



2021 IN CLARKE 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 Clarke County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**Sustainable
ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving
COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient
PEOPLE**



**Future
LEADERS**



The Clarke County Extension Council has been elected by the people of the county to guide local educational programming by partnering with extension staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents you and your issues. We are always serving Iowans and we are here for you. Now. Always.

Thank you for your support.

Randy Barnard

Extension Council Chair

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Council Member

Linda Abbott

Council Member

Carrie Benda

Council Member

Paula Hein

Council Member

Ronda Schrodtt

Council Member

Darby DeVore

Council Member

Rita Griffith

Council Member

Serving the People of Clarke County

As Iowans adjusted to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, ISU Extension and Outreach continued to prioritize health and safety as we delivered research-based education to the people of Clarke County. During 2021 we focused on the following efforts:

Child & Adult Care Food Program

The Child & Adult Care Food Program generated approximately \$290,000 this year. The local CACFP serves Clarke, Decatur and southern Warren counties and has been sponsored by Clarke County Extension since the early 1980's. Clarke County Extension CACFP has had 32 childcare providers participate in the past year. Those providers have received monthly reimbursements checks, nutrition education and resources. CACFP has locally reached over 700 children who have received nutritious meals and snacks while in participating registered child care providers' homes.



Youth Education

Again this year, Clarke County focused on providing summer educational opportunities for local youth. We offered 10 different day camp opportunities with 68 kids in attendance, plus a number of “camp in a bag” options for youth. We also continued our sponsorship of the Mike Van Ahn Annual Fishing Derby for families with youth ages 3-18.

We also hosted activities for Read Across Iowa 2021. We were able to stream readings of stories into homes and daycares across the county to engage with our youngest stakeholders.

Ag and Natural Resources

In 2021, Clarke County provided continuing instruction for pesticide applicators to gain recertification. More than 50 applicators across the county trained with us in 2021.

We were excited to be able to host training for Master Gardeners again this year and have new volunteers joining the ranks beautifying the county, teaching others, and supporting the Community Diversity Gardens where dozens of families grow produce each summer.

Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Clarke County Fair returned in 2021, providing the opportunity for youth to



demonstrate what they had learned through their 4-H project work over the past year.

- We had around 100 static projects on exhibit during this year's county fair. Youth had the opportunity to tell judges about what they learned and get feedback about their efforts.
- The poultry show also included educational moments about each species so the audience and participants could learn more about the birds from breed standards to learning how to determine gender of their birds.

Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Clarke County has been supporting efforts to increase access to quality child care. We have hosted trainings for childcare providers and continued with CACFP, providing vital economic support to this industry. We have also increased educational opportunities for providers and provided activities and take-home kits for kids to help enrich the care they are receiving.

Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Clarke County will plan to host a conference for providers to help with continuing education and to provide a space for them to learn from one another. We will also continue



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