

ISU Extension and Outreach



Rachael Wright was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club on February 1. She has been with the ISU Extension Service for 10 years.

In 1903, a group of Sioux County farmers cooperated with Iowa State University to establish the "extension idea" - taking the land-grant college to the people. In 2003, Iowa State University celebrated 100 years of Extension helping Iowans become their best.

Beginning in 2012, and over the next several years, county extension offices throughout the state will celebrate their 100 year milestones of organized extension work and the hiring of their first county agents.

Rachael said that most people think of 4H and Master Gardeners. They have a lot of other programs. They have 100 extension offices throughout the state, one in each county, with two in Pottawattamie County.

Over one million people have been helped through ISU Extension. There are 17,000 Master Gardeners. In Iowa, 1 in 5 children is in 4H, with 105,000 currently enrolled.

ServSafe is a new program to train food service workers. A new Iowa law requires every business to certify someone in food safety. ISU Extension is holding 2 day classes throughout the state to train food service workers.

Over 1800 farmers attend training meetings organized by the ISU Extension each year.

I-Walk is a coalition built to develop walking programs and plans for new sidewalks and trails. Over 350 citizens have joined I-Walk.

ISU Extension also provided nutrition education for 1800 low income families last year. They develop programs for STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and math) in schools. They also help with estate planning for farmers.

Through "Juntos: Together for a Better Education," ISU Extension and Outreach specialists have worked with high schools, community colleges and businesses to help Latino youth and parents increase their understanding of how to successfully graduate from high school and pursue higher education. The course is six sessions for 2½ hours each. The next is March 6-April 10.

ISU Extension provides private pesticide training for farmers, childcare education, and they have trained 60 volunteers for income tax assistance.

ISU Extension and Outreach is funded through the US Department of Agriculture, Iowa State University, and county funding.