ISU Extension in Floyd 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 Floyd County can be an even better place for the next generation.

Laura Paplow
Extension Council Chair

Bill Arndorfer
Interim Regional Director

Economic Development

Business After Hours
This past March, Floyd County Extension hosted the Business After Hours sponsored by the Charles City Chamber. This event was a great opportunity for office staff and council members to highlight all the impactful opportunities Extension offers in Floyd County.

Health and Well Being

Better Kid Care
In the fall of 2015, Floyd County Extension offered Better Kid Care for child care teachers and providers reaching over 40 participants. These 3 face-to-face workshops allowed participants to learn about Art Appreciation, Building Relationships with Children Who Challenge Us, and Parents: Friends or Foes. From these learning opportunities, child care teachers and providers were able to build on skills learned in these workshops to improve the quality of child care in Floyd County and surrounding areas.

Healthy Living Series
Once again this past year, the Healthy Living Series has seen great attendance with over 30 attending workshop topics including Basic Ipad Class, Wreath Workshop, and Cooking for 1 or 2. In these workshops, participants have learned new skills and knowledge which in turn has increased their confidence to impact how they make healthy lifestyle changes.

County Extension Staff

Lesley Mehmen Milius
County Executive Director

Allison Hocking
4-H Program Assistant

Julie Mayhew
Family Nutrition Program Assistant

Jane Beranek
Office Assistant/Bookkeeper

Kim Vance
4-H Office Assistant

Floyd 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:

- Human Sciences-Better Kid Care & Child Care Provider training
- 4-H and K-12 Outreach-Pint Size Science, Clover Kids, & Pick a Better Snack
- Health and Well-being-Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Buy Eat Live Healthy
**Family Nutrition Program**
The Buy Eat Live Healthy, Family Nutrition Program in 2015, served 54 families with 37 total graduates. This program currently offers 10 educational lessons that are taught to the participants. Participants have reported after completing the program to have improved diets and nutritional well-being for the whole family. In addition an increased ability to manage food budgets and knowledge of the basics of human nutrition have been observed.

**Food and Environment**

**Farm Bill Meeting**
Floyd County Extension and FSA partnered to host a Farm Bill meeting in Charles City with a large crowd of over 70 farmers in attendance. Area Extension Farm Management Specialist, Kristen Schulte shared information about updating base acres and yields as well as explaining the options available for Price Loss Coverage (PLC), ARC-CO, and ARC-IC. Kristen also highlighted how farmers can use Ag Decision Maker Tools in calculating what program is best suited for their farm operation.

**Farmland Leasing**
Melissa O’Rourke, Extension and Outreach Farm Management Program Specialist, held a Farmland Leasing meeting this past fall to over 20 participants at the Floyd County Extension office. The provided information assisted land owners and producer-tenants regarding the various farm lease arrangements, flexible cash lease methodologies and filing landlord liens.

**K-12 Youth Outreach**

**4-H Legislative Trip**
Floyd County 7th-9th graders participated in the State Capital Legislative Trip this past April. They visited the HyVee Hall of Pride, participated in a Capitol tour and were greeted by Senator Mary Jo Wilhelm, Senator Amanda Ragan, and State Representative, Josh Byrnes.

**Agronomy Trip to ISU**
This past April, Floyd County 4-H juniors and intermediates participated in the 1st Annual Agronomy Event on the ISU campus. Youth engaged in learning activities in the areas of weed science, crop science, meteorology, and soil science. The youth learned that agronomists today are involved with many issues including producing and creating healthier food.

**4-H Workshops**
Winter 4-H Workshops were a huge hit for Floyd County 4-H’ers to get a head start on their fair projects. From making welcome mats to sewing 4-H pillows, these workshops not only teach life skills, but create successful learners and effective leaders in our 4-H program.

**New Member Night**
New Member Night was held in January 2015 with over 23 in attendance. New 4-H’ers learned about what they can do and learn in 4-H. Senior 4-H members were on hand to answer questions and to help showcase all the great things 4-H offers.

**Clover Kids**
Floyd County Clover Kids is an exciting and widely popular program for youth in K-3rd grade. With over 150 participating from 3 different school districts in Floyd County, this program has reported that youth learn positive life skill building and cooperative learning in a non-competitive environment.

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