



### County Extension Staff

Marcia Langner

*County Extension Education Director*

Rhonda Wemark

*Office Manager*

Heather Johnson

*Office Assistant*

Barb Muetzel

*Program Coordinator*

Kathy Day

*County Youth Coordinator*

Jackie Petersen

*Bookkeeper*

Connie Elg

*AmeriCorps Coordinator*

Karen Byers

*Field Specialist/Youth Development*

Jan Burk

*Field Specialist/Family Resource Management*

Jane Goeken

*Field Specialist/Communities*

Paul Kassel

*Extension Field Agronomist*

### Staff Serving Clay County but based in other counties

Dennis DeWitt, *Field Specialist/ Livestock*

Eldon Everhart, *Field Specialist/Horticulture*

Julie Hlas, *Field Specialist/External Relations*

Ron Hook, *Field Specialist/Farm  
Management*

Kris Kohl, *Field Specialist/Ag Engineering*

Chris Mondak, *Field Specialist/Dairy*

Merle Pochop, *Field Specialist/ Business  
and Industry*

Rhonda Rosenboom, *Field Specialist/  
Family Life*

Jerry Weiss, *Field Specialist/ Swine*

Denise Wyland, *Field Specialist/Nutrition*

## Clay County Extension

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*Iowa State University Extension in Clay 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 Clay County a better place to live.*

Gary Johnson

*Extension Council Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Johnson".

Marcia Langner

*County Extension Education Director*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcia Langner".

### Food Safety and Quality Assurance Training



Keeping consumers healthy by producing safe, quality food is what 4-H'ers learn through Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA) Training. This program is designed to help 4-H animal and livestock project members understand their part in the production chain and ultimately produce a quality and safe food product. One hundred thirty five Clay County 4-H'ers obtained

FSQA certification in 2007. Upon completion of a FSQA training in Clay County, 100% of the youth participants responded through evaluation forms that they understand their role as a 4-H member in providing safe, quality foods for consumers.

### Willow Creek Watershed Project



A group of 28 farmers in the Willow Creek watershed met early in 2007 to discuss the impaired status of the creek and indicate interest in working together to improve water quality within the watershed. A segment of Willow Creek, from the mouth of the creek to a tributary four miles southeast of Royal, is listed on Iowa's current EPA impaired waters list. The group expressed interest in initiating a water quality testing program to provide baseline data and to identify water quality

issues farmers and residents can address within the watershed. ISUE Community and Economic Development Specialist Jane Goeken and ISUE Crops Specialist Paul Kassel convened and facilitated the group, and are working with Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District staff to seek a planning grant for the project.



# Iowa State University Extension: In sync with Clay County

## Clay County Extension Council

- Gary Johnson, *Council Chair*
- Troy Leininger, *Council Vice-Chair*
- Mary Hamrick, *Council Treasurer*
- Kathy Anderson, *Council Secretary*
- Lois Benson, *Council Member*
- Ray Foerster, *Council Member*
- Dick Kirksey, *Council Member*
- Jerod Olson, *Council Member*
- Jim Sikora, *Council Member*

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:

- Entrepreneurship assistance
- Community economic development
- Financial literacy
- Fun personal life management skills for youth
- New agricultural enterprises and opportunities
- Natural resources and environmental stewardship



**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.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/info/recruitment.htm>

## Targeted Industries Analysis



ISU Economics Department staff members are currently conducting targeted industrial research and industrial cluster analysis for a region including Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto counties. The 2007 study is designed to help multi-county economic development participants understand the structure of their regional economy and its performance in recent years; discern the competitive and noncompetitive characteristics of their industrial structure and their workforce; and identify import substitution opportunities that might lead to firm recruitment. The Iowa Lakes Corridor is sponsoring the study, which has received funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and is being conducted in cooperation with the Center for Industrial Research and Services (CIRAS).

## 4-H “The Power of Youth” Promotion Project



The Meadow Busy Bees 4-H Club, in collaboration with the City of Spencer, implemented a series of twenty banners along Grand Avenue. The banners, titled “4-H The Power of YOUTH”, received a high degree of visibility during the Clay County Fair and National 4-H Week. The project, under the direction of club leader Nancy Jones and her daughter, Quinn, was the recipient of numerous local and state grants. The remainder of the project costs were covered by donations and fundraising activities initiated by the club. Throughout the course of the project, the Meadow Busy Bees club

members learned the importance of communication, community service, collaboration, all while promoting 4-H in Clay County.

## 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. ISU Alumni, Master Gardeners and 4-H Youth Council members planted perennial shrubs and flowers surrounding the new Clay County Extension signage. The flowers included Red Prince Wegeila (in honor of ISU plant breeder Jack Weigle) as well as yellow daylilies. Sioux Achiever 4-H Club members and volunteers also planted cardinal and gold annual flowers in Westview Memorial

Park. This year’s 4-H Youth Dance included a food drive to benefit Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. Anyone bringing a canned good received a 150-cent discount from the price of admission in honor of the ISU sesquicentennial. The 4-H Youth Council is also donating partial proceeds from the dance, which was attended by nearly eight hundred area youth.