



Polk County Extension Council

Jane Flanagan, West Des Moines
Carol Zeigler, West Des Moines
Jaime Naig, Des Moines
Tim McCarthy, West Des Moines
Jeannie Tatro, Altoona
Patricia Tice, West Des Moines
Steve Noah, West Des Moines
Evan Stadlman, Ankeny

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:

- Growing 4-H Youth Development Programs
- Expanding Horticulture Education
- Rural/Urban Communication and Relationships
- Healthy Iowans
- Quality Child Care
- Afterschool Programming

Polk County Extension

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Iowa State University Extension in Polk County provides relevant programs that 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 Warren County a better place to live.

Jeannie Tatro
Extension Council Chair

Jeanine Baldwin
County Extension Education Director

Improving the Health of Polk County Residents



ISU Extension in Polk County provides nutrition education to more than 3,000 low income youth annually and works with 75 local teachers to enhance the quality of physical education classes for 16,000 students. At the other end of the age spectrum, 390 Polk County women who have been identified as having at least one risk factor for heart disease and are underinsured have been part of a six-month program on how to take control of their heart health. ISU Extension is also making a difference through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP), which last year alone provided more than 300 families education on making positive nutrition choices. EFNEP also stresses the importance of physical activity and shares innovative ways to shop smarter and save money.

Improving our Families and Communities



Through 4-H ISU Extension is providing safe, caring learning environments for 39 clubs with 569 members in every community in the county. Members and volunteer leaders spent over 10,000 hours improving their communities through service projects this past year. Engaged youths are critical to the success of our community. A key area ISU Extension is providing leadership in providing afterschool boys and girls programming. These programs provide healthy environments at 33 sites to more than 480 school age students between the hours of 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Polk County Extension Staff

Jeanine Baldwin, County Extension
Education Director

Andrea Nelson, County Youth Coordinator

Virginia Hunnell, Horticulture Education

Melissa O'Neil, Adventure Coordinator

Mary Farlow, Customer Service

Katie Hyde, 4-H Coordinator

Diana Sosalla, Volunteer Coordinator

Barbara LeTourneau, Finance Manager

Amy Marek, Office Assistant

Field Specialists

Steve Johnson, Farm Management

Susan Klein, Nutrition and Health

Sharon Mays, Family Life

Aaron Saeugling, Agronomist

Marc Peterson, Youth Development

Myra Royal, Family Life

Kapil Arora, Agricultural Engineering

Margaret Van Ginkel, Family Life

Beth Fleming, Family Life

Ruth Freeman, Family Life

Joe Sellers, Livestock

Jeff Macomber, Youth Development

Mike White, Viticulture

Frank Owens, Communities

Terry Steinhart, Swine

Program Personnel

Beth Mensing, 4-H

Lois Wiesley, 4-H

Filice Williams, 4-H

Terrance Hill, 4-H

Mary Kay Dial, Nurse Coordinator

Christa Hanson, Nutrition Educator

Stacia Sanny, EFNEP Supervisor

Karen Grimes, EFNEP Program Assistant

Raquel Juarez, EFNEP Program Assistant

Mary Anderson, EFNEP Program Assistant

Julieta Garcia, EFNEP Program Assistant

Annie Wierson, EFNEP Program Assistant



**We connect you to
Iowa State University.**

We are your local link to make connections for campus enrollment, continuing education, campus visits, campus exhibits, conferences, camps, and sporting events.

Iowa State University Extension: In sync with Polk County

Healthy Lives and Economies



Accessible, affordable, quality childcare is critical to a region's economy. ISU Extension has helped 119 family home care providers and center directors master the Environment Rating Scales for self-assessment and program improvement. ISU Extension's New Staff Orientation program has reached 122 directors and their 2,777 staff who serve more than 18,000 children in

Polk County. ServSafe Food Safety Certification is a program which child or adult care center staffs and restaurant workers in Polk County attend to learn about food safety and the prevention of food-borne illness. Offered monthly in conjunction with the Iowa Hospitality Association, ServSafe training was provided to 231 food service professionals and food handlers.

Sharing Environmental Research



More than 200 state, city and county engineers, storm water managers and planning and zoning staff, road and park employees along with another 100 employees and owners of private landscaping businesses rely on ISU Extension for training programs on pesticide application and RUSLE2

(Revised Soil Loss Equation). From spraying roadsides, public areas and golf courses for invasive weeds; to spraying communities for mosquito control; to managing soil loss from construction sites; ISU Extension is a valued provider to both government and the private sector.

Service Project Commemorates Iowa State University's 150 Years



ISU Extension initiated community service projects in every county to celebrate Iowa State University's 150 years serving Iowans. Iowa State University Alumni, 4-H'ers, State Council Members, Polk County Extension Council Members and Staff celebrated our university's birthday with all of Iowa in the 2007 Iowa State Fair Parade. The ISU

Alumni Band and the banner bearers let watchers along the parade route know ahead of time that the ISU Float was coming. Even Cy was there for the big event!