

## 2011 Points of Pride



### County Extension Staff

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*Regional Extension Education Director*

### Boone 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:

- Expanding positive youth development programs such as 4-H
- Agriculture Volatility and Sustainability
- Financial Management
- Environmental Regulations

### ISU Extension in Boone County

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*Get inside Extension and discover how we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension and Outreach meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Boone County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.*

Donna Monson  
*Extension Council Chair*

Rich Wrage  
*Regional Extension Education Director*

### Healthy People

#### Strengthening Families Program Comes to Boone County

The Strengthening Families program was held in Ogden this year. Five area families participated in this parent, youth and family skill-building curriculum, which helps participants build life skills using realistic videos, role playing, discussions, learning games and family projects.

Parents and their children learned how to:

- prevent teen substance abuse and other behavior problems,
- strengthen parenting skills,
- and build family strengths.

Seven sessions were held. The program was co-sponsored by ISU Extension in Boone County and the Ogden Community School District.



In the photo above, Sue Haglund visits with program participants about making a family crest to represent individual family values.

#### Babysitting Course

The annual Babysitter Basics course in Boone County is a long-standing tradition. More than 100 fifth- and sixth-grade students participated in the program, learning new skills they need to have a healthy experience for both themselves and the families they are serving.

## Ready, Set, Retire

The Ready, Set, Retire program assisted 30 adults ages 55+ by connecting them to information needed to prepare for retirement. Workshops were designed to help participants address a variety of questions, including:

- Am I financially prepared for retirement?
- What do I need to know about Medicare and health insurance in retirement?
- I am a veteran. How will that help me in retirement?
- What do I need to do to put my legal affairs in order?

## Reach Out Iowa Service



135 youth in grades 4-12 provided leadership for implementing service learning steps and standards through projects partially funded by a Reach Out Iowa Service Learning federal grant.

Six Boone County 4-H clubs did Extreme Cabin Makeovers (cleaning, painting, repairs, electrical improvements, etc.) on five cabins at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center in Boone County. More than 500 youth used the cabins during the summer camping season.

Other projects included the simulation of a drunk driving crash carried out by 15 Madrid High School students. It demonstrated to 240 students what happens when alcohol is involved and when a classmate dies.

Sixteen Extension Ricochet Middle School leadership program participants planned a “No Texting and Driving Campaign” and had a booth at the Celebrate Families event attended by more than 800 people. Evaluations showed youth learned planning and implementation skills and recipients of the services all agreed that the projects met needs in their communities.

## Healthy Environments

### Friday Crop Focus

Boone was the place to be to hear from top experts regarding some of the newest developments in agriculture, courtesy of ISU Extension and Outreach, Boone County; West Central Cooperative; ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative; the Iowa Corn Promotion Board; and the Iowa Corn Growers Association. This program had record attendance with 50 people on-hand to hear from Roger Elmore, Elwynn Taylor, and Chad Hart regarding production agriculture and risk management tools. This crop fair gave producers direct access to timely information that helped make their operation more profitable and their environment more sustainable.

## Environmental Education for Youth and Adults

Each year, ISU Extension, in partnership with Boone County Conservation and Keep Boone County Beautiful, provides hands-on educational experiences to Boone County second, third, and fourth graders during outdoor classrooms. The spring and fall sessions provide information to more than 400 youth. These sessions help them understand the importance of maintaining a healthy environment for themselves and their world. Also, the Boone County Extension Office hosted a multitude of continuing instruction courses for a

variety of pesticide applicators. More than 200 individuals received up-to-date information from ISU Extension and other partners through the annual recertification program.

## Healthy Economies

### Annie's Project

This educational course for women in agriculture helped 24 female farmers in the central Iowa area improve their farm management skills. The six-week course educated and empowered them to be economically sustainable farmers.



## Ogden Ag Marketing Club

Fifty people learned how to better manage risk and include it in their grain marketing strategy at Steve Johnson's program on the new Common Crop Insurance Policy.

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

October 2011

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach