



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN BUCHANAN 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 Buchanan County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Buchanan 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:

- 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.



Buchanan County Extension Council

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

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.



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.

- Hosted a **Farm Bill** informational meeting, lead by Melissa O'Rourke, Farm Management Specialist, NRCS, and Cindy Thompson, Family Life Specialist. 85 farmers were in attendance.

Strengthen Families and Financial Capabilities

- Held **RADON informational workshops** in collaboration with Buchanan County Public Health.
- Roxanne Fuller is an active member of the **Buchanan County Substance Abuse Coalition**.

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 tax payers' 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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Dairy Story at NICC Dairy Center



Independence Farmers Market