

Extension Partners Provide Teacher's Ag. Academy

Dickinson County Extension partnered with Farm Bureau, the Soil & Water Conservation District, and the DNR to provide the 4th Annual Teacher's Ag Academy. The goal was to equip teachers with resources for their classrooms, provide continuing education units, and share creative ways to infuse agriculture into their curriculum.

"A total of 22 teachers, aides, and guidance counselors participated in a 3-day workshop to learn about the importance of agriculture and classroom connection opportunities," remarked Karen Byers, ISU Extension Youth Field Specialist.

The first day consisted of a curriculum showcase by ISU Specialist and curriculum developer, Janet Toering. She provided hands-on training with three sets of curricula. Participants were given a choice of one of these curricula and four children's books to keep for their classroom.

The second day provided an opportunity for participants to hear from a variety of speakers, such as a local teacher infusing ag. curriculum into her classroom; an ISU Ag. Professor sharing about career pathways and opportunities for students; an ISU Youth Specialist sharing about "Ag-Citing" at the Clay County Fair; and more.

The third day offered a bus tour throughout the county to various livestock operations, an Iowa winery and buffalo farm, an ethanol plant, and several environmental stops.

"Not only do I have more background (first hand) information, but I have resources to use in the classroom," commented one teacher. "Hopefully, this training will allow more hands-on student centered activities to teach our standards/benchmarks," stated another.



*Amy Stover
playing the role
of a flower in a
classroom skit.*

"Your leadership team did a great job leading our Life on the Farm Class!!! It was fun and well worth our 3-days time," commented Amy Stover, teacher and ag. academy participant.

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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Dickinson County Extension Office at 712-336-3488. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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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.