



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN MARION 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 Marion County for a #STRONGIOWA.

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



Master Conservationist Program

In May of 2019, Marion, Mahaska, Jasper, and Poweshiek Counties came together to offer a regional Master Conservationist program. The program covered a wide variety of topics over seven consecutive weeks including watersheds, prairies, forests, and general conservation. To complete the program, participants had to complete online lectures, read articles, and attend the in-person sessions. An engaged group of around 20 participants traveled to a different location each week to learn hands-on about conservation and the Iowa landscape. Local experts gave lectures and tours of the local natural areas in each county.



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.

Kisha Jahner
Extension Council Chair

Sherry Ford
Regional Director

Mark Drost
Council Member

Cindi Dale
Council Member

Denise Holmgren
Council Member

Jim Petersen
Council Member

Trey Schneider
Council Member

Jared Thill
Council Member

Dustie Wentz
Council Member

Dan Wichhart
Council Member



Learning Gardens

Over the last several years, the Marion County Extension staff have been working on developing three learning gardens on the east side of the building. These gardens include a rain garden, youth garden, and a sensory garden. The Sensory Garden features plants that appeal to all the senses, the Youth Garden includes two raised garden beds that are planted and maintained by 4-Hers annually, and the Rain Garden demonstrates how runoff from a building can be filtered through a shallow basin planted with perennial plants to clean the water. These gardens offer a great learning opportunity for the community.

Human Sciences

We provide research-based information and education to help Iowans make decisions that improve their lives.

A Journey Through Parkinson's Disease series provides information about the many aspects of Parkinson's Disease (PD), so that all involved can live full and happy lives. During the three-part series, participants learn about the symptoms of PD, how to seek medical care and what to expect, the cause of PD, treatments and alternative therapies. The program was delivered in August at Pella Manor by Human Sciences Specialists Joyce Lash, Joy Rouse, and Sara Sprouse.

K-12 Youth Outreach - 4-H Find-Out Night

The new 4-H year kicked off in Marion County with a Find-Out Night. Each club hosted a booth with a simple project and information about their individual club. The event was hosted at the Marion County Extension Office.

There were 20 new families that received a lot of great 4-H information and made meaningful connections with club members and leaders.

The 4-H members who ran the booths loved the opportunity to reconnect with 4-Hers from other clubs and it provided an opportunity for the leaders to catch up as well. 4-H is a giant family and this was a fun opportunity to welcome new members as well as have a chance to reconnect.



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