

## ISU Extension and Outreach in Ida County

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## 2011 Points of Pride



### County Extension Staff

#### Jill Sadler

County Youth and Program Coordinator

#### Marla Seuntjens

Office Manager

### Staff Serving Ida County, but based in other counties

#### Bob Coacher

CIRAS Account Manager

#### Joel DeJong

Field Agronomist

#### Beth Doran

Beef Program Specialist

#### Carol Ehlers

4-H Youth Program Specialist

#### Ruth Freeman

Family Finance Program Specialist

#### Abigail Gaffey

Community and Economic Development

#### Jane Goeken

Community and Economic Development

#### Joseph Hanna

Commercial Horticulture Field Specialist

#### Lori Hayungs

Family Life Field Specialist

#### Julie Hlas

External Relations Specialist

#### Kris Kohl

Extension Agricultural Engineer

#### Tom Olsen

Farm Management Field Specialist

#### Dave Stender

Swine Field Specialist

#### Renee Sweers

Nutrition and Health Program Specialist

Get inside Extension and discover how we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension and Outreach meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Ida County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Rod Jensen  
Extension Council Chair

Jerry W. Chizek  
Regional Extension Education Director

### Healthy People

The "Canning Comeback" and "Preserve the Taste of Summer" was the topic for 2011. Two Ida County residents, Nancy Feddersen and Jennifer Erickson, completed the Master Food Volunteer training in March. Along with Renee Sweers, ISU Extension and Outreach Nutrition and Health Program Specialist, they held a "Jammin' Workshop" in June for our Ida County 4-H'ers. Renee also held "Preservation 101" in September for first time preservers and those who wanted to update their knowledge on food safety, equipment, recipes and resources.

The Ida County Master Gardeners held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seed Exchange in March. Laura Kuennen, Regional Foods Coordinator, attended and shared information on "Flavors of Northwest Iowa" which supports farmers' markets through workshops and marketing. Laura assisted with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Soup/Salsa Contest at the Ida County Fair in July.



### Healthy Environments

In partnership with the Ida County Cattlemen, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, and tremendous support from local businesses, we hosted over 260 beef producers and agri-business staff as they toured five beef operations near Holstein. The tour focus was facility design. Beth Doran, ISU Extension and Outreach Beef Program Specialist, commented, "Producers are building barns to reduce the potential for runoff. But, many also indicate better feed efficiency and performance compared with cattle in open feedlots. And this year, with heat stress, there was the added benefit of shade to reduce solar radiation." Brian Waddingham, Executive Director of the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, reported that the economic impact of a new 312-head cattle farm in Ida County would provide 4.2 jobs and provide almost \$1.5 million of output as sales. In addition, it would generate \$136,483

of labor income and added value of more than \$358,000! Ida County Cattlemen board member, Don Friedrichsen, remarked, "What was unique about the tour was that the number of young producers, less than 30 years of age, was equivalent to the number of older producers over age 60. Younger family members are actively involved in the daily operation at each of the hosting sites". Ted Paulsrud, Ida County Cattlemen President, added, "It's encouraging to see young people entering the industry." Following the tour and evening meal, a Beef Quality Assurance training was conducted.

### Healthy Economies and Impact

In the fall of 2010, Ida County Extension recruited a planning committee for the Money Talk program. ISU Extension and Outreach partnered with United Bank of Iowa and offered the five lesson course from March to April, 2011. ISU Extension and Outreach Family Finance Program Specialist, Ruth Freeman, facilitated the sessions along with seven local financial experts. Nineteen participants attended and reported the following impact:

- 74% reported taking steps to reduce debt.
- 68% have retirement plans.
- 63% assessed the adequacy of their insurance coverage.
- 58% made a point to read articles on finances and investing.
- 58% have an effective budgeting system in place.
- 47% calculated their net worth.
- 47% requested and reviewed their credit report.
- 47% developed an investment philosophy and organized personal and

financial records in the event that someone else would need to take over

- 42% reported adequate savings to meet financial emergency.

Ida County Extension, in conjunction with Ida County Economic Development, provided \$1000 in support to the Holstein Community School in their successful participation in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission 1 International Space Station.

On April 26, 2011, Jane Nolan Goeken, ISU Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development Specialist, served as a facilitator for a discussion of the possibility of combining the Ida Grove Economic Development organization and the Ida Grove Chamber of Commerce. This meeting format engaged local residents to talk about the strengths and limitations of their community. With this first step taken and the continued financial support of the Ida County Extension Council, the Ida Grove City Council and Economic Development is continuing to formulate a written Ida Grove Community Strategic Plan.



### 4-H and Youth

Harvest Heroes is Ida County's newest 4-H Club! Jolene Riessen started this crop scouting club with five members in the spring of 2011. In August 2011, they competed in the State Crop Scouting competition in Ames and placed second!

Sage Bennett, Battle Badgers 4-H Club member, held a 4-H Sewing/Citizenship Workshop in July 2011. Thirteen Ida County 4-H'ers learned basic sewing skills and made travel size pillowcases that were donated to an oncology facility to comfort patients during cancer treatment. This has evolved into an ongoing project.

### Ida County Extension Council



(Back row, left to right) Jolene Riessen, Brianna Butcher, Kyle Rohlk, Andrew Butcher, and Lori Phillips (Front row, left to right) Rod Jensen, Clint Cork, Tammy Neubauer, and Dale Friedrichsen

Every county in Iowa 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.

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

- Families
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Business and Industry

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

November 2011

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach