

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

Delaware 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 Delaware County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Delaware 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:

- Community and Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K-12 Youth Outreach

Community and Economic Development

As a trusted resource in the community, many organizations and businesses look to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Delaware County for information and resources. We continue to serve our community by sitting on many committees and boards dedicated to building strong, vibrant communities in Delaware County.

Again in 2019, we hosted Grant Writing 101 for local schools, churches, and non-profit organizations on May 1st in Edgewood.

With generous sponsorship from the Edgewood Area Economic Development, the program was offered free of charge for participants.



Delaware County 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.

Roger Helmricks <i>Extension Council Chair</i>	Sharon Bacon <i>Council Member</i>	Kelly Jared <i>Council Member</i>
Paul Mariman <i>Regional Director</i>	Patty Conrad <i>Council Member</i>	Jill Knipper <i>Council Member</i>
	John Dolan <i>Council Member</i>	Bruce Nieman <i>Council Member</i>
	Jamie Helmricks <i>Council Member</i>	Sue Willie <i>Council Member</i>

IN 2019



Community Development Specialist Eric Christanson facilitated the program for a large crowd of city leaders, economic development, schools, and community organizations. The course offers tools for seeking and using grant funds, project planning, identifying potential funders, and tips for success. ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County was happy to coordinate this program and help pay it forward to help grow our local communities.

Health and Well-Being

Health and well-being is a top priority in Delaware County. We view overall wellbeing as the foundation of healthy people and communities. 2019 brought us fresh programs and fresh faces to our Human Sciences Specialist team.

Two of three specialist on the Human Sciences team retired early in 2019. We said our goodbyes to Family Life Specialist Kristi Cooper and Family Finance Specialist Susan Taylor. We welcomed two new specialist to the county in late summer.

Danielle Day, Family Life Specialist and Phyllis Zalenski, Family Finance Specialist joined the ISU Extension and Outreach Staff and have been serving Delaware County as part of their region 10/11 block. Staff, Extension Council, and our community partners have enjoyed getting to know Danielle and Phyllis over the past couple of months. We have spent time planning and prioritizing programming for 2020 and look forward to working with old and new partners to accomplish these goals.

Research highlights the positive outcomes for children when early childhood professionals and their programs engage more collaboratively with families. In October childcare providers were able to learn more about this subject when they attended the 2-hour *Flora, Fauna, and Family Engagement* Childcare Provider Training in Manchester at no cost—thanks to a partnership with Childcare Resource and Referral.

Attendees learned how they can combine the increased emphasis on outdoor nature-based play experiences for children with family engagement. They were also able to explore what it means to engage families, discover

new outdoor nature-based play resources, and create an action plan that builds upon high quality child care best practices. *Flora, Fauna and Family Engagement* is one of many Childcare Provider Trainings available through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Human Sciences Specialists.



K-12 Youth Outreach

We take the 4-H motto, *to make the best better*, seriously here in Delaware County. As an Extension Council and staff we strive to empower our youth through 4-H and youth programming. In late 2018, we expanded our staff to add a K-12 Youth Education Coordinator after recognizing significant growth in our 4-H program and the need for more quality youth programming. With dedicated youth staff we saw tremendous growth in our programs.

We hosted a number of School's Out Day Camp programs for youth on their out of school days. We expanded our after-school program developed new youth partnerships, and hosted our first week long summer camp!

In July we hosted a week-long Fishing and Outdoor Camp. With generous grant dollars from the Walmart Community Grant and Iowa DNR REAP grant, youth enjoyed a week of fishing at Tirrill Park in Manchester and Backbone State Park in Dundee. Youth also learned outdoor skills, such as putting up a tent, and learned about being responsible outdoorsman and taking care of the land.



It was another successful year for our 4-H program in 2019. We hosted a number of project workshops, took 4-Hers on trips to the Minnesota Zoo, Camp Shalom, the Iowa Capitol, Pictured Rocks, and Washington D.C., and continued to grow our 4-H and Clover Kid enrollment.

A new project workshop for 2019 was the Showmanship Clinic held in June.

4-H Enrollment Climbs to 4th Highest in Iowa!

Delaware County 4-H celebrated a huge milestone of success. For the 2018-19 4-H year Delaware County enrollment climbed to the 4th highest enrollment across the state of Iowa with a total of 427 4-H members.

Over the past few years, Delaware County 4-H has been steadily increasing in 4-H enrollment numbers. In 2017, a total of 390 members participated in local 4-H clubs, with 106 of those members being new members. In 2018, numbers were up to a total of 405 members, which included 78 new members. Finally, in 2019 the total came to 427 with 78 new members.

Delaware County 4-H has a total of 16 4-H clubs, scattered throughout the county. The largest club in Delaware County is the Delaware Hustlers with 48 members.

County Youth Coordinator, Kenzie Griffin, gives credit to all of the amazing 4-H volunteers in Delaware County. "We are very fortunate to have so many caring adults who volunteer their time to help youth reach their full potential, without volunteers we would not be seeing growth in our enrollment" she says.

Delaware County has over 135 4-H volunteers, which includes 4-H club leaders, Clover Kids leaders, project leaders, Youth Committee members, workshop volunteers, and fair volunteers.

The Delaware County Extension Council and staff extend a huge congratulations to all of the 4-H volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the 4-H program.



Top left: Future 4-H members graduate from Clover Kids.
Top right: 4-H members learn showmanship tips at the Showmanship Clinic
Bottom left: Delaware County Dairy Quiz Bowl Team earns 3rd at National Contest
Bottom right: 4-H members celebrate with their furry and not so furry friends after the 2019 Delaware County Fair Dog Show.

We brought in experts in the field including project superintendents, judges, and experienced 4-H members to prepare livestock exhibitors for fair. Sixty youth attended the clinic and chose which species session they wanted to attend. The clinic featured sessions on beef, poultry, rabbits, sheep, goats, dairy cattle, and a swine demo.

Youth walked away eager to work with their animals and practice up for the fair, after all "Showmanship is won at home."

Food and Environment

Whether on farm or in urban areas, our Agriculture and Natural Resources programs and resources are a vital service provided to the citizens of Delaware County. We focus on growing nutritious food, taking care of our environment, building profitable farms, and educating youth and the next generation on important safety topics as well as where our food comes from.

In 2019 we continued to build on the success of our previous Women in Ag programs. We hosted Managing for Today and Tomorrow, a five week program focused on estate management and succession planning.

Eighteen women from Delaware and surrounding counties learned about estate, transition, and succession planning, and were empowered to set goals and engage in effective family discussions about their farm operations.





With this particular group of Managing for Today and Tomorrow participants, women were of all ages and all stages of life. And in terms of stages, they are either transitioning into a farm business, or are transitioning to another generation and out of the farm business. The women who attended, like so many other women in agriculture, are faced with significant challenges when it comes to their farm businesses and Managing for Today and Tomorrow is a class that can provide resources and tools to help guide them as they make tough farm management decisions.

Farm Business Management Specialist Melissa O'Rourke facilitated the program. She was pleased to see so many women in Iowa taking advantage of the opportunities to participate in ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Ag classes and encourages women in ag to continue learning.

Managing for Today and Tomorrow in Delaware County featured local experts including Jane Hanson, Hanson Law Office, Lacey Carroll and Tammy Feldmann, Milestones Group, Julie Smith, State Farm, and Angie Treptow, Farm Credit Services of America. ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Ag programs empower women by offering a valuable set of multi-session classes. The programs help participants learn ways to make better financial and risk management decisions. We want to thank our Delaware County Women in Ag Steering Committee for their input, as well as Delaware County Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services of America, and Delaware County Economic Development for sponsoring the program.

Each year the ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County Master Gardener's hold an educational lecture series called "Monday's in March". In 2019, the Master Gardeners celebrate the 25th year of the program.

These presentations are designed to both educate and entertain anyone interested in gardening and growing. Topics vary each year from landscape design to growing blueberries to windbreaks for conservation. This is a local favorite with attendance averaging 60-75 people each Monday night.



The Delaware County Master Gardener Program continues to make our county beautiful with community garden projects and educate the citizens in the county with their programs

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