

Meeting Local Needs 2014



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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.

Members:

Jeff Nelsen, President, Knierim
Jane Spencer, V.P., Rockwell City
Teresa Ukena, Secretary, Manson
Darcy Murley, Treasurer, Rockwell City
Michelle Dischler, Rockwell City
Diane Kirby, Lohrville
Tom McClue, Lake City
John Rosenboom, Pomeroy
Randy Souder, Rockwell City

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

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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 Calhoun County can be an even better place for the next generation.



Jeff Nelsen
Extension Council Chair



Terry Janssen
Regional Director

Economic Development



Elected officials and public servants receive vital training not often offered in rural areas.

Township Trustee and Clerk Training was presented by Jane Goeken, Community and Economic Development Specialist to over **20** individuals who are in positions of civic service in the county. The training they received about such duties and responsibilities as resolving fence disputes and fire protection help them to deliver their services effectively and economically. Participants scored the program over a 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent.

Food and the Environment

Over 200 farmland owners, producers and others involved in local agriculture attended the 2014 Farm Bill Program Overview Meeting.



Shane Ellis, Farm Management Program Specialist, presented information important to the new farm bill including base reallocation, yield updating, Price Loss Coverage, and Ag Risk Coverage. Attendees responses were positive and appreciative to have had the opportunity to receive information, ask questions and be informed of future updates.

Sixteen women committed to defining their role on the farm by participating in Annie's Project.



Shane Ellis led the six week course which covered topics such as estate planning, farm tax issues, accounting, and farm leasing; knowledge that empowers women to be farm business partners on the modern farm.

Farmland Leasing Meeting provided timely information to 21 farmland owners and tenants.

Shane Ellis presented topics such as the factors that drive the current and the following year's cash rental rates and land value surveys. Different types of leases were compared as well as how to calculate a fair cash rent allowing attendees to make an informed decision.

Health and Well-being



Attendees of the Money Talk program series learned to take charge of their finances while securing their financial futures.

Ruth Freeman, Family Finance Program Specialist presented a five week course to **ten** participants on such topics as insurance, financial planning, and retirement. Local experts assisted with answering participants' questions and enriched the program experience. Five local businesses provided sponsorships which reduced the program fee. Ninety percent of participant respondents reported taking steps to reduce their debt and plan for their financial future.

The Family Finance "snack and learn" program series promoted healthy people, healthy economies, and healthy environments.

Addressing a local concern with national ties, **Identity Theft** was presented by Jan Monahan, Family Finance Specialist.

Twenty-one participants learned how to protect their identity and learned of the free resources available to assist them. One hundred percent of program participants responded that they would shred documents containing personal infor-

mation and register themselves on the national "do not call registry." Comments from participants included: "excellent information, nice presentation."



In another presentation by Jan Monahan, **15** participants learned how to organize important documents so that they can be located in a hurry as well as what documents should be kept and what should be destroyed in **Fall Financial Cleaning**.

Presented at the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City again by Jan Monahan, **How to Improve My Credit Score** was attended by **34** inmates. The program covered what determines your credit score, how to improve your credit score, and how to build personal financial credit.

The final program in the series, **Healthy Meals in a Hurry** was presented by Katie Knobbe, Nutrition and Health Specialist to **22** participants who learned how to stretch their dollar while eating nutritiously.

K-12 Youth Outreach



Summer Robotics 4-H Education – Robotics STEM Camp was about exploring robots and having fun.

Nineteen fourth to eighth grade youth were designing and programming robots in a beginning to intermediate three day robotics camp gaining 18 hours of STEM learning and leadership experiences. Led by a Master 4-H Robotics Educator,

97% reported they want to learn more about STEM and related careers.

The program teaches basic engineering and programming skills, positive team relationships, improved problem solving, and STEM skills.

Post evaluation data shows youth involved in 4-H apply STEM to their 4-H projects, develop related workforce skills and pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. Ultimately, the end result is a workforce that will support business and industry located in Iowa resulting in community viability.



4-H members making a difference in their community through Youth and Adult Partnerships.

As a show of pride and support for their community, members of 4-H along with adult community partners completed projects to enhance, beautify and make the best even better. Projects included obtaining a "Paint Iowa Beautiful" grant that provided enough funds to paint a city park's playground equipment and a picnic gazebo.



Another project was fundraising for 4-H road signs to be installed on the major inlets into Calhoun County. The road signs welcome visitors into the county and are a symbol of community support and pride for our local youth.

... and justice for all
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