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For the Citizens of Clay County



In 1903 a group of Iowa farmers cooperated with Iowa State to establish the “extension idea” – taking the land-grant college to the people. Today Iowa State University Extension looks forward to being part of a better future for all Iowans in the next 100 years.

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To mark the 100th anniversary of Extension in Iowa, a special reception for fairgoers and friends of Extension was held at the 2003 Clay County Fair. Splendid weather, sites and sounds of county fair, and generous sponsorship by Farmers Trust and Savings Bank, Spencer, set the stage for a grand birthday party. Iowa State University Extension administration and staff, Clay County Extension Council officials, and the county Youth & 4-H Endowment trustees reminded guests that the organization’s objective is as it was 100 years ago; it is the methods and scope of our activities that have changed.

Congratulations to 4-H volunteer Marilyn White of Peterson for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame at the 2003 Iowa State Fair! How fitting to have Marilyn also recognized by 4-H Endowment trustee George Moriarty at the Clay County Fair. Marilyn, throughout her 33 years of dedicated service, has been instrumental in generating enthusiasm and creating positive learning experiences for 4-H youth exhibiting at the fair.

Iowa State University Extension looks forward during the next 100 years to being an integral part of a better future for all Iowans. Agricultural Management E-School (AMES) web courses now allow agricultural producers to study at any time and any place. Digital technology in distance education programs allows our citizens to earn a license as a certified family financial planner. In partnership with Iowa Games and the Iowa Department of Public Health, ISU Extension is reaching 14,000 citizens to combat the Iowa obesity epidemic with Lighten-Up Iowa. Extension will continue to help Northwest Iowa residents connect with the resources of Iowa State University.

For each tax dollar that Clay County spends for Extension programs, local citizens gain the benefit of \$.49 in federal tax funds, \$1.22 in state taxes, and \$1.00 of volunteer time.

Clay County Extension brings Iowa State University to you



Clay County delegates showcase their club's citizenship project at the State Capitol.



Crops Field Specialist Paul Kassel answers questions on soybean aphids at a field day in August.



Area committee leaders learn about the Horizons program at an area showcase.

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. Clay County Extension brings the university to you.

Clay County youth take a step beyond. Youth don't just happen upon area, state, and national youth development opportunities. It takes planning and diligence on the part of youth, club leaders and staff. In 2003 Clay County youth experienced satisfying outcomes from their participation at National Horse Quiz Bowl, 4-H Legislative Day, State 4-H Youth Council, Iowa Horse Fair, American Royal, State 4-H Youth Conference, Iowa State Fair, AK-SAR-BEN, and National 4-H Congress. Providing such opportunities for youth is an important role of Clay County Extension.

Extension responds to pest problems in 2003. Bean leaf beetles presented numerous problems for soybean producers early in the season. In August, soybean aphids presented a new and serious threat to the soybean crop. Extension responded by providing information at field days, in radio reports and e-mail newsletters. Pesticide Continuing Instructional Course meetings helped to create awareness and understanding of these pests.

Manufacturers benefit from auditor services. The ISU Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) assisted Clay County manufacturing activities by supplying internal auditor services in compliance with requirements of ISO 9000 to Veridian Limited of Spencer. These services offer expertise to review a company's activities from an objective view point.

New program on the horizon. Representatives of the Peterson community participated in a Horizons Program Showcase in May, 2003, which was co-sponsored by ISU Extension and the Northwest Area Foundation. The Showcase spotlighted community development tools, and informed eligible communities about Horizons - a new program designed to reverse population and economic decline in small rural communities. Three area communities have been selected as Horizons pilot communities, with ISU Extension to Communities serving as the service delivery organization.

Clay County Extension supports local families. For employees impacted by company downsizings, ISU Extension partnered with Iowa Workforce Development to connect people with resources on stress and budgeting. A two-year collaboration with mental health agencies provided information, education and counseling services to area families. In partnership with school districts, parents learned about programs to enhance family communication and provide safe environments for children.

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