specialist

Staff Serving

Cerro Gordo County, but based in other counties

Gail Castillo

4-H Youth Development Specialist

Craig Chase

Farm & Ag Business Management Spec.

George Cummins

Crops Specialist

Russ Euken

Livestock Specialist

Judy Isaacson

External Relations Specialist

Sandy Scholl

Communities Specialist

Jill Weber

Nutrition and Health Specialist

David Newman

Extension Council Chair

Gary Hall

County Extension Education Director

Healthy People

SpringFest Promotes Communications Skills

Cerro Gordo County 4-H held its first ever SpringFest competition of communication events in April 2009 at NIACC. 4-H members participated in communication events, a cake decorating contest, and a quilt block design contest. Members gave educational presentations and working exhibits. Some participated in an Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. 4-H Clubs also shared talents in Share-the-Fun. Ten 4-H members and three clubs were selected to represent Cerro Gordo County 4-H at the Iowa State Fair. The number of



participants went from only a few last year to 30 this year. Plans are in the works to expand SpringFest 2010 to include a live cake decorating event. Youth grades K-12 are eligible to participate in this event. Call 641-423-0844 to enroll in 4-H today!

Hitting the Mark with 4-H Shooting Sports

Six local volunteers spent a weekend at the Iowa 4-H Center, near Madrid, to become certified instructors for 4-H Shooting Sports. This past summer the instructors led twenty 4-H'ers in shotgun safety and shooting techniques. This fall 4-H'ers will learn about archery, and this winter they will begin riflery. Our goal is to expand the Shooting Sports 4-H Club include GPS and wildlife identification. To reach our goal, adult volunteers are needed to attend training and lead this new club. Call 641-423-0844 today to find out how to get involved!





Lana Schaefer, Sterling Young, Sybil Soukup, David Newman, Linda Rodemeyer, William Cody, Renee Frelund, Randy Grey. Not Pictured: Quincy Law

Cerro Gordo 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
- Community Resource Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Health and Nutrition



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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Healthy Economies

Budget Basics Taught In Tough Times



Family budgets are being stretched due to job cuts, hours reduced, recovering from last year's natural disasters, and increases in food prices. "Budgeting Basics" programs taught throughout the area reached 86 residents of Winnebago, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, and Hancock counties. Participants learned strategies for managing their personal finances including the wise use of credit, saving for emergencies or long-term goals, and tracking expenses.

Free Tax Preparation

Five trained community volunteers provided free tax preparation and electronic filing for 226 low-to-moderate income families in Cerro Gordo. ISU Extension – Cerro Gordo provided the facility and equipment necessary to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA sites helped ensure that income is captured through special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly for which most low-income wage earners qualify for. Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program received their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper. More than \$105,700 in Earned Income Credit, \$14,100 in State refunds and \$268,400 in Federal refunds were returned to the pockets of our area residents.

Healthy Environments

North Iowa Strip Tillage Expo

The first North Iowa Strip Tillage Expo was held February 23rd at the Muse-Norris Conference Center on the NIACC Campus, Mason City. Total attendance of 152 includes participants, speakers, static display exhibitors, students and committee hosts. The participant list included farmers; professional agronomists and crop consultants; ag lenders; chemical, fertilizer and equipment



dealers; educators; and the media. Participants indicated they manage/ own more than 65,000 acres of which 9500 acres (14.6%) is currently strip-tilled. Respondents to a post-meeting survey indicates they intend to increase strip tilled acres by 23% (more than 15,000 acres) within the next two years. ISU Extension took the lead in organizing, publicizing and conducting the Expo...from idea to implementation in 8 weeks.



Master Gardeners

Through many hours of training the Master Gardeners gain a great deal of information they use to improve the environment. They have shared this information in various ways with the public.

Through programs, displays and booths at various events the Master Gardeners provided useful and timely horticultural information.

