

Iowa Extension Council Association



In 1998, some forward-thinking extension council members worked with ISU Extension and Outreach to form the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils. This organization was formed to give a unified voice to county extension councils across Iowa.

The Iowa Extension Council Association serves as a vehicle for networking between county extension councils of Iowa, the ISU Vice President for Extension and

Outreach, and government leaders to promote and strengthen all local and statewide extension programs. The association is led by a 25-member board with one representative per region and one representative for regions 15, 16, and 17 combined. Each region is represented by one director. Each board member serves as a liaison between the association and the county extension councils in the region.

The board of directors is elected by the council members of each region in the spring. Directors are elected to a three-year term running from July 1 to June 30. Any current member county may nominate one council member to run for the board of directors. Your extension council decides each year to be a member of the association by paying a membership fee in September.

The association purchases professional services on behalf of all 100 extension districts. Purchases have included legal services, volunteer background screening, and employee assistance programs. Because the association uses leverage and acts as a cooperative, individual districts have seen substantial savings. The association is instrumental in communicating and coordinating issues across the state.

Iowa Extension Council Association board members participate in committees and task forces in developing policies, hiring search committees and participate in the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between counties and Iowa State University. The Iowa Extension Council Association is a strong advocate for its member counties.

Daily leadership of the association is by an executive director who works with the board and members of the ISU Extension and Outreach leadership team representing councils on decision-making boards and committees that affect the functioning of councils. The Iowa Extension Council Association website is the place for timely topics, updates and other resources to assist council members in fulfilling their role as a council member. Council members should refer to this website often for updates on topics affecting their council and county office operations. Council members should watch their email for regular updates from the association. This communication keeps council members up-to-date on topics that affect both extension councils and county extension offices.

Keep informed through the website, www.iaextensioncouncils.org.