

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension



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

Craig Tweed  
*Extension Council Chair*

Craig Hertel  
*County Extension Education Director*

### Strengthening Families

Greene County families and child care providers participated in the "Strengthening Families" workshop series, which uses a curriculum designed to build upon family strengths and parenting skills. Programming topics included setting family budgets, healthy meal planning and food preparation, family communication, and effective discipline. Participants met for six workshops over an eight-month period led by ISU Extension field specialists serving our area.

### Spend Smart. Eat Smart.

[www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings)

This ISU Extension website helps people learn more about their food-shopping practices, and opportunities for changes that lead to

saving money and eating healthier. A variety of options and interactive activities are available, including short food preparation how-to videos. Recently, 53% of site users rated it "excellent," 53% used the cost of food at home calculator option, 79% adjusted one or more food buying habits, 85% increased their understanding of substituting time or knowledge/skills to save money at the supermarket, 88% increased their food-buying skills and 83% increased their ability to identify and include nutritious foods in the family diet.

### Grand Junction Horizons Team to RuFES

A Horizons team participated in the three-day Rural Family Economic Success (RuFES) Institute to learn how to help local families "Earn it! Keep it! Grow it!" The East Greene Community School plans to use the High School Financial Planning Program this year to help students





The Greene County Extension Council is made up of members (left to right): Pat Griffin, Dr. Laurie Connolly, David Higgins, Misty Bettey, Pam Olerich, Wendy Mount, Kraig Tweed, and (not pictured) Cindy Johnson.

## Greene 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:

- Human Development
- Community Development
- Business 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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## Horizons continued

develop financial management skills to Keep it! and Grow it!. A county-wide Volunteer Income Tax site is being planned to help more families Keep it! through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

## Master Gardeners

The Greene County Master Gardeners support the community in continuing to build up a healthy environment. The club held a winter workshop for community members on vegetable production and vegetables in landscape presented by Steven Wright, Story County Master Gardener. The cost of the event was underwritten from proceeds from their annual May plant sale.

The Master Gardeners also planted buckets of petunias which they delivered in the community to decorate for several events including the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's 90th Anniversary Convoy across the United States on the Historic Lincoln Highway.



## Greene Leadership 2009

Greene Leadership 2009 was held in partnership with community partners the Greene County Community Foundation, Greene County Development Corporation, Greene County board of supervisors and Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce. Thirty-two adults took the seven-session course, taught by experts from around the state. The formal Greene Leadership course is offered every fourth year by these partners.

## Managing Tough Times

[www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/toughtimes)

The economic downturn affects many Central Iowa families. ISU Extension designed websites and resources to help families, businesses and communities tackle tough times today and tomorrow. Blog conversations and "ask an expert" are included in the variety of options that are available to find answers and information any time of day.

## 4-H Prepares Youth for the Future



A 2008 study, conducted by ISU Extension Youth Field Specialists and county extension staff, surveyed 508 randomly selected 4-H members in Iowa and found that 4-H positively impacts youth's citizenship, leadership and communication skills. When polled, 80.1% of 4-H club members indicated an increase in their citizenship skills, 71.5% reported an increase in their leadership behavior and practices, and 73.1% indicated an increase in their communication skills.

The Greene County 4-H program saw a 5% growth in their membership in 2008-09. Our program served 289 Greene County youth in grades K-12 through club involvement and special interest programming.

Over 50 Greene County adults dedicate their time and talents to our youth by volunteering on a consistent basis for the 4-H program.