

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

ISU Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Plymouth County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Plymouth 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

A partnership between ISU Extension and Outreach Plymouth County and the Le Mars Area Chamber of Commerce has brought state of the art leadership opportunities to Plymouth County residents and business leaders. In the spring of 2016, Cheryl Wells delivered a full day session on John Maxwell's 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership to over 150 participants from NW Iowa. Evaluations from the day included participants feeling encouraged and equipped in both



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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.

Brad Harvey
Extension Council Chair

Sherry Mc Gill
Regional Director

their professional and personal life. Participants were able to learn the tools of the trade on how to increase management skills within their professional and personal life. From this partnership three additional leadership workshops are planned for 2017 with topics such as influencing others, motivating and building trust in the workplace.

Health and Well Being

ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) was brought



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to Plymouth County in the fall of 2016. ISU Extension and Outreach staff in Plymouth County, along with Family Life Specialist Lori Hayungs, met with community partners which included doctors and those that work in childcare agencies. Through the presentation participants learned that the likelihood of youth adopting risky behaviors or having poor health increases substantially as the number of ACEs increase.

Participants discussed how they could work together to address ACEs within the community and what steps need to be taken next to include other agencies and schools.

Food and Environment

As the farm outlook for 2017 continues to deteriorate, ISU Extension and Outreach looked ahead to offer programming to agriculture producers, loan officers and businesses to help educate participants on risk management. In the fall of 2016, the Pro Ag Outlook and Management meeting was held in Le Mars.

These meetings were held across the state providing participants information regarding market conditions, trends in livestock and crops, and risk management options for bankers, business owners, and agriculture producers. The Farm Business Management team worked with the Agriculture Economics Department

and featured speakers Dr. Chad Hart, Dr. Lee Schultz, and Dr. Alejandro Plastina to deliver time sensitive materials to all participants. Topics covered in this three hour session were current and future crop prices, discovering factors that are prompting livestock cost and prices to change, and how to manage an agriculture businesses with low and negative crop margins.

Over 45 agriculture loan officers, bankers, producers and land owners attended this program. Attendees left this meeting with a new outlook on how to approach and manage the farm economy for 2017 and the future.

K-12 Youth Outreach

The Plymouth County 4-H program completed the 2015-2016 year with 423 youth enrolled. This ranked Plymouth County fifth across the state. There are nineteen traditional 4-H community clubs and a Shooting Sports club. Throughout the year these clubs complete many community service projects, some of which include making blankets for the local hospitals, landscaping and upkeep around the fairgrounds, and helping businesses serve meals at events. These clubs also work in the 4-H Foodstand at the fair and the profits made from this support 4-H programming and helps pay the state membership fee.

Members took part in other county wide events like a Volleyball Tournament, Halloween Party, and project workshops. Many participated in the Glow Walk which raised money for the County 4-H Foundation. There was also an overwhelming response to the new Bucket of Junk welding contest and the Tallest Corn contest.

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