



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN MADISON COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University's research and resources. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Madison County for a strong Iowa.

Madison County Extension Council

Every county in Iowa has an elected Extension Council. This council partners with staff to effectively guide local and educational programming. From needs assessment through program implementation and outcome evaluation, our council interprets issues and represents people of Madison County.

The following local issues have been identified as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Economic Development
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K-12 Youth Outreach



Specialist, Rosa Gonzalez, presenting kids with "Raising School Ready Readers" certificates of completion



Specialist Kalyn Cody teaching "Small Change" to area educators

Economic Development

"Small Change: Building Financial Security" - Small Changes really can make big differences. A group of 15 educators across Madison County engaged in a financial literacy course called "Small Change". The course helped to improve personal knowledge, financial skills and confidence. Participants were given a four week course including a face-to-face workshop followed by self-paced online learning modules. Upon completion of the course educators were able to receive renewal credit towards their teaching license.

Health and Well-being

Raising School Ready Readers—emphasizes that literacy development starts in the home. Madison County hosted Raising School Ready Readers as a five week series of 90-minute workshops based on Engaging Families in Children's Literacy Development created by Scholastic.

Health & Homemade — Nutrition and Health Program Specialist, Mary Krisco, has proved to be a Madison County favorite. She had a 46% increased in her course attendance through her Healthy and Homemade series presented at the Winterset Public Library.

Extension Council Members

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



Matt Deppe
Council Chair



Lisa Jones
Council Member



Amy Warnke
Council Member



Bryner Gibson
Council Member



Jed Terharr
Council Member



Janis Hochstetler
Council Member



Mark Beatty
Council Member



Deena Hoeness
Council Member



Samantha Allen
Council Member



Alan Ladd
Regional Director

Spotlight: STEM Festival

Madison County 4-H was a proud partner of the first ever Earlham Community School STEM Festival. The festival housed over 20 local business professionals and offered hands on training opportunities for 200 youth to better understand the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics behind various occupations.

“Our goal was to offer a meaningful way for students to engage in STEM education that would ultimately encourage them to start thinking about pursuing careers in the future,” said Madison County Youth and 4-H Coordinator, Casey Wenstrand. Governor Kim Reynolds and her family also made an appearance at the festival and demonstrated their support through participating in the activities.

Madison County Extension is looking forward to partnering with more school districts and businesses to offer additional festivals similar to the Earlham STEM Festival.



Casey and Nicole meet with Governor Kim Reynolds



Casey presenting STEM activity to youth

Youth and 4-H

The Madison County 4-H program and youth outreach initiatives have proven to have an exceptionally successful year! Both 4-Hers and non-4-Hers have had the opportunity to experience workshops,



Casey teaching robotics

in-school programming, day camps, trips and overnight camps at the county, state and national levels.

Amongst having in-depth learning experiences, the youth of Madison County have 4-H clubs that consist of 4th- 12th graders and Clover Kid clubs with members in K-3rd grade. There are eleven (11) 4-H clubs and 4 clover kid clubs.

4-H Members

- 316 4-H club members, grades 4-12
- 94 Clover Kids members, grades K-3
- 66 adult volunteers

Madison County Fair

- 297 youth registered for the Madison County Fair
- 568 static exhibits entries
- 100 communication events and clothing events entries
- 1,260 livestock entries

In school Programming

- 890 youth reached within the Earlham and Winterset community school districts

Day camps

- 6 Day Camps
- 103 Youth attended the 6 day camps each 6 hours or longer

Regional and state events

- 9 events of 6 hours or more
- 47 youth attended

While the above numbers are very impressive it's not all about the numbers. It is about the positive development our workshops and events give to the youth of Madison County. When planning an event we go above and beyond to be sure we deliver the best curriculum we can. We also ensure we cover a large spread of topics. This year we covered topics from waste management, career exploration, healthy choices, grooming animals and much more. As an extension office, we couldn't do this without our 66 trained adult volunteers and our 20 plus partnerships with local business. Our volunteers and partners both donate their time and money to ensure to continue "To Make the Best Better" within Madison County.



Beef Quality Assurance Training located at the Jackson Building on the Madison County Fairgrounds.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Beef Quality Assurance Training - 15 Beef Producers received their Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certifications after taking this two hour, state implemented program. Facilitated by ISU Beef Field Specialist, Dr. Chris Clarke, the course focused on educating beef producers on common sense husbandry techniques that can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make beef consumers take pride in what they purchase and trust in the beef industry.

Boots in the Barn— Our Boots in the Barn program consisted of four weekly meetings during the fall of 2019 at the Warren County Extension Office in Indianola. With approximately nine participants, attendance grew slightly as the program went on. Led by Dr. Chris Clark, ISUEO Beef Specialist; and Beth Reynolds, Iowa Beef Center Program Specialist, the program included numerous beef production topics. Topics included pasture management, managing fescue, nutrition, managing parturition, and animal selection. Participants had the opportunity to use a life-sized dystocia model to practice assisting cows with the birthing process. Evaluations were very positive and nearly all participants expressed interest in attending a follow-up program Boots in the Barn II. Thank you to the Warren County Extension staff for hosting and supporting this program! Also, thank you to the Madison County Extension staff and local sponsors for support of this program!



Master Gardeners working on volunteer community service projects

Master Gardeners-have continued to stay very busy and committed to serving the community of Madison County. This year they presented 20 new members with their certification. The group is proud of their hard work and dedication which has led to their accomplishments over the past year .

- 103 feet of raised beds located at the Madison County Hospital
- 1 handicap accessible community garden located at the Winterset Public Library
- 1 herb garden, plotted, cleaned and maintained at the Madison County Historical Complex

Many other county beautification projects located at the St. Charles welcome sign, Holliswell Bridge, Margaret Guye Park, Court House Lawn, Winterset Post Office, and the Winterset City Park.

Private Pesticide Training- Madison County Extension takes pride in assisting growers with implementing best practices. 46 individuals participated in our Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification training where they received educational information on safe and effective pesticide use.



Madison County Staff posing for a pre-fair photo with the Madison County Fair Intern, Shelby McCullough and Summer Assistant McKenzie Von Rentzell .



Interview with Iowa Live's Michele Brown and Lou Sipolt to discuss and promote Extension Week.

Extension Week Highlight

Extension Week is an annual statewide celebration. This year, your Madison County staff chose to celebrate Extension Week by delivering sack lunches to local farmers. We served 40 free lunches with the help of generous sponsors Fareway, Hy-Vee and AgriVision.

Extension also recruited community volunteers to help deliver the meals. One volunteer went above and beyond by helping a farmer bottle-feed a calf so that he could get to his lunch faster. The event was promoted by CW Iowa Live—<https://www.weareiowa.com/iowa-live/isu-outreach-with-nicole-navin-casey-westrand/>.

“We just wanted to be able to recognize our farmers who support the Extension Office; and work so hard to provide for our community.” said Madison County Executive Director Nicole Navin.

Madison County Extension Staff



Nicole Navin
Executive Director



Lisa Chensvold
Office Assistant



Casey Wenstrand
County Youth Coordinator



Kapil Arora
Agricultural Engineering Field Specialist

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

We help farmers and commercial growers adopt environmentally safe practices, and educate the public on emerging issues related to topics like the Emerald Ash Borer and water quality.



Human Sciences

We engage and empower people throughout their lifetimes with research-based information and education to build strong individuals, relationships, families and communities in the areas of family life, nutrition and wellness, and family finance.



Community and Economic Development

We collaborate with city officials, business owners and non-profits to create thriving neighborhoods by maximizing profitability and employee efficiency to increase organizational capacity.



4-H Youth Development

We engage youth in topics related to STEM, agriculture and livestock, and more, while giving them opportunities to gain both leadership and citizenship skills.

Total of 5119 participants served.

ISU Extension and Outreach Madison County

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