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

Boone 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:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach

Food and the Environment

Agriculture is vital to Boone County’s communities and economy. In 2018, our programs focused on helping producers increase yields as they implement best practices for protecting natural resources. Ninety-one producers attended our Private Pesticide Applicator Training in January and were updated on the latest agronomic research and guidelines.

In addition to production, crop marketing is an important piece to successful farming operations. We continued our Ogden Ag Marketing Club Meetings to help participants learn the importance of developing marketing plans, storage strategies, and

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.

Donna Monson
Extension Council Chair

Kimberly Rinker
Vice-Chair

Charles Irwin
Council Member

Rich Wrage
Regional Director

Jeff Erb
Secretary

Tom Kauffman
Council Member

Doris Stotts
Treasurer

Cheryl Tevis-Lingren
Council Member

Kyle Chesnut
Council Member
Our Centennial Celebration: 100 Years of Extension in Boone County

This year Boone County celebrated 100 years of organized county extension work. This long-established partnership with Iowa State University provides local citizens with access to education and university research.

A hundred years ago the people of Boone County joined the extension movement and hired their first local extension agent. Today ISU Extension and Outreach serves as a 99 county campus, connecting the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources.

To celebrate this milestone, Boone County staff and Extension Council members participated in a Boone County proclamation, a ribbon cutting and numerous events throughout the year.

Education and partnerships are how we solve problems and prepare for the future. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach looks forward to being part of the ongoing life of Boone County for years to come.

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making sound decisions based on data. In the spring, 40 people attended Winning the Game, a partnership with Iowa Farm Bureau that offered a chance to implement pre-harvest marketing strategies during a market simulation.

In July, 29 landowners, financial advisors and tenants gained a better understanding of rental rates and leasing agreements at our Farmland Leasing Meeting. They also learned strategies for having tenant-landlord conversations around conservation practices.

We also provide Boone County residents with the opportunity to improve our natural resources. In 2018, 44 people went through our Beekeeping Basics workshops that we offered in March and December. Participants learned about equipment, time commitment and made decisions on whether beekeeping is for them.

Through our Master Gardener program, 23 active Master Gardeners and interns completed 1780 hours of service to the community. Master Gardeners earn their distinction by providing current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Boone County through programs and service projects.

This year, our Master Gardeners were awarded a Growing Together Mini Grant. These funds allowed them to start a Donation Garden in Boone that produced 3,846 pounds of produce that was donated to local food pantries this summer.

Health and Well-Being

Our health and well-being programs focused on physical health and nutrition, social/emotional health and family life, and financial health for 2018.

Writing Your Retirement Paycheck was offered in March and 11 participants approaching retirement learned planning strategies and gained a better understanding of health costs, inflation and social security.

ServSafe, a food safety certification training offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, was held in August at the Boone County Extension office with 15 individuals completing the training. This training is mandated by Iowa law and assists retail food service managers in implementing a
variety of food safety practices, including preventing foodborne illnesses, food cross-contamination and proper preparation and storage of food.

During peak gardening season, 12 adults and youth participated in Food Preservation 101 and gained knowledge of canning, freezing and dehydrating produce and meats. Preservation food safety best practices were also discussed.

Patrons of the ROSE Center in Boone participated in a new program called What About Me? My Wellbeing. This program walked participants through social/emotional, physical and financial wellbeing and encouraged goal-setting and planning for one’s own overall wellbeing.

Economic Development

ISU Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development specialists worked with Ogden Legacy on the Ogden Housing Needs Assessment in 2017-18. This was a proactive approach to meeting the housing needs of an aging population and utilizing the vacant Ogden elementary school as a solution. Specialists are still working in Ogden on this project to assist with implementation of recommendations.

Local nonprofit directors, managers and volunteers were invited to participate in Grant Writing 101 this spring. Twenty participants discussed grant writing strategies, project planning, funder research and best practices.

2018 brought a new partnership with the City of Boone and a new program called Marketing Hometown America. This program will continue into 2019 with study circles and an action forum to assist with development of strategies to market the community as a desirable place for families to relocate to and stay long term.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Our focus on reaching K-12 youth is evident through our Boone County 4-H program. Our 4-H participants are provided with opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics including science, art, communications, leadership, animals and nutrition. Learning is encouraged by providing 4-H’ers with supportive environments, inclusive settings and caring adults who seek to help them reach their full potential. Programming methods include educational workshops, trips, conferences and project exhibition opportunities.

At the conclusion of the 2018 4-H year, our 4-H membership included 297 members, 17 clubs, 29 organizational club leaders, 29 episodic club leaders, 16 county council members, 16 Youth Committee members and approximately 100 Livestock Committee volunteers. At our annual 4-H Awards Day in November, over 250 awards were given out to 4-H members including $2,530 in monetary awards. Also given out that night was $2,100 in local scholarships. Boone County 4-H members also had impressive representation at the state level. Over 100 Boone County 4-H youth exhibited projects at the Iowa State Fair. In 2018, Boone County 4-H had two members selected for the National 4-H Congress trip, two state council delegates and three state project awards.

On February 16, the Canines and Clovers 4-H Dog Group held a Boone County Family Fun Night Fundraiser to raise funds to purchase two bullet and stab proof vests for the Boone County Sheriff’s K9 patrol unit. The group’s goal was to raise $1,600 in two hours through their silent auction, door admission, foodstand
and bake sale. Within the two hour event, over 400 people attended and $3,000 was raised.

In addition to 4-H club membership, our K-12 programming reaches youth that may not otherwise have exposure to 4-H through educational partnerships, workshops, camps and after-school programming. Over 370 people attended the 1st Annual Boone Family STEM Festival in April, a new partnership with the Boone DMACC Campus. Nineteen organizations coordinated 24 booths with hands-on activities for youth of all ages that centered around the topics of science, technology, engineering and math.

Forty-two youth from Boone County participated in the Aerospace Interest Group, in which they discovered how rockets work and built a model rocket. The Aerospace Interest Group holds meetings at which youth build their model rocket and the group concludes with a rocket launch.

4-H Innovators is a new program that has youth learning STEM skills by exploring real-world problems and then designing and creating possible solutions for those problems. Youth in Ogden took on the medical version of this program and discovered the many different careers in the medical industry.

In 2018, over 500 Boone County 3rd and 4th graders participated in Outdoor Classrooms at Don Williams Recreation Area and Swede Point Park. This partnership with Boone County Conservation allows us to work with local experts to educate youth on topics such as geology, weather and climate, wildlife, conservation, and Iowa’s natural resources.

Two Boone County schools integrated SWITCH into their 2017-2018 school year with the help of our staff. SWITCH is a 12 week evidence-based program designed to help schools promote healthy lifestyles. Our staff provided additional assistance with special projects including "Try Day Fridays" and helping implementing a school plate waste study.

In 2018, we offered a wide variety of Summer Day Camps so that youth could explore a topic of interest during their school break. Camps were held in all three of Boone County’s communities, and reached around 100 individual students. Topics included art, farming, cooking and science.

Clover Kids, an educational after school program for kindergarten-3rd grade students, is offered in each of our communities annually. In 2018, we hosted one year-round program that met monthly and five short-term programs that met throughout one month, reaching a total of 112 kids with six volunteers.