



## 2021 IN RINGGOLD 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 Ringgold County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**Sustainable  
ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving  
COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient  
PEOPLE**



**Future  
LEADERS**



**The Ringgold 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 Whittington**

*Extension Council Chair*

**Kevin Jackson**

*Council Member*

**Jenifer Breneman**

*Council Member*

**Cathy Schaefer**

*Council Member*

**Cal Daughton**

*Council Member*

**Bailey Drake**

*Council Member*

**Scott Giles**

*Council Member*

**Shannon Rusk**

*Council Member*

**Josh Waske**

*Council Member*

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

- **Agricultural and Natural Resources:** Grain Marketing, Farmland Leasing, planning for upcoming Women in Ag programming, continuing education for pesticide applicators
- **Human Sciences:** virtual trainings for Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid and Question.Persuade.Refer (QPR) with those in the agriculture and youth fields
- **Community and Economic Development:** Township Trustee and Clerk Training was provided; the Rural Housing Readiness Assessment will begin in November of 2021
- **4-H Youth Development:** SWAG conference was held virtually allowing more students to participate; partnered with Ringgold County Conversation to be a part of a week long 'School of the Wild,' as well as a Conservation Field Day with 5th and 6th grade students; have received VEX IQ robots that will lead to the start of additional educational opportunities



## Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Ringgold 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.

- The fair returned as a 'normal' fair experience for our 4-H members. Static exhibits were conference judged, livestock and small animals remained on the fairgrounds for several days. This allowed youth the opportunity to showcase their exhibits for a longer duration to a larger crowd.
- Ringgold Ranchers 4-H Club added to the fair experience by hosting a 'Fitting Contest' for cattle, sheep and goat exhibitors. Participants showed off their skills while hosting members learned many skills of planning and executing the event.
- 4-H members, families and volunteers were given the opportunity to help work in the fair's food stand this year. This allowed them to learn many valuable life skills while also giving back to the fair.



## Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Ringgold County has been supporting Iowans in reviving the Iowa economy, including the farm economy.

- Grant Writing 101: offered virtually as a regional program; 58 participants
- SBDC project: partnered the delivery of portable photo studio boxes to communities in Ringgold
- Business Directory: continuously contacting and conversing with all business types within the county; creating a hard copy directory that will eventually be in the hands of all county residents and available to others; partnered with Ringgold County Economic Development for an online version of the directory.
- Farm Succession: two evenings, six hours workshop; offered as a regional program; five families participated

Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Ringgold County will:

- Complete the hard copy of the business directory
- Partner on the completion of the Rural Housing Readiness
- Become more established with current local groups
- Provide more programming fitting the needs of those in our county

## ISU Extension and Outreach Ringgold County

101 North Polk St.

Mount Ayr

641-464-3333

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



Improvements were made to the office this year — new roof, new carpet, all rooms were painted and landscaping

## Extension Staff

**Justin Akers**

*Regional Director*

**Dawn Dugan**

*County Director*

**Loran Sneller**

*County Youth  
Coordinator*



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext). ADV.21.04G. September 2021.