

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

LINN 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 Linn County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Linn 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 example
- Food and the Environment example
- Health and Well-being example
- K12 Youth Outreach Example



Economic Development

- Linn County hosted and co-sponsored the **Non-Profit Management Academy** this year, consisting of 10 courses with 180 of attendees through series. Classes included Board Engagement, Ditch the Drama, Grant Writing among others.

Food and Environment

Master Gardeners Making a difference -

- **120 Master Gardeners contribute Volunteered 12,413 hours of service, and 1,519 hours of education** in Community Gardens and other educational gardening events in Linn County.
- **3,500 lbs of food donated** to local food pantries to address local food insecurities.
- Provided consultation, education and other support to over **15 community school gardens**.
- Provided **education to 300+ attendees at the Winter Gardening Fair**. This is held every spring in Linn County.
- **Master Gardener leaders** at Lowe Park Greenhouse provided tours to **37 local school age youth**; held regular events hosting **72 community members** participating in gardening activities, and hosted seed saving workshops for **111 community members**, just to name a few.
- Hosted the annual **Garden Walk** to highlight gardens in our community—540 attended.

Regional Director

Jim Harken

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Linn County Director

RaeAnn Gordon

raeannb@iastate.edu

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. Council members are publically elected

Vicki Keegan

Extension Council Chair

Al Beach

Council Member

Pat Harstad

Vice Chair

Sarah Mentzer

Council Member

Mike Anderson

Council Member

& Treasurer

Patty Webster

Council Member

Claire Smith

Council Member &

Secretary

Dan Abel

Council Member

David McDonald

Council Member

IN 2017



- **Garden Club at Johnson STEAM Academy partners with 4-H & Master Gardeners** Provided lessons focusing on plant biology, soil health, seed dispersal, climate/weather, nutrition, and food preparation. This afterschool enrichment allows registered students to utilize the Wellington Heights Community Garden as a hands-on learning environment.
- **298 commercial and 150+ private applicators** received training here in Linn County.

Health and Well-Being

- **Human Nutrition specialists provided ServSafe® training** for 154 people from 99 different food establishments in Linn County.
- Human Science specialists provide **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** to Linn County residents. This class provides support and education to improve self-care behaviors, and use of community resources when caring for loved ones with chronic conditions or children with special needs.
- **Parent Education Consortium** provided parenting education and support to 256+ Linn County parents of 300 children up to age 5.

County Extension Staff

RaeAnn Gordon
County Director

Amy Schmitt
County Youth Outreach
Educator

Kate Yoder
County Youth Coordinator

Mary Dlouhy
4-H Programming support

Shelly O'Neal
Master Gardener
Coordinator

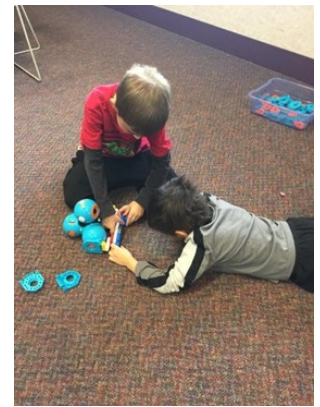
**PEC / Play & Learn
Director**
Morgan Boniface

Janice Savel
Office Assistant

Bookkeeper
Johannah RAhusch

K-12 Youth Outreach & 4-H programming

- **18 very active 4-H Clubs** in Linn County with **458 4- & Clover Kids** enrolled (K-12th grade).
- 11 teams participate in Linn County **4-H STEM clubs** this season. This includes FTC Robotics teams, & FIRST LEGO® League teams.
- 12 youth and 2 adults attended the **2017 Legislative day bus trip** in March.
- In a partnership with FFA and 4-H, **54 youth attend the FSQA bus trip to ISU campus**. FSQA provides quality assurance training to students through in-person training.
- 50 Youth, coaches, and parents attended a **field trip to the Marion Water Department** on September 24th. The kids were so curious and asked great questions. The groups also visited the Coralville Lake Visitor Center in October.
- **Hour of Code event** (photo right) Linn County 4-H hosted a STEM workshop. The event was free and open to any kindergarten through third grade. Youth had a fun learning the basics of coding using bee-bots, Dash robots, online programming challenges, and unplugged activities like graphing and paper airplane algorithms.
- **007 Squad 3D Archery Tournament** was a success! 75 archers and over 150 in attendance! Partnered with several local businesses for door prizes and use of 3D targets. 4-H Youth Programs provided a concessions stand.
- **Region 10 (Benton, Jones, Linn) provide a Jr Camp** for 61 youth and included memories full of laughter, smiles and learning.



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