

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension

### County Extension Staff



**Tracy – Neil – Darla - Rozanne**

Neil M. Wubben  
*County Extension Education Director*  
Tracy Scharper  
*County Youth Coordinator*  
Darla Olson  
*Office Manager*  
Rozanne Mehmen  
*Office Assistant*

### Staff Serving Mitchell County, based in other counties

George Cummins  
*Crops Field Specialist*  
Donna Andrusyk  
*Family Life Field Specialist*  
Janet Brown  
*Family Life Field Specialist*  
Brenda Schmitt  
*Family Resource Management Field Specialist*  
Vanette Grover  
*Youth Development Field Specialist*  
Judy Isaacson  
*External Relations Field Specialist*  
Sandra Scholl  
*Community Development Specialist*  
Jill Weber  
*Nutrition and Health Field Specialist*  
Robert Tigner  
*Farm Management Field Specialist*  
Mark Storlie  
*Swine Field Specialist*  
Dale Thoreson  
*Dairy/Beef and Forage Field Specialist*  
Mike Willett  
*Business and Industry*  
Don Hofstrand  
*Value-added Ag*

### Mitchell County Extension

315 Main Street  
Osage, IA 50461  
Phone: (641) 732-5574  
Fax: (641) 732-5574  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell)

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

Brenda Miller  
*Extension Council Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil M. Wubben".

Neil M. Wubben  
*County Extension Education Director*

### Healthy People

Information on healthy living is provided to clients in a variety of ways including newsletters, news releases, programs, and one-on-one consultations.

“Girl Talk,” “Farm Safety Day Camp,” and “Master Gardener” are examples of programs conducted that address healthy lifestyles.



**3<sup>rd</sup> graders learn about grain bin safety**

Other avenues of healthy living education include 4-H Leader Training, High School Freshman Retreats, Fish Iowa, Substance Abuse Coalition, 4-H activities, i.e. dances, canoe float, and workshops.

One-on-one consultations with

clients regarding water quality, air quality, food safety, and household pest management are significant in Mitchell County.

### Healthy Environments

Clean air and water is important to Mitchell county residents, however, healthy environments also include places and people.

Volunteers that assist with 4-H and Extension programs are trained on how to provide safe, wholesome experiences for children; and clients are informed of ways to ensure safe home and surroundings through news releases and newsletters.



**Rainfall simulator at Strip-till Field Day**

## Mitchell County Extension Council



Front row - Annette Jellum and Rita Johnston  
Back row - Shawn Sponheim, Kari Schwarting,  
Brenda Miller, and Gregg Maakestad. Not  
pictured: Keith Heimer and Dennis Dieterich

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. Council members are: Brenda Miller, Chair; Kari Schwarting, Vice Chair; Scott Brandau, Treasurer; Shawn Sponheim, Secretary; Annette Jellum, Rita Johnston, Keith Heimer, Dennis Dieterich, and Gregg Maakestad.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Agriculture and the Bioeconomy
- Healthy Families
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Strengthening the local economy



**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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

**October 2008**

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

## [Healthy Environments] continued

Programs are offered to producers to update them on best management practices to protect air, soil and water. Key programs include Private Applicator Training and Confinement Manure Applicator Training. Tillage Field Days and Research Farm tours are also sources of current information.

Ag businesses also have access to current research through Commercial Applicator training for pesticide and manure applicators.

## Healthy Economies

Agriculture is a primary industry in Mitchell county. Efforts to assist producers to be more profitable include meetings and consultations on cost control and market efficiency.

Market information is provided through area programs, local events, and on-line resources. Examples include a series of three market beef workshops attended by eight feedlot operators; the Crop Advantage Series; and farm visits and consultations are also effective tools to help producers make informed production decisions.



**Robert Tigner presenting Annie's Project**

Annie's Project, a program designed to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information, was offered in the county this year in cooperation with the Mitchell County Women, Land and Legacy group. Twenty-four women completed the series of six meetings on farm business management.

Main street business and industry are also important to Mitchell county. Support for these essential facets of the economy is provided through consultation and referral. Interacting with community agencies and organizations keeps ISU available to meet these client needs.

## Impact

Mitchell County was recognized as one of two counties in Northeast Iowa that met the State 4-H's 3% growth challenge!

This accomplishment was due to a number of factors with two activities having significant impact. One of the activities was the introduction of an "After School 4-H Club." One of the barriers to kids joining 4-H is the problem of meeting time and place. By holding the club meeting after school, it's convenient for both members and their families. Six new members were enrolled due to the after school concept.



**Hands-on Learning with Clover Kids!**

A 4-H activity that has been very successful over the years and continues to be a popular program is the "CloverKid" program. This activity is for K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade children and is held after school in Osage and St. Ansgar. This year we had over 120 children take part in CloverKids.