



# For the Citizens of Cedar County 2005

## Cedar County Extension

120 East Fifth Street, Tipton, IA 52772

Phone: 563-886-6157

Toll Free: 1-888-886-8344

Fax: 563-886-2356

Web site: [www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar)

## Staff Serving Cedar County

**Robert F. Owen**

**Cedar and Muscatine County  
Extension Education Director**

**Joyce Coppess**

**Office Manager and  
County Youth Coordinator**

**Henry Meyers**

**Consumer Horticulture Coordinator  
(Cedar and Muscatine Counties)**

### Agriculture

Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer

Denise Schwab, Beef/Livestock

Patrick O'Malley, Commercial Horticulture

Virgil Schmitt, Crops

Jim Jensen, Farm Management

Larry McMullen, Swine

### Business and Industry

Paul Gormley

### Families

Wendy Peterson, Family Life

Vera Stokes, Nutrition & Health

Phyllis Zalenski, Resource Management

### Youth & 4-H

Janet Martin

Partnerships help Iowa State University Extension create a better future for all Iowans. Together we can improve quality of life in Iowa. Here are a few examples of ISU Extension partnerships at work in Cedar County.

**Summer Discovery Program continued for a second year** Started in the summer of 2004, the second year of the Summer Discovery saw the program expanded to Durant, West Branch and Tipton in addition to the communities of Bennett, Lowden, Stanwood, Mechanicsville, and Clarence. In a couple of communities a second session was added to meet the interest.

Conducted during one week in each community, the program offered a series of science related activities including a snack and game. Daily themes included Under Water Mysteries, Mission Impossible (including magic tricks and challenges), Thing that Float and Fly, Outdoor Adventure (with a survivor twist), and Wet and Wild activities.

Evaluations of the experience were conducted. One parent wrote *"I really like seeing science being made fun... Starting young is important! Giving real explanations instead of "It's magic!" is also key in not building misconceptions that have to be broken later. How incredible that there was no charge... Thank you for this awesome, educational experience!"*

Two part-time coordinators and two assistants were hired to deliver the program to more than 250 youth, including activities for the summer long Tiger club program in Tipton. The program was offered at no charge through funding provided by the Cedar County Extension Council.

## County 4-H Endowment Fund established

Through the generosity of the Amos Mohr Family, the Iowa 4-H Foundation now offers a specific fund to receive gifts, bequests or other donations. Proceeds will be used to support the Cedar County 4-H Program as determined by a committee of Cedar County 4-H supporters.

4-H is a **community**  
of **young**  
**people**  
across **America**  
who are learning  
**leadership,**  
**citizenship** and  
**life skills.**



Laura Schroeder explains the science of making bubbles during Summer Discovery.



4-H volunteers check a heifer tattoo during the Cedar County Fair.



#### Cedar County Extension Council

Linda Jacobsen, Tipton, Chair  
Jean Driscoll, Mechanicsville, Vice-Chair  
Rhoda Barnhart, West Branch, Secretary  
Devin Schroeder, Clarence, Treasurer

Mike Boyle, Tipton  
Tim Dolan, Tipton  
Mary Ann Mente, Tipton  
Molly Pelzer, Tipton  
Karen Stueland, Tipton,

## Cedar County Extension brings Iowa State University to you

Iowa State University Extension serves Iowans through six program areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Business and Industry; Communities; Families; 4-H Youth Development; and Continuing Education. Cedar County Extension brings the university to you.

**4-H Clubs Provide Experiences For All Youth** Through participation in 13 4-H Community Clubs, local youth practice leadership and citizenship skills, while learning about a variety of projects including livestock, woodworking, visual arts, clothing, and food and nutrition. More than 250 youth participate in the Cedar County 4-H Program. The annual Cedar County Fair, celebrates and recognizes the year long accomplishments of these youth, which are led by more than 30 adult volunteers.



**Teen Years Ahead Offered In Three School Districts** Twenty-five parents in the North Cedar, Durant, and West Branch school districts attended seven, 2-hour group-based sessions, with one of the sessions for both parents and their children. The *Active Parenting Now* and *Active Parenting of Teens* video-based curriculums were used by a trained facilitator in a group setting. Four areas covered in the series included parent-child communication, setting limits, problem-solving, and quality family time. Funding for this program was secured through a grant received by Families First of Cedar County.

**Child Care Forum Gathers Local Opinions** As a state-wide effort to gather information about child care issues and concerns, Cedar County was selected as one of ten sites in Iowa to host a National Issues Forum on quality child care. Comments gathered from the 19 Cedar County residents will be incorporated into a state-wide report to help decision makers as they develop policies to improve the quality of child care in Iowa. The event was co-sponsored by Families First of Cedar County.



**Ag Programming Keeps Producers Informed** Through ongoing educational programs in pesticide and manure certification, Cedar County producers continue to gain the latest information. Not only do they meet the requirements to apply chemicals and animal waste, but they also are exposed to the latest research from Iowa State University. More than 400 Cedar County producers were contacted through group and one-to-one efforts.

Due to the dry summer, aflatoxin in corn became a major concern with many questions being answered by ISU Extension crops and livestock specialist as producers struggled with the ramifications of the drought.

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**Helping Iowans become their best.**

... and justice for all

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

**Our Mission - ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.**