



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN LYON COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State research and resources. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Lyon County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Lyon 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:

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



Food and Environment

Annie's Project graduates 25 Local Agri-Women

Lyon County hosted Annie's Project, a program designed specifically for women involved in agriculture, during January, February and March 2019. Twenty-five women participated and graduated from the six-week program which focused on farm and agribusiness finances, human resources, legal matters, marketing and production.

The program is notable because not only is it for women in agriculture, but all classes are also taught by women who are experts in their career field.

Health and Well-Being

Growing Up Wild Child Care Training Brings New Outdoor Training to Local Daycare Staff Members

In education and child care, there is a growing need to reconnect youth with nature. "Growing Up Wild" is a child care provider training that builds on a child's sense of wonder and exploration to make that connection with nature. During May, Human Sciences Specialist Lori Hayungs and Program Coordinator Mackenzie DeJong led 10 child care providers in this particular training. Providers left with 27 nature-based lessons, hands-on activities/games and snack ideas to use in their own daycares and to share with local youth and families.

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.

Dennis Winkowitsch
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Jim Jensen
Council Member

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Council Member

Diane Peters
Council Member

Jerry Haack
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Chuck Van Roekel
Council Member

Trisha Huyser
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Susan Wiertzema
Council Member

Economic Development

ISU Home Demonstration Garden Provides Fresh Produce and Education

For the past four years, the ISU Home Demonstration Garden in Lyon County has been a donation garden, harvesting over 667 pounds of fresh produce this year, which was donated to food pantries throughout Northwest Iowa. Horticulture Program Coordinator Dawn Henderson said that in addition to being a donation garden, the garden also acts as an outdoor classroom.

Fifty people attended the Annual Garden Walk during the Lyon County Fair to learn about the 66 different vegetable and flower species that were grown in the garden.

Additionally, for the past 5 years, K-12 Program Coordinator Laura Beyenhof has led weekly "Growing in the Garden" camps. During 2019, 31 youth participated; for a total of 119 youth gardeners who have developed green thumbs and discovered where their food comes from over the five-year period.



County Extension Staff



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K12 Youth Outreach

Lyon County Clover Kids Program Continues to Grow as Youth Experience STEM in Action

Lyon County is currently at an all-time high with 120 youth registered for Clover Kids, an afterschool program for second and third graders to discover 4-H. This is a 56 percent increase from 2016-17 when only 77 participants registered. K-12 Program Coordinator Laura Beyenhof notes that enrollments do fluctuate based on class size, but in the past five years, Lyon County has needed to add two Clover Kids sections for a current total of seven sessions hosted in the county each month from November through May.

A key component to Lyon County's Clover Kids program is the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) emphasis. Thanks to the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, Beyenhof was able to purchase "Dash and Dot" robots and coding software, which are one of the youth's favorite learning aids. Lyon County's successful Clover Kids program is best illustrated by the percent of graduating Clover Kids who enrolled in 4-H. Seventy-four percent of last year's graduating Clover Kids enrolled in Lyon County 4-H. Statewide, this is one of the highest percentages of youth who transition from Clover Kids to 4-H in a county.

In addition to 120 Clover Kids, Lyon County is also home to 329 4-H members and 471 summer camp participants.

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