

# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

## AUDUBON COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State research and resources. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Audubon County for a #STRONGIOWA.

### 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



### Farmer Coffees

Three Farmer Coffees were held during February and March 2019. Topics included **Securing Your Assets** with guest speakers Audubon County Sheriff Todd Johnson and ISU Extension and Outreach Ag Engineer Shawn Shouse, **Farming in the Family** with guest speaker Tim Christensen, Farm Management Specialist and **Planning for Spring** with guest speaker Mike Witt, Agronomist. The sessions helped fourteen participants learn more about emerging issues in the farming industry.



### 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.

**Bryan Svoboda**  
*Extension Council Chair*

**Terry Torneten**  
*Regional Director*

**Tauna Bohlmann**  
*Council Member*

**Jill Christensen**  
*Council Member*

**Julie McVay**  
*Council Member*

**Louis Wanninger**  
*Council Member*

**Aaron Bruhn**  
*Council Member*

**Sandra Irlmeier**  
*Council Member*

**Jason Owen**  
*Council Member*

**Jason Zaiger**  
*Council Member*

IN 2019

## ServSafe®

ISU Extension and Outreach- Audubon County hosted a **ServSafe®** food safety certification course in August 2019. Thirteen food service managers and workers participated. The course covers food safety practices such as proper personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, purchasing food from safe sources, preventing cross contamination, and cooking/holding food at the correct temperatures. This helps increase food safety skills and knowledge and decrease the risk of foodborne illness in and around Audubon County. ISU Human Sciences Specialist in Nutrition and Wellness, Ann Parker, was the instructor for the course.

## 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.

Audubon County Master Gardeners hosted and six local youth participated in a day camp titled **“WILD About Native Bees!”**, highlighting the importance of native bees in our ecosystem. Camp was held at the Audubon County fair grounds in June. The camp consisted of collaborative, hands-on challenges that educated youth on all aspect of native bees. They are important pollinators; there are many types of native bees with unique life cycles; native bees affect our food supply and have an economic impact on agriculture. Youth participated in

activities that helped them learn about the process of pollination, how native bees are important to pollination of food crops, and how pollinators are economically significant for agriculture. The youth also learned about habitat challenges for native bees, built, and took home a native bee nest with the hopes of increasing habitat to help native bees and other species.

Twenty-nine area youth participated in two day camps in June of 2019 focusing on **“Outdoor Adventures”**. Littlefield Recreation Area had tons of activities to offer for these camps. Fishing and kayaking were highlights for both camps. Scouting around the park to find various scavenger hunt items, identifying wild edible plants were other ways Tyler Bruck, Operations Supervisor for Audubon County Conservation Board, helped campers learn about the outdoors. Older campers tried their hand at throwing ancient spears, called atlatis, as well as building and keeping a fire going, in a fire pit, followed by s'mores.

School enrichment activities continue to be a highlight in Audubon County as well. **Pint-sized science** is brought to youth in both Exira-EHK and Audubon school districts and two sections of pre-school in Audubon. Approximately 314 youth are reached through hands on activities using a hands-on approach that engages and inspires young minds to explore scientific phenomena, Pint Size Science works not only to build science understanding but also to respond to the ever-changing interests and abilities of children.

## ISU Extension and Outreach

### Audubon County

608 Market Street

Audubon, IA 50025

712-563-4239

[www.extension.iastate.edu/audubon](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/audubon)



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## County Extension Staff

**Abby VanAernam**  
Office Manager

**Ann Carter**  
County Program  
Coordinator

