Chickasaw 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: Business development and training
- Food and the Environment: Women in Ag and Beginning Farmers
- Health and Well-being: Financial Literacy
- K12 Youth Outreach: Communication and leadership development

Economic Development

Empowering communities to shape their own futures through research, education, community engagement, economic development, community planning and design. In Chickasaw County, the needs of community members were met by several programs including: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (39 participants), local downtown open house events, wellness fair display, local Food Box program offering fresh local food, pressure canner testing, and wellness classes.

A monthly Lunch and Learn program is being offered that focuses on personal well-being while helping to create community partnerships.

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.

Megan Baltes
Extension Council Chair

Ryan Larkin
Council Member

Tonya Klassen
Council Member

Kraig Tweed
Regional Director

Laurie Tiemessen
Council Member

Joel Knutson
Council Member

Randy Nosbisch
Council Member

Adam Zeien
Council Member

Ron Schilling
Council Member

Dan Ashley
Council Member
Health and Well-Being

Engaging and empowering people with research based information and education throughout their lifetimes to build strong relationships, families and communities.

Money management programs help Iowans with decisions related to spending, saving, and credit debt management. Financial classes offered included: Spend Smart Eat Smart and Making Ends Meet, which will continue in the 2018 program year.

Families also had an opportunity to participate in the Dinner with Dads program, a hands on classroom style class that taught families how to eat on a budget, have fun together, and try new healthy recipes!

Food and Environment

Providing unbiased, research-based information and education to agricultural professionals to grow the economic base of Iowa agriculture.

Chickasaw County along with industry partners including Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services, USDA, local banks and cooperatives and Ag commodity groups continue to provide programming for community members.

This year’s programming included a Soil Fertility Workshop that brought together local agencies to help farmers understand the ins and outs of soil fertility and the best practices that are available.

Other agriculture programs included a tree pruning workshop, emerald ash borer presentation, Private and Commercial Pesticide applicator trainings, farm-land leasing programs, and one on one consultations.

K-12 Youth Outreach

4-H Youth Development builds skills in young people to improve their college and career readiness, close the educational achievement gap and encourage young professionals to commit to rural IOWA. Last year Iowa 4-H reached about 1000 K-12 youth.

Three school programs for 3rd 5th grade were offered in Chickasaw County with a focus on healthy eating and STEM activities.

Three day camps were offered in the summer that focused on Wonderful Worms and Cooking up Science. A Farm Safety Day camp impacted area Kindergarten-6th grade students and focused on safety in the home.

Several workshops were also offered throughout the year that focused on livestock project areas for youth to learn animal husbandry skills. These were ongoing workshops that built on each other at each session.

Total enrollment for Chickasaw County 4-H in 2017 was 182 in K-12th grade.

E.A.G.L.E.

EAGLE (Exploring Avenues of Getting Literate Early) in partnership with Chickasaw-Floyd-Mitchell Empowerment District continues to be popular with local libraries in preparing youth in preschool and younger to become active readers. Igniting an interest in books, reading and helping parents teach their children the importance of literacy with hands on activities are the goals of EAGLE. These programs are provided through regular story hour times in local libraries.

ISU Extension and Outreach

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