8 Things You Need to Know on ‘Day One’

1. **Iowa State is a land-grant university**, with a three-part mission: teaching, research, and extension and outreach. We put the university’s research to work throughout the state.

2. **ISU Extension and Outreach is guided by 2011 Leadership Summit outcomes.** The summit brought together more than 500 campus and county staff, faculty, administrators, and extension council members where we defined and agreed upon our fundamental principles. These principles guide all that we do today and our plans for tomorrow.

3. **When the Vice President wants you to know something, she sends an update email or posts to her blog.** Her Monday update emails keep you tuned in to what is really important. The [See You There blog](#) is her way of sparking conversation on issues affecting our organization, and provides a repository for key resources pertinent to our organizations. Follow it, comment when you’re inspired, and use the “Search” box to find posts by topic.

4. **We’re kind of a big deal.** We’re embedded all across the university with faculty, researchers, and partners in many ISU colleges and units – we even work with the athletic department! We are the second largest Iowa State unit with more than 915 employees (only the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences is bigger) and our annual $29M base budget includes $22M dedicated to educational programming. Folks at Iowa State recognize the benefits of connecting with our network of ISU and county staff on campus and in 100 Iowa county extension offices.

5. **And about those 100 county extension offices in 99 Iowa counties (and this is one of the hardest things for folks to grasp).** Each county is considered an extension agricultural district with the exception of Pottawattamie County, which is divided into two districts. Thus we have 100 extension districts and local offices.

6. **Each extension district has a nine-member elected council** that enters into a partnership agreement ([Memorandum of Understanding](#)) with ISU Extension and Outreach to carry out extension work. The core purpose of this relationship is to provide research-based educational programs of the highest quality.

7. **Our educational programs focus on four broad signature issues** centered on the needs of our state, the initiatives of our governor, and the priorities of our university. We are making a difference for Iowans in the areas of economic development, food and the environment, health and well-being, and K-12 youth outreach. Take a look at our program catalog, annual report, and organizational messages to see how we talk about our programs in terms of these four issues.

8. **What do our Iowa clients have to say** to us about our programs? They tell us [in this video](#).