

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

STAKEHOLDER REPORT 2022

2022 IN DECATUR 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 Decatur County for a #STRONGIOWA.



The **Decatur 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 Hamilton
Council Chair

Leigh Ann Coffey
Council Member

Julia Van Laar
Council Vice Chair

Colton Hall Council Member

Lorren Helton
Council Secretary

Rodney Waddell
Council Member

Bobette Lindsey
Council Treasurer

Jeffrey Landrum
Council Member

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF DECATUR COUNTY

In 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Decatur County continued to expand educational opportunities for youth with programs that sparked youth interest, supported academics, and promoted youth resiliency.

Summer Youth Day Camps

Decatur County Extension hired two full-time summer interns to carry out summer camps and assist with other summer youth programming including county fair. This was a tremendous help to the office, especially as staff moved to a new office over the course of the busy summer program season.

We served 25 (unduplicated) K-6 youth with 10 camps. Many of the youth attended multiple camps. Most topics were STEM related, including entomology, space adventures, rocket science, robots, and steam exploration as well as cooking, art and design.

The youth reported having a lot of fun while learning and applying principles of science, technology, engineering, and math in their camp activities.



Health and Safety Certification

ServSafe® is a certification program for food service managers developed by the National Restaurant Association. A course was held in Leon on April 5 with five people from four counties in attendance. Two other Decatur County food managers attended training in Osceola.

Pesticide Applicator Certification hosted for 34 private applicators certified through county sessions and online, while 35 commercial applicators in six different categories were certified.

Manure Applicator sessions hosted for seven commercial and three confinement site applicators.

A Journey Through Parkinson's

A Journey Through Parkinson's Disease series was held in partnership with the monthly Decatur County Hospital Parkinson's Disease Support Group during August through October. There were 13-17 people in attendance during the three sessions. Most participants reported increased knowledge of treatments for Parkinson's Disease and learned how using music can help people move better. One caregiver responded after a session "this has been some of the best information I could understand after caring for my spouse with PD for 12 years." The interactive sessions included making neurons with chenille stems which in addition to aiding learning also worked the small muscles in their hands. Participants received information on current research and outreach resources available from ISU.



EXTENSION STAFF

Brooke Blessington **Megan Carlson**
Region 24 Director 4-H Youth Development
Specialist

Kala Leeper
Office Manager/County Youth Coordinator

Jack Van Laar
County Program Manager



Move to New Office

The Extension Council took a major step this past year, purchasing new facilities, and moving from the building they rented for over 45 years. The new office, a former church, is much more spacious with an open concept and greatly larger parking lot, office, meeting and common areas. The move, completed by September 1, required a minimum of touchup and renovation. The new facility will allow about all programming onsite instead of the fairgrounds or other community locations. Already the new facility is proving its worth hosting three youth summer day camps (before the move), annual 4-H volunteer training, regional 4-H staff meeting, and one of the statewide Advance Marketing Road Shows held this fall. In addition, several 4-H Clubs are using our facility for their monthly club meetings as well as the County Cattlemen's Association. Other community groups and organizations such as Farm Bureau have meetings planned for the new office meeting room.

The new office is a vast improvement and should contribute greatly to meeting our programming goals and serving the needs of the people of Decatur County.

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