The Lee 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 Iowans and we are here for you. Now. Always.

Thank you for your support.

Brad Vandenberg
Extension Council Chair

Vicki Kokjohn
Council Member

Dave Lowenberg
Council Member

Tricia Knipper
Council Member

Roger Fullenkamp
Council Member

Russ Schwartz
Council Member

Paula Ellis
Council Member

Tina Loges
Council Member

Chris Lindner
Council Member

Serving the People of Lee County

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

- Continue to move forward with the high demand of Ag and Natural Resources programming
- Increase awareness of needs by focusing on food insecurity and other health and family programs
- Engage community partners to reach new underserved audiences

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 Lee County. We remained open for business and we continued to educate, engage, and serve Iowans.

- Throughout the pandemic Lee County commitment to stakeholders continued with the approach “we’re not closed, we’re working differently”. Our staff remained dedicated to helping the community with questions and needs while increasing our technology skills.
- Many programs transitioned from in-person to virtual in efforts to keep our community safe.
• We continued to provide education through new approaches including: Attracting Wildlife Kits, Emergency Preparedness Packets, Tree Identification Packets, 4-H Take-Home Bags and smaller in-person programs like ServSafe and Farmland Leasing Meeting.

• While the pandemic started in March we had many successful programs prior to the shutdown such as: Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping, Swine Building Ventilation Workshop, Youth Ag Career Tours, and Fruit and Vegetable 201 Course.

Providing a County Fair Experience

Although the traditional fair was not possible because of the pandemic, ISU Extension and Outreach Lee County worked with our partners to provide an alternate experience to demonstrate and showcase the work of our 4-H youth. Youth were able to participate in a Junior Livestock Show that included livestock and static projects that was not open to the public. We had 138 participants that exhibitor more than 670 projects.

Planning for Recovery

ISU Extension and Outreach Lee County is determined to help Iowans help each other. Looking ahead to 2021, ISU Extension and Outreach Lee 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 and 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 and families about nutrition and assist communities that want to support local agriculture and develop community food systems. We also build partnerships and coalitions to bridge the gaps so all Iowans can access the food they need. Extension and Outreach Lee County will hire additional staff to help assess the local needs and resources, identify partners, current efforts and gaps, and expand education to reduce food insecurity.

Extension Staff

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Regional Director
Alisha Davidson
Office Assistant
Breana Houtz
County Youth Coordinator

Whitney Weisinger
County Program Coordinator

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