

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

BUENA VISTA 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 Buena Vista County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Buena Vista 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

Over 100 participants attended the **Delayed and Preventative Planting Meeting**. Paul Kassel, ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist, Gary Wright, ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Specialist, along with insurance and FSA representatives shared information and answered questions.

A three year partnership with Storm Lake's English Second Language program provided "**Your Money, Your Future**" sessions covering basic financial management, credit, banking, and consumer resources. Sessions use ISU finance resources tailored to match the ESL personal finance curriculum.



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 better than we found it.

Laura Sievers
Extension Council Chair

Terry Janssen
Regional Director

Dustin Smith
Council Vice Chair

Paul Diehl
Council Treasurer

Salli Nichols
Council Secretary

CJ Bean
Council Member

Melanie Bloom
Council Member

Jan Worthan
Council Member

Miguel Negrete
Council Member

Roman De La Torre
Council Member

IN 2019



Health and Well-Being

Buena Vista County Extension and Outreach along with Salud and many other community partners hosted the third annual Food Insecurity Summit - "Homegrown". The event included a bus tour to Eden Garden, a visit to The Bridge's garden and the Farmers Market, free sampling of local produce, Mary Swander's Farm to Fork Tales with local storytellers, music sung and written by Ann Zimmerman, and a delicious meal presented by Taste of Storm Lake from Farm to Fork Food Truck.

Food and Environment

Buena Vista County Master Gardeners received the Growing Together Iowa Mini Grant for the second year. The grant provide raised beds for the two senior apartments in Storm Lake and provided support to the Newell Food Pantry Garden. Also, the Master Gardeners helped with planting the raised beds and garden.

Buena Vista County hosted three ServSafe® food safety certification courses in 2019. Thirty-nine food service managers or workers participated. The course covers food safety practices such as proper personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, purchasing food from safe sources, preventing cross contamination, and cooking/holding food at the correct temperatures. This helps increase food safety skills and knowledge and decrease the risk of foodborne illness. Iness, Ann Parker, instructed these classes.



Thirteen Buena Vista Co. youth participated in an overnight career exploration tour in Storm Lake. Tours included Energy Transport, Buena Vista Medical Center, Storm Lake Police Department, Buena Vista Sheriff's Department, Tyson Poultry, and the Storm Lake Bakery.

K-12 Youth Outreach

K-12 Outreach 4-H provides youth an opportunity for leadership, communication, and community service. Youth learn responsibility and life skills that carry them into adulthood. Buena Vista County has 227 active 4-H members with more than 200 K-3 youth involved in Clover Kids.

Buena Vista County is home to four community clubs including Maple Valley Agriculturists in Alta, Fairfield Pioneers in Albert City, Newell Boosting Achievers in Newell, and the Providence Go Getters in Storm Lake. In addition, there are four special interest clubs including BV Shooting Sports, BV Equine, 4-H Robotics/ STEM Club, and Storm Lake High School 4-H.



In 2019, approximately 400 fourth graders participated in Ag. Citing.

120 students attended Safety Day and nearly 100 high school students participated in career and college readiness opportunities in Buena Vista County.

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