



2020 IN HOWARD 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 Howard County for a #STRONGIOWA:



Sustainable ENVIRONMENTS



Thriving COMMUNITIES



Resilient PEOPLE



Future LEADERS



The Howard 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.

Thank you for your support.

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| Gary Ferrie
Extension Council Chair | Diane Gardner
Council Member |
| Jim Zajicek
Council Member | Doug Nath
Council Member |
| Sue Heimerdinger
Council Member | Brent Mehmert
Council Member |
| Jessica Reis
Council Member | Allen Johnson
Council Member |
| Elaine Weyers
Council Member | |

Serving the People of Howard County

ISU Extension and Outreach Howard County began 2020 focused on the following efforts:

- Leading Communities Leadership Program
- Dairy Days
- Commercial and Private Applicator Pesticide Trainings
- Commercial and Confinement Manure Applicators Trainings
- Child Care Provider Trainings
- 4H Youth Programming/Summer Clover Crates
- Master Gardener Education Workshops
- Agronomy in the Field—Women in Ag
- **People pictures were all prior to the pandemic. During this pandemic time we are social distancing and using face coverings to keep our staff and clients safe.**

Adjusting to the Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic changed daily life, ISU Extension and Outreach prioritized health and safety as we developed new ways to bring research-based education to the people of Howard County. We remained



open for business and we continue to educate, engage, and serve Iowans.

- *Mandate March 17 to close to the public. Staff worked from home or in the office during office hours to help answer emails/phones. Limited opening on June 9. Our doors are open from 9-12 noon. Closed from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Staff are present in the office during these times and appointments are taken if help is needed as well as phones and emails are answered.*
- *During March thru the present time many meetings and committees connected thru zoom. Daily staff webinars were held to help staff adjust to a new way of working and connecting with campus/field staff. Webinars continue as we moved thru the pandemic. Programming is picking back up, but in some cases the delivery is different keeping in mind staff safety, public safety, health and well-being of our community.*

Providing a County Fair & Summer Experience

Although the traditional fair was not possible because of the pandemic, ISU Extension and Outreach Howard County worked with our partners to provide an alternate experience to demonstrate and showcase the work of our 4-H youth.

- *The Mighty Howard County Fair was cancelled, but*



Extension Staff

Kraig Tweed
Regional Director
Sue Barnes
Office Manager

Josey Nolan
County Youth Coordinator
Penny Hughes
Office Assistant

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in partnership with the Fairboard there was still limited activities for our youth. Static project judging was held via Drive and Drop— projects dropped off for judges to evaluate. Communication events—Share the Fun, Working Exhibits, Education Presentations, Clothing Selection, Fashion Revue and \$15 Clothing Challenge were all held via zoom. Livestock projects identified for State Fair were able to participate in what was called 4-H Show Iowa. The static projects and the communications projects judged. were able to to participate in 4-H Show Iowa. Normal day camps were pivoted for safety into Mystery Day Camp Bags and Clover Crates for pickup and self exploration in the activities provided in the bags and crates. Dog Obedience was accomplished virtually.

Continuing to Reach Youth by participating in 4-H educational experiences, Howard County youth develop STEM, ommunication, leadership, civic engagement, healthy living, and general life skills. 4-H Youth Development programming gives youth the opportunity to feel physically and emotionally safe while actively demonstrating what they have learned.

Planning for Recovery

Looking to 2021, ISU Extension and Outreach Howard County will engage Iowans in improving food supply, safety, and access. ISU Extension and Outreach provides education for those who are creating a stable food supply, from large commercial agricultural farms to smaller community gardens/ farmers markets. We offer training on best practices that preserve food safety and prevent foodborne illness, from the farm to restaurants and family kitchens. We educate individuals/families about nutrition and assist communities that want to support local agriculture and develop community food systems. We build partnerships/coalitions to bridge gaps so all Iowans can access food they need. Programming will include Leading Communities program, Grant Writing, Continuing education for commercial and private applicators, Manure Education for Commercial and Confinement Applicators, Child Care Provider trainings and working with our 8 4-H Clubs and Clover Kids. as well as emerging issues in our community.

