Bullet Points from Rich

- 83 educational events were held in December and 48 events are scheduled for January.
- Our next Regional Extension Council meeting is March 22 in Story County.
- Please mark your calendars and hold March 8 and 9 for the 2016 ISU Extension and Outreach Annual Conference.

Farmland Values Fall

The average Iowa farmland value is now estimated to be $7,633 per acre—having dropped in value for the second consecutive year. Per acre value declined $310, or 3.9 percent, since last year’s survey. Farmland values have now fallen almost 13 percent from the historically high 2013 values. For more: http://www.card.iastate.edu/about/news/show_release.aspx?id=74

Symposium for Gardeners' a Success

The Story County Master Gardener Association held its first ‘Symposium for Gardeners’ on November 7 at Christy 4-H Hall in Nevada.

The Symposium featured six speakers presenting on a variety of gardening topics. Pictured above is Nathan Brockman, Curator of the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing at Reiman Gardens, talking about pollinators.

Happy New Year!
Wishing you the very best 2016.

A Strong Iowa
What we all want ... from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.
Click on the photo below for a video message.
National 4-H Congress
Eighteen 4-H’ers represented Iowa as delegates to the 2015 National 4-H Congress November 27 through December 1 in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme for the 94th year of National 4-H Congress was “Excite, Spark, Ignite.” Region 8 was well represented with two 4-H’ers from Boone County: Madeleine Bretey of Boone, daughter of Eric and Melanie Bretey and Aaliyah Scott of Pilot Mound, daughter of Rob and Lorna Scott.

Dr. MacDonald to Kick-off Crop Clinic
Dr. Ruth MacDonald, ISU Professor & Chair of Food Science and Human Nutrition, will be the kick-off speaker at the North Central Iowa Crop & Land Stewardship Clinic being held Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at the Iowa Falls-Alden High School in Iowa Falls. Dr. MacDonald will address “Science of GMOs and Food Safety”. GMOs and Food Safety are contentious topics in agriculture and food production.

Other speakers include ISU Extension Specialists Elwynn Taylor, Richard Cruse, Chad Hart, Mike Owen, Daren Mueller, Kapil Arora, Angie Rieck-Hinz, and Kelvin Leibold and National Laboratory for Agriculture and Environment Soil Scientist, Mark Tomer. Clinic topics include:
- 2015 Corn Diseases & Insect Issues
- UAVs (Drones) – Potential Uses in Agriculture
- Improving Profitability thru Improving Soil Management
- 2016 Crop Market Outlook
- Analyzing Your Farm Profitability
- Herbicide Resistance in Weeds
- SDS in Soybeans & Treatment Options
- Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with the clinic held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A free blood pressure screening and blood glucose test will be offered from 8-9 a.m. by Hansen Family Hospital staff. An eight hour fast should precede the blood glucose test.

Marshall County Expands an Opportunity
Taking advantage of opportunities can seem daunting at first; however, in the end, the prospect can be a catalyst for additional educational opportunities. The Culturally-Based Youth Leadership Accelerator, Maize, is an excellent example of how a singular event can lead to unforeseen advantages for a community. Eleven youth and one volunteer chaperon from Marshall County attended the 1st Maize Conference in May of 2015. These twelve individuals left this three-day retreat enthused about a new program to them – 4-H. To capture that excitement Marshall County Extension and Outreach personally asked each individual to attend the Leadership/Citizenship Camp hosted by the Extension Office. That continued engagement led these youth to ask, “When are we meeting again?” This demand was not overlooked. Conversations with staff members Amy Pieper and Caleb Carver along with Norma Dorado-Robles, 4-H Leader and Marshalltown High School staff lead to the full support for the establishment of a high school 4-H club to address critical school and community needs of higher education aspirations for Latino/a youth.