

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

GUTHRIE 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 Guthrie County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Guthrie 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
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach



Community and Economic Development

This year ISU Extension & Outreach Guthrie County offered a **Grant Writing 101** workshop to around 15 community members from all over Guthrie County and surrounding areas. The program was led by Jane Goeken, ISU Extension & Outreach Community and Economic Development specialist. She explored public and private funding sources and provided hands-on training to seek and write successful grants for non-profits, local governments, and schools.



Extension Council Members

We want communities and farmers to thrive, and families and children to be healthy. Eventually we want to turn the world over to the next generation better than we found it.

Bret Hodges
Extension Council Chair

Terry Torneten
Regional Director

Chad Sheley
Council Member

Jim Calvert
Council Member

Anna Kastner
Council Member

Cody Sheeder
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Council Member

Dustin Clark
Council Member

Kim Durst
Council Member

Mike Thomas
Council Member

IN 2019

Program Spotlight:

Guthrie County STEM Fest

Over 30 local businesses and partners provided educational booths at the third annual Guthrie County STEM Fest held in Panorama, Iowa at the Panorama Schools this year. Businesses had small & simple STEM related activities for the youth to participate in. A local shirt company, Farmhouse Graphics, showed youth how to design and print shirts. The American Cancer Society talked to youth about their blood and the Panorama FFA chapter showed youth how to make soybean rations. The Saturday event allowed youth to travel around to as many booths as possible to participate in the STEM activities each business had planned for them. Youth were given a passport to take around to each business and have stamped at the end of each activity. The passports were then turned in for prizes. The March event, held at the Panorama high school, was a great success with over 300 people in attendance.

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New this year we started the **Guthrie County 4-H Day of Service**. 4-H members from all eight clubs in Guthrie County got together to make different projects for various organizations in our community. Youth made tie blankets and bedtime bags to donate to New Opportunities, painted door signs for the New Homestead, created STEM Kits for community libraries, put together hospital care kits for Tori's Angels, and cleaned up the show ring on the county fairgrounds.

We continued our annual **Cy-Hawk Tailgate** for the yearly rivalry football game. This year we partnered with the Guthrie County Corn Growers and offered the community members tailgate games to play, door prizes to win, and delicious food to eat! We had a great turn out with around 60 community members from local businesses and organizations in attendance.

Health and Well-Being

At **Summer Food STEAM Fun** in Guthrie Center and **Panther Connections** in Panorama, 540 youth had summer food and participated in Science, Technology, Engineering, Ag/Art, Math (STEAM) fun in June. The youth enjoyed learning about a wide variety of topics: nature, agriculture, math, healthy living, and local heroes. Partners on this program included Guthrie Center Elementary Staff, Panorama School District, New Opportunities, Panorama EMS, Guthrie County Farm Bureau, Guthrie County Sheriffs Department, Master Gardeners, American Cancer Society, People's Bank, Guthrie County Hospital, Rose Acres Farms, Guthrie Center Fire Department, and Guthrie County 4-H.

ISU Extension and Outreach-Guthrie County hosted a child care nutrition training called **Color Me Healthy**. The training helped child care providers identify health benefits related to various





colors of fruits and vegetables. Through participating in activities from the Color Me Healthy kit, providers were also able to set goals about how they will increase the color and variety of fruits and vegetables they serve to children in their care. The training was presented by Ann Parker, ISU Extension and Outreach Human Sciences Specialist in Nutrition and Wellness.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

ISU Extension & Outreach in Guthrie County hosted **Boots in the Barn** in February, a women in agriculture program that is focused on cattle production. This program was led by Erika Lundy, ISU Extension & Outreach Beef Specialist with assistance from Tim Christensen, ISU Extension & Outreach Farm Management Specialist. Sixteen women came together for four sessions in February to discuss Farm Management, Pasture Management and Nutrition, Health and Calving Management, and Feedlot Management.

Each year we host four **Farmers Coffee** meetings from December to March. This year we had 45 farmers attend to discuss topics such as Farm Property Theft with the County Sheriff and ISU Ag Engineer Shawn Shouse, Cattle Concerns with ISU Beef Specialist Erika Lundy, Farm Outlook with ISU Farm Management Specialist Tim Christensen, and Crop Update with ISU Agronomist Meaghan Anderson.

The annual **Farm Safety Day** was held for all third graders in the county in May. Around



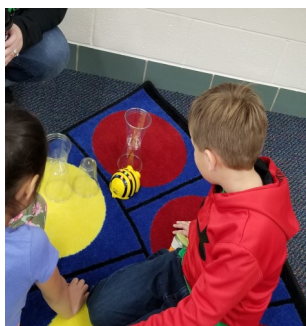
The four above photos captured some of our agriculture programs such as our winter Farmers Coffee series (top left), the Boots in the Barn Women in Ag program (top right and bottom right), and the annual Farm Safety Day camp (bottom left).

200 youth from Guthrie County gathered at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds to learn about Grain Bin Safety, PTO Safety, ATV Safety, Electrical Safety, and Sun Safety. The youth participated in hands on activities and got to hear from professionals on how to be safe when on the farm.

STEM in Ag was a new reading program we tried out at the Panora Public library this summer. Youth got to read one of the "My Family Farm" books provided to us from the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. After reading the book youth participated in fun STEM activities related to the topic of the book. This year we covered soybeans, beef, wind, and swine. Youth really enjoyed the opportunity to make their own bouncy ball using soybean by-products, matching the cuts of beef on a steer, creating their own windmill, learning how to ear notch hogs, and practicing vaccinations on bananas.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Afterschool Clover Kids, a program initiated in 2018, was brought back for the 2019-2020 school year. The afterschool program is held in each school district throughout the county and focusses on topics including literacy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) activities and team building.



Schools Out Day Camps were held throughout the school year. These are days typically during the school year where there is no school such as teacher in-service day off or winter breaks. ISU Extension & Outreach Guthrie County partnered with Iowa DNR to offer four different outdoor day camps which included Dinosaurs and Fossils, Green Power, Avian Adventures, and Earth Day Engineering all at Springbrook State Park. During Dinosaurs and Fossils, youth got to see the fossils that are located right here in Guthrie County. Green Power focused on building clean energy with wind and water power while Avian Adventures participants got to see a birds eye view from a drone along with learning how birds prepare for winter. Earth Day Engineering focused on having youth create solutions to real life problems that affect our environment. Other Schools Out Day Camps include Babysitting Basics and Spring Break STEM.

There were six **Day Camps** offered throughout the summer. Topics covered were Dinosaurs and Time Travelers, Wandering the Watershed, Mad Scientist, Insects Everywhere, Aquatic Life, and Babysitting Basics. Over 100 youth participated in the Schools Out Day Camps and traditional Summer Day Camps.

We partnered with the Panora Library and Stuart Library in hosting **STEM Afternoons** for local 3rd-5th graders where the focus was all about outer space. Youth got hands-on engagement opportunities by building different types of rockets, learning how to do simple tasks while traveling in a spaceship, building with moon sand, using bee bots as spaceships and traveling around outer space and much more.

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