ISU Extension in Monona 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 Monona County can be an even better place for the next generation.

Bob Haack
Extension Council Chair

Sherri McGill
Regional Director

Economic Development
Land Lease/2015 Farm Bill Seminars helping farmers
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach works to bring unbiased information to landowners, renters and lenders to help make successful management decisions. Shane Ellis, ISU Extension Farm Management Specialist, provided land lease and Farm Bill programs. At the Farmland Leasing and Valuation Workshop, Ellis discussed current land values, rental rates, trends and projections of how values and rents might change in the coming years as well as how to calculate a rental rate based on county specific information, the variety of leasing arrangements that land owners and tenants may use, and the expected cost of crop production in the coming year.

Meetings in Onawa and Mapleton were well attended to help landowners and operators make decisions and understand rules for the Farm Bill election and enrollment process.

Ag Decision Maker is an agricultural and business website through ISU Extension and Outreach that provides current and valuable information and may be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

Health and Well Being
Human Sciences Extension and Outreach reaches out to families across the lifespan. LIFE (Living well through Intergenerational Fitness & Exercise) goes on in Mapleton. Three new high school youth trainers led the ISUEO eight week low-

County Extension Staff
Cheri Hardison
County Program Educator

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County Youth Coordinator

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Monona County Extension Council
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.

Lisa Bruning  Sandy Bubke
Bob Haack  Leland Hathaway
Brian Hobbs  Laura Neldenberg
Norman Parker  Sandy Smith
Cheryl Warner

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K-12 Youth Outreach
intensity physical activity program for adults age 60+. Also supporting intergenerational relationships, Extension and Area Agency on Aging staff led high school seniors through an aging simulation training. Education and information was provided to families and parents through Headstart stress management and family meal planning workshops, child care provider nutrition training, and community health fair events.

**Food and Environment**

Monona County Extension partnered with ISU College of Design and College of Human Sciences through Flavors of NW Iowa in The Rising Star Internship Program. The summer interns focused on regional foods through local food demos at many locations in the county. They utilized the Eat Smart, Spend Smart ISUEO website as a valuable resource for family food planning, shopping and eating. [www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/foodsavings)

**K-12 Youth Outreach**

A special program funded by the Community Partnership for Protecting Children Neighborhood Networks was coordinated by Monona County Extension in partnership with other community professionals. It was designed to bring families and neighbors together to safely use technology to be better connected in the community and better educated to utilize tools and software for better living. The program started with a family fall festival, followed by on-line educational sessions and ended with a spring celebration.

**Youth Led Livestock Workshop**

Youth leaders of the Monona County 4-H Council helped to organize a hands-on livestock workshop at the Monona County Fairgrounds in May. Livestock were brought to the fairgrounds. County Council 4-H members lead educational sessions with the assistance of Livestock Superintendents. Topics included showmanship, grooming, handling and more. Monona County Extension partnered with Monona County Environmental Health to present information about Avian Influenza. Over 40 youth attended with support from parents and families (over 70 total attendees). The hands-on workshop was held in conjunction with the annual FSQA training.

**Monona County 4-H Endowment Supports the 4-H Program in Many Ways**

Established in 1999 with the priority of the program in recognizing youth who have been active, the 4-H Endowment committee which consists of 8 members, works hard to replenish the funds throughout the year with fundraisers. The Endowment pays a portion of the annual enrollment fee for every member in 4-H in the county as well as individual financial assistance for those in need for additional help with enrollment, Iowa 4-H summer camps or Iowa conferences. Funds also support our special interest clubs for supplies. For the past 17 years, the Endowment has supported 141 senior 4-H members with scholarships when graduating to further their education totaling $33,300.

Funds have been generated through events such as the silent auction during the county fair, golf tournaments, and selling food at various events.

**4-H President’s Day Camp**

For the past 2 years there has been a camp held at Mapleton for Kindergarten through 4th grade using Pint Size Science materials encouraging youth to be engineers, scientists or going into the technology field when they grow up. We have had 25 plus participants every year and hope to continue for coming years. What a better way to use a day out of school than showing youth how to use Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Activities have included seeing chemical reactions such as food coloring in milk and what happens when dish soap is added. Experiencing weather, learning about properties of energy, seeing how a tornado forms, how clouds are formed, and making and feeling insta-snow are other activities. Other hands-on learning includes what a circuit is in electricity and discovering what the 6 simple machines are and how they make our lives easier.

Quality research-based programming with hands-on learning has kept the interest of 4-H members to continue being an active part of the Monona County 4-H family.