

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
By Rod Hamer
Grundy County Extension Transition Coordinator
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Iowa State University Extension is ALIVE and WELL in Grundy County. We look forward to serving the citizens of the county with educational programs with the same commitment and renewed effort. There have been some changes in the structure of Extension, but the desire and effort to be able to serve as a place which provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Grundy County is as strong as ever.

I would like to take time in this first column to explain some of the changes that have occurred this fall and plans for the future that the County Extension Council are considering.

Extension strategically restructured the organization to meet financial realities, create a flexible, dynamic organization. The ISU Extension will use available resources to address complex issues that face citizens of this state and this county. The plan will:

- Engage research and staff across disciplines to address complex issues
- Increase local control of county property taxes allocated for Extension
- Reduce Extension administrative costs.

I would like to share an example of how these changes have played out in this county in recent months. Bill Arndorfer former Grundy County Extension Education Director (CEED), now Program Specialist in crop production is working with colleagues at Iowa State to conduct research on grain quality in hail damaged areas. Bill will be presenting the results of that project at the Grundy Center Community Center on January 7, 2010.

The local control example is the Extension Council budgeted \$ 44219 for the Partnership with ISU to provide the CEED position and other direct services. Fiscal year 2011 the cost will be \$2013. The Council is currently deciding how to use those savings to deliver the best programs to this county. Finally Extension is reducing administrative costs by employing Regional Extension Education Directors (REED) in twenty regions compared to 100 county offices having a Director and Five Area Directors. Grundy County is Part of Region 9 which include; Butler; Bremer; Buchanan; Tama and Black Hawk Counties. Al Ricks is the REED for region 9.

I know the Grundy County Extension Council appreciates your understanding and patience as they work hard to make decisions to delivery the best quality Extension programs possible. The following are the elected council members: Ryan Bakker, Steamboat Rock; Matt Buttjer, Aplington; Diane Haupt, Wellsburg; Glenn Johnson, Parkersburg; Janelle Koenigsfeld, Reinbeck; Linda McMMartin, Grundy Center; Bonnie Shinn, Reinbeck; Nathan Stewart, Dike and Christine Tobias, Conrad. Your input as to program needs can be made to the office in Grundy Center or to any council member.