



#STRONGIOWA

2021 IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of lowans with Iowa State research and resources. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Delaware County for a #STRONGIOWA.



The Delaware 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 lowans and we are here for you. Now. Always.

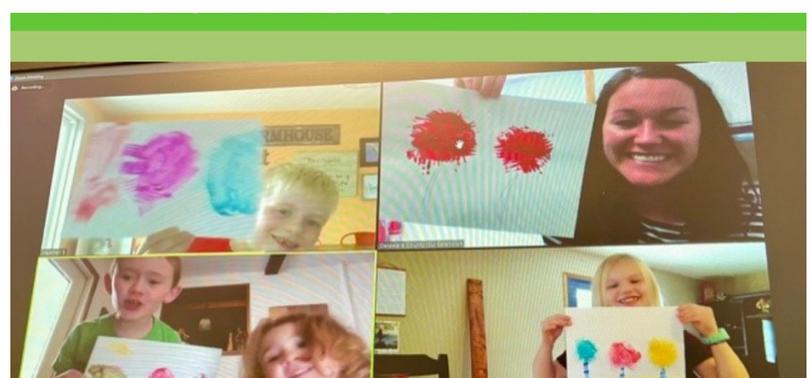
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Serving the People of Delaware County

As lowans 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 Delaware County.

During 2021, we focused on serving the local community and providing research based programming in the areas of 4-H and Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community and Economic Development, and Human Sciences as we continue to recover from the global pandemic.



Pre-Retirees Gain Tools to Feel Confident when Preparing for Retirement.

How much will you need to retire? A question that can be hard for many to answer. But being realistic and preparing for the future now, can help retirement be more relaxing and enjoyable.

The “Writing Your Retirement Paycheck” workshop focused on planning within 10-15 years of retirement. The workshop outlined key factors to consider prior to retirement and described two strategies for structuring retirement income. Topics included inflation, health costs, Social Security, required minimum distributions, annuities, etc. A key feature is the non-commercial retirement planning information presented. In Delaware County, nine participants, including several couples, attended the two-part workshop at the ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County office in March and April.

Participants agreed after completing the workshop they feel less stress about the ability to manage finances during retirement from information gained in the program.

All agreed they now have the knowledge and resources necessary to effectively plan for retirement and manage income during retirement. All also indicated a positive impact on the likelihood they will adjust current plans for retirement. They would recommend the workshop to others.



Writing your Retirement attendees learn about methods of saving during program



Top: Annual Farm Safety Program held at each elementary school in the spring and held for all 7th grade students in the county each fall.

Bottom left: Pasture recovery remained an important topic in 2021.

Bottom right: Master Gardeners stop for a photo as they work in one of the many community gardens in Delaware county

Delaware County Master Gardeners Back to Business after an Uncertain year.

After a year of many program delays and cancelations, the Delaware County Master Gardeners were excited to get back to their roots and grow their local programming. At the heart of the program is the many community garden projects which thrived thanks to local volunteers digging in.

There were also able to get back to their community outreach projects at the Farmer's Market, local assisted living center, and host their annual plant sale!

The Master Gardener group continues to grow with two new members joining for the new year.

Innovative Programming meets Producer needs.

Due to many factors facing ag producers at the beginning of 2021, ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County was able to offer a number of new programs focused on helping producers recovery from challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic and revitalizing the farm economy.

In February 2021, ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County hosted a Pasture Recovery and Beef Quality Assurance sessions for local cattle producers.

Many pastures across Iowa were stressed due to weather and over grazing in 2020. Topics covered during the program included evaluating forage, developing a plan of action including tools and techniques for recovery of existing pastures and grazing techniques for producers to utilize for long term production of pastures.

In December of 2021, ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware hosted a program specific to producers early in their career or beginning farmers. The program focused on working with agribusiness professionals, accessing land, farmland leases, beginning farmer tax credits and loan programs, and more.

Eighteen Producers were able to learn about valuable resources from the ISU Beginning Farmer Center as well as the USDA Farm Service Agency Beginning Farmer Programs.

4-H Enrollment Persists through Pandemic with Strong Tradition.

Delaware County has a strong deep rooted tradition of 4-H, a tradition that has been built upon for many years and continues to grow with 4-H enrollment and participation. Delaware County has four club and project leaders who have dedicated more than 40 years of service each to the 4-H Program. With a number of others dedicating many years of service, this strong foundation proved sturdy through the pandemic.



Left to Right: 4-H Club and Project leaders receiving recognition at the annual volunteer banquet- David Kunde-55 years, Ruth Deutmeyer- 43 years, Shirley Helmricks-40 Years, JoAnn Kruse-45 years.



Top: 4-H members were happy to be back in the show ring with lots of support in the stands.
Bottom left: Many members tried new projects in 2021, from poultry to painting, 4-H members showcased their talents.
Bottom right: Kicking off the new 4-H year during National 4-H week, who wouldn't want to "have s'more fun in 4-H?!"

Across Iowa, 4-H saw many of the traditional club activities and service projects being put on hold due to the pandemic. Delaware County remained in the top 3 enrollment in the state of Iowa thanks to the resiliency and innovation of our volunteers.

The new 4-H year opened enrollment on September 1st and there has been renewed interest from new 4-H members and Clover Kids. ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County is grateful to have dedicated volunteers who help continue to provide opportunities for youth.

Showcasing 4-H at the County Fair

The Delaware County Fair was back and better than ever in 2021, neither a global pandemic nor severe weather could stop our youth members from showcasing their projects and learning. Taking full advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned through their 4-H project work over the past year, there was an increase in livestock projects and participation as well as larger numbers of clothing and communication projects.

Some changes after last year's modified fair events proved to be popular and helped improve these events in



Top: After School STEM Club members pose for a picture.
 Bottom left: Youth enjoyed programming the BeeBots during an activity.
 Bottom right: Pumpkin Slime from the new Steam'n Through the Seasons Curriculum was a highlight of the program.

Working toward Recovery

As our state works toward recovery, ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County has been supporting Iowans in reviving the Iowa economy, including the farm economy.

A stable and prosperous economy incorporates many important factors. We are committed to respond to local needs with our research based programs and resources to help our local community recover stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead to 2022, ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County looks forward to working with local and state partners to continue to build a strong Iowa.

experiences for our members.

After School STEM Club Provides Education and After School Care for Community.

With early school dismissal each Wednesday, parents faced a challenge to find childcare for a few hours after the 1:30 p.m. dismissal. ISU Extension and Outreach hosted a semester long After School STEM Club for youth in kindergarten through 4th grade, which helped fill this gap.

The group participated in a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math concepts during the ten-week program. More than 20 youth enrolled and enjoyed the different topics and challenges including building bridges and catapults to making pumpkin slime and computer coding.

The After School STEM club will continue to be offered in 2022.

Adequate childcare has become a struggle across the state and ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County is working to help meet these needs locally. In addition to the After School STEM club, School's Out Day Camps were also offered throughout

Extension Staff



Jade Schneider
 County Program Director



Marybeth Foster
 Regional Director



Kenzie Zumbach
 County Youth Coordinator



Kathy Boeding
 Office Assistant/
 Bookkeeper



Kelsey Salow
 Food and Health Human Sciences Specialist
 Housed in Delaware County

ISU Extension and Outreach Delaware County

1417 N. Franklin St. Box 336
 Manchester, IA 52057
 563-927-4201
www.extension.iastate.edu/delaware



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