Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Audubon County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Audubon 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
- K12 Youth Outreach

Audubon County Celebrates 100 years

Current and former staff, council members, 4-Hers and community members came together in celebration of a century of ISU Extension and Outreach in Audubon County. Dr. John Lawrence, Vice President for Extension and Outreach, presented a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Dr. Lawrence gave a brief history of ISU Extension and Outreach in Iowa recognizing the 100 year milestone that many counties like Audubon had reached. He stressed the value of extension’s 99 counties in connecting the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. 80 attended the celebration at the brand new Audubon Recreation Center. 4-H clubs set up displays and activities at the event and CY was available for photos and fun.

Extension Council Members

We want communities and farmers to thrive, and families and children to be healthy. And eventually we want to turn the world over to the next generation better than we found it.

Julie McVay  
Extension Council Chair

Terry Torneten  
Regional Director

Sandy Irlmeier  
Council Member

Aaron Bruhn  
Council Member

Tauna Bohlmann  
Council Member

Jill Christensen  
Council Member

Randy Dreher  
Council Member

Bryan Svoboda  
Council Member

Jason Walter  
Council Member

Jason Zaiger  
Council Member
ISU Extension and Outreach specialist Ann Parker provided the ServSafe® program in Audubon in July 2018. ServSafe® is the food safety certification course developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. It is one of several programs accredited by the American National Standards Institute - Conference on Food Protection in meeting Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) requirements. The ServSafe® program blends the latest FDA Food Code and food safety research in a program offered by specialists with years of food sanitation training experience. Participants learn current best practices related to safe food handling and cleaning and sanitizing as well as tips on how to implement essential food safety practices and create a culture of food safety. The 8-hour course includes a resource workbook and concludes with a certification exam. As a result of this ServSafe® program, 18 people were trained in food safety.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Youth programming is an important part of our work in Audubon County. We strive to provide a variety of educational experiences throughout the year in order to build successful future citizens. 4-H continues to be strong in Audubon County involving over 170 youth in grades K-12 in year-round community clubs and the Clover Kids program. Youth are given opportunities to reach their full potential by working and learning in partnership with caring adults. In 2018, a few 4-H highlights included Maker’s Space and Consumer Management workshops and Food Safety and Quality Assurance for youth raising market animals and the year end culmination of 4-H—the Audubon County Fair. Project possibilities in 4-H are endless.

I Pledge My Hands for Larger Service

Thursday, November 1 marked the third annual fall clean up day hosted by the Audubon County 4-H program. Over 40 club members, alongside 16 adults, including 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers spent their afternoon to make autumn yard clean up tasks a little easier for about a dozen of our neighbors. Six of our local county 4-H clubs participated in the communities of Audubon and Exira, as well as at Littlefield Recreation Area. Approximately nine dump-trailer loads of leaves were removed from yards and taken to a local field for composting. Community service is a large part of the 4-H program and our clubs try to do several community service projects every year.

Pint Sized Science

Over 100 youth in five area classrooms are frequently presented with age-appropriate science lessons during the school year as part of the Pint-Size Science curriculum. These lessons target early childhood classrooms with three to six year olds. The students make predictions, identify equipment, practice safety procedures, recall vocabulary terms, participate in hands-on science experiments, explore weather phenomena and learn about animal adaptations from this partnership.