



**#STRONGIOWA**

## 2021 IN WAYNE 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 Wayne County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**Sustainable  
ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving  
COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient  
PEOPLE**



**Future  
LEADERS**

The Wayne 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.**

**Nicole Lutz-Polsdofer**

*Extension Council Chair*

**Bronson Allred**

*Vice President*

**Bridget Davis**

*Council Treasurer*

**Heather Lancaster**

*Council Secretary*

**Brad Head**

*Council Member*

**Melissa Davis-Dyer**

*Council Member*

**Mark Winslow**

*Council Member*

**Dave Daughton**

*Council Member*

**Kari Dodson**

*Council Member*

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

- *Pesticide Safety Education, Farm Bill Meeting, Beef Quality Assurance Training, and a Pasture Walk*
- *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance had eight volunteers who used a "drop-off" method to file 177 tax returns for those who earn \$58,000/year or less. Over 325 hours volunteered for \$334,768 in federal refunds and \$42,823 in state refunds.*
- *Leading Communities: A Place-Based Leadership Program— served 15 Wayne County residents who met for six months to learn strategies for community development – the group plans to continue meeting for a group project.*
- *4-H and Youth were served through several programs including: Day camps and Workshops, Pick a Better Snack, and Growing Strong Families*
- *Virtual programs: Remote Work Certification Course, Food Preservation 101, Preserve the Taste of Summer, Mindful Teen: From Surviving to Thriving in a Busy World, Money Smart: Prioritizing Bills, Debt, and Credit Repair, and Business Model Canvas*



## Showcasing 4-H at the Wayne County Fair

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



**At the County Fair, 4-H members exhibited over 300 head of livestock and pets as well as several static**

**exhibits in many different project areas. Of those static exhibits, 22 were selected to move on to the Iowa State Fair this year. There were 14 head of livestock who were exhibited and received ribbons at the Iowa State Fair by Wayne County 4-H members as well.**



A total of 66 youth were served through workshops and day camps this year. There were 127 youth enrolled in 4-H and 44 youth enrolled in clover kids. Wayne County has 6 traditional 4-H clubs, a Safety and Education in Shooting Sports Club, Cooking Club, and 2 Clover Kids groups. We had a total of 36 volunteers assisting youth in all their projects and activities this year.

### Extension Staff

**Michelle Brown**  
GSF Program  
Coordinator

**Syerra Niday**  
Office Assistant

**Colt Churchill**  
County Youth  
Coordinator

**Jamie Swearingin**  
VITA Coordinator

Growing Strong Families is a grant-funded program sponsored by Kids First Communities, Early Childhood Iowa (KFC, ECI). Led by our parent educator, Michelle Brown, Growing Strong Families offers educational programs for families in Wayne County, from prenatal through five years of age. GSF focuses on helping parents meet daily challenges, child development, healthy eating habits, and financial responsibilities. Growing Strong Families also provides child development screenings and group connections for both parents and children to meet one another. The program uses the Parents as Teachers curriculum and has earned the Iowa family Support Credential with the Iowa Department of Management and Public Health. In 2021, 24 families with 39 children were visited 159 times. Michelle began doing home visits with families in August instead of virtual visits. Michelle also attend a community baby shower to help reach families and to spread the word about the program.



## Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Wayne County has been working to help Revive the Iowa Economy.

- Supporting Iowans in reviving the Iowa economy, including the farm economy through an emphasis on offering programs that directly and indirectly impact the economy
- Expanding educational opportunities for youth.
- Continuing to build stronger connections with current partners and build new local, regional and state-wide partners

Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Wayne County will continue to collaborate with our neighboring counties to increase programming opportunities and connect with new partners.

### ISU Extension and Outreach Wayne County

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