



**#STRONGIOWA**

# 2021 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.



**Sustainable ENVIRONMENTS**



**Thriving COMMUNITIES**



**Resilient PEOPLE**



**Future LEADERS**



Council members pictured L-R, Pat Donnelly, Ryan Kress, Whitney Holt, Roxanne Fuller (retired Buchanan County Extension Executive Director), Cindy Waters, and Paul Short.

The Buchanan County Extension Council has been elected by the people of the county to guide local educational programming by partnering with extension staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents you and your issues. We are always serving Iowans and we are here for you. Now. Always.

**Thank you for your support.**

**Michelle Mangrich**  
Extension Council Chair

**Whitney Holt**  
Council Member

**Ryan Kress**  
Council Vice Chair

**Megan Rawlins**  
Council Member

**Amy Peyton**  
Secretary

**Paul Short**  
Council Member

**Shelley Schafer**  
Treasurer

**Cindy Waters**  
Council Member

**Pat Donnelly**  
Council Member

## Serving the People of Buchanan County

As Iowans adjusted to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, ISU Extension and Outreach continued to prioritize health and safety as we delivered research-based education to the people of Buchanan County. During 2021, we focused on the following efforts:

- Robin Pruisner, IDALS Hemp Administrator led a workshop on growing hemp in Iowa. A panel of Buchanan County growers then shared their experiences.
- Provided an opportunity to learn about the history, culture, and care of hops, and addressed the future of hops in Iowa and the Midwest.
- Collaborated with Buchanan County Economic Development and the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce to provide four Lunch and Learn opportunities for the public regarding social media and marketing.
- Provided a Carbon Market workshop in collaboration with Women, Land, and Legacy to learn more about soil health, carbon sequestration, and how the carbon market may affect the farm economy.
- Melissa O'Rourke, ISU Extension Farm & Agribusiness Management Specialist, presented a wide range of topics related to farmland values and leasing.
- Area ISU Extension and Outreach Specialists and others shared ideas as we addressed summer storm damaged crops including challenging harvest and storage issues and insurance.
- Conducted monthly Continuing Instruction Courses (CIC) for commercial and private pesticide applicators.
- Held annual trainings for Commercial and Private Manure Applicator Trainings.
- Continued to serve as the host organization for the Independence Farmers Market connecting local food producers and buyers, and hosting weekly themes, live music, and food production workshops. Encouraged children in grades K-6 to attend by offering a coupon.
- Renewed monthly Nutrition Education programming at the Buchanan County Senior Center in partnership with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging and the USDA.
- Our Master Gardeners met quarterly and recorded hundreds of hours working in the community.
- Hosted the Northeast Area Regional meeting for Extension staff, council, and state specialists with over 100 in attendance.

## Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Buchanan County Fair returned in 2021, providing the opportunity for youth to demonstrate what they had learned through their 4-H project work over the past year.

- We had over 630 livestock entries and nearly 250 static entries at Fair this year. These numbers are comparable to 2019.
- We made every effort to make all livestock shows available through Facebook Live for those who chose not to attend in person.
- Buchanan County launched Goat Getters as part of the County Fair! This program provided an opportunity for special needs individuals to be a part of showing livestock in a safe environment with guidance from 4-H and FFA members.



- Several promotional programs were held to increase awareness of 4-H and Extension opportunities including a Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt, Snow Games, Read Across America, Pet Costume Parade, and a Nutcracker Costume Challenge.
- We have been working on building stronger relationships with each 4-H club by attending meetings and improving communication.
- We participated in Buchanan County Fair Board's Trunk or Treat reaching over 450 youth.
- We took part in Jingle on Main, a family holiday program presented by the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce.



## Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Buchanan County has been focused on expanding educational opportunities for youth.

- We provided Safety Day for 2nd and 3rd graders in four county school districts reaching over 250 youth.
- Our Summer Assistant reached over 170 youth through 14 six-hour STEM-based day camps.
- We provided a Rural School Safety Day for over 160 youth in grades K-8 attending rural county schools.
- We co-hosted "Spring in the Heartland Egg-stravaganza" reaching over 500 youth.

The staff at Buchanan County Extension and Outreach also attended over a dozen professional development trainings, workshops, and conferences throughout the year including Ricochet, Switch, Mindful Teen, Grow 4-H, Youthfest, and Annie's Project. We look forward to implementing many of these programs in 2022.

## Extension Staff

**Adriane Carlson**  
Regional Director

**Brenda Fuller**  
Office Assistant

**Lori Dietzenbach**  
Program Assistant

**Kara Vance**  
County Program Director

**Emily Martins**  
County Youth Coordinator

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