

December, 2013

Meeting Local Needs

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:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-Being
- K-12 Youth Outreach

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ISU Extension and Outreach provides educational opportunities for economic development, food and the environment, health and well-being, and K-12 youth outreach. We meet local needs, so Warren County can be an even better place for the next generation.

Jason DeLay
Extension Council Chair

Craig Hertel
Regional Director

Economic Development

Growing businesses and strengthening communities

Farm Land Leasing

According to the USDA 2007 Agriculture Census, more than 240 thousand acres of Warren County's land was in farms. At that time the average value per acre was \$3,588 and in 2013 this figure nearly doubled to \$7,420 per acre.



To protect these sizeable investments, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Specialist, Steve Johnson, held a Farm Leasing workshop in August of 2013. A post-survey revealed 45 percent of operators owning more

than 1,000 acres said they now understand how a flexible cash farm lease works and 61 percent claimed they would renegotiate their rental agreement to share risks.

Health and Well-Being

Helping Iowa become the healthiest state in the nation

Child Care Provider Training

Warren County Extension and Outreach offers research-based trainings for child-care professionals. Warren County recorded 250 providers attended at least one of 15 training opportunities. Among these classes were *Developmentally Appropriate Use of iPads in Early Childhood*, *Spent Smart and Eat Smart in the Child Care Business* and *Learning Through Sensory Play*.

Read, Learn, Eat

ISU Extension and Outreach Nutrition and Health Program Specialist, Mary Krisco, M.S., R.D., taught "Read, Learn, Eat", a

workshop which allowed both parents and teachers to explore eight well-loved storybooks containing positive food messages. Through this exploration, participants were able to enrich a child's literary experience while promoting positive attitudes toward food. Krisco also presented **Spend Smart. Eat Smart.** to Simpson College students who were then equipped with the skills to save money in the future by planning healthy menus, making shopping lists and reading labels effectively.

Food and the Environment

Supporting a safe, sustainable and affordable food supply

Master Gardeners

Becoming a Master Gardener requires more than attending meetings, learning about horticulture and planting in a personal garden.



The program goal is to provide training to individuals in order for them to turn around and help the citizens in our communities prosper in their environment by providing guidance in proper stewardship. In 2013, Warren County had 18 interns complete their 40-hour community project education and volunteer requirements to become certified Master Gardeners.

Think Spring! Garden Seminar

Garden experts presented to a 250 person crowd during the 2013 "Think Spring" six-hour garden seminar held at the Simpson College Campus. Featured speakers discussed vegetable gardening in Iowa, landscaping with succulents, containers and terrariums and, designing a sustainable landscape.

Private Pesticide and Commercial Trainings

Extension and Outreach is an educational resource for farmers, city and state employees and those whose jobs bring them into contact with the environment. Warren County

provided up-to-date information on private pesticides to more than 100 farmers in 2013.



Extension also offered trainings and certifications for those who deal with aquatic pests, forest weeds and invasive turfgrass species.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Preparing our young people for the future

Reach

Warren County Extension reached nearly 900 youth in 2013 through 4-H clubs, after school programs, special events and learning opportunities.

Babysitting Basics

Nearly 65 youth, 5th grade and older, attended the 2013 Babysitting Basics trainings. The three-day, two-hour session incorporated various topics, resulting in responsible, caring babysitters. Co-sponsored by Indianola and Norwalk Recreation, Police and Fire Departments, participants learned how to properly



handle emergencies and implement safety standards.

Barb Ramos, department chair and associate professor of education at Simpson College, also presented to attendees the effects of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) with the use of George, a baby simulator whose see-through head demonstrated the way physical impacts shift the brain.

ISU Extension and Outreach Preschool Enrichment Coordinator, Val Cameron, taught the students how to make toys, including sock

puppets and books and spoke on appropriate toys for specific age groups.

STEM & Robotics

Warren County Extension's 4-H Project Club, under the leadership of Dick Wittry, began in April 2013. In August, his 4-H members won the Bratney Companies 4-H Robotics Challenge in the Junior Division at



the 2013 Iowa State Fair.

Participating youth received the Innovative Programming Award and the NXT Challenge Award, given to the top scoring club in the LEGO Mindstorms NXT Challenge Event. The group was then invited to share their experience on WHO Radio's Van and Bonnie in the Morning.

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