

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

VAN BUREN 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 Van Buren County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Van Buren 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:

- Agricultural Education
- Health and Well-being
- Food and the Environment
- K12 Youth Outreach



Agricultural Education

Our 2017 Pasture Walk was an educational presentation on “Drones in Agriculture”. ISU Extension program specialists demonstrated the drones flying. They showed us how the information received from the drones can be used for crop and livestock production.

For the first time in Van Buren County, we presented Women Managing Cattle to 15 farm women involved in raising beef cattle. We provided training for 62 Private Pesticide Applicators and 23 Commercial Applicators.

A Farmland Leasing meeting was held to educate landowners and



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

Steve Kisling
Extension Council Chair

Sandra Coffman
Council Member

Steve Duke
Council Member

Sue Henderson
Regional Director

Amy Eden
Council Member

Darrell Kruse
Council Member

Kathy Noll
Council Member

Rachel Smith
Council Member

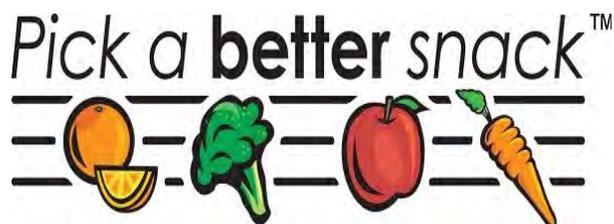
Christine Westercamp
Council Member

Will Whitaker
Council Member

IN 2017

tenants about the Economic outlook for agriculture.

A Drought meeting was held to educate farmers on the drought conditions that are causing major concerns for both crop and livestock producers.



Health and Well-Being

Pick A Better Snack is a program that brings nutrition into the classrooms, Pre-K through 6th grades. The students try a nutritional snack and share a health lesson. A snack is introduced that is nutritious and most kids can prepare themselves. In addition to introducing new foods, the students are encouraged to try new things. The supplies for the program are purchased locally, within the county. 26 classrooms are visited on a monthly basis, while reaching over 500 students.

Food and Environment

Our office tests canner dials for safe canning results. We participated in a local "Ladies Night" by demonstrating how to grow your own herbs and use them in cooking. We participated at the Safe & Healthy Kids fair by offering "super-hero" snacks to more than 450 attendees. Monthly programs (including

Viva Las Veggies, Actions Speak Louder Than Words, I Only Want a Peanut Butter Sandwich, Spend Smart/Eat Smart & Meal Planning Magic) were presented to 39 NEST participants on the importance of nutritious meals for the family.

K-12 Youth Outreach

The 2016-2017 4-H program was a huge success in Van Buren County. The 4-H program had 95 members enrolled in 7 clubs. We also had 43 Clover Kids. The members were involved in many activities throughout the year which included horse clinics, workshops, weigh-ins, Halloween party, fundraisers, awards banquet and County and State Fair exhibits. 4-H also gives the members an appreciation for civic duty. Past 4-H members compliment 4-H for enhancing their classroom abilities and for giving them a competitive advantage in life through the leadership skills learned, improved abilities in public speaking, writing, leading a meeting, and most important financial and entrepreneur skills developed. We are fortunate to have 22 volunteers assist with the 4-H program.

We held 6 different day camps reaching 65 children in grades K-7. Our day camps are open to 4-H and

ISU Extension and Outreach

Van Buren County

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