



# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

## 2019 IN SAC 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 Sac County for a #STRONGIOWA.

### Sac 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:

- Ag and Natural Resources
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach



### Ag and Natural Resources

Beth Doran, Beef Program Specialist trained 42 producers to become Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified in Sac County. In 2018, several packers announced they wanted their feedlot suppliers to become certified. Last year, local livestock auctions adopted a similar policy, indicating producers selling market-ready animals needed to be BQA certified. BQA certification is an industry program designed to address consumer questions and assure the consumer that the beef they eat is safe, wholesome and nutritious.



### 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.

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| <b>Steve Determan</b><br><i>Extension Council Chair</i> | <b>Gale Blass</b><br><i>Council Member</i>     | <b>Connie Severson</b><br><i>Council Member</i> |
| <b>Aaron Jacobson</b><br><i>Council Member</i>          | <b>Liz Davis</b><br><i>Council Member</i>      | <b>Alberto Najero</b><br><i>Council Member</i>  |
| <b>Mollie Scott</b><br><i>Council Member</i>            | <b>Laurie Schmidt</b><br><i>Council Member</i> | <b>Cyndi Raasch</b><br><i>Council Member</i>    |



To enable cattle producers to meet these expectations and maintain market access, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Beef Industry Council hosted six BQA certification workshops throughout NW Iowa in 2019. In the workshops Beth Doran— ISU beef field specialist— discussed eight best management practices and presented emerging industry trends. In 2019, trainings have certified 105 producers—proof that they are diligent in how they raise their cattle and produce a quality product for the consumer.

## Health and Well-Being

Write Your Retirement Paycheck was offered to 12 participants in Sac County. Decisions made around the time of retirement can dramatically affect an individual's lifelong financial security, and indirectly affect the larger community. It is essential for consumers to be well-informed in order to make decisions that serve them well. The training provided insights on choosing financial advisors and other financial resources. Carol Ehlers, ISU Family Finance Specialist shared timely and valuable information to help participants start planning for their future.

## K-12 Youth Outreach

The Sac County Extension and Outreach hosted a Youth Jam Workshop in July as part of their summer camps. Nine youth participated and learned how to safely preserve food, the important preservation terms, types of recipes to use, and the difference between a hot water bath and a pressure canner. Youth worked in groups to make strawberry jam while volunteers guided them through the process. Steph Erpelding, Sac County Youth Coordinator, walked the youth thru writing their goal cards and completing their preservation label for each jar. The youth left with jars of jam they could submit as county fair projects. Ann Parker, Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, taught the class along with Steph Erpelding.

The 4-H program in Sac County stayed strong with 217 4-H members this past year. Statewide more than 160,000 youth participated in 4-H last year.

Youth in Sac County were offered thirteen summer camp opportunities. A total of 195 youth took part in the camps where they learned about insects, made candy, took on farming responsibilities, shopped for clothing, became astronauts and so much more. This provided eighty hours of education for our youth during their summer break.

## ISU Extension and Outreach Sac County

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