



County Extension Staff

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Lisa Yoder, *Nutrition Educator*

Sara Barron, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

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Jill Kromminga, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Chanel Meredith, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Julie Phanthavong, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Lori Swartzendruber, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Staff Serving Johnson County but based in other counties

Kristi Cooper, *Family Life*

Natasha Forsythe, *External Relations*

Paul Gormley, *Industrial Specialist*

Himar Hernandez, *Community Development*

Jim Jensen, *Ag Business Mgmt.*

Janet Martin, *Youth/4-H*

Larry McMullen, *Swine*

Denise Schwab, *Beef/Forage*

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Johnson County Extension

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Iowa State University Extension in Johnson County provides relevant programs that 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 Johnson County a better place to live.

John Schneider
Extension Council Chair

Gene Mohling
County Extension Education Director

School Buddies Matches Youth with Volunteer Mentors



Big Brothers Big Sisters is a 4-H and youth development program in Johnson County. One of the BBBS programs that has been very successful is School Buddies. The purpose of School Buddies is to provide a friend for a child who needs a little extra help and guidance from a volunteer mentor. Last year BBBS collaborated with the Iowa City, Clear Creek-Amana, and Lone Tree School Districts to serve 10

schools and 220 youth in grades kindergarten through sixth in Johnson County. In the School Buddy program, the volunteer and child meet once a week during the school day at a designated location within the school. The volunteer and child are free to choose their activity for the time they are together. Activities include playing board games, reading, eating lunch, working on academic projects or just hanging out and talking. Matches are made for the duration of the school year.

Tiling Field Day at Southeast Research Farm



Concern about the environment and the desire to maintain agricultural production has prompted research activity at the Iowa State University Southeast Research Farm near Crawfordville. Iowa State University, in cooperation with area tiling companies and national tiling suppliers, has created a tile research plot that can monitor nutrient losses through the tile water and also keep excess water

from leaving the field during periods of heavy precipitation. The excess water can be used later in the year when more moisture is needed. Over 150 farmers and contractors attended the field day during the installation of the tile plots. This research should lead the way to a more efficient agricultural production system.



Johnson County Extension Council

Ronda Beasley, Larry Bonde, Connie Brinton, Donna Davis, Maynard Hebl, Denise Maier, Donna Ruth, John Schneider, and Bill Terry

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:

- Expansion of youth program opportunities
- Service to agricultural commodity interests and production
- Provide support for environmental stewardship and education
- Support of family needs, parenting, and resource management
- Nutrition, health, and well-being education
- Support to business and industry, local government, schools and agencies
- Bioeconomy development and education



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.

Iowa State University Extension: In sync with Johnson County

Corridor STEM Initiative Aims to Keep Iowa Competitive



In today's world, mathematics, engineering, science, and technology are becoming increasingly important in order for American business and industry to remain competitive in the global economy. While it has been reported that the United States is facing a crisis in those areas, the Corridor STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Initiative has met the challenge head on. This summer CSI introduced the "Engineering is Elementary" program. Over 200 children participated in this program at nine sites throughout Johnson and Linn counties. The goals of this program were to increase children's understanding of technology and engineering in their everyday lives, enhance their knowledge through interactive, hands-on experiments, and introduce them to career opportunities in those fields. The youth also had the opportunity to meet Governor Chet Culver and demonstrate their projects. Governor Culver has announced a grant from the Iowa Department of Education, to be administered through the Grant Wood AEA, that will continue to bring further education and programming to our youth and future workforce.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Supports 4-H



2007 marked the sixth year for the 4-H Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast is a major fundraiser for the 4-H program in Johnson County. This year the event served over 1200 people. Through the sale of tickets, a silent auction, monetary donations, and in-kind support, this year's breakfast proceeds covered the cost of the 2007-2008 program fee for every 4-H member in Johnson County. Thank you to all the 4-Hers and local families, financial institutions, businesses, commodity groups, service organizations, and Johnson County Extension staff members who made the breakfast a success!

Service Project Commemorates Iowa State University's 150 Years



ISU Extension initiated community service projects in every county to celebrate Iowa State University's 150 years. Johnson County celebrated by purchasing and donating three new flagpoles to the Johnson County Fairgrounds.