

## Meeting Local Needs 2016



## ISU Extension in Butler County

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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 Butler County can be an even better place for the next generation.*

## County Extension Staff

Nancy Jensen  
County Program Coordinator

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Ruth Kampman  
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Dan Borchardt  
Extension Council Chair

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Region 9 Extension Education Director

## Butler 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.

## Extension Council Members

Rex Ackerman, Amy Barnett, Irvin Haan, Clark Lupkes, Margaret Harris, Dan Borchardt, Edward Johnson, Jessica Lovrien, and Phil Pitzenberger.

The Butler County Extension Council has identified these three local issues as priority issues in Butler County:

\*Preparing youth to be productive K~12 citizens, outstanding communicators, effective leaders and successful learners.

\*Natural resources and environmental stewardship.

\*Food safety, food & environment and regional food systems.

## Healthy People

4-H is an important youth development program in Butler County. Youth from town and country can choose from over 45 different project areas; there is something for every interest. Butler's strong 4-H program has positively impacted youth during the past year. There were 10 4-H community clubs that had 244 members and clover kids participating. Special interest clubs include Clover Kids, Horses, Horse Drill Team, Shooting Sports, and Robotics.



## Staying Safe

The school enrichment program Staying Safe was once again offered to Butler County 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Many parents are still at work at the end of the day, which leaves children home alone for a period of time. Staying Safe teaches children how to be independent when home alone. There were 139 youth who participated in school enrichment programs this past year.



## Summer Day Camps

Summer Day Camps also were offered to early elementary-aged children that helped to build interest in science and promoted the skills of observing, comparing, communicating and applying and were attended by 40 K-3rd graders.



## Volunteers

4-H youth leaders and other volunteers gave generously of their time and talent to provide important leadership and support to the youth in Butler County. These volunteers are key to the success of the 4-H program and to developing productive and responsible youth. We have 31 4-H leaders and a 13 member 4-H Advisory Committee.



## Healthy Environment

In an effort to bring safety to the forefront of youth and adult minds and prevent bad habits from forming, Butler County Extension sponsored the county-wide Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day. 139 fourth grade students learned valuable lifelong lessons on how to avoid dangerous situations both on the farm and at home by engaging them in hands-on workshops and demonstrations. This year's topics included: bike, railroad, firearm, animal, grain, chemical, sun, tractor, fire, water, electrical and ATV. Success results when students practice what they learn and share it with others.



## Pollinator Workshop

A Pollinator Workshop was held on March 31, 2016 at the Butler County Extension office. Dan Borchardt, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist and Lawrence Green, Natural Resources Conservation Service provided the 15 participants with information on how to plant and benefit pollinators.



## Farm Safety Week

Weigh ticket bags with goodies and information were delivered to 10 coops in Butler County during National Farm Safety and Health Week in September. A full-page in area newspapers was devoted to Farm Safety with articles on young workers, chemical, and safe kid play areas, machinery and skid steer.

## Continuing Instructional Courses

Recertification training and education is provided to private and commercial pesticide applicators as well as confinement manure applicators. ISU Extension and Outreach provides research-based information to ag professionals and producers through the Pro Ag and Crop Advantage programs. Butler County Extension is an important information source in the county. Citizens looking for research-based answers to their questions come to the Butler County Extension

Office where answers are provided by trained staff. Publications and educational materials that are also available in the local office provide a reference piece once the client has left the office.

## Leasing

A common question this past year dealt with farmland rental rates. To help tenants and landlords better understand their options, Butler County Extension offered a Farmland Leasing Meeting. 15 attendees learned about trends in farmland values, leasing practices, determining cash rental rates, flexible cash leases and legal issues.



### ... and justice for all

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach