

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 Clay County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Clay 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.

These local issues have been identified as priority topics for current and future programming:

Economic Development

Food and the Environment

Agriculture

K-12 Youth Outreach

Economic Development

ISU Extension and Outreach – Clay County provided trainings on seeking and writing successful grants for area non-profits and local government. The grant writing workshops provided hands-on training in identifying relevant grant opportunities and developing successful grant applications. Participants explored various public and private funding sources, and received instruction and tips on planning projects and writing successful grant applications.



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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.

Gary Johnson
Extension Council Chair

Cheryl Heronemus
Regional Director

Workshop participants will increase their organizations capacity to secure funding to serve their constituent's needs and will bring additional money and projects into the county building community growth.

Agriculture

July 2016, the annual Farmland Leasing and Farm Value workshop was offered for 24 landlords and tenants. This program covered land values, cash rental rates, landlord/tenant communication & legal overview, farm programs, costs of crop production, and how to calculate a fair cash rental rate. Participants walked away with more information on profitability and cost of production, learned how to set a fair rental rate, as well as knowledge of different kinds of leases and legal updates on negotiations and terminations.

ISU Extension and Outreach
Clay County

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Spencer, IA 51301



The class also addressed food hazards and proper food handling practices in order to keep food safe and protect the establishment against the costly nightmare of a foodborne-illness outbreak. Participants learned about prevention, regulatory requirements, and how to improve food quality.

K-12 Youth Outreach

A few years ago Clay County, like many counties, was struggling with decreased 4-H membership. Clay County staff had an “ah-ha” moment where they understood that staff were not experts in everything. They needed to step away, in some areas, from direct delivery education methods.

The Clay County 4-H Youth Development Program focuses on “how” youth learn which is known as *inquiry based learning*. The Clay County community has great resources in providing “what” is learned.

In order to provide high quality programs, Clay County Extension continues to build partnerships with businesses, organizations and individuals who have a passion for a particular subject or topic. The resulting events are called, Special Interest or *SpIn* events and offer year-long programming at no cost to ALL Clay County youth. The *SpIn* book is a year-long planning guide and is in parent’s hands by January each year.

As a result of these efforts, Clay County 4-H has increased active partnerships in 4 years from 10 to over 50. There has been a huge increase in programming hours annually and also an increase in the market share of youth programs of school age youth from 11% to 40%. Clay County 4-H reaches 1 in 2.5 youth.

November 2016, Pro Ag Outlook Forum was offered to 28 participants from local lending, farming, and ag operations. Three specialists from Iowa State University presented on future outlooks for agriculture in the coming year. Participants left with knowledge on profitability of Iowa farms, livestock profit potentials, and key factors to watch as farmers market their grain over the coming year.

Clay County Extension trained 216 private pesticide applicators in 2016. Private pesticide applicators learned about options for management of glyphosate resistant waterhemp. Information was presented on dicamba resistant soybean varieties. Dicamba resistant soybean varieties will offer a new site of action to manage glyphosate resistant weeds, but will challenge applicators to minimize herbicide drift damage to sensitive broadleaf plants.

Food and Environment

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Clay County offered several ServSafe® training programs for food service professionals. ServSafe® training provides knowledge every food service provider must know. The Iowa Food Code requires at least one employee in a food establishment, who has supervisory and management responsibility, to be a Certified Food Protection Manager. The ServSafe program meets the needed certification requirement.

This all-day course and concluding exam, instructed participants on current best practices in safe food handling and sanitizing as well as tips on how to implement essential food safety practices in their place of business.



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