

## 2011 Points of Pride

### County Extension Staff

Gene Mohling, *Regional Extension Education Director*  
Dianna Colgan, *County Youth Coordinator*  
Barb Schintler, *Master Gardener Coordinator*  
Amy Heims, *Office Coordinator*  
Kathy Beierschmitt, *Office Assistant*  
Megan Ruplinger, *Office Assistant*  
Greg Brenneman, *Ag Engineering*  
Jim Fawcett, *Field Agronomy*  
Janet Martin, *4-H & Youth*  
Patrick O'Malley, *Commercial Horticulture*  
Jamey Kerr, *After-school Program*  
Samantha Bass, *After-school Program*  
Brittany Boerhave, *After-school Program*  
Peter Gillon, *After-school Program*  
Kristina Hermansen, *After-school Program*  
Mel Hostetler, *After-school Program*  
Casey Leonard, *After-school Program*  
Jan Temple, *Nutrition & Food Safety*  
Melissa Stahl, *Nutrition Educator*  
Lisa Yoder, *Nutrition Educator*  
Scott Hansen, *BBBS\* Executive Director*  
Jill Kromminga, *BBBS Program Director*  
Chanel Meredith, *BBBS Enrollment*  
Sara Barron, *BBBS Community Relations*  
Cheryl Whitney, *BBBS Match Support*  
Erin Morrison-Vincent, *BBBS School-Based Mentoring*  
Elyse Sable, *BBBS School-Based Mentoring*  
Jennifer Royer, *BBBS AmeriCorps*  
Laura Jones, *BBBS Intern*  
Tara Madden, *BBBS Intern*  
\*Big Brothers Big Sisters

### Johnson 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:

- Serving youth through 4-H, the after-school program, and Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Nutrition education through the Pick a Better Snack & Act program
- Ag marketing and financial management
- Bioeconomy development and education
- Environmental stewardship and education
- Support to business and industry, local government, schools and agencies

### ISU Extension in Johnson County

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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 (Name) County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.*



John Schneider  
Extension Council Chair



Gene Mohling  
Regional Extension Education Director

### Healthy People

#### Youth programming provides mentoring opportunities in Johnson County

In Johnson County, 4-H has offered mentoring services through an affiliation with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS) for 30 years. This year, through the OJJDP grant to the National 4-H Council, Johnson County 4-H developed a program that combines the one-to-one mentoring of BBBS and the club community activities of 4-H into one program.

Through Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentoring already is an established part of the Johnson County 4-H youth program, but the grant helps further 4-H in the county and enhance the quality of youth programming by offering the benefits of 4-H learning for the "Big" and "Little" matches and opportunities for increased family programs. The Iowa grant is part of 4-H Youth and Families with Promise.



For the "Bigs" and "Littles," 4-H workshops/meetings are held twice each month. "This is the first time 4-H workshops have been developed specifically for BBBS matches," said Janet Martin, an urban 4-H youth specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "For the first time, they'll experience 4-H learning firsthand and be able to benefit from both one-to-one mentoring and 4-H community club programs."

The 4-H workshops have focused on citizenship through an "Amazing Race" to learn about history and youth activities in downtown Iowa City, fitness and health through an exercise workshop by a local fitness trainer, art through "tie-dye" T-shirt

and “food art” workshops, nutrition through making nutritious snacks, and science through “Minute to Win It” activities and rocket launching. Family night events focused on fitness and cultural activities.

## Healthy Environments

### Drainage programming promotes environmental and economic benefits

Ag Drainage field days and meetings in SE Iowa have reached more than 500 producers and contractors with drainage design information in the past year. In addition, the Iowa Drainage School reached 70 individuals with detailed, hands-on training. Evaluations from this past year’s Drainage School showed the 34 participants impacting more than 45,000 acres/year. All of the participants rated the school as good or excellent and anticipated increased revenues in excess of \$300,000. Through learning experiences such as drainage field days and trainings, participants will gain information on drainage practices and their impact on nutrient losses and grain yields, which leads to changes in drainage installation. This benefits other community members by improving water quality and providing a more stable grain supply.

## Healthy Economies

### Series increases financial responsibility among inmates

When someone is incarcerated, many financial challenges are faced. The inmate receives a very limited income, if a prison job is available. In addition, payment for restitution and child support must be deducted from any pay earned. Because the commissary is the only option for items that may be needed (hygiene, clothing, shoes, etc.), inmates have limited choices regarding the price paid. In addition, their families face

loss of income and additional expenses such as phone calls, visitation, child care and legal fees.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach partnered with the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Coralville to offer a financial series for inmates. An overview was presented to about 20 job club members who enthusiastically agreed to participate. They marketed the series within the center and more than 40 inmates chose to participate. Topics included developing a spending plan, wise use of credit and managing financial accounts. Additional sessions are planned to include small group discussions and implementation of positive financial behaviors during the time of incarceration.



Participants were asked to report any financial actions taken between the weekly sessions. Between sessions one and two, 84 percent completed at least one financial task. Between sessions two and three, 83 percent reported taking action with regard to finances. Some of those positive changes included saving a portion of paychecks to send home to family, making a bi-monthly budget for necessities, and setting money aside to use upon release.

## New Johnson County Extension Office now open for business

### Ribbon cutting ceremony and open house welcome community members

Johnson County Extension hosted an open house on August 23, 2011,



to celebrate their new facility. The ribbon cutting ceremony included the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, extension council members, Hills Bank representatives and extension staff. The event included presentations by Matt Hayek, mayor of Iowa City, and comments by Congressman David Loebsack and Dan Smith, Senator Harkin’s Office; Mary Holz-Clause, associate vice president for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach; and Michael McKay, chair of the Housing and Community Development Commission. Food was prepared by the Johnson County Pork Council with support from US Bank, the University of Iowa Community Credit Union and the extension council. The Outstanding Community Partnership Award was presented to the Johnson County Extension Council and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County. Four hundred people attended the event.

... and justice for all  
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