



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 \$432,000 annual budget, and employs Extension personnel. 2004 Council members are Kathy Anderson, Lois Benson, Tami Christensen, Larry Flaharty, Gary Johnson, Dick Kirksey, Russ Kress, Troy Leininger and Kaarn McCarty.

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 Clay County.

Beekeeping in Northwest Iowa. Clay County Extension and the Iowa Honey Producers Association partner to provide beginning beekeeper courses. A 2004 survey of participants shows an establishment of new operations and expansion of existing operations. Beekeeping adds agricultural diversity, provides valuable pollination, introduces local products into the food system, and offers an additional revenue stream for producers.

Extension and Growers work together. ISUE and the Clay County Growers Association cooperated in a tillage comparison study in 2004. Tillage treatments in the fall of 2003 included an in-line ripper (20 inches deep), a v-ripper (10 inches deep) and a fall disc treatment. All plots were field cultivated in the spring. The in-line ripper treatment produced 215.4 bushels per acre. Other treatments produced about 210.0 bushels per acre.

Community collaboration results in remarkable renovation. Generous donations, 640 hours of volunteer time, and valuable expertise from area businesses, 4-H families, and friends allowed the Clay County Fair Association and Extension to give the 4-H exhibit building a welcomed face lift. Thousands of 4-H families and fairgoers benefited from enhanced viewing of exhibits, appreciated increased accessibility, and enjoyed the many comfortable seating and family gathering areas.

Clay County Extension brings Iowa State University to you



Ron Hook shares information at Clay County's Farmland Leasing Meeting.



Clay County residents work to set up a county-wide community foundation.



Members of Clay County Youth Council adopt community flowerbed.

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.

Bringing farm management and marketing information to citizens.

Landlords and tenants needing information to determine fair rental values attend annual farmland leasing meetings. Current data on farm land values, cash rental rates, and a typical cash rent lease are presented each August. Clay County Farm Bureau partnered with Extension to offer a new program opportunity in January of 2004 to assist farmers with grain marketing, a difficult aspect of the farm business. Over thirty area farmers attended Spencer's "Winning the Game" pre-harvest marketing workshop.

County community foundation forming. Clay County residents are working with ISUE to establish a county-wide foundation, in response to a Community Vitality Center study on wealth transfer in Iowa and passage of Iowa House File 2302. The study indicated an average of \$34.4 million in wealth was transferred annually via estates probated in Clay County from 1998 to 2002, and that those numbers are expected to increase in the future. House File 2302 provides gaming revenues annually to Iowa counties that do not have gambling licenses. To access these gaming revenues a county must have a county-wide community foundation in place.

Training food service professionals. Because most foodborne illness can be avoided through safe food-handling practices, ISUE offers ServSafe training for food service professionals. In 2004, 14 individuals from Spencer were trained or took the exam for certification in food safety. In the last two years, Iowa State University Nutrition & Health Field Specialists provided training to over 150 food service employees in the area.

Clay County youth leadership growing. Nineteen high school 4-H'ers joined the Clay County 4-H Youth Council, expanding the council's 2004 membership to 33 youth. These youth leaders use their abilities to enhance the local 4-H program. Leadership development activities are provided to enhance life skills in our leaders of tomorrow.

Serving manufacturers. The ISU Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) is the Extension unit working with business and industry in Iowa. CIRAS representative Merle Pochop works, for example, with Veridian Ltd. of Spencer, a manufacturer of protective clothing for fire fighters. As an ISO 9001 certified company, Veridian Ltd. continuously audits operations for compliance with the ISO quality standard. The company finds it advantageous to use the services of CIRAS to provide that expertise. This project, in its third year, will continue as long as it provides added value for the company.

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... 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.

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