



For the Citizens of Polk County



In 1903 a group of Iowa farmers cooperated with Iowa State to establish the “extension idea” – taking the land-grant college to the people. Today Iowa State University Extension looks forward to being part of a better future for all Iowans in the next 100 years. Here are a few examples of ISU Extension at work in Polk County.

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Staff Housed in Polk County Office

Agriculture

- Steve Johnson, Farm/Ag Business Mgmt
- Mary Ann deVries, Horticulture

Communities

- Norman Riggs, Field Specialist

Families

- Sharon Mays, Family Life
- Susan Klein, Nutrition and Health
- Cindy Jones, Health Screening
- Kimberly Myers, EFNEP
- Cheryl Jarvis, EFNEP
- Kathy Dysart, EFNEP
- Marietta Kennedy, EFNEP
- Sabrina Shields-Cook, EFNEP

4-H and Youth

- Ann Pisarik, Field Specialist
- Martha McCormick, Field Specialist
- Andrea Nelson, County Youth Coordinator
- Eric Martin, 4-H Program Specialist
- Marc Peterson, 4-H Program Specialist
- Dianne Lane, 4-H Program Assistant
- Filice Williams, 4-H Program Assistant
- Jayce Hall, 4-H Program Assistant
- Lois Wiesley, 4-H Program Assistant

Farm bill education – Approximately 150 producers, landowners and agribusiness professionals learned about the 2002 federal farm bill and the economic implications of their own decisions about base acres and yield at local workshops. Steve Johnson, an Extension farm and ag business management specialist, collaborated with USDA Farm Service Agency, Polk County Farm Bureau, and Des Moines Area Community College to offer this program.

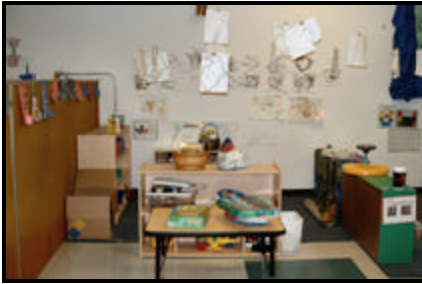
Serve Safe – Diners at restaurants and other establishments in Polk County are more likely to be eating safe food thanks to Serve Safe training offered by Extension in cooperation with the Iowa Hospitality Association. Susan Klein, an Extension nutrition and health specialist, conducted Serve Safe training and certification monthly, educating 195 food service professionals about food safety and the prevention of food-borne illness.

Citizen-Initiated Performance Assessment (CIPA) – Polk County citizens in Clive, Des Moines, Johnston and Urbandale helped local city leaders identify neighborhood problems and prioritize services. This collaboration stemmed from a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation that created a process to get citizens involved in local city government. Norman Riggs, an Extension communities specialist, guided the cities in incorporating the citizen-recommended measures into city policies and budgets.

Polk County 4-H – One in every 10 Polk County youth learned life skills by participating in 4-H and Clover Kids (40 clubs), after school or summer camps (96 camps), and school enrichment programs (152 programs). Activities and programs, led by 130 adult volunteers and staff, included the Polk County Fair, Challenge for Healthy Relationships, the Power of Youth, and City Scan. Ann Pisarik and Martha McCormick, Extension 4-H and youth specialists, led Polk County's programs.



Outback 4-H day campers in Ankeny played kangaroo sack races as one activity to learn about Australia.



ISU Extension to Families staff used research-based criteria to observe selected child care centers in Polk County to help them improve their services.



“100 years of Extension” was the theme of the Master Gardener float for the Iowa State Fair Parade. Polk County Master Gardeners used their Discovery Garden to educate fairgoers about landscape and gardening.

Polk County Extension Support Staff

- Brenda Thompson, Bookkeeper
- Emily Archer, Customer Service
- Laura MacManus, Ag and Nutrition
- Mary Watson, 4-H and Youth
- Stacey Peterson, Family Life

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Polk County Extension brings Iowa State University to you

Iowa State University Extension serves Iowans through six program areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Business and Industry, Communities, Families, 4-H Youth Development, and Continuing Education. Polk County Extension brings the university to you.

Quality Child Care – Polk County children are benefiting from local efforts to help child care centers improve their services. Data from a Midwest Child Care Survey showed Iowa falling behind Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas in the number of quality settings for infant, toddler and preschool care. Sharon Mays, an Extension family life specialist, observed several local centers and helped identify areas for improvement. Workers at these child care centers are now developing plans to maintain and improve their facilities.

Strengthening Families – Adjudicated youth and their families who attended a 7-week Strengthening Families class learned better communication skills. Teen comments are:

- “The one most important piece of information I am taking home with me is that I need to always be respectful to my parents, they deserve nothing less.”
- “I really learned how to LISTEN and TALK with my parents a lot better – even though I only live with one of them.”

Polk County Government Survey – The Polk County Board of Supervisors used Extension’s CD-Dial (Community Development-Data Information and Analysis Laboratory) program to assess citizen satisfaction with county departments and services. The data was collected through a survey mailed to random county residents. The supervisors and department heads will use this information as they make decisions about county government.

City Scan – Some Des Moines neighborhoods will see improvements as a result of neighborhood scanning conducted by youth in Extension 4-H programs. Four neighborhoods were assessed: New Vision, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Mondamin Presidential, and Capitol East. Using handheld computers, the youth collected data and documented conditions related to abandoned buildings/property, sewers/drains, dumping, litter, and sidewalks. With this technology and City Scan software, they downloaded, compiled, and organized the data in reports tailored to the neighborhoods. The Annie E. Casey Foundation funded this project.

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... and justice for all

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating 12/03

Our Mission - ISU Extension builds partnerships and provides research-based learning opportunities to improve quality of life in Iowa.