

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

BENTON COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Benton County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Benton County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected extension council that guides local educational programming by partnering with staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents the issues and people of the county.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach

Economic Development

Community & Economic Development

Benton County Extension was involved in the IBBS Visioning Team appointed by the Vinton City Council to gather community input when considering the purchase of the Braille School. We have also begun working with Eric Christianson, CED specialist, to assist in the planning and feasibility



Youth Community Garden

Year seven was another success at our outdoor classroom. We worked with 15-25 kids every Monday after school and added Thursdays in the summer. Our volunteers accrued about 200 hours.



Health and Well-Being

Food and Nutrition

In partnership with the Vinton Shellsburg School District we have started a Farm 2 School Chapter. Plans are underway to reach over 300 students with locally grown foods prepared from scratch. We have also had three different taste testing sessions at the Middle and Elementary to allow for student input on items served on the school menu.



Personal Well Being "What About Me"

With the help of our Human Sciences Team we were able to offer two sessions of a 4-part program on financial, social/emotional and physical wellbeing along with "Time for me" reaching over 15 participants, including one group with special needs. One additional session is scheduled for February 2018



Extension Council Members

We want communities and farmers to thrive, and families and children to be healthy. And eventually we want to turn the world over to the next generation better than we found it.

Shannon Feurbach
Extension Council Chair

Brian McNulty
Council Member

John Holst
Council Member

Jim Harken
Regional Director

Barb Schanbacher
Council Member

Matt Marovec
Council Member

Greg Svoboda
Council Member

Duane Fisher
Council Member

Name
Council Member

Allison Hicks
Council Member

IN 2017



Food and Environment

Water Quality

In the interest of protecting our environment and good land stewardship, we provide both Private and Commercial Chemical Application training to over 300 producers and businesses. We also provide Manure Applicator training to over 30 applicators to insure proper nutrient management. All of these programs are in partnership with IDALS and Iowa DNR.

Farm Succession Planning

With sponsorship from Wilson Hite Insurance, Farm Management Specialist, Ryan Drollette, provided the beginning steps for 6 farm families thinking about transferring their land and/or farm business on to the next generation.

Agronomy in the Field

A year-long program targeting women interested in knowing more about crop production. Meaghan Anderson led 10 sessions in the field with more than 20 women from 5 counties participating. Topics ranged from corn and soybean emergence, soils, water quality, weeds and crop scouting to cover crops and pasture management. The program will continue via webinar in the winter. The Benton-Iowa County cohort was supported by funds from a North Central Region SARE grant, Rose Danaher and the Price Creek Watershed Project, and Benton and Iowa County Extension.

Master Gardeners

We had 2 new interns in 2016 and 4 in 2017. Benton County MGs partnered with the City of Vinton to offer a Community Garden to the citizens of Vinton. They designed, constructed and helped plant raised beds on Q Avenue and will be moving to 3rd Ave. in 2018. Since beginning the program our MGs have volunteered over 20,000 hours & contact with 22,000 + people.

County Extension Staff

Greg Walston
County Program Director

Pattie Upmeyer
Office Coordinator

Courtnei Siela
County Youth Coordinator

Denise Schwab
Beef Field Specialist

K-12 Youth Outreach

3rd Grade Ag Day

Held in the spring each year, we help educate 250-300 students. We partner with around 100 volunteers from all three of our Community School Districts, FFA chapters, 4-Hers, Farm Bureau and Commodity Groups at the Benton County Fairgrounds. We also do a follow up session with each class to enhance the learning experience for all of our 3rd Grade students.

Benton County 4-H

We are very proud of our 4-Hers in the 15 clubs across the county with over 300 members and growing. We also have 2 Clover Bud clubs with 40-60 members. We offered a multitude of trips, workshops, camps and leadership experiences. Please follow us on our Facebook Page for a look at an up to date list of activities.

Summer Science Discovery Camps

2010 was the beginning of SSSDC and since then we have educated over 1,500 K-6th grade youth in science, technology, engineering and math, all while having FUN. Partnering with 7 towns and their community parks has allowed us to offer 10 camps at the beginning of each summer. STEM topics covered at our camps have included soil, weather, motion, healthy living and biomedical engineering.



ISU Extension and Outreach

Benton County

501 First Avenue

Vinton, IA 52349

319-472-4739

www.extension.iastate.edu/benton



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Ross Wilburn, Diversity Officer, 2150 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, 515-294-1482, wilburn@iastate.edu.

