

ISU Extension and Outreach: Historical Timeline

As we review some of the events in the first century of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, we look forward to being part of a better future for all Iowans in the next 100 years.

- 1903 Sioux County farmers and Iowa State College establish the basis for cooperative extension work.
- 1904 Keokuk County Boys' and Girls' Clubs organize, continuing the movement begun in Page County in 1901—the beginnings of Iowa 4-H and extension youth work.
- 1904–1914 Extension uses trains to deliver education about corn, livestock, and other topics to Iowans.
- 1905 Iowa State's first local short course is held at Red Oak.
- 1906 The Agricultural Extension Act becomes law in Iowa.
- 1912 Clinton County hires the first county extension agent in Iowa.
- 1914 The Smith-Lever Act brings together federal, state, and county governments as Cooperative Extension.
- 1916 Iowa's first extension home demonstration agent is hired for Black Hawk County.
- 1918 Extension has a presence in every county in Iowa.
- 1921 County Farm Bureaus and Extension cooperate to develop county programs of work.
- 1931 Community clubs enroll more than 27,000 rural youth, teaching them how to run a farm and manage a home.
- 1946 Extension begins public affairs education.
- 1952 The Iowa 4-H Foundation establishes the 4-H camping center.
- 1955 The Iowa Legislature creates county agricultural extension districts. Extension councils are elected in every county.
- 1961 Extension begins addressing area economic development.
- 1963 The Iowa Legislature appropriates funds to establish the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS). ISU developed the model for CIRAS in 1962.
- 1965 The first area extension office is established in Ottumwa.
- 1966 ISU creates University Extension, bringing together Cooperative Extension, Engineering Extension, CIRAS, and the Agriculture Short Course Office.
- 1970 4-H reaches urban and rural youth, emphasizing personal development, citizenship, and leadership.
- 1977 The first ISU Extension Master Gardener class is held in Scott County.

- 1985 Rural Concern Hotline begins, 800-447-1985 (later renamed Iowa Concern).
- 1994 ISU Extension establishes a World Wide Web site.
- 1995 The ISU Extension Information Network is the first statewide extension computer network in the nation.
- 1996 ISU offers its first courses over the World Wide Web.
- 1998 Iowa Association of County Extension Councils is created.
- 2002 4-H celebrates its centennial nationwide.
- 2002 ISU Extension breaks ground on the Extension 4-H Youth building.
- 2003 ISU Extension celebrates 100 years.
- 2009 ISU Extension restructures from a geographically based structure to an issues-based model, eliminating area offices and moving from county to regional directors.
- 2011 ISU Extension becomes ISU Extension and Outreach, strengthening our role with the rest of the university.
- 2011 More than 500 ISU and county staff, faculty, administrators, extension council members, and others from 89 counties and campus participate in the Advance: 2011 Leadership Summit in Ames.
- 2012 ISU Extension and Outreach begins celebrating 100 years of county extension work.

Directors of ISU Extension and Outreach

Ralph K. Bliss	1914-1946
Herbert H. Kildee	1946-1949
Floyd A. Andre	1949-1966
Marvin A. Anderson	1966-1974
Charles E. Donhowe	1974-1981
Robert L. Crom	1981-1988
Ronald C. Powers	1988-1989
W. John Johnson	1989
Elizabeth A. Elliot	1989-1990
Robert M. Anderson, Jr.	1990-1995
Nolan R. Hartwig	1995-1996
Stanley R. Johnson	1996-2005
Jack M. Payne	2006-2010
Gerald A. Miller	2010-2011
Cathann A. Kress	2011-

... and justice for all

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