

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN PALO ALTO COUNTY

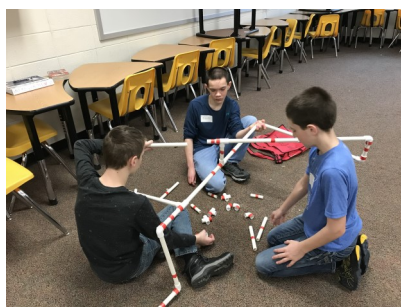
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State research and resources. We listen, learn, and work with the people of Palo Alto County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Palo Alto 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:

- K-12 Youth Outreach—Youth Leadership Day at Emmetsburg Middle School
- VITA Program
- Dine on the County Line
- K-12 Youth Outreach—New 4-H Gardening Club



Youth Leadership Day at Emmetsburg Middle School

On March 14, Palo Alto County Extension and Outreach, with the help of Extension staff from surrounding counties, offered a Youth Leadership Day for all seventh- and eighth-grade boys in the Emmetsburg Middle School. Students rotated between five sessions, which included leadership information, leadership attitude, communication, decision making, and stress management. All sessions included hands-on activities and reflection on what was learned.



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.

Sue Haack
Extension Council Chair

Bryan Whaley
Regional Director

John Banwart
Council Member

Scott Anliker
Council Member

Jennifer Hurley
Council Member

Nathan Hoffman
Council Member

Roberta Hersom
Council Member

Diane Nelson
Council Member

Lori Wickman
Council Member

Kim Hohensee
Council Member

VITA Program

Palo Alto County participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program of the Internal Revenue Service during the 2018-19 tax season. In combined county partnership, six sites served by 12 volunteers and Extension family finance specialists prepared and filed 503 tax returns for low- and moderate-income households, saving such taxpayers an estimated \$150 per return.

Dine on the County Line

ISU Extension and Outreach in Kossuth, Palo Alto, and Emmet counties, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, and Farm Bureau collaborated to host Dine on the County Line. This was a unique program where individuals not involved with production agriculture were invited to a farm for an evening of education about agriculture practices.

The goal for this program was to teach participants that food and agriculture practices are safe by sharing accurate, educational information about GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics, and food labels. Local producers were at the event to talk, visit, and share a meal with participants to show that farmers and agriculture professionals are our friends, and consumers can turn to them with questions. We also highlighted the economic footprint agriculture has in our communities and in Iowa.

At this event, we had interactive conversation stations set up around the farm for people to visit and learn about agriculture. Stations included:

Crop Production - Corn and Soybeans

Conservation - Livestock and Animal Health

Farm Equipment and Technology

K-12 Youth Outreach—New 4-H Gardening Club

Thomas Woodford, a senior 4-H'er in Palo Alto County, was a little disappointed by how few people had made entries in the horticulture department at the county fair and decided that he was going to be the one to change that. He imagined sharing his passion for gardening with 4-H in the form of a gardening club to help increase involvement at the fair and realized that he wanted to “plant” this idea in reality. After hours of planning, talking to community leaders, soliciting start-up funds, and recruiting a co-leader, Joel Kibbie, and 4-H members, his dream became a reality.

The first official meeting of the Palo Alto 4-H Gardeners was held Tuesday evening, March 19, in the Palo Alto County Extension office meeting room. At the meeting, the club decided to reserve two garden plots in the community garden. Each of the seven members would then get to decide what they wanted to plant in their own personal rows with the other rows being designated as “club produce.”

After spending the summer planting, weeding, and watering, the 4-H Gardeners celebrated a bountiful harvest. At the end of the season, the extra produce was donated to the food pantry at Upper Des Moines in Emmetsburg.



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