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.

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:

- Youth/Development/STEM
- Economic Development
- Community Vision/Planning/Design
- Ag and Natural Resources/Environmental Stewardship
- Strengthen Families and Financial Capabilities
- Nutrition and Health
- Efficient and Effective Government

The following is a small snapshot of how we are tackling these issues.

**Youth/Development/STEM**

- Had **strong** 4-H and Clover Kid clubs, Youth Advisory Committee and Youth County Council.
- Organized **Safety Day** for all 2nd graders and rural schools in the county.
- Held the 4th Annual **Junior Farmers Market**.
- Performed **FarmChat** virtual farm tours throughout the county in partnership with Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom Coordinator.
- **Buchanan County Fair** had 211 exhibitors and 743 livestock and 283 static projects.
- The Summer Assistant reached **155 kids** through STEM programs held throughout the county.

**Extension Council Members**

- Michelle Mangrich: Extension Council Chair
- Paul Short: Council Vice-Chair
- Nick Wilgenbusch: Council Treasurer
- Barb Rawson: Council Secretary
- Cindy Waters: Council Member
- Steve Copenhaver: Council Member
- Amy Peyton: Council Member
- Shelley Schafer: Council Member
- Whitney Holt: Council Member

**County Staff**

- Roxanne Fuller: Executive Director
- Brenda Fuller: Office Assistant
- Sarah Blunt: Program Assistant
- Melanie Jacobs: County Youth Coordinator
- Adriane Carlson: Regional Director

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Economic Development and Community Vision/Planning/Design

- Host organization of the Independence Farmers Market, which created about $38,000 in sales for local producers and crafters.
- Roxanne Fuller is a current Board member on the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Staff are members of ICE-T (Independence Community Enhancement Team) and Cedar Valley Regional Food and Farm Network.
- Staff was a part of the City of Independence’s visioning project.

Ag and Natural Resources/Environmental Stewardship

- Ongoing Master Gardener projects are maintained by our valuable volunteers; activities are shared in a monthly newsletter.
- Annual Master Gardener Symposium was attended by 95 participants.
- Frosty the Cow was brought in to demonstrate how to pull a calf with our partners Denise Schwab, Beef Specialist, and the Buchanan County Cattlemen.
- Master Gardeners received the 2019 Search for Excellence Award, presented by ISU Extension and Outreach for their work on improving the Prairie Pioneer Schoolhouse in Jesup.
- Partnered with Buchanan County Economic Development to host an informational presentation about hops.
- Hosted the Farmland Leasing meeting, which was lead by Melissa O’Rourke, Farm Management Specialist, and had over 50 people in attendance.
- Conducted monthly Continuing Instruction Courses for commercial pesticide applicators.
- Held annual trainings for MAC and Private Pesticide.
- Have been a catalyst for the Buchanan County Women, Land, and Legacy chapter.

Nutrition and Health

- Sarah Blunt collaborated with the Buchanan County Health Center’s SPARK program to help educate about 400 kids per month about healthy eating and exercise.
- Roxanne Fuller took on Fresh Conversations, a program of Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging/USDA, that is performed monthly at the Buchanan County Senior Center.
- Jill Weber, Human Science Specialist, provided the Stay Independent series at the Buchanan County Senior Center.
- Cindy Thompson, Family Life Specialist, offered the child care training Flora, Fauna, and Family Engagement to support professionals in their efforts to increase nature based experiences for children. This program was in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral.

Efficient and Effective Government

As a tax-payer funded entity, we are proud to say we manage our resources efficiently. Our system demands we respect the taxpayers’ pocket books. We are active in county-wide collaborations and by working together, we are able to tackle issues that would not be possible otherwise.

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