



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN MILLS 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 Mills County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Mills 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



Photo by Silver Cloud Photography

Economic Development

The Mills County Extension staff put countless hours into the flood relief efforts for Mills County by providing meal site preparation and serving assistance, flood relief meeting coordination and co-sponsorship as well as spearheading mental health support and meetings. The 4-H youth also showed their support by putting together clean-up buckets, put together by the 4-H Teen Club, as well as local clubs serving at meal sites. Mills County not only had the support of local extension and 4-H groups but groups from across the entire state.



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.

Jamie Thompson
Extension Council Chair

Alan Ladd
Regional Director

Tina Bakehouse
Council Vice Chair

Ingrid Perkins
Council Secretary

Scott McMullen
Council Member

Woody Wright
Council Member

Nichole Walter
Council Treasurer

Marcy Powles
Council Member

Joe George
Council Member

Paul Morrical
Council Member



Health and Well-Being

Serv Safe™

Serv Safe™ is a certification program for food service managers developed by the National Restaurant Association. 11 participated in the Mills county 8-hour training with 2,434 participants statewide.

Healthy and Homemade

Healthy and Homemade is a series of classes to assist participants in food safety, meal prep, and general kitchen tips and tricks. With the generous donations at both the local and state levels, participants were able to enjoy the foods they'd prepared as well as take home kitchen gadgets, cookbooks, and spice mixes free of charge.

Food and Environment

Through our partnership with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach we were able to offer our community both a 2020 Farm Bill Meeting and Land Leasing Meeting this fall where landowners, farmers, and agri-business professionals were able to gain information on elections, enrollment processes, leasing agreements, and tools available to enhance their businesses.

County Extension Staff

Abby Sorensen
County Director

Alycne Boban
County Youth Coordinator

Tammie Epperson
Office Assistant

Shirley Miller
Master Gardener
Coordinator

Buddi Thompson
Ag Educator

K-12 Youth Outreach

Through partnerships with amazing organizations within our community we are able to maximize our involvement with youth by offering numerous programs and fun educational activities both in and out of the classrooms. Kids learn about many facets of agriculture ranging from pumpkin facts, bread baking, safety around livestock, and healthy choices and lifestyles. We also strive to enhance the relationships between different age groups of our youth by inviting high school students to serve as camp counselors during our day long science camp offered to 5th graders. Campers, counselors, teachers and numerous volunteers spend time at Pony Creek Park learning about predators and prey, recycling, using newspapers to make their own paper, gazing at the night stars and planets with the local Astronomy Club, and learning about all aspects of nature from the Conservation Department and DNR. Our counselors jump at the opportunity to help because they remember the impact 5th grade science camp had on them.

4-H County Council also plays a large role in encouraging and influencing younger youth in the county by planning youth activities, judging clover kids projects at the fair, and speaking about 4-H at schools during 4-H week.

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