



# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

## 2019 IN JASPER 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 Jasper County for a #STRONGIOWA.

### Jasper 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



### Economic Development

According to the 2018 Annual Population Estimates, 19.1% of the population in Jasper County is persons age 65 and older (senior citizens). According to the US Census Bureau's 2013-2017 American Community Survey, the median household income for Jasper County is \$56,363 and 9.1% of people have incomes that place them at or below poverty level. Hiring a tax professional is costly and therefore, may create a financial hardship for Jasper County individuals. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, offers free tax counseling, preparation, and filing.



### 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.

**Dan Badger**  
Extension Council Chair

**Sherry Ford**  
Regional Director

**Troy Garton**  
Council Member

**Jeff King**  
Council Member

**Tracy Kleinschrodt**  
Council Member

**Michael Lauterbach**  
Council Member

**Julie Van Manen**  
Council Member

**Karna Ver Ploeg**  
Council Member

**Vicki Wade**  
Council Member

**Gordon Wickenkamp**  
Council Member

## **RSVP Tax Assistance Cont.**

Through this Tax Assistance program, residents overcome the barriers of complying with federal and state income tax laws. During the 2019 tax filing season, 703 local residents were served by the Tax Assistance Program. From these returns, more than \$926,572 was generated for Jasper County residents through refunds received.

## **Health and Well-Being**

### **Extension invests in the health and well-being of Iowa children.**

In Jasper County, 81 percent of children under the age of six need child care while their parents work, and there is an ongoing need for well-trained child care professionals. Early Care & Education- ECE (sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach) works to support early child care programs within the county through a variety of local trainings, educational materials, coaching and technical assistance. Programs offered by ECE help providers meet recommendations for staff training, health and safety guidelines, and meaningful adult/child interactions. During fiscal year 2019, approximately 99 hours of training were offered on a wide range of topics in addition to 195 technical assistance requests from programs in the area.

## **Food and Environment**

**Jasper County Master Gardeners** have logged 501 volunteer hours in 2019, valued at \$11,151.94. In 2019, Jasper County had six new Master Gardener interns reach the status of Active Master Gardener. The Master Gardeners volunteered on many different projects around Jasper County, including a donation garden to provide fresh produce to local food pantries. Through their volunteer efforts in the donation garden, Master Gardeners donated 1,055 pounds of fresh produce in Jasper County.

**Jasper County's local foods program** is working to increase the production, sale, and consumption of local foods in Jasper County. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach continues to work with local producers to improve their production capacity and ability to make informed farming and business decisions.



## **K-12 Youth Outreach**

The Jasper County 4-H Program consists of 14 Community 4-H Clubs with close to 300 4-H members and 33 adult leaders. There are special interest educational opportunities in the areas of canine, equine, and archery, as 4-H members are eligible to join one of our three special interest 4-H Clubs. Community service and educational opportunities county-wide include our 4-H Festival of Trees, Meals from the Heartland 4-H packaging event, and 4-H Officer Training. Educational workshops include: how to make a terrarium, recordkeeping, decorated Halloween houses, quilting projects for the fair, pie baking, and livestock fitting. Attending the State 4-H Youth Leadership Conference at ISU were eight Jasper County senior 4-H members, while 23 Junior 4-H members learned about zoology and animal husbandry at an overnight trip to the Omaha zoo. 12 intermediate 4-H'ers learned time and money management, as well as history on the Intermediate Trip to Kansas City. K-12<sup>th</sup> grade outreach opportunities have educated a total of 2,851 youth in Jasper County with seven Summer Day Camps during the month of June. Other programs include: Berg MS Seminar program, STARS, GPS, Archery, Geocaching, Make It Mondays, Library programming, Day Care programs and classroom time with students performing various STEM activities.

### **County Extension Staff**

**Tammy Welcher**  
*Office Manager*

**Stacey Wilson**  
*County Youth Coordinator*

**Kara Warrick**  
*4-H Youth Assistant*

**Carol Camp**  
*Program Coordinator  
Horticulture and Local Foods*

**Denice Fischer**  
*Program Coordinator for  
ECE and RSVP*

**Donita Huegel**  
*RSVP Program Assistant*

### **ISU Extension and Outreach Jasper County**

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