



#STRONGIOWA

2021 IN JASPER 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 Jasper County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**Sustainable
ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving
COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient
PEOPLE**



**Future
LEADERS**



The Jasper 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.

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Extension Council Chair

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Council Member

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Council Member

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Council Member

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

- We served our ag community through educational programs including; Master Gardener Series, Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator trainings, Farmland Leasing, Confinement and Commercial Manure Applicator trainings.
- Through a Growing Together Iowa Donation Garden, the Jasper County Master Gardeners raised and donated over 2,900 lbs. of fresh produce to fight food-insecurity locally.
- Even through the pandemic, trainings continued to be offered both virtually and face-to-face for Early Care & Education Programs, including CPR/First Aid classes so programs could continue to serve working families. 329 participants were reached through trainings throughout the year.
- Our RSVP medical transportation program (Jasper County Ride) addresses the Health and Safety needs of the community. 24 volunteers provided 793 rides to necessary medical appointments.
- The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), offered free tax counseling, preparation, and filing. Over one million dollars in tax returns were refunded back into the communities in 2021.

Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Jasper 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.

- Quilts of Valor 4-H members and club volunteers made and presented quilts to 22 Veterans during our first Quilts of Valor presentation at the Jasper County Fair. 4-H members learned both quilting, as well as Citizenship skills, as they visited with the Veterans receiving their quilts.
- The Jasper County 4-H Council Speaks with the judge following their "Share the Fun" skit performed during the Communications Event.



Working toward Recovery

During the height of the pandemic, the counties of Jasper, Marion and Mahaska took the unprecedented step to work together to fund a Community and Economic Development (CED) Coordinator position. This position focuses on positively impacting small businesses in three key areas:

- Building partnerships with key people and organizations, and partnering internally within ISU.
- Presenting, promoting and/or facilitating small business trainings.
- Facilitate planning of community events that drive economic activity and growth.

In Jasper County, partnerships have been developed with local CED organizations that have led to successful economic impact: The Tri-County Sip & See promotional event featured four Jasper businesses; Entrepreneurs can now gather to share ideas weekly through the newly created group, Idea Spin; The first-annual Jasper County Farm Crawl was held, generating over \$8,000 in economic revenue for participating rural businesses.

Plans are in place to increase small business growth through trainings such as Social Media Marketing and Business Plan Express (in partnership with ISU Farm Food and Enterprise Development (FFED)).

ISU Extension and Outreach

Jasper County

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