

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



Buchanan County 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 Buchanan County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Dan Cohen
Extension Council Chair

Bruce Bearinger
County Extension Education Director

Buchanan County Extension provides program leadership and information for:

- Ag & Natural Resources
- 4-H & Youth
- Communities & Economic Development
- Families
- Business & Industry
- Continuing Education

County Extension Staff

Bruce Bearinger
 County Extension Education Director

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 County Youth Coordinator

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 Office Assistant/Bookkeeper

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 Consumer Horticulturist

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Craig Chase, *Ag: Farm Management*

Brian Lang, *Ag: Crops*

Erin Ludwig, *Families Resource Management*

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Sandy Scholl, *Community Resource*

Mark Storlie, *Ag: Swine*

Mary TeWinkel, *Regional Youth*

Dale Thoreson, *Beef Management*

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HORIZONS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TO REDUCE POVERTY

Horizons Program addresses poverty in Hazleton and Lamont

Hazleton and Lamont were selected to participate in an 18-month Horizons program beginning in September 2008. Horizons is a community leadership program aimed at reducing poverty in small rural communities. This program brings training and resources to each community and is offered by ISU Extension through a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation.

In the fall of 2008, six members from each community were trained to facilitate a study circle on poverty and prosperity. These study circles helped community members gain a better understanding of poverty and developed ideas to reduce it.

Over 30 people from each community participated. With the completion of the study circles an action forum took place, giving participants an opportunity to share their ideas for reducing poverty and then prioritize them.

During the summer of 2009, the communities continued through the visioning phase of Horizons and each community developed an action plan. Momentum is growing as each community is building skills, involving more people, and becoming increasingly strategic in their plans to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life.



October 2009



Seated: Toni Powell, Michelle Mangrich, Diane Shonka, Jayne Clampitt. Standing: Paul Short, Brian Meyer, Bill Versluis, Dan Cohen. Not pictured: Steve Copenhaver.

Buchanan 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:

- The bio-economy
- Surveying stakeholder needs
- Increasing 4-H numbers
- Expanding partnerships



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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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Gardening Symposium continues to Grow

The 3rd Annual Buchanan County Master Gardener Symposium was held on Feb. 21st. The day-long program featured a 'little something for all gardeners'. Each speaker was limited to one hour and then a break-out session during the noon luncheon. The Buchanan County Extension Office and the Master Gardeners program helped in all phases of promoting and finding the knowledgeable speakers. Proceeds will help offset costs for those interested in becoming a Master Gardener. The event also benefits local libraries, the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce, and other projects throughout the year.

Fifth Graders connect with nature at Environmental Field Day

Buchanan County Extension partnered with Fontana Nature Center to bring the annual 5th Grade Environmental Field Day to area schools in September. This event taught over 300 students about nature



and how they can enjoy it from day to day. Over 40 adults and FFA members volunteered their time to educate the students, from nine different schools, during the day.

After School Program reaches students

The Buchanan County Clover Kids After School Program has reached nearly 45 students in the Jesup and Independence School Districts this past year. During the fall sessions, participants helped solve some mysteries about the United States, word puzzles, and their hometowns. For the spring sessions, participants learned all about the space shuttle, the planet, and the astronauts.



Master Conservationist classes held in the spring

The Buchanan County Conservation Board, in partnership with ISU Extension, held a series of Master Conservationist classes at Fontana Park Nature Center in the spring of 2009. Participants who attended 32 hours of instruction and completed 32 volunteer hours were certified through ISU as Master Conservationists. To date, seven participants have completed all requirements and have been certified in Buchanan County. Topics covered during the training included: the importance of prairies, sustainable landscapes, frog and toad surveys, invasive species, explore your wild neighborhoods, being a citizen scientist, forest ecology and management, living off the grid, and a field day.

Budgeting Basics taught in Tough Times

With jobs being cut or hours reduced, people still suffering from natural disasters and the increase in food prices, family budgets are being stretched. For families already living paycheck to paycheck, the additional costs are having serious consequences.

A "Budgeting Basics" program was held in Independence twice with 28 people participating. The open enrollment program was sponsored by local banks and taught participants how to manage their personal finances including ways to manage credit, save money, and track their expenses.

Fifteen Iowa Family Alliance Staff from throughout Northeast Iowa attended a regional staff training on "Budgeting Basics" in Oelwein. They plan to use the resources and skills gained in their own lives as well as with the clientele they serve.