

WHAT WE WANT #STRONGIOWA

2018 IN MARION 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 Marion County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Marion 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:

- Positive youth development through youth leadership, citizenship, and life skills training
- Strengthening Families
- Economic development in communities
- Natural resource and environment



100 Year Celebration

Marion County Extension and Outreach celebrated 100 years of serving the citizens of Marion County in 2018. They celebrated this achievement with a public celebration held on July 31st at the Marion County Extension Office. The Extension Council and Staff welcomed our great volunteers, 4-H families, stakeholders, clients, and the public to share a meal and short presentation to celebrate the 100 years of accomplishments with the Marion County Extension Office and thank all of them for their support. Marion County Cattlemen cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and Vice President of Extension and Outreach, Dr. John Lawrence, gave a short presentation.



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.

Mark Drost
Extension Council Chair

Keith DeBruin
Council Member

Cindi Dale
Council Member

Dale Miller
Interim Regional Director

Carol Van Dyke
Council Member

Jim Petersen
Council Member

Dan Wichhart
Council Member

Kisha Jahner
Council Member

Trey Schneider
Council Member

Randy Thill
Council Member



Boots in the Barn

On November 1st, 2018 the Marion County Extension Office kicked off the first session of Boots in the Barn (photo above). Boots in the Barn is a course for women to teach them about the basics of beef cattle management. We had a great turnout of 23 participants. This was a four part series with several guest speakers from ISU Extension and Outreach and local specialists in Marion County. Some of the topics that the participants learned about included beef cow management and veterinary care, financial management, pasture management and nutrition, and calving management with Frosty, a life size calving simulator. The participants were very engaged and really enjoyed the program.

Extension Office Building Uses

The Marion County Extension Office purchased the old school building at 210 N. Iowa Street in Knoxville in 2011. One of the benefits to having their own building of this size was that it could be used for a variety of meetings and events including renting it out to local businesses and citizens. The Marion County Extension Office has three classroom sized meeting rooms, a gym/conference center complete with a stage, a four station learning kitchen, and two offices. During the first full year Marion County Extension was in their new building it was used 312 times for different meetings and events. In 2018 the building was used 510 times with an average of

42 meetings per month. These meetings range from 4-H club meetings, workshops, extension programs, to community partner meetings and general rental to groups or families.

Quality Child Care

Childcare providers are committed to providing quality care for children. Knowing what quality child care looks like is challenging. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-3) is used to document high quality childcare in center/preschool settings. Providers learn to use the scale for self-assessment and program improvement while attending a four-session series on the scale. The six providers in the March/April series showed improved knowledge in the seven objectives tracked.

4-H Pre-Fair Cooking Day

The 2018 annual Pre-Fair Cooking Day was held on June 21st (see photo below). This is a judged competition for the youth to pick their own recipe and prepare it in front of two judges. They are judged on their cooking skills and the taste and presentation of the finished product.

We had 23 youth participate, both 4-Hers and Clover Kids. They prepared recipes such as Rice Crispie Treats, Cowboy Chili, Chicken Parmesan, and more. This fun filled day ends with a pot luck lunch from all of the dishes the youth prepared and an awards ceremony. The 2018 winner of the senior division was Jaron Sedlock with his homemade Chicken Parmesan. The 2018 winner of the junior division was Olivia Bacon with her Taco Bites.

ISU Extension and Outreach Marion County

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