

# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

## STAKEHOLDER REPORT 2022

### 2022 IN BENTON COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides research-based education and engages Iowans in solving today's problems and preparing for a thriving future. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Benton County for a #STRONGIOWA.



**The Benton 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.**

**Greg Svoboda**  
Council Chair

**Shannon Feurbach**  
Council Member

**Duane Fisher**  
Council Vice Chair

**Duane Fisher**  
Council Member

**John Holst**  
Council Treasurer

**Allison Hicks**  
Council Member

**Katie Stadheim**  
Council Secretary

**Marlene Patterson**  
Council Member

**Sue Birker**  
Council Member

### SERVING THE PEOPLE OF BENTON COUNTY

In 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Benton County continued to support a #strongIowa with education to promote food and nutrition security, positive youth development, agricultural education, and early childhood / literacy education.

#### 4-H Partners with the Vinton-Shellsburg and Benton Community Home School Assistance Program [HSAP]:

In the 2021-22 program year, Benton County 4-H partnered with the Vinton-Shellsburg and Benton Community Home School Assistance Program to facilitate three enrichment 4-H programs for families who homeschool in the Benton County area. Programs delivered Iowa 4-H Clover Kid curriculum that utilized literacy as lead in for exploring art and STEM. These program offerings provided youth with opportunities to explore new things with 4-H and support their homeschool education with experiential learning experiences.

#### Literacy Focus for Families with Preschoolers

Human Sciences Extension and Outreach offers programs for families with preschoolers to help increase reading, language skills, and school readiness and combat the declined proficiency rates. **Raising School Ready Readers** participants reported increased the amount of time they talk, 13 families reported a significant increase in the amount of time they talk, sing, and play with their child, and that they now check out books from the public library. One grandparent stated, "As a grandma it's nice to get some new ideas for creative reading."

## What's the 411 on Agronomy?

This day long event provided agronomy related information to 78 high school students from Benton Community, Belle Plaine, Center Point-Urbana and Vinton Shellsburg. Of those who attended, Prior to the event 69% of students rated themselves as having some knowledge or being very knowledgeable about agronomy related topics. After the event this number rose to 98%.

## August 2022 Summer Science Discovery Camp:

168 youth from 19 different communities registered to 'earn their wings' at the 2022 Science of Flight Summer Science Discovery Camp series. This camp offered unique learning experiences as youth explored aerodynamics and flight through literacy activities, the creation of gliders and planes, and experiments such as adjusting the center of gravity on balsa wood planes or designing a cargo carrier to protect an egg during flight. This series of program offerings aimed to reduce summer learning loss by providing engaging learning experiences to strength STEM skills.



## EXTENSION STAFF

**County Director**  
Greg Walston

**Sheila Hlas**  
County Youth Coord.

**Emily Damro**  
Youth Program Specialist

**Office Manager**  
Patti Upmeyer

**Denise Schwab**  
Beef Specialist

**RaeAnn Gordon**  
Regional Director



## PARTNERSHIPS

The Master Gardeners of Benton County are proud to partner with Old School Produce to provide nutritional resources to residents in need. Through this partnership, over 15,000 pounds of produce was raised and distributed through local food pantries and the HACAP Food Reservoir. The produce distributed equates to approximately **1,650 meals!**

## Thank you to the hard work of our partners:

Vinton Shellsburg High School FFA, Wesley United Methodist Church, Koop's Auto, Cedar Valley Bank, Benton County Supervisors, City of Vinton, Benton County Ag Extension Council, HACAP, NE Iowa Food Bank, St. Mary Urbana, 4th Street Diner, Helping Hands Atkins, Cowboy Church Walford, Belle Plaine & Vinton Food Pantries, Senior Sacks program, Benton County At Risk student program/DECAT, AmeriCorps, Garrison Library, Vinton Community Foundation, United Way of East Central Iowa, Growing Together.

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH BENTON COUNTY

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