

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



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

Cathy Miller

Extension Council Chair

Dave Andrews

County Extension Education Director

Healthy People

According to 2005 data, 17.6 percent of Story County residents live in poverty, compared to 10.8 percent statewide.

Recognizing the need to connect local residents to food resources, United Way of Story County developed a coalition to address hunger issues. Members represent ISU Extension, the Story

learning together – better preparing them to meet the needs of the hungry close to home.

Healthy Environments

Kapil Arora, Agricultural Engineering Field Specialist, teaches stakeholders on conservation planning and soil erosion which are the two top priorities for improving Iowa's Water Quality. Stakeholders attending Phosphorus –



County Board of Supervisors, and the county's 14 food pantries. The coalition has built community capacity through education, coordination of food distribution, pantry management, and fund raising/food drives. A campaign this June collected 2,660 nonperishable food items and almost \$12,000. Coalition members say the project has resulted in food pantries big and small working and



Index Workshop learn how they can harvest potential economic benefits in production agriculture while protecting water quality. Stakeholders learn about the importance of residue cover how it can help reduce soil erosion. In the workshop, stakeholders experiment with conservation software (RUSLE2) to identify various tillage and residue



Front Row (L-R): Cathy Miller, Jean Saveraid, Robert Krause and Mary Ann Gardner (not pictured: Pam Niemeyer, Doug Sampson, Robert Finch, Ryan McKinney and Erik Christian)

Story 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.

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

- Provide safe, positive, enriching environments for youth both urban and rural
- Build strong families through nutrition training & afterschool programs
- Focus on acreage owners and their need for information on transitioning to country life
- Work with local farmers and ag business to meet licensing and certification requirements for both livestock and value added crops
- Partner with local human service agencies to provide training for nonprofits
- Assist with educational efforts regarding the bio-economy and the opportunities for farmers and local economic development

... and justice for all

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Healthy Environments

(Continued)

management strategies as applicable to their operations.

Healthy Economies

Money management is an important skill for developing a foundation for lifelong financial well-being. Members of the Women with Initiative – a United Way of Story County program – recognized a need last year for financial literacy education for low-income or at-risk women. The group turned to ISU Extension for help developing a program focused on skill building and mentoring. By partnering with local agencies serving the target audience, potential participants were identified and the program was piloted in the fall. It has received strong community support.



Eighteen people, including staff from partner agencies and volunteers, were trained as mentors. To date, 24 women have completed the financial education workshops. Nearly all of the participants identified multiple ways in which they could use what they learned.

Conversations on Diversity

Concerns about diversity within the Ames community last fall prompted city leaders to partner with ISU Extension, Ames Noon Rotary, and community volunteers to address the issue. Ten groups with 100 participants met in two-hour sessions over four weeks. Following these sessions, 102 people participated in a forum to identify opportunities for action. Five focus areas were identified: strengthening neighborhoods, creating “one community,” putting education first, welcoming new residents, and keeping dialogue ongoing. Results include the following:

- A Street’N’Greet Block Party Trailer is available to any Ames resident 18 and older to reserve for free. It includes tables, chairs, games, a sound system, community information, a first



- aid kit, and barricades. The trailer is booked through this fall.
- K-12 students submitted ideas for a motto/logo describing what “United Ames” means to them.
- Parents attending back-to-school nights received information on tutoring programs, PTAs, booster clubs, high school activity clubs, and an ambassador program that connects new families to established ones.
- More than 1,200 people attended a July 4 pancake breakfast at the Ames Bandshell. Participants received information on city departments and local services and resources. Community Conversations volunteers were on-hand to answer questions.
- Two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers worked Community Conversations projects, including the development of a new youth club – AmeZone – that will focus on service learning, leadership, and community capacity building.



We connect you to Iowa State University.

We are your local link to make connections for campus enrollment,

continuing education, campus visits, campus exhibits, conferences, camps, and sporting events.