

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
By Bill Arndorfer
Grundy County Extension Education Director
December 10, 2004

Where do you go to get answers to your home and family questions? Is it the neighbor next door, a relative or a friend? Whoever it is, are you sure they have accurate information or are they just sharing an old wife's tale? To be sure the answers you get are accurate, I would recommend you contact the AnswerLine from Iowa State University Extension. You can be assured of the answer you get from the AnswerLine because it is research based and not based on someone's opinion.

Professional home economists answer questions in the area of child development, cleaning, consumer management, food preparation, food preservation, food safety, home environment, household equipment, nutrition, textiles and laundry. Some of the questions that you will find answered on the website are: What is the cost of raising a child? How do I know if I have mold growing in my home and how do I get rid of it? What is the best way to thaw a turkey? Can salsa be canned? What is the difference in the various types of furnace filters? What can I do to remove an odor from the microwave? What is the best temperature setting for a home freezer? How can I identify the foods that have cholesterol? How can catsup be removed from clothing?

For the past twenty five years or so, questions like these have been answered through a toll-free phone service. The toll free number is: 1-800-262-3804 and is answered Monday through Friday from 9:00 am -12:00 noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. A Relay

Iowa line (phone linkage for deaf and hard of hearing individuals) is available at 1-800-735-2942.

You can find answers to frequently asked questions like the ones listed above twenty four hours a day, seven days a week on the web: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/answerline/>.

When you reach the website you can search by keyword, topic area or by browsing the keyword index to find the answers to your questions.

Questions related to yard and garden, insects, wildlife and wildlife publications are additional resources that are accessible from Iowa State University Extension's AnswerLine. I check the AnswerLine website from time to time to come up with topic ideas for this column. If you are looking for answers, start with the AnswerLine. For information about other topics, contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979.