

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## University Extension



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*Get inside Extension and discover how we 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 Iowa County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.*

Russell Collingwood - *Extension Council Chair*

Gene Mohling - *Regional Extension Education Director*

### “Extreme Makeover” – Iowa County Fair Edition

The Greene Go Getters 4-H Club organized two county-wide service project days to help restore the Iowa County Fairgrounds. Over 100 volunteers from nearly every 4-H Club in Iowa County, several parents and community members repainted all nine buildings and the show ring, replaced boards, replaced wire on gates, reinforced rafters on barns, repaired and repainted the wash racks, hung new signs and cleaned out the gutters.

In addition, with the help of the Iowa County Master Gardeners, the group was able to landscape around Zentmire Hall: trimmed trees and shrubs and removed all weeds. The two service days took place on June 13 and 20, 2009.

The “Extreme Makeover” Community Service project was organized by Aaron Ockenfels, Brandt Brenneman, Brock Brenneman and Breanna Asbe. This young group learned many skills as a result of this project including grant writing, fund-raising, volunteer organization, leadership and communication skills.





*Pictured above: Russell Collingwood, Julie Smith, Matt Brenneman, AJ Schnebbe, Dave Volkens. Not pictured: Michael Bott, Sean Wetjen, Brad Glandorf and Joe Semler.*

## Iowa County Extension Council

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:

- Expansion of youth program opportunity
- Service to agricultural commodity interests & production
- Provide support for environmental stewardship & education
- Support of family needs, parenting and resource management
- Nutrition, health and well-being education
- Community development



**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.

... and justice for all

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## Young Cattlemen Project

"I really enjoy hearing from others and seeing what worked for them and how their knowledge can help my operation" was just one of the comments participants provided for what they believe are the most significant benefits from participating in the Young Cattlemen Project.



Participants have also become more active in other Extension programs. Twenty of them are on the email list for the Iowa Beef Center monthly newsletter, five attended the ration balancing workshops, eight attended the cow herd profitability meetings, seven have requested additional individual follow up, and one was a finalist in the Iowa Beef Center Inventor contest.

## Overall Women Conference

Whether you are managing your own farm operation as a business partner, are directly impacted by the farm economy, or just want to learn more about today's agriculture, Overall Women promises invaluable opportunities for rural women to connect, learn, relax and reenergize. About 130 women from Eastern Iowa participated in this year's fifth annual conference held in January.



Over 30 different workshop sessions were offered covering topics such as Farm Business, Value-Added Agriculture, Personal Development, Computers and Technology, and "On the Farm." Some of the popular sessions included value-added agriculture, the future of biofuels and their impact on Midwest agriculture, estate planning, machinery operations and management, and the Ag Decision maker software.

## Economic Development Commission Formed

In early 2009, Iowa County had an 8.5% unemployment rate. This rate was higher than the state average. After much concern, a group of community leaders from Iowa County gathered for several meetings which resulted in the creation of the Iowa County Economic Development Commission. Iowa County Extension played a role in coordinating the effort.



Partners in the Iowa County Economic Development Commission include the cities of Ladora, Marengo, Millersburg, North English, Parnell, Williamsburg, Victor, and the Iowa County Board of Supervisors; Amana Society, and the Iowa County Farm Bureau. The Commission already has a \$25,000 financial commitment from the Iowa County Board of Supervisors and plans to seek additional funds from the public and private sector. The Commission hopes to hire a full-time director in the coming months.