

# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

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

## **Buchanan 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.

In 2013 a community needs assessment identified eight priority needs in Buchanan County. They are listed here in priority order for current and future programming:

- Youth/Development/STEM/Health
- Economic Development
- Community Vision/Planning/Design
- Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship
- Strengthen Families and financial capabilities
- Nutrition and Health
- Efficient and Effective Government

## **Youth/Development/STEM/Health**

Buchanan County has 14 active 4-H clubs; with a total of 263 youth partaking in membership for the FYE 2016. Not only are the 4-H members proudly representing Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach throughout the counties' communities, the Clover Kid program increased by 36% and continues to grow for FYE 2017!

Throughout the year programs were offered to area youth, some of the programs offered include:

- KidWind
- Healthy Choices
- Safety Day (2nd Grade Day and an Amish Student Day)
- Growing in the Garden
- Green Thumb Camp
- Clinics: Sheep/Goat, Dog, Horse, Beef, Swine
- Wild Wednesdays
- Jr Camp and Intermediate Trip

In FYE 2016 our County Youth Coordinator, Alexia Hamlett, and the rest of the team reached out to 2,272 youth and adult volunteers (some being duplicates).

The Buchanan County Agricultural Extension District Council guides local educational programming as determined by citizen driven needs assessments. The nine elected council represents the issues and people of Buchanan county.

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.

Michelle Mangrich  
*Extension Council Chair*

Roxanne Fuller  
*Executive Director*



Independence Farmers Market



Jr. Farmers Market



Living with the Land



Green Thumb Garden Camp



KidWind

## **Economic Development and Community Vision/ Planning and Design**

We manage the largest Farmers Market in the county, connecting local food producers and buyers, and hosting food production workshops.

In addition, we operate the Barn Quilts of Buchanan County which attracts many visitors throughout the year.

Staff strives to be active in the community, serving on boards and committees to assist in the growth of the local economy, educate our future leaders, and overall provide strong community partnerships.

In FYE 2016 our team reached out to 1,105 citizens and organizations for community programming.

## **ISU Extension and Outreach Buchanan County**

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High Tunnel



Farmland Leasing

### Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship

Buchanan County Ag/Hort Coordinator, Ashley Sherrets, is a member of two watershed districts, Ag Team Leader, a state Master Gardener Advisory member and a local program coordinator.

Working with the community, we regularly provide research based education, resources and expertise. This past year we offered workshops such as; high tunnel, farmland leasing, monthly CIC's and annual trainings for MAC and Private Pesticide, Beef Quality Assurance, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) and Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD).

Buchanan County Master Gardeners are a very active hosting; (public) winter and summer webinars and an annual (hugely successful) symposium; the groups' only fund raiser. Projects started and maintained by our loyal volunteers are true assets to the county.

### Strengthen Families Including Financial Capabilities

We are fortunate enough to have a Human Sciences Specialist – Family Life, living in our County, Cindy Thompson. She has been instrumental in creating collaborations to provide programming we couldn't do on our own. For example, *Growing Up Wild*, an \$800 program was reduced to \$200 for each collaborator.

Our team is trained, in approved county programming, to help county citizens stretch their dollar and plan for their future. In 2017 we will rejoin the Money Smart Week committee in the Cedar Valley to support our newly hired Human Sciences Specialist - Family Finance, Jeanette Mukaysire.

### Nutrition and Health

Our community's commitment to healthy choices has culminated in a jointly supported local foods position. In coordination with the Buchanan County Health

### Buchanan County Extension Staff

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Center, City of Independence, and Independence Community School District we welcomed Local Foods Coordinator, Sarah Kielly in 2016.

Sarah works with the Health Center by teaching a fruits and vegetable program to two grade levels throughout all Buchanan County schools; in addition, she teaches in classrooms and school gardens in Independence. For the city, she manages the Independence Farmers Market broadening their commitment to healthy choices and economic development.

Katie Christensen, Office Assistant, developed a monthly newsletter from the Iowa State Extension and Outreach blogs which is distributed to 140+ plus organizations and individuals. To encourage displaying the informational newsletters, we supply organizations with acrylic stand-ups. Most individuals receive the publication electronically; this is just another way we can maximize the education while being cognoscente of cost.

### Efficient and Effective Government

As a tax funded entity we are proud to say we manage our resources to the best of our ability. All purchases are researched for the best price and quality. Our system demands we respect the tax payer's pocket book.

As a quasi-government organization, we are active in county wide collaborations. By working together we are able to tackle issues that, due to staffing and cost, would not be possible. We proudly serve as members of Indee-Go Healthy, ICE-T (Independence Community Enhancement Team), Sustainable Independence, CEAT (City Energy Audit Team), Buchanan County Interagency Council, Buchanan County Agricultural Education Foundation, and Indee-Ag/FFA (as well as others mentioned above).

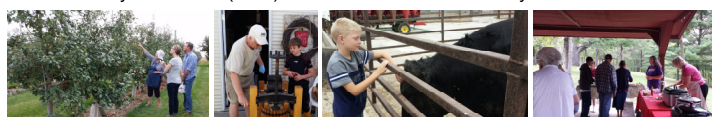
### Other Facts FYE 2016

- Website page views overall—13,441
- Facebook visits overall—2968
- Total highest Facebook posts—4364
- Published news articles—260 (4 local newspapers)



Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)

Buchanan County Barn Quilts



Farm To Fork: Harvest Celebration

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