

Cedar County Extension

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ISU Extension...

...builds for partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.

We believe in...

- Quality
- Access
- Diversity
- Accountability

We are dedicated to...

- Engagement
- Entrepreneurship
- Local Presence



Cedar County Extension Council (left to right): back row – Richard Kleppe; Rhoda Barnhart; Lori Schott; and Linda Jacobsen. Front row – Mary Ann Mente; Karen Stueland; Jean Goldsmith. Absent were Shelly Mohr and Gary Eichhorn.

Iowa State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Vietnam Era Veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 1031 Wallace Road Office Building, Room 101, (515) 294-7612.

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

University Extension

Helping lowans become their best.

Report to the Citizens of Cedar County

December 2002

Cedar County Extension, in partnership with Iowa State University, provides education and information to help the people of Cedar County become the best. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

County Extension Education Director

Cedar County Extension: Helping lowans become their best

Did you know that...

- ...248 youth enrolled in 4-H community clubs with 36 volunteer leaders?
- ...487 youth participated in other types of extension youth programs?
- ...4-H exhibited 826 livestock and 608 non-livestock entries at the fair?
- ...371 livestock and crop producers received re-certification training?
- ...47 commercial pesticide applicators received re-certification credits?
- ...your child care provider likely has received educational training?
- ...“Active Parenting” skills classes offered for parents and grandparents?
- ...extension nutrition educational programs are provided to local groups?
- ...your local extension office is providing reading literacy skills for parents?
- ...the extension office answers requests for horticultural questions?
- ...the budget is governed by a nine-member council of elected citizens?
- ...a youth committee governs the activities of the county 4-H youth program?
- ...bugs and diseases are identified from samples brought into the office?



Forestry Management Workshop.



Youth learn responsibilities by doing.



Learning to lead for a lifetime is a skill.



Extension assists producers with concerns.

**ISU State Extension Expenditures
(2001-2002)**

Federal tax expenditures	10.4%
State tax expenditures	26.9%
Total county expenditures	19.8%
ISU grant expenditures	12.7%
ISU user fee expenditures	8.1%
Volunteer time (estimated)	22.1%

County volunteers had donated 2,500 hours of time valued at \$26,675.08 to the county youth program.

Extension partnerships make things happen...

Technical Assistance Plan, Cedar County Empowerment

Cedar County Extension is managing \$20,902 of Technical Assistance funds for Cedar County Empowerment. Funding has supported a day-long outcome training class, payment for two Cedar County representatives to attend a two-day grant writing workshop, three scholarships for three Cedar County representatives to attend the Iowa State University Extension "Partnering with Parents" institute, board development training workshop and follow-up, workshop series on emerging literacy, and development of a resource library for child care providers. Another significant activity has been observations at three child care centers to develop and implement a quality child care plan. Written reports and other resources were provided to the centers in a consultation with the center director. All of the centers have taken action on recommendations from the report. Other centers in the county are eligible to participate in this on-going program. Many of the ISU Cedar County Families and Communities specialists are involved in the educational presentations.

"Quality of Life" Project

The "Quality of Life" project is designed for family farm operations that would like to have assistance in whole-farm financial management and/or assistance in developing a higher standard of quality of life. The Iowa State University Extension team and Cedar County Extension office provide one-on-one counseling, financial planning assistance, and enterprise recommendations as well as possible referrals to other agencies. ISU staff participating included agriculture field specialists (beef, swine, crops, farm management), family life specialists, county director, and a Finpack associate.

The number of average visits per family was 3.5 times while the average amount of time spent in staff consultation was 31 hours. During this initial year, Cedar County had participation of three families in the program. This program continues to be available by contacting the extension office for an application. The program is at no cost to the families.

Crop Field Visits Analyze Problem Areas

Cedar County had good growing conditions throughout this summer. In spite of this, many field visits to the crop fields were requested to diagnose insect, weed, and disease problems. Seventy-five percent of the field visits were on behalf of dealer requests to provide unbiased analysis for existing concerns in plant growth or disease and insect infestations. In one instance a farmer asked about replanting his soybeans due to hail and bean leaf beetle damage. The crop field specialist responded and saved the farmer a total cost of \$5,800 from unnecessary replanting on his 120 acres. Another impact of extension presence was a corn field that was affected by the weather and it was determined by ISU research and the field specialist recommended not to replant resulting in a savings of \$10,600 for the 160 acres. Replanting would



Making the Best Better



Sometimes plants get beyond control.



Child Care Providers Learn to Be Better.



4-H Begins Fairgrounds 4-H Plaza.



Bennett Clover Kids Exhibit at Fair.

not increase yields at that time. Crop issues in Cedar County in the summer of 2002 included leaf puckering of soybeans, poor soybean stands, compaction, herbicide injury, cercospora leaf spot in soybean, sudden death syndrome in soybean, and bean leaf beetles.

Horticultural Crop Field Visits Analyze Problem Areas

Trees, lawns, gardens, flowers, fruits, shrubs all have in common insect, disease, and growing problems! 134 individuals received on-site visits and/or information through office visits. In addition there were phone calls requesting information be sent to them in regard to their concerns. Problems this year ranged from identification of troublesome insects like borers to leaf eating insects defoliating trees or other plants. Other insect and fungi problems included horsehair fungi to wood eating insects. The usual bats and bee concerns were also popular items. Several insect specimens were sent to ISU Entomology for final identification and control measures.

Better Kid Care Enhances Child Care Providers

Learning to work with children becomes fun through education programs that help to develop new skills. Fifteen child care workers participated in a series of Better Kid Care programs to learn and apply concepts of better child care. The series featured topics such as: Secrets for Preventing Problem Behaviors; Food is More Than Just Eating; Music for the Non-Musical; Using Computers in Child Care; Ups and Downs of Outdoor Play; Child Care for Mixed Ages. The participants attended eight programs from September through June.

Rural Small Acreage Owners

As the population moves into Cedar County often new structures are constructed on small acreages. These people like to enjoy the rural life. ISU Extension provides monthly newsletters regarding the issues of country living including water sources, water quality issues, tree plantings; windbreaks, small acreage fencing, rural leader contacts, septic systems weed control, and small fruit plantings among other topics. Many small acreage owners have signed up for the free small acreage newsletter. This year an ICN program was held on weed control on the small acreage and in the lawns.

Clover Kids Program Provides Activities for the Young

Cedar County has had several programs with Clover Kids after school activities for kindergarten to third grade students. The program is a proven program for children with activities in a non-competitive atmosphere. The Bennett school this past year had a program conducted by Karen Rohlf, Bennett resident, with 14 children participating. The children meet many times after school. The youth use the activities to learn science, art, music and many more activities in their program. As an outcome of the program, the youth have on display at the county fair several of their project activities.

Serving

4-H Youth

Agriculture

Families

Business

Communities

**Continuing
Education**

Your County Extension Office serves YOU by...

Responding to homeowner landscape & housing concerns

Providing pesticide re-certification for commercial and private applicators

Conducting livestock manure management certification

Supporting Cedar County Fair youth activities

Advancing technology Information through county web site

Providing opportunities for County & Government Officials

Supporting agricultural commodity & 4-H youth groups

Helping citizens in making better decisions by providing unbiased and researched information

Publications for specific topics located in your county office

Team of ISU Extension personnel to work on a one-to-one contact.

School curriculum support in technology and the sciences.

Providing volunteer opportunities for communities and leadership

Programs for child care providers and their certification

Parenting skills development as well as grand parenting skills

Information source for legislative and county governmental leaders

Agricultural production planning and management strategies

Assist rural families with the tools to improve their quality of life

Provide youth activities through project development