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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.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:
• Expanding partnerships
• Increasing 4-H enrollment
• Surveying stakeholder needs
• Safe food, local foods
• Resource management – finance education
• Farm management

Healthy People

Hazleton Horizon’s Program
A four-part hands-on, interactive course shared research-based strategies designed to help individuals and families with both their finances and health.

The classes included Spend Smart, Eat Smart, which addressed proven strategies for saving money on food while still eating healthy, and Healthy Food Choices Aisle by Aisle, designed to offer tips for controlling calories, fat, saturated/trans fat, and sodium in your daily diet. Both classes were presented by Cindy Baumgartner, ISU Extension and Outreach nutrition & health specialist. The other two classes were presented by Erin Ludwig, ISU Extension and Outreach resource management specialist, and were Gain Control of Your Finances, which examined spending habits and strategies to manage your personal finances, and Take Charge of Your Credit, which taught credit card terminology, strategies, and tools for managing credit wisely.

The classes were sponsored by Hazleton’s Horizon’s Community Betterment Group and Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach.
Books Donated to Libraries
Buchanan County Master Gardeners purchased the newest edition of “So Easy to Preserve” to donate to the six libraries in Buchanan County.

Every year the Buchanan County Master Gardeners donate a year-long subscription to a gardening magazine to the local libraries. On a rotating basis, once a year one of the libraries will also receive a gardening book.

Students attend Career Fair
Over 300 students attended the Jesup Career Fair. Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach was there to inform the students about the many career opportunities that ISU Extension and Outreach has to offer. From families and consumer sciences, to ag engineering, to business management - the possibilities are endless.

ServSafe Program Offered
Food service employees from the Independence Community School district participated in SafeFood, a food safety and sanitation training. Cindy Baumgartner, nutrition and health program specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, was the instructor for the training. The information shared was based on the nationally recognized ServSafe program, offered through the National Restaurant Association.

Topics covered during the training included how food becomes unsafe, good personal hygiene practices, cross contamination, cleaning and sanitizing basics, food allergies, and job-specific practices.

Day Camps for Students
Four Day Camps were held in the summer for youth in Buchanan County, with 63 participants.

Monkey Mania was offered to students who completed kindergarten or first grade and discussed different breeds of monkeys, the rain forest, and much more.

Offered to students who completed second or third grade, Gizmos & Gadgets participants built a jitter critter, a stop and gabot, and a wabble-ball or fling-a-ma-jig.

Rockets Away centered around math, engineering, aerospace, and physics and was offered to students who completed third through sixth grade.

The final camp, Navigate with GPS was offered to students who completed grades fourth through sixth and participants learned the basics of GPS navigation and how to have fun doing it.

4-H Prospers in Buchanan County
For 2010-2011, there were 305 4-H members in Buchanan County. Throughout the year the members were given the opportunity to participate in several county activities. B&B Farmstore partnered with Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach to hold a fitting and grooming workshop for youth interested in beef, sheep, and swine. The Iowa Meat Goat Association co-sponsored a meat goat workshop for youth and adults to learn more about raising a healthy herd. Hawkeye Community College hosted the Region 9 Food Safety and Quality Assurance trainings for youth to attend and become certified before the county fair.

Over 50 members and their parents volunteered an entire day to help get the fairgrounds ready for the annual Buchanan County Fair.

These were just a few of the highlights of the past 4-H year.
Fun at the Fair
The Buchanan County Fair has been attracting families for over 150 years. The 4-H and FFA programs play a large part in the county fair with the various livestock shows and the non-livestock exhibits.

This year there were 1,134 livestock entries spread out among the beef, sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, meat goats, dairy goats, dairy cattle, horses, dogs, cats, and pets categories.

Also included at the fair were the 577 non-livestock exhibits entered and displayed in the 4-H Building where guests could walk around and admire them.

Every year proves to be exciting and different as the members will bring new ideas and energy to the fairgrounds.

Healthy Environments

Fifth Grade Environmental Day
Each year Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach partners with Fontana Nature Center to organize Fifth Grade Environmental Field Day. This program allows fifth grade students from four surrounding school districts to attend a day-long event where they can learn about our environment and how it impacts their lives.

There are a total of 22 sessions students can choose from including worm composting, prairie ecology, fish identification, wilderness camping, and archery. All of the presenters donate their time and talents to educate the youth on subjects that they are passionate about.

Summer Webinar Series
Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach hosted a webinar series, presented remotely by Harrison County Program Coordinator Richard Pope. The webinar was part of the 2011 Summer Webinar Series Garden Natives & Invasives, sponsored by the Iowa Master Gardener Program.

Webinars in the series included Plant Communities of Iowa; Identification and Management of Invasive Woody Plants; Tallgrass Prairies of Iowa; and Native Friends and Invading Forces.

Continued Instruction Courses Offered Throughout Year
Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach offered Continued Instruction Courses throughout the year in areas such as: Certified Handlers; Seed Treatment; Aquatic, Forest, and Roadside Pest Management; Mosquito and Public Health Pest Management; Ornamental and Turf Applicators; Commercial Ag Weed, Insect, and Plant Disease Management; Fumigation; Pest Control Operators; and Greenhouse. Other areas included Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings, as well as education on Commercial and Confinement Manure.

Horticulture Badge Earned
Ashley Sherrets, Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach consumer horticulturist, assisted with a horticultural badge unit for the local Daisy Scout Troop 6079. The project leader needed assistance teaching them to build terrariums. Plant material and potting medium were donated by the horticultural program of Hawkeye Community College from their greenhouse.

With Sherrets’ help, the girls planted four different types of plants and will continue to care for them throughout the unit. In April Sherrets will return to guide the girls in a mini-plant propagation project.
Master Gardener Classes
Individuals who wanted to become a Master Gardener attended 40 hours of classes taught by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach staff and specialists in topics ranging from lawn care, flower and vegetable gardening, ornamental trees and shrubs, fruit crops, houseplants, insect disease, weed control, soil and plant nutrition, and pesticide safety.

In exchange for their training, participants are required to volunteer 40 hours of service per year to their local community.

Healthy Economies

Estate Planning Workshop
Noticing the increase in questions concerning probate costs, power of attorney, and use of trusts, the Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach Office held an Estate Planning workshop, presented by Kelvin Leibold, farm management field specialist. The program was designed not only for rural clients, but for urban clients as well. Estate planning involves a lot more than just federal estate taxes. Federal estate tax laws have undergone many changes in the past year and will change again soon.

Topics discussed included property ownership, wills, federal estate tax, Iowa inheritance tax, gifting, trusts, and gift taxes. Leibold highlighted the changes between 2009, 2010, and 2011 laws to estate tax regulations.

The program provided background information to assist the 36 participants to work more effectively with their professional and legal advisors.

Workshop on Grant Writing
Ron Mirr, M.S.W., presented a Grant Proposal Writing Workshop to over 70 people. Attendees were able to enhance their knowledge of the grant writing process and learn more about the review process by reviewing previously written grants. The two-day workshop was sponsored by Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach and the Buchanan County Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

Food Drive Held
Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach celebrated Extension Week by hosting a food drive for the Independence Area Food Pantry.

“It’s one way we can say ‘thank you’ to the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies, and other partners who support ISU Extension work in Iowa,” said Gerald Miller, interim vice president for ISU Extension and Outreach.

All Buchanan County 4-H clubs, Extension Council members, Master Gardeners, etc., were asked to participate by bringing in their non-perishable items. Over 428 pounds of food and a large monetary donation was collected.

Impact
Youth Council Council Contributions
Each year the Youth County Council raises money to purchase items for a family in need at Christmas. The council also collects money and items to prepare gift packages for our soldiers who are stationed overseas. The entire group goes shopping for needed items and takes the items back to their meeting location where all items are packaged and wrapped for distribution.

In addition to these citizenship projects, members assist with Communications Day, Awards Night, and the Buchanan County Fair.