

Extension Encourages Buy-in for Pocahontas Economic Development Commission

According to the 2000 census, Pocahontas County had the largest decline in population in the state of Iowa. This statistic was an alarming realization for County officials, business and Extension staff. Along with declining population there was declining school enrollment, struggling rural economic conditions and businesses that had closed.

These economic challenges are beginning to improve in part due to the organizational efforts of Pocahontas County and ISU Extension staff. The group secured an Iowa Department of Economic Development grant in 2000 and now functions independently through 28E agreements with county municipalities. "For the first time in twenty years every community is contributing funding to an economic effort," said Bill Winkleblack, Chair of the Pocahontas Economic Development Commission. "Extensions endorsement has made them a nucleus for everyone to adhere to."



"Extension was a key component in the organization of the Pocahontas County Economic Development Commission. When Extension is involved it gives credibility and structure to the organization. Extension raised the visibility of the group and the municipalities saw its viability."

Bill Winkleblack
Executive Vice President, Rolfe State Bank
Pocahontas Economic Development
Commission Chair

For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Pocahontas County Office at 712-335-3101. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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... and justice for all

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