



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN SIOUX 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 Sioux County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Sioux 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:

- K12 Youth Outreach
- Community and Economic Development
- Health and Well-Being
- Food and the Environment



K-12 Youth Outreach

Rock Valley Middle School Explores Leadership and Career Opportunities through ISU Extension and Outreach Youth Development Partnership

Seventy-five Rock Valley Middle School students completed the five-session Ricochet program in 2019. Ricochet is a middle school adventure-based experiential learning experience focused on leadership skill development. Sessions focus on leadership information, leadership attitude, communication, decision making and stress management.

Additionally, sixty-seven 8th graders at Rock Valley Middle School navigated through a five-lesson career exploration project. Led by County Youth Coordinator Katie Moyer, students explored different engineering fields through hands-on activities. Each session begins with a brief five-minute discussion about a specific engineering career field, and from there, students move into fun hands-on activities related to that career. Through experiential learning, the students do, reflect and apply while discovering about the career. Moyer shared that the goals of the career exploration are to show students new careers and give them an opportunity to explore careers they may not have otherwise considered.

In-school enrichment programs like this impacted 1,152 Sioux County youth in 2019. Additionally, Sioux County is home to 311 4-H members, 85 Clover Kids and 372 camp participants.

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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Extension Council Chair

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Council Member

Cheryl Heronemus
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Council Member

Bertha Lammers
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Kevin Rehder
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Daniel Borchers
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Bruce Schafer
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Economic Development

Sioux County Clover Kids Show the True Meaning of the Holidays by Giving Back

A key principle of the Clover Kids program is to promote healthy development in the program's 1st through 3rd grade members. To strengthen this ideal, during the month of Thanksgiving, K-3 Program Coordinator Summer Beery encouraged youth to help others by giving back and fighting food insecurity. Clover Kids from all across the county brought and donated more than 100 food items, which were given to Zestos Inc., a local mission dedicated to feeding the hungry and helping others.

Health and Well-Being

Writing Your Retirement Paycheck Provides Resources for Retirement

Writing Your Retirement Paycheck is a two-part series designed for individuals who are within 5 to 10 years of retirement. The program was held in Orange City this August and had a total of 24 participants.

Led by Human Sciences Specialist in Family Finance Jan Monahan, the program took participants through the retirement withdrawals, social security distributions, inflation-based funding, minimum distributions, annuity and health insurance options. Participants stated that the workshop offered "great resources, was definitely an eye-opener and very educational."

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Food and Environment

Beef Quality Assurance - The Norm in Cattle Marketing

In 2018, several packers announced they wanted their feedlot suppliers to be Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) 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. 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 Northwest Iowa in 2019. In the workshops, Beth Doran, beef program specialist, discussed eight best management practices and presented emerging industry trends. The 2019 trainings have certified 105 producers, proof that they are diligent in how they raise their cattle and in producing a quality product for the consumer.

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation - The Newest Certification

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) is the latest certification needed for beef cattle haulers and producers who deliver cattle to major packing plants. The BQAT program has seven components with the key objectives of providing for transporter safety, delivering cattle in a timely manner and ensuring the most comfortable transportation for the animals. ISU Extension and Outreach offered four in-state workshops in Northwest Iowa and one multi-state workshop, consisting of classroom presentations and a trailer design discussion. These workshops have certified 133 transporters who collectively haul 8,291 loads of cattle yearly.

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