

## Health Screenings Becoming a Tradition – Saving Lives

The Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference has been happening in Southeast Iowa the past 37 years. The conference presents valuable management topics, new technological advances and available cow/calf services to producers. The conference draws over 650 attendees from over 50 Iowa counties and 6 to 7 surrounding states as well as 70+ exhibitors.

The event is co-sponsored by ISU Extension and participating ag businesses and supported by a vast network of community volunteers. For the past five years ISU Extension has worked with Public Health volunteers to offer free health screenings at the event. Services offered have ranged from blood pressure checks, rapid diabetes checks, complete lipid panel, total cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL and HDL. These tests have been made possible by the generous support of community donors.



Attendees have begun to recognize and seek out these services and participation grows substantially each year. At this year's event over 70 blood screenings were performed, until the screening kit supply was exhausted, 50% tested had elevated cholesterol and triglycerides. Over 125 blood pressure checks were completed; of these checks over 25% were abnormal. These individuals are referred to their health care providers to receive follow-up care. This clientele - farmers and producers - have reported they wouldn't normally have sought out this treatment on their own and having the screenings at a venue they are attending is not only convenient, but potentially life-saving.

"It is great that ISU Extension offers this service at this event, I wouldn't have done this otherwise and you need to know. I plan to make a follow-up appointment as a result of this screening."

**Screening participant**

For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Wapello Office at 641-682-5491. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu).

March 2008

... 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.

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