

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



County Extension Staff

Joy Rouse

County Extension Education Director

Amy Edgington

Office Assistant

Val Cameron

CCR&R Provider Services Coordinator

Connie Jackson

CCR&R Home Consultant

Jamie White

Preschool Enhancement Coordinator

Mike White

Viticulture Specialist

Staff Serving Warren County, but based in other counties

Kapil Arora

Agricultural Engineering

Ruth Freeman

Family Resource Management

Steve Johnson

Farm/Ag Business Management

Susan Klein

Nutrition and Health

Sharon Mays

Family Life

Jolene McCoy

External Relations

Joe Sellers

Livestock

Jennifer Snook-Hall

Volunteer Development

Warren County Extension

909 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite E

Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: (515) 961-6237

Fax: (515) 961-6017

www.extension.iastate.edu/warren

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 Warren County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Peter Dittmer

Extension Council Chair

Joy Rouse

County Extension Education Director

Giving kids a good start

Quality preschool and child care programs result in healthier children who are more successful in school and life. ISU Extension partners with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) of Central Iowa and the Warren County Empowerment Preschool Enhancement Program to provide early childhood training and services.



Eighty-eight preschool families received scholarships. Warren County Empowerment provided funds for child care providers to receive immunizations, children's dental exams, mental health screenings, and nutrition activity packets that went to 350 families.

"This connection is priceless," said Linda Hayden of Calvary Kids Preschool in Indianola. "These programs and services improve safety, school readiness, and socialization for my kids."

Beautifying communities

Salem Court, an Extension community service project, was expanded this year to include a cement floor, brick walkway, and an iron arch – giving Indianola shoppers and workers a great place to relax.





(From left) Linda Bussanmas, Amy Tlach, Judy Denniston, Mark McKee, Kim Van Patten, Jason DeLay, Peter Dittmer
(Not pictured) Chris Cornell, Janet Smith

Warren 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:

- Growing Iowa's bioeconomy
- New agricultural enterprises, opportunities and linkages
- Rural/urban communication and relationships
- Farm enterprise management
- Recruitment/retention of youth for youth programs
- Healthy Iowans
- Quality child care



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We are your local link to make connections

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

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Supporting ag business development, entrepreneurship, and women on the farm

To support local economic growth, ISU Extension provided timely marketing and risk management information this winter to members of the Indianola Ag Marketing Club, sponsored by Warren County Farm Bureau. Producers learned about grain storage and handling, crop marketing strategies, and crop insurance decisions.

Extension's commitment to local producers includes strengthening the role of women in agriculture. Annie's Project, a nationally recognized curriculum, brought farm women together this summer to learn about goal setting, business plans, financial record keeping, cash and crop-share leases, retirement and estate planning, crop marketing, and financial risk management strategies.



The six-week, non-credit course was taught by ISU Extension specialists in a computer lab. Participants learned to use the Internet and Excel spreadsheets.

Indianola resident Michelle Hunerdosse said the classes strengthened her business partnership with her husband. "I better understand the financial aspects of farming. Annie's Project has given my husband and I tools to analyze and manage our operation more efficiently," she said.

Engaging youth in positive experiences through 4-H

Youth from Carlisle, Martensdale and Milo spent part of their summer at 4-H day camps learning about conservation and how to care for plants and about the history and culture of Mexico, India, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

More than 400 Warren County youth participated in 4-H programs this year – participation that leads to improved academic and lifetime success, according to recent research from Tufts University.

Warren County's volunteer youth committee is implementing several strategies to support new 4-H'ers and increase retention. Efforts include re-establishing a county-wide recognition program, communicating regularly with new members, and connecting older members with younger ones in a mentoring program.

"Youth that remain active in 4-H learn leadership skills, practice communication and planning, gain an enhanced sense of community, and become more self-confident," said Amy Tlach, a youth committee member. "Families and community members benefit because 4-H produces youth ready to take on future leadership roles."

