

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

MUSCATINE 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 Muscatine County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Who We Are

The goal of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is to provide education and partnerships designed to solve today's problems and prepare for the future. Programs and services are offered in four educational areas:

- Human Sciences
- 4-H Youth Development & K-12 Outreach
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach network is comprised of campus based faculty and staff, field specialists, county extension staff, council members, and volunteers. Together we harness resources from all Iowa State University colleges and campus units and 99 counties to build capacity, lead programs, and support efforts across the state.

Muscatine County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected extension council that guides local educational programming in cooperation with county staff. Elected extension council members contribute immeasurably to the effectiveness of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach by helping to develop and implement local programs and securing needed resources.

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In September 2019 the Muscatine County Extension Office opened its doors at the new location, 1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine.

Pictured is the ribbon cutting ceremony with the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Extension Council Members and funders.

This annual report is an overview of the work done in Muscatine County in 2019. If you would like to know more, please consider subscribing to the monthly e-newsletter by emailing Kristar@iastate.edu.

Human Sciences: Family Life, Family Finance, and Health & Wellness

Human Sciences programs help Iowans become closer to family, raise healthy children, talk with their teens, improve relationships, enjoy a lifetime full of memories, save more money, live a healthy life, have access to trusted resources, and care for themselves and others. 2019 highlights for Muscatine County include:

- **Talk With Me Baby**, an educational program for nurses and caregivers, provides tools to help families provide 'language nutrition' to their infants so they can engage babies in direct conversations. Offered in partnership with UnityPoint Health Trinity Muscatine, 66% of program participants reported feeling confident in finding ways to coach new parents in how and why to deliver language nutrition.

IN 2019

Event Spotlight: The Adventure Comes to You: The Latest In Literacy

On June 17, 2019 over 60 educators and youth workers attended ***The Adventure Comes to You: The Latest in Literacy*** in Muscatine. Faculty from the Iowa State University School of Education presented interactive workshops on the latest literacy research and practices in literacy.



Participants gained useful information on using the latest technology to support literacy learning, supporting early literacy through STEM learning, strategies to support children in developing language and learning skills, and strategies and research on positive behavior supports for struggling readers and writers.

"Getting a chance to talk with ISU Professors in the breakout sessions was great! They know their stuff and were able to talk about current research relating to their topic. Do this every year!" One participant remarked.

Teachers were able to acquire teacher license renewal credit by participating in additional course work.



- ***Growing Up Wild***, a childcare provider professional development opportunity, offered in partnership with the Muscatine County Conservation Board and Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County, served 27 childcare providers from the region.
- Seventeen childcare providers participated in ***Preschoolers and Pennies: Read, Talk, Learn and Play*** highlighting how to incorporate money-related words and concepts through literacy.
- Of the over 90 people who participated in ***OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts***, 98% reported a better understanding of the impact of stereotypes and biased statements and increased their understanding of the common reasons people sit silent in the face of bias and stereotypes.
- ***Plan, Shop, Save, and Cook***, launched in September 2019, graduated 22 adults. This program compliments the ***Buy. Eat. Live Healthy*** program. Both programs help low-resource adults make healthy choices despite tight food budgets by increasing their knowledge and skills in healthy eating, food safety, cooking skills, food shopping on a budget, and physical activity.
- ***Small Change: Building Financial Security Offerings for Educators and School Personnel*** supported 34 educators by connecting them to curricula, resources and school-based programs addressing financial literacy in schools.
- ***Latino Outreach*** efforts, in partnership with Muscatine Community School District and Muscatine Community College, create opportunities to empower Latino youth by bringing together parents, youth, school staff and community partners to promote academic success and explore possible paths to higher education. In the fall of 2019, the ***¡Salir Adelante!*** curriculum was piloted in Muscatine; this family workshop series helps families prepare for the transition from middle school to high school and to plan for post secondary opportunities. After families complete the workshop series, youth are invited to participate in an after school 4-H club, academic coaching, college visits and families are invited to bi-monthly family nights.





4-H Youth Development & K-12 Youth Outreach

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences. 4-H programming, delivered through a variety of pathways including Clubs, Camps, Events, In-School and After-School, are designed to teach Healthy Living, Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM), Leadership & Civic Engagement, and Communication and the Arts. 2019 highlights for Muscatine County include:

- The 12 Muscatine County 4-H Community Clubs and 1 Clover Kids Club served over **280 youth** in the 2018-2019 program year. These clubs were lead by **50 adult volunteers**.
- At the 2019 Muscatine County Fair, the learning showcase for 4-H and FFA members, **291 4-H and FFA members** gained valuable communication skills by exhibiting **1,176 projects**. Member outlined their goals, what steps they took to reach their goals, and what they learned with a judge. Projects ranged from photography, home improvement, nutrition, horticulture, robotics, communication, livestock and more.
- Twenty-one **day camps** for youth in 1st through 6th grade, served 289 youth. This represents a 41% increase over the prior year. Camps, offered in Muscatine, West Liberty and Wilton, utilize research-based 4-H curriculum that involves science and literacy, using a variety of visual aids, interactive games, and on-your-feet activities, to facilitate age- and grade-appropriate learning.
- 4-H **events** held throughout the year included an Etiquette Workshop hosted at the Merrill Hotel, a Food Packing service project in



which over 60 youth packed 2,000 meals for youth in need, a Scholarship Workshop for Senior 4-H members, and participating in the annual Bayer STEM day by providing an educational experience for 394 5th grade students in the Muscatine Community School District.

- Science, healthy living and art activities were delivered through our **in-school partnerships**, including: Grant Elementary School, Colorado Elementary School, West Liberty's Early Learning Center, Wilton Elementary through our Partners In Education classroom, and Muscatine's homeschoolers.
- **After-school programming** included utilizing Iowa 4-H STEM Lit-to-Go curriculum for the Wilton K-2 Elementary Literacy Night, which 59% of youth attended, and the Madison Elementary STEM family nights to engage students and families in hands-on learning. Programming was also offered in cooperation with Flickinger Learning Center and Sunset Park After School Program.
- Muscatine County received a Microsoft **4-H Tech Changemakers** grant. This partnership elevates teens as teachers to provide training and communication to assist adults in their community with increasing their comfort level in utilizing new technology.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

ISU Extension and Outreach's Agriculture and Natural Resources program provides community residents, farmers, policy makers, regulators, and agribusiness professionals the opportunity to learn from research-based education to inform their decisions, which leads to a sustainable agriculture and environment. 2019 highlights for Muscatine County include:



- Master Gardeners, through the Growing Together Iowa grant, grew and harvested **2,762 pounds of produce** that was donated to the Muscatine Food Pantry to help increase access to fresh produce for low resource families.
- Muscatine County Master Gardeners provided over **2,100 hours of volunteer service** in 2019, valued at over \$50,000!
- Over 160 people participated in the Muscatine County Master Gardeners' annual **Art of Gardening** symposium, a partnership with Muscatine Community College.
- A variety of **workshops** were hosted, including; Fruit Tree Pruning and Training, Growing Season Kick-Off, Worm Bin Composting, Growing Hops in Iowa, Bug University, Farm Taxes, Managing Stress on the Farm, Crop Production, and Farmland Leasing. These learning opportunities were provided in cooperation with a variety of partners, including; Muscatine Arboretum, Women Land and Legacy, Muscatine Community Garden Association, and the Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Over 195 applicators participated in Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator and Confinement and Commercial Site Manure Applicator Continuing Instructional Courses in Muscatine County in 2019. Continuing instructional courses are designed to keep those who use pesticides and apply manure educated and safe.

Community & Economic Development

Community and Economic Development is focused on addressing five critical issues facing Iowa's communities: housing, changing demographics, local economies, the built environment, and civic engagement and leadership capacity. 2019 highlights for Muscatine County include:

- Over 20 community leaders participated in a **Health Data Literacy** workshop, hosted in partnership with UnityPoint Health Trinity Muscatine, focused on increasing knowledge and skills to understand, use, and interpret, health and other data relevant to Muscatine County.
- Hosted the **Business Model Canvas 101** workshop, introducing a strategic management tool which guides entrepreneurs on the pathway to understanding how their business concept will create value for value in return.
- In partnership with United Way of Muscatine, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine and Aligned Impact Muscatine coordinated five **Social Innovation Learning Labs** for Non-Profit community leaders.

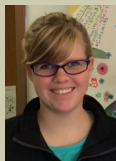
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