

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



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

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Ag Engineer
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Gardeners explore interest in growing fresh foods & flowers

Many people garden for fun and relaxation and even income. ISU Extension gardening education helps them make the most of their hobby or business.



In the summer of 2009, Wright County gardeners attended eight weekly lunch-and-learn horticulture programs taught by Yvonne Nilles, ISU Extension horticulturist.

Topics included garden preparation, plant selection, vegetable and container gardening, gardening in

small spaces, butterfly gardens, and food preservation.

Drainage influences crop production

Area farmers learned about ways to improve soil productivity by attending a drainage program offered by ISU Extension in January.

Topics covered included drainage design, drainage costs related to production costs, cost share, new drainage laws, and how drainage affects neighbors.





Dawn Rasmussen, Kevin Moss, Larry Severson, Linda Spangler, Jan Derscheid, Mark Lester (not pictured: Elaine Brooks, Carol Meyer, and Darla Tweeten)

Wright 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:

- Adult Leadership
- Helping small businesses
- Reach out to Hispanics
- Clover Kids



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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.

... and justice for all
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Drainage Program continued

Kapil Arora, ISU Extension ag engineer, discussed drainage designs. John Holmes, ISU Extension field agronomist, discussed yields affected by drainage.

The program also featured a panel discussion, including Kent Cramer, a commercial tiller; Stan Watne, Wright County Board of Supervisors; Bob Brinton, Wright County drainage attorney; and Connie Roys, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Tax preparation assistance benefits local citizens

With the help of eight certified volunteer tax preparers, Wright County Extension offered free tax preparation to low to middle income workers this spring. More than \$445,000 was claimed through the work of the volunteers, saving these taxpayers an estimated \$31,000 in tax preparation fees. The project was headed by Barb Wollan, ISU Extension family resource management specialist.

The project, a collaborative effort between Wright and Hamilton counties, helped 94 families claim more than \$130,000 in federal and state Earned Income Credit for the year. This is the sixth year the program has helped Wright County families.



Participant Pedro Garcia says, "I have used the program since 2004, and found caring and patient

volunteers pleased to explain and serve the tax filers. I have encouraged other Hispanic immigrants to file their tax returns through VITA."

Wright County third graders learn about safety

In rural communities, it is not unusual to hear stories about farm accidents. When children are involved, it is especially heart wrenching.

Keeping Wright County kids safe wherever they are was the goal of a county-wide safety day for third-grade students from Belmond-Klemme, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, and Eagle Grove.

More than 160 students participated in nine activities covering safety related to lawn mowers, first aid, farms, Internet, ATVs, fires and storms, and electricity. Paramedics



from the Eagle Grove EMS were on-hand to show the kids an ambulance and the equipment they use.

The event, in its second year, is sponsored by Wright County Extension in conjunction with Wright County Farm Bureau.

"Safety Day Camp teaches students about safety in a way that is fun and informative. I'm thrilled that Farm Bureau and ISU Extension are doing this for our youth," says Lynette Smith, a teacher at Clarion-Goldfield.