ISU Extension and Outreach's Ag and Natural Resources program provides farmers, policy makers, regulators, and agribusiness professionals the opportunity to learn from research-based education to inform their decisions, which leads to a sustainable agriculture and environment. In turn, this benefits all Iowans by ensuring clean water, profitable farms, thriving communities and a more secure food system.

**Electronic Media Interactions**

ISU Extension and Outreach Ag and Natural Resources engaged with Iowans through a variety of online platforms. ANR websites received **14,022,599 WEBPAGE VIEWS** from **6,144,619 unique VISITORS**. Specialists provided information to **74,603 FOLLOWERS** on SOCIAL MEDIA. **39 NEWSLETTERS** were sent to **54,355 SUBSCRIBERS**.

**Sharing our Research**

ANR staff authored **1,037 RESEARCH ARTICLES** and **TECHNICAL PAPERS**. **2,230,424 PRINT PUBLICATIONS** were downloaded or distributed from the ISU Extension Store. Specialists made **287 DIGITAL PRESENTATIONS**, reaching **206,213 VIEWERS**.

**Building Relationships**

**288,489 CONTACTS** were made at **1,889 MEETINGS**, **WORKSHOPS** and **FIELD DAYS**. ANR specialists made **7,465 INDIVIDUAL FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS** while communicating with constituents **42,801 times** on the phone and through email.

**Telling Our Story**

ANR staff participated in **2,861 INTERVIEWS** with television, radio, and print journalists. **1,382 ARTICLES** were written by ANR staff and published in **POPULAR PRESS** and **INDUSTRY PUBLICATIONS**.

**FOOD SECURITY**

**Master Gardener**

26 IOWA MASTER GARDENER ORGANIZATIONS received over **$90,000** to grow fruits and vegetables for local food pantries. Over **90,000 POUNDS** of fresh fruits and vegetables were donated to FOOD PANTRIES and FOOD BANKS across the state. The amount of food contributed equals **270,000 SERVINGS** of fruits and vegetables.

**Beef Quality Assurance**

With several major beef packers deciding to only purchase cattle from producers who are Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified, **5,628 PRODUCERS** were CERTIFIED through the **Iowa Beef Center’s Beef Quality Assurance program** in 2018. The program is designed to educate beef producers on BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES to produce cattle that are safe, wholesome, and healthy.

**Local School Meals**

10 IOWA SCHOOL DISTRICTS are partnering with the Local Foods program to increase their purchase of LOCALLY GROWN FOOD in their schools. The schools in the partnership serve meals to **25,000 STUDENTS** a year. Increased local procurement will result in HEALTHIER MEALS and more nutrition education for students, as well as INCREASED SALES for AREA FARMERS.

**Produce Safety for Growers**

215 PEOPLE attended 12 PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE COURSES, increasing their knowledge about how to SAFELY GROW PRODUCE. In the last two years, this training has been held across the state, with every county either hosting a training session or having one available in an adjacent county.
**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Feed Safety**
A food and feed safety program with the Center for Industrial Research and Service conducted **11 PROJECTS** with industry clients, creating an estimated economic impact of over **$8 MILLION** and the creation or retention of **60 JOBS**.

**Beginning Farmer Center**
The Beginning Farmer Center’s AG LINK PROGRAM helps facilitate the introduction of retiring farmers to young people who want to get started in agriculture. In 2018 the Center fielded **1,498 CALLS** from beginning farmers and retiring farmers. Additionally, **six FAMILIES** attended the RETURNING TO THE FARM SEMINAR, geared to help families begin conversations about how to TRANSITION their operation to the NEXT GENERATION.

**NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE**

**Drought Meetings**
Counties in southeast Iowa reached “D2” drought status or worse for several consecutive months. **Six DROUGHT MEETINGS** were held in southeast Iowa to assist in determining the safety of the corn crop for feeding livestock. **257 FARMERS** attended the meeting, with **62 PERCENT** gaining increased knowledge of the importance of NITRATE TESTING and **69 PERCENT** increasing their knowledge of CROP INSURANCE. Based on practices implemented from the meetings, a TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT of **$408,000** was seen.

**MANAGING RISK**

**Manure Application**
Manure Applicator Certification programs were presented to **2,055 FARMERS** and **2,371 COMMERCIAL MANURE APPLICATORS** through both face-to-face meetings and DVD viewings. **64%** reported having an EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN in place for manure spill emergencies and **39%** intended to UPDATE THEIR PLAN within a year based on the information received. Of the farmers who did not have an emergency action plan, **18%** intended to DEVELOP A PLAN within a year.

**Ventilation Training**
The IOWA PORK INDUSTRY CENTER and the IOWA PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION developed a hands-on ventilation training, which was demonstrated across the state thanks to a state-of-the-art PORTABLE VENTILATION TRAILER. **171 OPERATORS** attended the trainings, with attendees influencing **63 MILLION PIGS** and **1.2 MILLION SOWS**. Post-event surveys noted **72 different CHANGES** producers could implement to improve animal health while using less energy. Producers GAINED AN AVERAGE of **$4,341** in value from the program as well.

**PROFITABILITY**

**ICM Conference**
The INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT (ICM) CONFERENCE attracted nearly **900 PARTICIPANTS** from across the Midwest. Attendees chose from **39 PRESENTATIONS** on emerging and innovative issues regarding crop management, with **6,026 HOURS** of CONTINUING EDUCATION credit awarded to Iowa certified crop advisors. The farmers and certified crop advisors who responded to post-event surveys farmed or advised clients on **1.8 MILLION ACRES** of corn and soybeans in Iowa, and estimated their PER ACRE PROFIT increase based on knowledge gained to be between **$5** and **$10** for a cumulative benefit of **$14 MILLION** to these operations.

**Leasing Meetings**
**89 FARMLAND LEASING MEETINGS** were attended by **1,597 LANDOWNERS**, **TENANTS**, **AG LENDERS**, **ATTORNEYS**, **ACCOUNTANTS** and **PROFESSIONAL FARM MANAGERS**. Attendees use the program to learn new trends and issues related to land and leasing. They also access this information through ONLINE RESOURCES. The CASH RENTAL RATE SURVEY was downloaded from the ISU Extension Store **301,186** times and LEASING FORMS were downloaded **104,091** times.

**WATER QUALITY**

**Watershed Coordinator Trainings**
TWO TRAINING SESSIONS were held for watershed coordinators in 2018, reaching **70 COORDINATORS** with information about CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS, SATURATED BUFFERS, BIOREACTORS, PRAIRIE STRIPS and COVER CROPS.