



## 2021 IN UNION 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 Union County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**Sustainable  
ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving  
COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient  
PEOPLE**



**Future  
LEADERS**



The Union 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.**

**Larry Bailey**

*Extension Council Chair*

**Jean Weisshaar**

*Council Treasurer*

**Jerry Hartman**

*Council Member*

**Nicole Shawley**

*Council Member*

**Randy Wuebker**

*Council Member*

**Ronda Driskill**

*Council Vice Chair*

**Shiloh Gennaro**

*Council Secretary*

**Jen Foglesong**

*Council Member*

**Callie Anderson**

*Council Member*

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

- *4-H and Youth Programming*
- *Agriculture and Environment*
- *Business and Economy*
- *Families and Healthy Living*



## Grant Writing 101

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offices in Region 23 (Adams, Ringgold, Taylor and Union Counties) partnered together to host Grant Writing 101 as part of the Covid Recovery Action Plan.

Grant Writing 101 is offered for groups and provides hands-on training in seeking and writing successful grant applications. The three-hour, beginner-level program is intended for representatives of non-profit organizations, local governments, and schools.

58 participants in Region 23 gained insightful knowledge into grant writing such as:

- Challenges of seeking and using grant funding
- Project planning
- Identifying potential funders
- Parts of a grant application
- Tips for success

Jodi Hitz, Program Coordinator for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Union County attended this program and reported that the impact of this program resulted in her applying for and receiving \$2,500 in grants towards outreach programming in Agricultural, Community and Economic Development, and Human Sciences focus areas in Union County.

### Get In Contact:

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Left photo: 2021 Americorps Members: Kerwn Shaw, Taylor Miller, Allissa Weinkoetz, and Katie Edge.



## Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Union County Fair provided the opportunity for youth to demonstrate what they had learned through their 4-H project work over the past year.

- Static projects were judged individually with 4-Hers presenting their projects directly to the judge of the category. This style of judging provides an invaluable experience for the 4-H members by giving them an opportunity to explain the work they put into their projects and by giving them the opportunity to get verbal feedback from the judge.
- Livestock shows allowed 4-H and FFA members to exhibit the animals that they have worked hard to grow over the past year. Exhibitors were back in the ring this year in a traditional livestock show with the judge giving on-site feedback to the exhibitors that will help them develop their skills.
- Clover Kids (K-3rd grade) were presented with additional opportunities to be involved in the fair this year. In addition to showing their static projects and small pets and cats, Clover Kids were able to pair up with a Clover Buddy to learn about sheep, goats, and pigs. The Clover Buddy is an older 4-Her in 8th - 12th grades who volunteered to show a Clover Kid about their livestock project, how to care for the animal, and how to show the animal. The Clover Kid and their Clover Buddy showcased what they learned together in the Clover Buddies show.

There were many hands involved in making the 2021 Union County Fair a positive and fun experience for youth participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators.



## Working toward Recovery

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

The Small Business Development Center supplied a photo light box to the extension office in Union County to enable small businesses to take higher quality photos to use for online sales. At the Creston Farmer's Market, office staff talked to several vendors who were excited to hear about the photo light box opportunity. A few vendors expressed their interest in developing a website to promote their businesses.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Union County and the Small Business Development Center at SWCC partnered together to present 5 Steps of Excellent Customer Service workshop to community members interested in learning how to attract visitors to their businesses and how to inspire travelers to stop, stay longer and keep returning to our community.

### Farm Economy

Tim Christensen, Farm Management Specialist facilitated a Grain Marketing meeting to help crop producers understand various strategies of grain marketing with emphasis on marketing tools available and using the tools to create a grain marketing plan for the 2021 crop. There were 10 participants.

During a Pasture Walk, beef specialist, Chris Clark; field agronomist, Aaron Saeugling; and agricultural engineering specialist, Shawn Shouse, discussed ways to make



Top photo: Chris Clark, Area Beef Specialist, and Aaron Saeugling, Area Agronomist, discuss principals of grazing management at a local Pasture Walk. Bottom left photo: Aaron Saeugling talks about weed management during a pasture tour. Bottom right: Tim Christensen, Farm Management Specialist, shares factors to consider in developing a grain marketing plan.

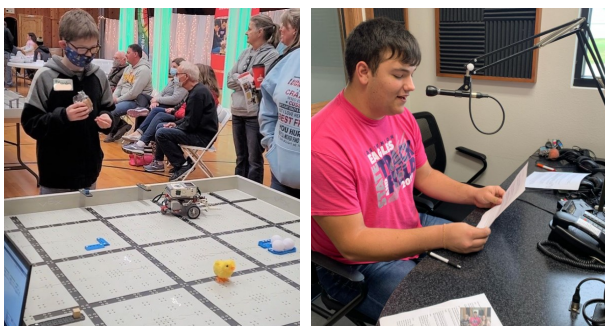
pastures more profitable at a local Union County farm. 24 participants learned about forage species and the importance of diversity, weed control, watering systems, and benefits of rest periods and rotational grazing.

### Family Wellbeing

Several human sciences programs were offered in Union County to educate individuals in family health, personal finances, and nutrition.

Eight community action employees participated in a virtual Your Money, Your Goals training to learn new tools to assist their clients in managing their personal finances. Participants of the program said that they gained new ideas for helping their clients and were excited about using the materials.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Union County partnered with Gibson Memorial Library to host Spend Smart. Eat Smart. Seven participants learned how to stretch their grocery budget by meal planning and preparation. The participants were equipped with tools available on the Spend Smart. Eat Smart website and smartphone app that not only help with meal prep and planning, but also with fitness ideas and short exercise videos.



Top photo: 2021 Communications and Clothing Exhibitors selected for State Fair. **Front Row:** Madison Smith, Hope Woods, Brittany Seals, Hannah Woods, Brock Driskill. **Back row:** Maria Long, Peyton Long, Riley Long, Jacob Driskill, Emmett Long, Lily Larson. Bottom Left photo: Regional Robotics Competition. Bottom Right photo: Steven Fry promoting 4-H Week on KSIB Radio.

Additionally, the Region 23 Human Sciences team made up of Sandra McKinnon, Kimberly Cavalier, Barb Fuller, Judy Dittmar, and Leah Brooke worked to continue providing ServSafe classes for food service workers and managers in our county. Eight classes were held for a total of 64 training hours for almost 80 food service workers.

Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Union County will continue to focus on supporting Iowans in reviving the Iowa economy, including the farm economy. We provide small businesses, agribusiness, and farmers with research-based training and education to help them make informed decisions.

Our plan for Union County includes continuing to offer information for the agriculture economy particularly farm business management, marketing, farm succession, cattle and grain management.

Annie's Project will be offered in 2022. This is a series of six sessions to help women learn to manage five risk areas in farm

management –financial, legal, market, production, and human resources.

We will continue to help grow strong families by providing programs on independence through good nutrition, stretching food dollars, encouraging early childhood readers, mental health first aid, and personal finance and retirement information.

And we will work with our strong local economic development base to help Union County continue to be a great place to grow and thrive.

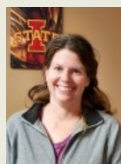
## Extension Staff



**Justin Akers**  
*Regional Director*



**Leah Brooke**  
*Food and Health Specialist*



**Jodi Hitz**  
*County Program Coordinator*



**Tim Christensen**  
*Farm Management Specialist*



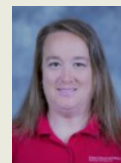
**Addie Ebersole**  
*County Youth Coordinator*



**Aaron Saeugling**  
*Field Agronomist*



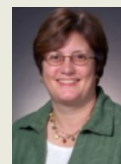
**Julie Schultz**  
*Child and Adult Care Food Program Coordinator*



**Kimberly Cavalier**  
*Family Wellbeing Specialist*



**Sandy Seals**  
*Office Assistant*



**Sandra McKinnon**  
*Family Wellbeing Specialist*

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