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
- K - 12 Youth Outreach

Cedar County Extension Council Members

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Beyer</td>
<td>Extension Council Chair</td>
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<td>Teri Baird</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
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<td>Jeff Macomber</td>
<td>Region 16 Director</td>
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<td>Mike Boyle</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
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<td>Terry Chapman</td>
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<td>Linda Jacobsen</td>
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<td>Deb Mohr</td>
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<td>Devin Schroeder</td>
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<td>Deb Storjohann</td>
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<td>DeAnna Taylor</td>
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Economic Development

Tipton Middle School, Tipton Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) and Cedar County Extension and Outreach partnered in organizing a local event for Manufacturing Day. This was the second year a local event has been hosted.

Cummins Manufacturing, Inc. and Tipton Structural Fabrication opened their doors to 7th and 8th grade students showing them opportunities available in today’s advanced manufacturing environment. Nearly 150 students participated in the annual national celebration held during October. Youth learned this industry provides sustainable, well-paid jobs with limitless opportunities.

By working together during and after Manufacturing Day, all manufacturers can address the skills gap they face, connect with future generations, take charge of the public image of manufacturing and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the industry as a whole.
Food and Environment

Confinement and Commercial Manure Applicators, as well as Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicators were provided opportunities to learn more about protecting the environment through recertification sessions and publications available through the Cedar County Extension Office. Over 200 operators and applicators attended one or more of these sessions.

Master Gardeners extend Iowa State University Extension & Outreach consumer horticulture education on the local level through volunteer activity. Nearly 338 hours of volunteer service and education was provided by three Cedar County Master Gardeners this year. This represents a value just over $7,511. Some examples of service and education provided were: a booth at the Cedar County Fair where they shared information with fairgoers of all ages, harvesting over 225# of produce from their gardening project at the fairgrounds which was delivered to the Cedar County Senior Dining Center to use in meal preparation or for seniors to take home and use, presentations at local garden clubs and organizations, opportunities for youth to learn more about caterpillars and butterflies, established a pollinator garden along with providing answers weekly through the local Extension Hortline.

Power Up for Summer Fun is a combination of the Summer Food Program and Positive Youth Development activities in Cedar County. This program provides free meals and an activity to youth 0-18. This past summer we partnered with organizations who assisted with delivering and serving of meals and activities. They also helped in preparing meals and financial support. We served 995 meals to youth at two sites, Tipton Park and Tipton Middle School. The youth enjoy the meals and the social interactions that were available through this program.

Health and Well-Being

Nearly 15 food service managers from a variety of establishments attended ServSafe® Food Safety Training Program in Cedar County. The program is a nationally-recognized food safety certification program from the National Restaurant Association. The trainings are offered in partnership with the Iowa Restaurant Association. Participants attend an eight-hour class and then take the national exam. Scoring 75% or higher on the exam is needed.
to receive certification. All participants earned ServSafe® certification.

In today’s world, food safety is one of animal producers’ biggest responsibilities. With over 15,000 Iowa 4-H enrolled in livestock projects, about 17 million pounds of meat is produced each year. The goal of Food Safety Quality Assurance and Youth for the Quality Care of Animals is to help youth and their parents better understand what they can do to produce the safest food possible. Over 130 youth have been trained in the good production practices of record keeping, veterinary client relationship, and ethics this year.

Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts was delivered in partnership with the Cedar County Community Partnership for Protecting Children to 24 participants. Stereotypical discussions, conversations, and behaviors can be unfair, disrespectful, and unproductive. Intentionally planning how to create an inclusive workplace that is free of comments, actions, and decisions based on stereotypes—begins with learning to speak up in the face of said stereotypes. Sitting silent in the face of stereotyping condones the action. Research has shown it takes only one person speaking up to make an impact. This program offers participants six techniques to respond to difficult situations and promote feelings of inclusion. Participants report they felt most comfortable using the following techniques in responding to stereotyping: Say OUCH 77%, ask a question 68%, broaden to universal 59% and assume good intent 50%.

15 local Cedar County residents, took a break during the lunch hour to embark on a four-week journey to wellbeing beginning mid November. Human Sciences Extension and Outreach specialists offered the What about Me? My Well Being program designed to assist participants enhance individual wellbeing and quality of life. Topics included social / emotional wellbeing; financial and physical wellbeing. Each session provided participants an opportunity to set a goal for weekly wellbeing. In addition through guided discussion and small group activities participants shared the hopes they had for continuing on this journey. Evaluations suggest: 87% of program participants learned something new. All participants increased their skill in developing plans to address their personal wellbeing. 75% of participants learned about a variety of resources available to them as they continue their wellbeing journey.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Over 1,100 school age youth participated in club, school and afterschool programs. This represents nearly one in every three Cedar County K - 12 youth. They participated in an assortment of educational programs that are at least six hours in length.

Adult volunteers are an important part in leading 20 4-H and Clover Kids Clubs. More than 35 volunteers guide over
300 youth in learning citizenship, leadership, healthy living, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and communications and the arts.

**SPARK (STEM Projects Are Really “Kool”)** helps enrich the school curriculum. Extension staff partnered with Tipton, Durant, West Branch, and Bennett Elementary Schools. Lessons ignite a spark of invention and innovation, creativity and imagination to open young minds to the possibilities of STEM.

**Summer Discovery** was a multi-day camp provided in Clarence, Durant, Mechanicsville, Tipton and West Branch. Over 95 youth (K-5th grade) have been served through this opportunity.

**Pint Size Science** provided learning opportunities for over 215 pre-school youth in Durant, Tipton and West Branch. Pint Size Science helped grow appreciation and knowledge of the STEM program.

**Raising School Ready Readers** is a literacy program focusing on ways to incorporate learning into the things you already do everyday! Through our partnership we have built with Durant Community Schools we were able to offer this literacy building program for 3-6 year olds and their families. We had 10 families register for the class and all of them reported at least 1 change they have made due to participating in the program.

**A Technology Lab** was started a year ago in an effort to bring more STEM learning to youth in Cedar County. Through Grants received from Theisen’s, Cedar County Community Foundation and Farm Credit Services we were able to secure enough funds to purchase 13 tablets, BeeBots, multiple Dash and Dot robots and Cubelets. These have all been used in our in school and out of school programming.

With the support of our Extension Council this past year we were able to hire two summer assistants to provide additional **summer programming** for youth ages 3—8th grade. Programs that were offered were Kids in the Kitchen, SPARK in the Summer, Pint Size Science, Coding and Robotics, and the Card Board Boat Regatta. These camps were held in Tipton, West Branch, Durant, and Mechanicsville. Twenty-seven participants completed a post-camp survey and all of them stated they would come to another camp or workshop that was held by Extension!