



Warren County Extension

909 East Second Ave., Suite E • Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: (515) 961-6237 • Fax: (515) 961-6017 •

Email: jmrouse@iastate.edu

Iowa State University Extension in Warren County provides relevant programs that 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.

Peter Dittmer
Extension Council Chair

Joy Rouse
County Extension Education Director

County Extension Staff

Joy Rouse
County Extension Education Director
Lisa Niedermayer
County Youth Coordinator
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 Field Specialist

Off to a Good Start



The Preschool Enhancement Projected which is funded by the Warren County Empowerment Board offers low income families with preschool age children scholarships to increase availability of a quality early childhood experience. 56 children received a scholarship in 2006 – 2007. The learning assessment given to the students showed 80% improved. In addition, a summer learning backpack was given to all 4 year old preschoolers to increase learning retention over the summer. 98% of the parents reported an increase in quality time spent with the child; 97% reported skill retention and expansion of preschool learning.

Staff Serving Warren County but based in other counties

Kapil Arora, *Agricultural Engineering*
Ruth Freeman, *Family Resource Management*
Steve Johnson, *Farm Management*
Susan Klein, *Nutrition and Health*
Sharon Mays, *Family Life*
Frank Owens, *Communities*
Monica Pugh, *FNP Program Assistant*
Joe Sellers, *Livestock*
Jennifer Snook-Hall, *Volunteer Development*

Quality Child Care Settings



Child Care Resource and Referral works with child development homes, centers and preschools to provide healthy environments for Warren County's children. The Home Consultant works with new providers that are going through the registration process. She helps them comply with the state regulations. These new providers were 96% compliant by the third visit to the home. The Quality Rating System is a voluntary program providers can participate in. Providers work toward outlined benchmarks to receive a rating on a 5 point scale with 5 being the highest rating. Providers earn points based on professional development, health and safety environments and family/community partnerships. Sixteen applications were requested; 11 were returned; 9 have received a rating. Warren County has one provider that has earned a 4 rating out of 5 possible.



Warren County Extension Council

[Front Row: Judy Denniston, Kim Van Patten Back Row: Janet Smith, Linda Bussanmas, Mark McKee, Peter Dittmer Not Pictured: Chris Cornell, Jason Delay, Amy Tlach]

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
- Healthy Iowans
- Quality Child Care
- Land Use and Planning Training
- Rural/Urban Communication and Relationships

Iowa State University Extension: In sync with Warren County

Viticulture Alive and Well



ISU Extension has been a big supporter of the grape and wine industry in Warren County. Mike White, our ISU Extension Viticulture Specialist, and our staff have been providing educational programming and assistance for vineyards and wineries in Warren County since January of 2000. At that time there was one winery in Warren County and three commercial vineyards, encompassing approximately 14 acres. Today we have 3 commercial wineries and 38 commercial vineyards in the county covering approx. 165 acres, which represents 19% of Iowa's current commercial vineyard acres. Warren County leads the state in the number and acres of vineyards.

New Day Camps Offered



The youth of Carlisle, Milo and New Virginia had the opportunity to attend Day Camps in June, made possible by a DCAT grant. Dirt Made my Lunch (K-3 graders) and Solving a Mystery Using Biotechnology (4 – 6 graders) had 38 registrations with 30 attending. The K – 3rd graders learned about plants and their parts. The 4th – 6th graders used microscopes, separated DNA, made ice cream and worked with fingerprints. The DCAT grant also enabled the office to hire two youth leaders for the camp. The leaders reported learning more about children and themselves; how to plan and organize supplies; what to do when things don't go as planned.

Service Project Commemorates Iowa State University's 150 Years



ISU Extension initiated community service projects in every county to celebrate Iowa State University's 150 years.

ISU Extension – Warren County teamed up with Keep Indianola Beautiful to paint a new mural on the town's square. Four well known artists painted the mural with assistance from local volunteers including ISU alumni. Bistro style tables and chairs were added to incorporate a park like atmosphere as well as give local shoppers a place to rest while touring the square and for enjoying a beverage from the nearby shops. Even Cy was there for the big event!



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.

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