



## For the Citizens of Clay County

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### **Our Mission**

Iowa State University Extension (ISUE) builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa. We believe in quality, access, diversity, and accountability. We are dedicated to engagement, entrepreneurship, and local presence.

The Clay County Extension Council oversees the delivery of educational programs to area citizens, maintains the county office, manages a \$455,000 annual budget, and employs Extension personnel. 2005 Council members are Kathy Anderson, Lois Benson, Tami Christensen, Gary Johnson, Dick Kirksey, Russ Kress, Troy Leininger, Kaarn McCarty and Jim Sikora.

**Getting Things Done in Northwest Iowa** On September 1, Clay County Extension received a \$189,345 grant from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for a Northwest Iowa Youth AmeriCorps program. Our mission is to expand the capacity of nonprofit agencies to provide a nurturing environment for children. AmeriCorps members gain knowledge of their community, increased leadership skills, and a lifetime commitment to service.

**Serving Manufacturers** CIRAS (Center for Industrial Research and Service) is the ISU technical outreach program for industry in Iowa. The program's focus is helping manufacturing and processing operations become more productive and profitable. Recently, CIRAS Field Specialist Merle Pochop completed root cause analysis training for 70 staff members at Eaton Corporation, Spencer. The program supplements existing in-house training activities and provides a fresh approach. Eaton will use this training to improve productivity of manufacturing and related activities.

**Building a Foundation for the Future** ISU Extension played a key role in establishing the Clay County Community Foundation (CCCF). A fundraising campaign generated \$35,020 in contributions from the county to the new foundation's general endowment fund. Extension staff prepared a successful Endow Iowa grant application, netting a matching \$25,000 award. Goals for the foundation include increasing philanthropic activity and positively impacting quality of life. With the receipt of \$63,000 in November 2005, a grant making process was established for the county's nonprofit organizations to apply for CCCF grants to strengthen their programs and services.

## Clay County Extension brings Iowa State University to you



John Holmes and Paul Kassel, ISUE Crops Specialists, discuss research results



Bob Maurer and Roger Clarke discuss installation of new railing for Auditorium



Youth practice making positive decisions with facilitator, Linda Foerster

Iowa State University Extension serves Iowans through six program areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Business and Industry; Communities and Economic Development; Families; 4-H Youth Development; and Continuing Education.

**Local Research Yields Local Results** Iowa State University Extension, the Clay County Growers Association and Ag Partners of Royal worked together to evaluate some insecticide and fungicide treatments for soybeans. Insecticide treatments for the control of soybean aphid showed a benefit of 6.5 bu/a for Asana and 4.7 bu/a for Lorsban. Fungicide treatments showed a 2.8 bu/a benefit for the application of Headline but not benefit for Quilt. These results will be used at grower meetings during the winter meeting season.

**Renovated 4-H Auditorium Unveiled** Clay County 4-H members, volunteers, and ISU Extension staff assisted fair personnel in remodeling the 1971 facility and financing the improvement. An investment by the Clay County Fair Association and ISU Extension, volunteer labor valued at \$23,846 and contributions from over 200 individuals and businesses resulted in a facility which will serve 4-H, the fair, and the community well for years to come. The air-conditioned, fully accessible facility with new seating hosted 41 educational and entertaining presentations during the 2005 fair.

**4-H Continues to Shape the World** Early Clay County 4-H citizenship projects included conservation efforts, support of World War II home front efforts, and post-war aid to European families. More recent community projects have included: tree planting bees in the mid 1970s to add beauty and shade to the Clay County Fairgrounds; Reins of Hope Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program in 1989; installation of 1,502 E-911 markers in Clay County in 1992; fundraising after the tragedies of September 11, 2001; and volunteer labor to renovate the 4-H Building.

**Parents and Children Learn Together** Spencer Community Schools and Extension, in collaboration with the community, are offering the award winning *Strengthening Families Program* for parents and their youth in sixth and seventh grades. The program has been scientifically evaluated and shown to be effective in building family strengths, strengthening parenting skills, and preventing teen substance abuse and other behavior problems. Families participating in the seven-session program are helping their children have a great future!

For each dollar that Clay County spends for Extension programs, local citizens can gain the benefit of 46 cents in federal tax funds; \$1.03 in state tax funds; and \$1.59 of volunteer time.

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

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