

2011 Points of Pride



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Monona 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:

- Positive youth development
- Strengthening families
- Ag profitability and the environment
- Community and leadership development

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

Bob Haack

Extension Council Chair

Healthy People Family Storyteller Program

Family Storyteller focuses on developing literacy and communication skills. The goal is to enrich parent/child verbal interaction, create interest in reading and access to reading materials. A secondary goal includes helping to strengthen the relationship between parent and child. During the workshops offered in Onawa at the Public Library, parents or grandparents and children attended together and received six free books to take home and read together. Participants learned key parent/child reading techniques, watched a video showing parents how to read the book with children, practiced reading the book, learned about activities that embrace the value of the reading, and receive materials for additional activities to do at home. Up to 18 families attended the fun filled nights.



Patty Jensen with grandson Evan Cooper at Family Storyteller in Onawa

Outdoor Adventure 4-H Club

4th-9th graders from Monona County enjoyed an exciting night in the great outdoors at Southwood Conservation Area near Smithland. Nineteen kids pitched their own tents, talked about nocturnal animals, and learned to be attentive to all that nature has to offer during their evening hike through the woods. A short astronomy lesson and map of the constellations was handed out. The entire group walked out to look at the clear night sky and identify many of the constellations. A series of ghost stories were shared back at camp, along with a movie, then bedtime. Saturday morning included an early breakfast. Everybody rolled up their own tents and cleaned up camp before going to the pond for their fishing adventure. This event was sponsored by the newly-formed Outdoor Adventure 4-H Club.

4hOnline

In September, Monona County 4-H families were introduced to a new way of enrolling themselves into the 4-H program. 4hOnline was provided by the Iowa 4-H program and was being utilized by just the County Extension Offices. Now families have the ability to log into their profiles through 4hOnline to enroll themselves. They also are able to view newsletters, FSQA

status', and update information. In the future, families will be able to sign up for upcoming programs and pay for their 4-H dues online. It's an exciting change for the Monona County 4-H program and we look forward to the future!

Healthy Environments

Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

The rural farm family and community live, work and grow in a unique environment. The setting offers special hazards unlike any other work site. Children are exposed to hazards on the farm as well as their parents doing work on the farm. No matter where you are, you should always take precautions in being safe from accidents. In an effort to make children more aware of safety on the farm and home, ISU Extension in Monona County hosted Progressive Agriculture Safety Days at the Whiting School on Friday, April 15 for 3rd to 5th graders and Thursday, April 21 at Ute Elementary School for students in grades 3-6th. Over 100 students were reached from this program at Charter Oak/Ute Elementary and over 50 students participating at the Whiting School. The coordinator for both schools was Nancy McGrain, 4-H Youth Coordinator for Monona County.

Healthy Economies

Ricochet III

Ricochet: An Extreme Leadership Adventure is an ISU Extension program that leads youth through three levels of leadership training. Youth start the first level in middle school and progress through three levels into high school. They study leadership information and attitudes, communication skills, decision-making and stress management through experiential activities and processing. The program involves interviews with local leaders and completion of service projects.

Five youth completed *Ricochet 3: The Final Leadership Adventure* on August 4 meeting at the Monona County Extension Office. They concluded the training by attending and observing a Monona County Extension Council meeting. Twenty-one youth in Monona County have now completed all three levels of

Ricochet leadership training and are available for participation in local projects and roles. Involvement and support of Monona County businesses, organizations, and community leaders were critical parts of making this program possible and successful.



Ricochet III students with their leaders Brenda Welch, Cheri Hardison, and Nancy McGrain.

Support the Miracle of Mapleton

ISU Extension hosted an evening of reprieve to Mapleton residents and volunteers on May 31st in the Mapleton park. A free meal was provided and served by 4-H clubs and Extension staff from surrounding counties. The burgers were donated by First State Bank of Mapleton and prepared by Monona County Cattlemen and the buns were provided by Fiesta Foods of Onawa. An enjoyable evening of music was presented by the Glory Team with director Conni Anderson of Moorhead of the Moorhead Christian Church. Sherry McGill, Regional Extension Education Director, offered training to help residents strengthen skills in listening to each other. Resource information was provided.

Land Lease Meeting

Twenty landowners, tenants and other agri-business professionals with an interest in farmland ownership, management and leasing agreements attended the workshop facilitated by ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist, Melissa O'Rourke. "I've had numerous contacts this year from persons who have questions about farmland values and rental rates," said Melissa O'Rourke. "Due to the increases in land values and cash rents, there is definitely a heightened interest in farm leasing arrangements." The

workshop was approximately three hours in length and provided each workshop attendee with a set of useful materials about farm leasing arrangements. The topics that were covered included:

- Cash Rental Rate Survey and Land Values Survey
- Comparison of different types of leases
- Lease termination
- Impacts of yields and prices
- Calculating a fair cash rent
- Use of spreadsheets to compare leases
- Available Internet resources

Impact Statement

Over 1,550 participated in organized Extension meetings and programs throughout Monona County. That includes recertification instruction to 242 pesticide and manure applicators; education to ag producers on farmland leasing, ACRE, marketing, and crop and livestock production and risk management; education for community members, leaders and families on nutrition, food systems and buymanship, and gardening; and 523 youth in special programs such as workshops on leadership, livestock quality assurance, nutrition and fitness, babysitting, farm safety, school enrichment, camps and trips. In addition, provided training and support to over 100 adult volunteers who worked with 151 youth in organized 4-H clubs.

... and justice for all
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