



## ISU Extension in Bremer County

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*ISU Extension and Outreach provides educational opportunities for economic development, food and the environment, health and well-being, and K-12 youth outreach. We meet local needs, so Bremer County can be an even better place for the next generation.*

Rick Laures  
Extension Council Chair

Ron Lenth  
Bremer ISU Extension Coordinator

## County Extension Staff

Ron Lenth  
County Extension Coordinator  
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Youth & Family Program Coordinator  
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Extension Council Members:  
Rick Laures, Chair  
Kevin Brandt, Vice-Chair  
Mary Beth Zelle, Secretary  
Nancy Foelske, Treasurer  
Dave Drape  
Kenny Hennings  
Audrey Klamfoth  
Mark Lenius  
Tom Sickles

## K-12 Youth Outreach

### Bremer County 4-H

Bremer County 4-H is a vibrant program that offers specialty clubs, traditional clubs workshops, county wide events for families, and creating partners with Bremer County Community entities. Where you can see Bremer County 4-H programs in action:

- Annual Omelet Breakfast
- After School Programs
- Annual Farm Safety Day
- STEM programs
- Bremer County Fair
- Awards Banquet
- Day Camps
- Multiple county wide workshops to help educate the youth of Bremer County!

Good habits begin when we are young. Bremer 4-H provides all youth with projects to help educate, build confidence and nurture relationships that last a lifetime. Bremer County has 13 clubs with 300 members in grades 4-12 and a strong Clovers program of 110 in grades K-3.



## Health and Well Being

Rural and urban Bremer County citizens and neighboring areas benefitted from our various programs and projects which include:

- ❖ Our Waverly Community Garden yielded 3,271 pounds of fresh, healthy vegetables which was donated to area church meal sites and food banks. That makes over 14,000 pounds the last four years. We were highlighted on Iowa Public TV, which featured our garden and benefactors. We also helped Bremwood plant their school garden.
- ❖ Serve on the Waverly Food Secure Network committee, plus the Northern Iowa Food and Farm Partnership.
- ❖ Hosted over 300 Bremer County 4th graders at our Progressive Ag Safety Day. Partnered with Farm Bureau to show safety methods around the home and farm.
- ❖ Conducted classes on radon detection and the Emerald Ash Borer.

## Food and Environment

Our key efforts to protect our valuable resources and environment, plus promote food productivity involve:

- ❖ Installed, managed, and tested Bremer County's only denitrifying bioreactor. Our 2015 tests yielded a reduction of 62% in tile water-borne nitrates from entering an area stream. This was shared with area farmers and conservation minded folks at our August field day. We plan to continue this test in future years.
- ❖ Serving on county SWDC board and two watershed management authority groups (Cedar and Wapsie), plus sample area streams.
- ❖ For the sixth year, provided fall cornstalk nitrate sampling for over 60 fields to aid in nutrient management and inputs.
- ❖ Partners in Bremer Corn and Soybean test plot where we compared 77 varieties from 14 seed companies.
- ❖ Hosted Pesticide Applicator Training for over 170 farmers
- ❖ Hosted over 200 for program on Farm Bill
- ❖ Educational programs for swine, dairy, crops, farmland leasing, and

estate planning.

- ❖ Designed and manned Extension booth for Hawkeye Farm Show. Over 15,000 attended and our booth featured cover crops and bioreactors.

## Economic Development

ISU Extension has a wealth of materials and services to benefit large and small communities to grow and provide quality of life benefits. Local projects our office has been involved with include:

- ❖ Since 2010 we have been working with the City of Tripoli on their Community Visioning project, which has produced a new bike/walk trail (building in 2016), two new parks, street improvements, downtown image and community involvements.
- ❖ Co-chairing the Marketing Tripoli committee to welcome new citizens
- ❖ Waverly Trees Forever committee to plant more trees.
- ❖ Weekly extension radio program on KWAY on many topics
- ❖ Active in Bremer Barn Quilt program which now numbers over 75, plus developed tour map.



... and justice for all

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