



Report to the Citizens of Polk County

December 2002

Polk County Extension, in partnership with Iowa State University, provides education and information to help the people of Polk County become the best. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

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Visit the web site for a detailed report of ISU Extension Polk County activities in 2002.
www.extension.iastate.edu/polk

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
University Extension

Helping Iowans become their best.

Our Mission

Iowa State University Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities improving quality of life in Iowa. We believe in quality, access, diversity, and accountability.

Iowa State University Extension Polk County carries out this mission in many ways.

Partnerships

Extension partners with more than 40 different public and private agencies to develop and implement programs for Polk County Citizens. A complete list of partnership is included in our annual report available on line at www.extension.iastate.edu/polk

Improving the Quality of Life for Youth:

- John R. Grubb YMCA – Extension staff serves on board of directors and conducts many youth programs at the Y facility.
- Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Board – Extension staff serves as advisors and cooperates in the county fair operations.

Improving the Quality of Life for Communities:

- Citizen-Initiated Performance Assessment (CIPA) – Extension staff works with three Polk County cities (Des Moines, Clive, and Johnston) enrolling citizens to develop measures for government effectiveness.

Improving the Quality of Life for Agriculture:

- Commodity Groups and Cooperatives – Extension staff facilitates staff training for commodity groups and cooperatives and works with them to co-sponsor farm education programs.

Improving the Quality of Life for Healthy Citizens:

- Healthy Polk 2010 – An Extension Specialist serves as chair of the committee and works to integrate health programs into state-wide Extension programs using Polk County as a model.

ISU Polk County Extension Believes in Quality, Access, Diversity and Accountability.

Quality

Iowa State University Extension programs bring the research-base of the university to the people of Polk County.

- **Strengthening Families and Celebrating Families** –Programs that teach skills to both parents and their children. The curriculum is based on research done at Iowa State University and is recognized nationally for its proven effectiveness in family development.



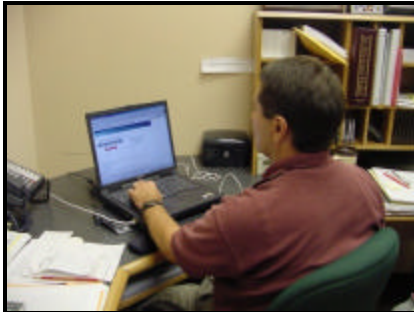
Extension staff member Lois Wiesley teaching skills on family communications to parents.

Access

Citizens of Polk County have access to scheduled Extension programs at many sites throughout the county. Senior citizen centers, public schools, public libraries, neighborhood groups, farmer cooperatives and commodity groups are only a few Extension contact points.

Information is accessible through a variety of means that Extension provides: individual meetings, newsletters, volunteer training programs, club meetings, media, the Internet and more.

- Agriculture programs have led the way in using the Internet to reach people all over the state.
- The Polk County Extension web site averages 146 visits per day with an average stay of nearly ten minutes, totaling 22 hours of contact with clients per day.



Extension staff member Steve Johnson teaches an Extension course on Grain Marketing via the Internet.

Diversity

- Programs reaching the most diverse audiences are 4-H Special Projects (29% of participants are of minority origin) and our Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (37% participants are of minority origin).

Accountability

- Programming focus is on identified needs of the county and state – economic viability, government education, leadership development, increasing the strengths of families and youth to prevent problems and promote healthy lifestyles.
- More than 10% of all (K-12) youth in Polk County have contact with 4-H staff and curricula. Few other organizations are able to reach that high percentage of youth.
- More than 11,000 citizens contact or visit the Polk County office and, through combined programs, Extension has reached more than 16,000 citizens this past year.
- Upon evaluation, participants show a positive change in behaviors, ranging from being a better parent, saving money, eating healthier foods and using better management practices that can directly be attributed to Extension programs.



Extension staff teaches youth at the Grubb YMCA engineering concepts by building model bridges.

Polk Co. Extension District Expenditures (FYE-02)

District Tax	64%
Grant Dollars	18%
Fee Dollars	18%
Total Dollars	100%

Plus
Volunteer time (estimated)----22%

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.