

WHAT WE WANT

#STRONGIOWA

2018 IN LOUISA COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources.

We are working with the people of Louisa County for what we all want: a Strong Iowa.

Louisa 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.

The Louisa County Council has placed emphasis on the things that will make **Louisa County Stronger**.

- Hire & Shop Local, Strengthen the Workforce
- Measuring Rainfall & Making It Count
- Conservation Here At Home
- Teaching Youth to Receive, and Give Back
- Attracting & Keeping New Citizens



Stronger thru Economic Development: Hire Local, Shop Local, Strengthen Local Workforce

The end of 2018 marks the first anniversary of the new partnership of Louisa County Extension and Outreach & Louisa Development Group. The addition of a full time Communities and Economic Development Program Director who also acts as the Executive Director of LDG has brought renewed vigor to the issues of hiring local and shopping local and strengthening the local workforce. The designation of the county as a Home Base Iowa County, ready to hire returning veterans, is a good example of hiring efforts. The shop local theme has seen growth thru social media campaigns and one-on-one workforce development is available in many forms.



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. We want to be part of moving Louisa County Forward

Paul Gieselman
Extension Council Chair

Mark Cooley
Council Member

Cherrish Helmig
Council Member

Janet Smith
Regional Director

Jamie Holmes
Council Member

Dana Howell
Council Member

Marsha Gerot
Council Member

Joy Lekwa
Council Member

David Wilson
Council Member

The Late Aaron Boysen
Council Member



Stronger thru New Citizens: Working to Grow the Population

What would you need to know if you moved to a new city? New state? New country?? Just thinking about those prospects can be daunting, now imagine buying a house, getting a job, enrolling children in school, getting a drivers license, becoming a US Citizen.—even learning the language or any of the myriad other pieces of information it takes to open a business or “feel at home” in a new town, new state or new country. Every member of the Louisa County Extension Staff works hard to reach out and help by explaining systems, helping with forms and certifications & making new residents and their families feel welcome. So they stay.

Stronger thru Measuring Rainfall: The CocoRaHS Way

Weather forecasters, hydrologists, water managers, insurers, schools, agricultural growers, researchers, engineers and others look at and use rain, hail and snow reports to help their weather prediction, verification and business plans. But information that is available free to the public has not been collected in Louisa County for years. That changed in 2018 and now there are two certified “Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow” collectors in the county — and more planned for 2019. (If you want to volunteer we have an official CoCoRaHS rain gauge with your name on it!)



Stronger thru Youth: Both Getting & Giving Back



It’s long been said that “to whom much is given, much is required” and that theory of “fostering gratitude” is a tenet of strong youth development. Whether in 4-H and fair activities, after school programming, summer camps, STEM events, in-school enrichment or youth conferences, Louisa County Youth are taught the importance of writing thank you notes and expressing how grateful they are. The amount of money in sponsorships, scholarships, cookies, transportation, membership fees, trophies, ribbons, volunteer time and sharing of knowledge is considerable and our youth are learning to appreciate what they get.

And they actively give back. Louisa County 4-Her’s help raise funds thru the annual dessert auction and a new basket auction event at the fair. Clubs are sharing home made and thoughtful gifts with the ill, the elderly and those who serve our communities as volunteer first responders. And they are giving their time and money to worthy causes — sometimes on the fairgrounds, like building the photo wall in 2018 and sometimes in other places, painting, cleaning, teaching and sharing.



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Buy. Eat. Live Healthy

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