

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

BUTLER 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 Butler County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Butler 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.

Butler County focuses on programming within these four priority topics:

- Agriculture and the Environment
- K-12 Youth Outreach
- Health and Well-Being
- Community and Economic Development



Agriculture and the Environment

One primary priority for Butler County is our deep roots in agriculture. We strive to support both farmers and home owners with our programs and resources.

Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Trainings Two private pesticide applicator trainings reached 69 applicators. These trainings are largely attended by local farmers. The commercial continuing instruction courses serve to meet certification requirements of some farmers, local coop applicators, and many county and city staff. Through commercial trainings, we reached 47 applicators.

Women, Land and Legacy Butler County is partnering with Bremer, Chickasaw, and Floyd counties to begin offering the Women, Land and Legacy program in cooperation with the USDA service centers. The program, led by a team of local women involved in Ag, hosted listening sessions that were attended by 34 women—5 from Butler County. The local team will develop future programs to meet the needs of area women.



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.

Travis Williamson
Extension Council Chair

Adriane Carlson
Regional Director

Amy Barnett
Council Member

Michaeleen Golay
Council Member

Irvin Haan
Council Member

Edward Johnson
Council Member

Jessica Lovrien
Council Member

Jeff Nederhoff
Council Member

Phil Pitzemberger
Council Member

Renee Salge
Council Member

IN 2019



Farm Bill Review Meetings were held in November to provide guidance for Iowa farmland owners and operators reviewing their options under the 2018 Farm Bill. Meetings discussed program rules and regulations, ARC and PLC decisions, and farm stress management.

Other programs and resources included the Farmland Leasing Meeting, Winning the Game marketing, and responding to many home horticulture, tree, and pest questions using ISU resources.

K-12 Youth Outreach

4-H and youth are another major priority in Butler County. We serve youth in Butler County through 4-H, library, school and community programs. This year there were 295 4-H Club and Clover Kid program participants—a 3.5% increase from 2018.

Library Programs and Summer Day Camps reached many Butler County youth in 2019. Library Programs reached 145 youth and focused on a variety of STEM topics ranging from outer space and weather to Dr. Seuss themed. Three summer day camps were attended by 32 youth. Themes included robotics and wellness.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® was attended by 130 4th grade students from Aplington-Parkersburg, Clarksville, and North Butler Schools and a homeschool group. Students learned about being safe and healthy on farms and at home. More than 50 partners and volunteers donated time and resources.

Other programs including Staying Safe on My Own and Ricochet: An Extreme Leadership Adventure reached school students in 4th and 6th grade.

Health and Well-Being

Iowa's population is aging, with 16% of the state over the age of 65. In Butler County, the percentage of residents over 65 jumps to over 21%, which increases the need to focus on issues faced by this population, such as caregiving. **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** is a 6-session series that helps build skills in caregivers so they can take good care of themselves while caring for someone else. In collaboration with community partners, Butler County now has two trained class leaders for Powerful Tools and is looking forward to offering the series in 2020. **Finances of Caregiving** also serves the aging population through financial guidance. The program was offered in Dumont.

Community and Economic Development

Butler County Extension also seeks to enhance the community. This year, conversations and meetings have invited **local foods** producers and potential buyers to the table to discuss what local foods are available in Butler County and how we can enhance local purchases and access to local foods.

The Jackson Lucky Clovers 4-H Club partnered with the City of Clarksville to start **Community Garden Plots**. The plots are located on a flood buyout property. Community members may rent a garden plot for personal gardening use or to grow food to donate to local food pantries. The property was maintained by club members. The 4-H club also had a plot and donated produce to local food pantries and low income housing.

ISU Extension and Outreach Butler County

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