



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN WINNEBAGO 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 Winnebago County for a #STRONGIOWA.

Winnebago 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:

- Young Children
- Literacy
- Strengthening Families

Family Fun Night

Every year, ISU Extension and Outreach in Winnebago County hosts Family Fun Night in January. This family-based event is free to all who attend. The evening is filled with pizza and desserts, bingo games and prizes, and access to the local YMCA facilities. This event is made possible by the numerous donations, both monetary and prizes for the bingo games, from local businesses.



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.

Evan Fritz
Extension Council Chair

Bryan Whaley
Regional Director

MaryBeth Anzivino-Barnes
Council Member

Sheryl Davids
Council Member

Julie Hagenson
Council Member

HP Kobriger
Council Member

Adam Lackore
Council Member

Mary Peterson
Council Member

Renee Sorenson
Council Member

Matt Storby
Council Member

Family Fall Festival

Every year, one of our largest events is the Family Fall Festival that takes place in October. Families from surrounding communities come to enjoy an afternoon filled with fun. Families can make crafts, play a variety of games, enjoy the petting zoo and horse rides, and snacks. New this year, the Iowa State University Insect Zoo joined in on the fun. Every year, we receive generous donations from local businesses and community members that help to make the event free to all who attend.



Reading Corners

With literacy being a top priority for Winnebago County, we were happy to sponsor nine local businesses with a reading corner. Each received a bookshelf and a large selection of books for kids and families to enjoy. Locations varied from banks to dentist offices and one even went in the Winnebago County Extension Office!



STEM Backpacks

Winnebago County Extension donated 28 STEM backpacks to the Forest City, Lake Mills, Buffalo Center, Thompson, and Rake libraries. Each backpack contained fun, interactive STEM activities and books for families to take home and do together.

Women, Land and Legacy

The Women, Land and Legacy group met in August to take a tour of POET Biorefining in Hanlontown. The group learned about the process of making ethanol and about the plant. The tour was followed by a meal and guest speaker Joni Erwin with Iowa Corn Producers, who talked about the many uses of ethanol.



Substance Abuse Prevention

Winnebago County Extension welcomed Peter Komendowski, president of Partnership for a Healthy Iowa, and Mike Haugen, a local former state trooper who battled and overcame addiction, to speak to local middle and high school students. We also held two community events. Mike shared his story of having his dream job, becoming addicted to opioids, and battling through addiction. Peter shared his knowledge about addiction, how it is impacting youth today, and what we can do to help.



Clover Kids

Clover Kids is designed for kindergarteners through third graders. The program educates youth on 4-H while completing projects that can be shown at the county fair. The program is held after school once a month at the Forest City, Lake Mills, and North Iowa schools. Kindergarten and first graders met from February to May, and second and third graders met from October to December. We are excited to have had 90 youth participants in Clover Kids for 2019.



STEM in the Library

Winnebago County Extension held a STEM program for the Thompson, Lake Mills, and Forest City libraries from September to December. September focused on teaching youth about chemical reactions representing a rainbow in a jar. In October, we looked at magnetic slime. November was learning about being an engineer and making homemade wiggle bots. In December, we designed a maze using only straws, marbles, and a paper plate.



Youth Summer Explorations



Summer 2019 was full of summer camps for all youth in Winnebago County. Youth got to experience what it was like to go camping, learn about the jungle, and made projects that could be taken to the Winnebago County Fair.

Water Rocks!

This Iowa State University program visited schools in North Iowa, Lake Mills, and Forest City. Youth learned about what they can do to help save our water.



Switch

Winnebago County Extension provides North Iowa Community Schools with the opportunity to implement this evidence-based obesity prevention program designed to help students adopt healthy lifestyles both in school and at home.

Taste of 4-H

Winnebago County youth enjoyed this afterschool program featuring 4-H, including what it is, what we do, and what you can learn. This program was offered to third through fifth graders in Lake Mills, Forest City, and North Iowa Community Schools.



Pick a Better Snack

Winnebago County Extension has provided local schools, including Lake Mills, Forest City, and North Iowa, with an in-school program offering youth healthy choices when picking out a snack. Kids get to taste test a

variety of fruits and vegetables and learn fun facts about them. Bingo sheets are sent home to help encourage families to be active and eat healthy.

Winnebago County Fair

The 2019 Winnebago County Fair had a total of 269 static entries and 256 livestock entries. The theme was “A Universe of Possibilities,” and the 4-H Building showcased a giant rocket ship above the state fair projects. The fair is a great opportunity for community members to come out and show support for the 4-H’ers in Winnebago County and for youth to share what they have done throughout the year.



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