

**8 to 80 Keokuk County Pollution Program  
For Youth and Senior Adults  
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The 8 to 80 program was designed to provide a structured curriculum which would teach youth and senior adults about pollution with emphasis on water pollution and quality. The program incorporated senior adults throughout the curriculum both learning about and teaching children about pollution and methods of prevention and control. Our aim is for senior adults to learn by teaching and by interaction with friends. To take what they've learned and use it to improve their health and the health of the community.

Activities include:

- The county Extension Director and Committee Members spoke to 6 groups and 140 individuals promoting both the concepts of Water Pollution and Water Quality but also promoting the 8 to 80 project.
- Formed planning committee to direct programming and to plan and execute activities.
- Held training for facilitators and participants. 40 attended. Utilizing **Dr. Peter Weyer**, Ph.D. Associate Director Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination The University of Iowa



**Dr. David Osterberg** Assoc. Professor in the UI Dept. of Occupational and Environmental Health, and director of the College of Public Health's Environmental Health Sciences Research Center.

**Ken Sharp**, Iowa Department of Public Health

**Russell Tell**, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Supply Operations Section

**John L Kempf**, University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory

**Larry Smith**, Keokuk County Sanitarian



helps limit pollution

-How pollution affects the air and ultimately might cause cancer

- Held a series of summer camps over a two year period which featured older adults. Camps highlighted pollution problems, with special emphasis on water quality Topics covered:
  - Green (Livestock and other natural things) pollution
  - Environmentally Smart Shopping
  - Pesticides-What they do and how they are responsibly used.
  - Air quality and its affects on plants & animals
  - Water quality – unfiltered water – How water becomes polluted – and pollutions affect on aquatic life.-Recycling and how it

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- Held a program entitled Lawns Flowers Trees Greenhouses and Gardens. The program attracted over 70 primarily senior adults and featured presentations from Senior Master Gardeners, a 4-H presentation on fertilizer and environment and how it affects seedlings. A presentation by Area Horticulturist Patrick O'Malley on environmentally friendly methods of lawn and yard care and a program by an organic truck farmer (Doug Webster) capped the evening.



- Held an informational program in conjunction with Pekin School and the Pekin School drainage plots dealing with agricultural, (both organic and inorganic), pollution the program reached over 150 High School Students. Program speakers included:

**Jim Ellerhoff** Program Coordinator Iowa Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Bureau

**Dr. Mary Skopec** Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey

**Pekin FFA and Committee Members**

**Dr. Matt Helmers** AGRICULTURAL & BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING Iowa State University

**Carl Pedersen** AGRICULTURAL & BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING Iowa State University

**Dr. Jim Fawcett** Agricultural Field Specialist Iowa State University Extension

**Terry Steinhart** Swine Field Specialist Iowa State University Extension

**Greg Brennamen** Ag Engineering Field Specialist Iowa State University Extension

Topics included: Stream and pond water quality and testing - Field drainage and its environmental effects – Manure and fertilizer what are it's properties and how does it affect the environment – Manure and compost, How do we responsibly utilize it.



- A landscaping class was held with 21 in attendance. The program dealt with landscape arrangement but also featured presentations by committee members on pesticide and fertilizer use and it's affects on the environment.

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- Committee worked with Talented and Gifted Classes at Keota, Sigourney and Pekin Schools. The students tested wells, and had an informational program taught by **John Kempf** of the Iowa Hygeinic lab. A presentation was given at each school. Topics included home wells, typical problems and solutions and what is the scientific basis for them, and how do we solve the problems. Between 60 and 100 students and homeowners were reached.

- 21 Wells were tested of which 8 were unsafe



- Committee members manned a booth at the Keokuk County Health Fair over 200 attended.





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**Build state, local and tribal capacity to protect the health of older adults from environmental hazards;**

- √ A deep-rooted criterion for all curriculums planned for this program will be health/pollution and its affect first on Older Adults and then Children. The knowledge and skills learned by the participants and those they interact with will build capacity to protect the health of older adults from environmental hazards:
- √ Instruction planned for the program will build capacity to protect the health of older adults from environmental hazards in the following ways.
  - Drainage Plots Participants will learn ways that high nitrate, and other organic and inorganic pollutants can affect their health. They will also learn methods of circumventing the health hazards where possible.
  - Well Water Informational Meeting Participants will learn the factors that contribute to both well water and aquifer contamination. They'll learn how to test and interpret Well Water results and how to interpret municipal results.
    - This was accomplished at the Facilitators and Trainers conference in the spring of 2005, and again at the TAG classroom sessions during the spring of 2006.
  - Well Water testing and Evaluation
    - Participants will with the aid of the county sanitarian test and council older adults, helping them determine if their well is contaminated or at risk.
    - This was one area we fell down on. Our older adults gave us a lot of ideas and informed us that many of their friends wouldn't test the water because they were afraid someone would shut down their well. (Well Police) Advice they gave and that we followed was to kid Grandchildren to test the wells. It worked fairly well but we still had only 21 wells evaluated. All of the well testers most were Grandchildren were given instruction on risk assessment and methods of lowering risk.

**Evaluation Goals**

- ☛ Minimum of 500 participants in all program activities
  - Over 1300 contacts were made through various project activities.
- ☛ Minimum of 25 core recruits (senior adults)
  - 12 Older adults were key participants 13 short of the goal of 25 however well over 250 received training.
- ☛ Minimum of 18 senior adults having their wells, septic systems and farmsteads evaluated for pollution hazards.
  - 21 Wells were tested and evaluated
- ☛ Minimum of 50 who fill out evaluation form that asks them
  1. To name one thing they've learned from the program
  2. Tell what area's of the program could be improved
  3. Rate the program on a scale of 1 to 10 concerning the value of the program to them or the community in general

293 of 372 surveyed could name something they'd learned all of the 372 responded favorably to the program. Results on the asking how a program could be improved were not rated.

- ☛ Over 75% of those responding to the evaluation respond positively.
  - 100% 372 Responded positively