

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

BUTLER 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 Butler County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Butler 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:

- K-12 Youth Development
- Agriculture and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- Economic Development



K-12 Youth Development

ISU Extension and Outreach's signature program in Butler County is our youth and 4-H program. We offer the club experience and build new programs each year to reach more youth. Butler County youth program participants, traditional 4-H club members (4th-12th grade) and clover kid members (K-3rd grade) have all shown a small increase since 2012. This year alone, we saw an 11% increase in 4-H club members.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® This year, 144 4th grade students from Aplington-Parkersburg, Clarksville, and North Butler schools attended the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day on May 4th to learn about being safe and healthy on farms, ranches, and at home. More than 50 community partners and volunteers donated time and resources to help teach our youth about being safe. The 11 interactive safety sessions included Animal, ATV, Bicycle, Chemical, Electrical, Fire, Firearm, Grain, Sun, Tractor, and Water safety.

Staying Safe was presented to the 4th grade classrooms at North Butler. Many parents are still at work when children return home from school. Staying Safe teaches youth how to be independent when home alone. Topics covered in this six week program included Weather, First Aid/Emergency, Stranger Danger, Internet Safety, Free Time, and Healthy Snacks.

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.

Phil Pitzenberger
Council Chair

Edward Johnson
Council Member

Dan Borchardt
Council Vice Chair

Meghan Landers
Council Member

Jessica Lovrien
Council Secretary

Jeff Nederhoff
Council Member

Amy Barnett
Council Treasurer

Travis Williamson
Council Member

Irvin Haan
Council Member

Bill Arndorfer
Regional Director

IN 2017



Legislative Day On February 28th, 6 Butler County Youth joined other youth from the region on a trip to the Iowa State Capitol and the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines. Youth became more informed on legislative procedure, toured the Capitol and met with local legislators and Speaker of the House, Linda Upmeyer.

Agriculture and the Environment

Farmland Leasing Butler County Extension and Outreach offered a Farmland Leasing Meeting presented by Kelvin Leibold, Farm Management Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. Topics discussed included cash rental rate and land value survey results, determining fair cash and flexible rent for 2018, tenant-landlord communication, and legal aspects of farmland leases.

Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in Butler County. In response, a meeting about EAB was organized for Butler County residents. Speakers included Mike Kintner, EAB Coordinator with IDALS, Meredith Borchardt, Trees Forever, and Donald Lewis, ISU Professor and Extension Entomologist. The history and impacts of EAB, symptoms and treatments, and tree replacement options were presented.

Continuing Instructional Courses

Recertification training and education is provided to private and commercial pesticide applicators as well as manure applicators.

County Extension Staff

Holly Merritt
County Program Coordinator

Taylor Veldhuizen
County Youth Coordinator

Beth Heckman
Office Assistant

Health and Well-being

Childcare Provider Workshops Two childcare provider workshops were offered in Butler County. These workshops, presented by Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, Jill Weber, were titled "I Only Want a Peanut Butter Sandwich" (attended by 14 providers) and "Mealtime Magic" (attended by 9 providers). As a result of attending, providers shared that they will offer smaller child-sized portions, offer a choice of vegetables and more dairy choices, and allow children to help with mealtime.

Fresh Conversations In Dumont and Greene, Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, Jill Weber offers Fresh Conversations in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health and NEI3 Agency. The program includes a facilitated nutrition discussion, food tasting, and a physical activity each month. Seniors attending receive a newsletter and enjoy the conversation and healthy food samples.

Resources

ISU Extension and Outreach in Butler County is an important information source in the county. We connect the community to a variety of research-based resources.

Answerline Get answers to your home, food, and family questions from specialists by calling 1-800-262-3804 or email answer@iastate.edu.

Hortline Information on lawn, garden, and landscape plant questions is available from ISU Extension staff and specialists. Call the Hortline at 515-294-3108 or email hortline@iastate.edu.

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