



## 2021 IN DECATUR 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 Decatur County for a #STRONGIOWA.



Sustainable  
**ENVIRONMENTS**



Thriving  
**COMMUNITIES**



Resilient  
**PEOPLE**



Future  
**LEADERS**



**The Decatur 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.**

**Amy Hamilton**

*Extension Council Chair*

**Julia Van Laar**

*Council Vice Chair*

**Lorren Helton**

*Council Secretary*

**Bobette Lindsey**

*Council Treasurer*

**Jeffrey Landrum**

*Council Member*

**Leigh Ann Coffey**

*Council Member*

**Rodney Waddell**

*Council Member*

**Colton Hall**

*Council Member*

**Taylor Waddell**

*Council Member*

### Serving the People of Decatur 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 Decatur County. During 2021 we focused on the following efforts:

- **ServSafe®** is a certification program for food service managers developed by the National Restaurant Association. Five participants from Decatur County attended the eight hour training held in June 2021 with all attendees receiving their certification demonstrating knowledge of food safety. As one participant reported: "the questions gave us a chance to talk about the topic more and remember little pieces of information that could help us with the answers."
- We worked with eight families in the county who took part in our **Strengthening Families Program**. This eight week program helps families communicate better and identify healthy ways to work through challenges. We also partnered with Central Decatur and Lamoni Schools to offer **Life Skills Training** to over 150 6<sup>th</sup> graders over 16 weeks. We met with students twice each week, discussing peer pressure, making healthy choices, and reducing risky behavior.



- We certified **44 private pesticide applicators** with both live and virtual regional or statewide hosted sessions to accommodate social distancing.
- **Twenty-nine Commercial Pesticide Applicators** in five different commercial categories maintained certification by attending sessions hosted by us last year.
- **Twenty Commercial Manure Applicators received certification training** via DVD presentations we hosted last year.

## Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

It was good to return to a more normal county fair event in 2021, providing the opportunity for youth to demonstrate what they had learned through their 4-H project work over the past year.

- Despite a few challenges, all worked together to provide a very successful fair. For example, heavy rain before the 4-H/FFA horseshow, left the arena too wet to hold the event. Mark Smith, head of the Leon Rodeo Association, offered the use of his indoor arena a short distance from the fairgrounds. His wife Jody even cooked and provided meals for all the exhibitors. Their gracious support allowed the horseshow to proceed smoothly despite inclement weather conditions.
- The 2021 fair also saw the first use of the new show pavilion. Thanks to the support of grants and several donors, as well as many hours of donated labor, the old show ring came down and a completely new structure was erected with a high clear-span roof and expanded show ring area. The



\$95,000+ project, completed between the limited fair of 2020 and June 2021, just in time for a special rabbit project workshop, is a welcome addition that will enhance youth showing and learning opportunities for many years to come.

## Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Decatur County has been expanding educational opportunities for youth:

- The Extension Council prioritized summer education and the staff team grew by two summer interns who conducted 13 day camps throughout the summer. A free babysitting clinic was also held where 13 youth learned about child development and caring for young kids. A variety of take-home opportunities was also offered, including:
  - 100 youth took home a kit to learn about plant life cycles and plant their own pumpkins.
  - 30 participants were given grab and go bags to learn about STEM. Kits included *Busy Bots*, *Extreme Science*, and *Cluck, Cluck, Moo*.
  - At Ag Day in May, we presented GPS and seed science activities to 86 middle school students from across the county.
- Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Decatur County will plan to maintain summer programming and provide take-home kits for youth. We also plan to engage students in Animal U and Animal Science Roundup, and will encourage youth to attend the State 4-H Conference.

## ISU Extension and Outreach Decatur County

309 North Main St.

Leon, IA

(641)446-4723

[www.extension.iastate.edu/decatur](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/decatur)

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## Extension Staff

**Jack Van Laar**

County Extension  
Program Manager

**Kala Leeper**

Office Assistant/Youth  
Program Coordinator

**Brooke Blessington**

Region 24 Director

