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

Peter Seehusen
Extension Council Chair

Terry Janssen
Regional Director

Economic Development

Jan Monahan and Brenda Schmidt, Extension and Outreach Families Finance Program Specialists, offered Log On and Learn, Identity Theft and Financial Spring Cleaning sessions. 17 participants were provided with information on protecting their identity, how to detect suspicious activity, guidelines and strategies to get their financial and business papers well-organized.

A Farmland Leasing and Land Value meeting was presented by Melissa O’Rourke, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Specialist. Land owners and producer-tenants were provided information on various farm lease arrangements, flexible cash lease methodologies, and filing landlord liens.

To build local knowledge on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Iowa, Jesse Randall, Iowa State University Forestry Extension offered information to 22 participants on current locations of EAB in Iowa, signs and symptoms to look for, treatment options, and tree replacement options for homeowners.

Estate & Transition Planning 101 - The Nuts & Bolts to Get You Started offered topics to on property ownership, powers of attorney, wills and trust, estate and inheritance.

Advanced Grain Drying and Management presented by Kris Kohl, ISU Extension and Outreach Ag Engineer offered a hands-on class on grain drying management with state of the art software to manage your aeration system.

County Extension Staff

Lisa Zeman
County Youth Coordinator

Holly Frerk
County Program Coordinator

Kris Kohl
Extension Ag Engineer

Dianne Dirks
Office Manager

Pocahontas 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:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
**Health and Well Being**

What most influences your mealtime decisions? *Healthy Meals in a Hurry* was presented by Katie Knobbe, Human Sciences Specialist, Nutrition & Wellness with twelve attendees. Healthy Meals in a Hurry is designed to help consumers of all ages blend time-saving convenience with nutritious, dollar-stretching food choices.

SERVSAFE certification is based on the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the Iowa Food Code to help food service professionals maintain their safe food standards.

We know that when children feel accepted and supported, they are ready to learn. *Every Child Counts: Building Community* was a workshop for child care providers to help learn ways to bring out nurturing, caring behaviors where children support each other.

**Food and Environment**

**Iowa Learning Farms Field Day:** *Looking at Gilmore City’s 25 years of Conservation* for research and technology development of nutrient reduction strategies. Presenters focused on impacts and findings from past years, current research results, and their relationship to the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Also outlined was the future efforts and watershed-scale evaluation in collaboration with the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and nitrate removal wetland performance and monitoring for two years in the Pocahontas and Palo Alto County drainage districts.

Paul Kassel, Extension Field Agronomist, held a *Crop Management* workshop informing 16 producers how to check for Northern Corn Leaf Blight, Fungicides for Northern Corn Leaf Blight, Soybean aphid update, how to check for damage from corn rootworm, and corn and soybean development update.

*Common Industry Swine Audit,* was to provide consumers greater assurance of the care taken by farmers and pork processors to improve animal well-being and food safety.

**K-12 Youth Outreach**

Cedar Leaders 4-H club made bracelets and snack mix for the *Cinco de Mayo* festival held in Fonda. There were games for kids and adults and a band provided music.

**Pocahontas County Conservation Day.** Jesse Randall, ISU Extension and Outreach Forestry specialist, instructed 5th graders from Pocahontas County on the proper way to plant a tree. The youth planted trees in Coopers Cove park. Randall helped them identify different trees within the park. The park’s oak trees are over 200 years old.

In January and June, *Babysitting Clinics* were offered in Laurens and Fonda with nineteen county youth in attendance. Valuable information was presented by staff and volunteers focusing on how to make a healthy snack, the basics of CPR, home safety, and money management.

**Summer 4-H Education - Robotics STEM Camp.** Pocahontas County youth were among 125 4-7th graders designing and programming robots in a 3-day camp led by a Master 4-H Robotics Educator, Sue Jarviss and ISUEO 4-H YPS, Carol Ehlers. 97% reported they want to learn more about STEM and related careers.

4-H Robotics program enhances: basic engineering and programming skills, positive team relationships, improved problem solving, and science, engineering technology, and math skills.

The 4-H Mad Scientist program improves: technology skills: microscopes, chemical testing, vacuum air pressure instruments, engineering build and design air rockets, and math skills measuring liquid/dry ingredients and interpreting chemical tests.

Post evaluation data shows youth involved in 4-H apply STEM to their 4-H projects and pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology.