



Photo provided by Judy Hemphill

## For the Citizens of Clay County

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Iowa State University Extension delivers educational opportunities that make life healthier, safer, and more profitable for individuals and communities. Here are a few of the ways ISU Extension in Clay County delivers to citizens.

**Providing Unique Opportunities for Youth at Clay County Fair** ISU Extension offered educational opportunities to over 1000 Northwest Iowa youth. Events such as Ag-Citing, Juried Photography and Consumer Judging, put the 4-H motto of “learning by doing” into practice. Third and fourth graders from 45 classrooms tackled a 261-acre “classroom” to hear, see, touch, and smell Ag-Citing lessons to learn about Iowa agriculture. Some 4-H youth chose to compete in a unique photography contest. Award-winning photos were selected for a display that will be showcased throughout northwest Iowa. Forty-eight youth tested their knowledge of product quality, nutritional value, and price during a consumer judging contest. Delivery of these programs enriches and strengthens the life skills of youth.

**Enhancing Nonprofit Agencies Programs and Services** Twenty-two Northwest Iowa Youth AmeriCorps members served 15 nonprofit agencies, facilitating a variety of after-school programs as well as *Strengthening Families* and *Family Storyteller* programs. AmeriCorps members generated 14,230 volunteer hours, contributed to over 10 service projects, and recruited an additional 401 volunteers during the course of their program year. Members have earned \$34,875.00 in education awards, paid for by the Corporation for National Service. Clay County Extension has a \$141,280 AmeriCorps grant award to continue the program in 2006-07.

**Benefiting Producers via Seminar and Sale** ISU Extension in partnership with local, state, regional and national sheep producer organizations, planned and organized a National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) educational seminar and sale for Western Corn Belt region commercial sheep producers. Over 100 producers from six states gathered in Spencer to learn about the value of Estimated Progeny Differences. A highly successful sale offered producers easy access to a central location to sell and purchase NSIP-ranked rams and ewes. Plans are underway for next year’s program.

*For each dollar Clay County spends for Extension programs, local citizens gain the benefit of \$.39 in federal tax funds; \$.95 in state tax funds; and \$1.63 of volunteer time.*



AmeriCorps member Annie Toeung works with preschoolers on language skills.



Forty-nine Clay County youth participate in 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs.



Local women learn about farm business issues during Annie's Project.



Jane Goeken instructs Clay County precinct election officials.

## Clay County Extension delivers

In Clay County, Iowa State University Extension delivers research-based educational opportunities to manufacturers, families, youth, agribusinesses, and communities to advance Iowa's economy in the following ways:

**Family Literacy Series Inaugurated** Family Storyteller, a six-part family literacy program, was made available for the first time to area families. This program was offered in conjunction with Spencer's Summer Reading Program held at the Spencer Public Library. Preschoolers and parents received books and home activity packets to enhance language and lifelong reading skills.

**4-H Shooting Sports Program Started** Shooting Sports is a 4-H youth development program that utilizes shooting sports disciplines to help young people develop skills and obtain knowledge. Clay County's certified shooting sports instructors adhere to stringent safety regulations and use a prevention education model that strongly emphasizes positive youth-adult interaction and peer leadership. The involvement of 59 parents, grandparents, and other significant adults in the shooting sports program is building long-term caring relationships with youth members.

**Ag Learning Opportunity Targeted at Women** ISU Extension and local agribusinesses sponsored Annie's Project, an agricultural learning opportunity for farm women, at Lakeside Lab near Spirit Lake. Thirty-one participants learned the basics of managing a farm business including financial analysis, risk management, legal issues, government programs and marketing. The program received excellent reviews with many participants indicating that all farm women should have the opportunity to attend.

**Agronomic Research Conducted Locally** Iowa State University and the Clay County Growers worked together on several demonstrations at the Growers plot in 2006. MaxYield Coop of Dickens assisted with a plot that will evaluate the effects of Headline and Warrior on two soybean cyst nematode resistant varieties. Other demonstrations include a corn isolate study where the yield effects of different traits (such as YieldGard rootworm) will be evaluated. Tillage studies include a deep tillage study on corn and a tillage study on soybean that compares deep tillage with no-till.

**Precinct Election Officials Certified** In August, 54 Clay County residents became certified Precinct Election Officials after participating in a six-hour training program presented by Jane Nolan Goeken, ISU Extension community and economic development specialist. The program included training on customer service issues, polling place lay-out, equipment set-up and take-down, use of provisional ballots, serving customers with special needs, and dealing with emergency issues. The PEO certification program was developed by Extension at the request of the Secretary of State's office, and is being delivered throughout Iowa.

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