

WHAT WE WANT #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN BREMER 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 Bremer County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Bremer 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:

- **Business and Economic Development**
- **Food and the Environment**
- **Health and Well-being**
- **K12 Youth Outreach**

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.

Dave Drape
Extension Council
Chair

Mary Beth Zelle
Council Member

Robert Steffen
Council Member

Adriane Carlson
Regional Director

Nancy Foelske
Council Member

Tom Sickles
Council Member

Jason Lobeck
Council Member

Chris Pries
Council Member

John Fay
Council Member

Mark Lenius
Council Member

County Extension Staff

Ron Lenth
County Program
Coordinator

Jeannette Mukayisire
Family Finance
Specialist

Cody Emery
County Youth
Coordinator

Tammy Curley
Office Assistant
Bookkeeper



K12 Youth Outreach

2019 was a year of Growth and “Making the Best Better” for Bremer County youth! The 4-H enrollment year had some amazing numbers.

- 7 public school districts and 2 nonpublic
- 268 4-H Club members, grades 4–12
- 94 Clover Kid members, grades K-3
- 87 adult volunteers
- 1203 K-12 youth reached
- 331 youth registered for the Bremer County Fair
 - 808 static exhibits entered
 - 1268 Livestock entries

Bremer County 4-H is a vibrant program that offers specialty clubs, traditional clubs that can experience workshops, day camp, trips, and overnight camps at the county, state, and national levels. Throughout the year, the Bremer County 4-H clubs spent time building strong bonds through engaging activities, strengthening leadership and civic engagement skills through officer roles and community service projects.

Bremer County has 12 active 4-H clubs; with a total of 398 youth partaking in membership for the FYE 2019. Not only are the 4-H members proudly representing Bremer County ISU Extension and Outreach throughout the counties’ communities, the Clover Kid program is increased and continues to grow for FYE 2019!

Our Mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. We achieve this mission by having safe environments, inclusive settings, caring adults, and endless opportunities. Good habits begin when we are young. Bremer County 4-H provides all youth with programs to help educate, build confidence and nurture relationships that last a lifetime. Bremer County has 12 clubs with 300 members in grades 4-12 and a strong Clovers program of 98 in grades K-3.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Over 8,400 pounds of fresh produce was grown and donated to food-insecure families from our Waverly Community Sharing Garden/ Orchard. This was the ninth year, and this produce was shared with area church and social service meal sites plus the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Radon detection and mitigation classes are held to inform the public of this silent health challenge. All 99 Iowa counties test averages exceed the EPA mitigation levels. Attendees received free test kits and instructions on their next steps.

Aided the cities of Waverly and Tripoli with tree planting projects and/or grant writing to improve the appearance and quality of life in the communities.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Partnered with the cities of Tripoli and Sumner with projects designed for civic improvement through the Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. This ranged from park plantings to future plans for addressing downtown issues.

Met with the Denver Chamber of Commerce to introduce the new Iowa Retail Initiative for local businesses.

For the ninth year, hosted weekly ISU Extension radio program on local radio station KWAY in Waverly. Rural and urban topics ranged from lawn and garden tips to farm safety to addressing Emerald Ash Borer issues.

Served on the Tripoli Community Club board to address improving business climate and quality of life for citizens, helped create "Welcome Baskets" for new arrivals, and helped write grants for city projects.

Held Estate Planning plus Farmland Rental programs to aid citizens plan and discuss vital future farm, family and business decisions.

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FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Held ISU Master Conservationist classes with Black Hawk County to educate and train future advocates covering vital topics from forests, aquatics, wetlands, prairies, watersheds, etc.

Addressed soil and water quality and flooding issues by serving on both the Upper Cedar and Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA's boards and Bremer County SWCD. Also helped create the 30,000-acre Upper Crane Creek Watershed to address local soil and water issues. Collected local stream water samples for 10th year.

Conducted our large annual fall cornstalk nitrate program to help growers address soil nutrient and fertilizer input management. This was the 10 year and involved collecting 153 samples (15 stalks/sample) from 23 area farms.

Formed a Women's Land and Legacy group in our 4-county area to help area women landowners understand key issues important to them.

Conducted spring insect trapping to monitor Black Cutworm and Armyworm activity to protect our valuable crop fields.

Our ISU Master Gardener demonstration garden has a special Monarch Waystation section to help attract and feed the threatened Monarch Butterflies and aid pollinators.

Classes and private visits on handling Emerald Ash Borer issues were conducted for county communities and private citizens to address future issues caused by this destructive insect. Also serve on Waverly Tree Board to address future tree planning.

Provided training and certification classes for 170 farmers for Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT), while numerous certification classes for other chemical applicators.



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