WHAT WE WANT

#STRONGIOWA

2018 IN BLACK HAWK COUNTY

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 Black Hawk County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Black Hawk 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:

- Competitive Iowa Agriculture
- Preparing Youth Leaders and Learners
- Strengthening Families

Competitive Iowa Agriculture

Agriculture and Natural Resource programming offered through ISU Extension & Outreach in Black Hawk County is based on need, interest and opportunities. Programming and services offered are based on researched based methods and the expertise of practitioners in the field and at Iowa State University.

Agriculture

Workshops were held in the winter, late summer and fall including the annual Crop Advantage in January, Annual Farm

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.

Mike Pipho
Extension Council Chair

Bill Arndorfer (retired)
Regional Director

Bruce Clark
Council Member

Lucy Evans
Council Member

Nora Kurtovic
Council Member

Kate Luensmann
Council Member

Chris Lichty
Council Member

Don Moore
Council Member

Melissa Tate
Council Member

Tajah Wright
Council Member

Congratulations Mike and Lynn Pipho on receiving the "Iowa 4-H Hall Of Fame Inductees AWARD!"
Regional Extension Education Director

This year our Regional Extension Education Director, Bill Arndorfer retired! It was an unexpected change that caught us all by surprise late this summer. Bill gave no indication he was dreaming of retiring.

Bill had served as a County Director in Grundy before advancing to the REED position for Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, Buchanan, Grundy and Tama Counties. He served as liaison from County Services at ISU to each County’s Extension Council and office.

During the search for Bill’s replacement we’ve received support from Rich Wragg who serves as Reed for Story, Marshall and Boone counties. Rich attended every council meeting, staff meeting and answered every call and e-mail with the information needed for the inquiry.

Adriane Carlson has been hired to succeed Bill starting December 26th. Adriane comes from the Waterloo Community School District and University of Northern Iowa. The region is excited for Adriane to start the new year!

Shelly Smith
Executive Director

Show at UNI in February, Farmland Leasing in September and Pro Ag Outlook in November.

Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicator trainings are offered throughout the year to meet continuing education requirements of our local farmers, ag & pest businesses and their employees.

Natural Resources

Wildlife questions were fielded through Call the Courier questions, visits into the office and calls inquiring how to identify, remove and deter infestations.

Partnerships with the USDA, Natural resources Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission supports efforts to protect our natural resources. This resulted in a pollinator workshop attended by 51 participants.

Yard and Garden

12 new participants received training and started their internships to become Master Gardeners. 53 Master Gardeners volunteered over 2945 hours in the community and led free seminars at the public libraries over six different workshops. A first time annual symposium was arranged by the Master Gardeners in November reaching 98 participants with education on growing and maintaining plants.

Insects were identified by Sheila Walitshek in our office through drop offs, pictures and mailings. Call the Courier questions were fielded and resources shared on proper pest management practices.

Community Gardens receive support from Steven Eilers, Food Corps and the Master Gardeners to teach local gardening best practices, produce food for donations to the food bank and build sustainable efforts. The fruit orchard at the Cedar Valley Arboretum is a prime example of sustainability.
Preparing Youth Leaders and Learners

Preparing Iowa’s youth to be successful, contributing members of society. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences. In Black Hawk County we have 341 youth enrolled in 4-H and over 4,984 participants in programs. Thank you to the nearly 250 volunteers who share their time and talent for workshops, program and club meetings.

Safety Day, Discovery Program, STEM Day Camps, Lunar Eclipse workshop, parades, Stem Fairs, County Fair, Legislative Day, Serve & Slide and Youth Conferences are just a sampling of programs offered throughout the year to all Black Hawk County youth.

We hosted our first regional event for First Lego League Jr. teams to compete and show off their accomplishments. 8 local teams attended!

Strengthening Families

In Black Hawk County we see Strengthening Families as a priority. This effort is achieved by using the Human Sciences Extension & Outreach specialists and research based programming.

Human Sciences strives to build a #STRONGIOWA one person at a time. We provide research-based information and education to help Iowans make decisions that improve their lives.

Family Finance

Teaching money management, planning for retiring, investments and planning for the stage of life where more care is needed. Jeannette Mukayisire has led classes with high school youth, Pathways Behavioral Health Services, at the Landmark, with EMBARC, and in collaboration with Hawkeye Community College.

Nutrition & Wellness

Food Corps partners with the Black Hawk County Health Department to offer Pick a Better Snack in targeted at risk schools. Each month the AmeriCorps members take a new food into the school for tastings, programming and learning how to safely prepare at home.

Kids in the Kitchen programming is led by Emily Samuelson in before and afterschool programs. Five to Ten year old’s are learning safe ways to prepare their own healthy snacks following the my plate guidelines.

SERV Safe offered 12 classes and had 172 food service managers to learn the food hazards and appropriate safe food practices and become certified.

Buy Eat Live Healthy recently went through an in-depth review and came out with flying colors on teaching low income families how to budget for healthy foods, make healthier food selections and how to prepare foods for their families. This free program is facilitated by three wonderful part time para professionals from our community.

Preserve the Taste of Summer is an online food preservation course with a hands on workshop of which 10 participants
completed it in 2018.

Child Care Provider Nutrition training taught child care providers about healthy and affordable food choices and physical activities for children. 9 trainings were offered with 178 childcare providers attending.

**Family Life**

Environmental Rating Scale training was offered to child care professionals throughout the past year. The training helps providers understand the self assessments of their environment along with improvement plans. 16 completed this from Black Hawk County.

JUNTOS (Together for Better Education) trained two new facilitators and held a spring series with five families completing the program.

**Engaged Scholar**

Black Hawk County was a part of Dr. Tera Jordan’s research project on Strengthening Relationships in the African American Community. This project’s purpose is to strengthen connections between the county’s African American community and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach. Results of the study have developed recommendations currently being implemented in the community. This project has now been published by Dr. Jordan.