Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Crawford County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Crawford 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:

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

Celebrating 100 Years of Extension in Crawford County

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Crawford County celebrated our 100 year anniversary in 2018. Historic photos and milestones from the past 100 years were featured at the Crawford County Fair. Researching our Crawford Extension history has been a fun and fascinating project to share area residents. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will continue to expand our programming and resources to meet the needs of Crawford County citizens with Iowa State University research and resources.

Health and Well-being

Six Crawford County families made an investment in their families through their commitment to the ISU Extension and Outreach Strengthening Families Program 10-14 during the Fall of 2018. The program was implemented at no cost to families due to support from a Communities 4 Children and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Neighborhood/Community Network Mini-Grant. The program was held Monday evenings at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Through the program, families learned more about one another and how to work together for a positive future. Parents explored ways to express love and set limits. Youth participated in learning activities that taught them how to get along with their peers and parents and how to deal with peer pressure. One of the participating parents wrote, “I learned different ways to deal with parenting situations and useful tools I can try with my children and our family.” The program was facilitated by Dr. David Brown, Human Sciences Specialist - Family Life, Coletta Weeda, Crawford County extension Council member and Brynna Baumhover, Crawford County Extension County Youth Coordinator.

Extension Council Members

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<th>Diane Arkfeld</th>
<th>Carolyn Boeck</th>
<th>Collette Huntley</th>
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<td>Extension Council Chair</td>
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<td>Terry Torneten</td>
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<td>Maria Paloma Espino</td>
<td>Coletta Weeda</td>
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ISU Extension and Outreach Crawford County hosted two ServSafe® food safety certification courses in 2018. Twenty-six food service managers or workers participated. The course covers food safety practices such as proper personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, purchasing food from safe sources, preventing cross contamination, and cooking/holding food at the correct temperatures. This helps increase food safety skills and knowledge and decrease the risk of foodborne illness in and around Crawford County.

Crawford County hosted a child care nutrition training in March 2018, called Infant Feeding 101. Ten child care providers attended the training, which focused on the provider’s role in supporting families of both breast-fed and formula-fed infants. The class provided DHS-approved training hours for child care providers. Ann Parker and Renee Sweers, ISU Extension and Outreach Human Sciences Specialists in Nutrition and Wellness, taught the class.

Food and Environment

During the summer of 2018 ISU Extension Field agronomist Michael Witt in conjunction with the Crawford county extension staff conducted two sessions of Agriculture Science Bound programming. The two summer programs instructed 15 students from Denison High School and provided classroom and real world instruction through 12 two-hour sessions. One program focused on Agronomy where students looked at the lifecycle of corn and soybeans and in field evaluations of plants, insects, diseases and weeds. The second session focused on careers in Agriculture where students visited and interacted with multiple agriculture businesses including a cattle feed lot, aquatic farming operation and domestic and large animal veterinary practices. With limited knowledge of agriculture and career opportunities this program gave students first hand, real world experience in agricultural life and careers.

K-12 Youth Outreach

In June, Crawford County 4-H held a Sewing Workshop for those interested in sewing projects. 4-H members used newly purchased sewing machines to develop sewing skills and create items for themselves and others. The class constructed dress shirt pillowcases for the Crawford County Fair and Port-A-Cath seatbelt covers which they donated to Crawford County Memorial Hospital for oncology patients. Brynna Baumhover, Crawford County Youth Coordinator taught the class.

There are currently four Clover Kids clubs with over 70 elementary aged youth participating in Crawford County. This year, those clubs have been learning the new STEM Lit To-Go! curriculum from Iowa 4-H. These lessons incorporate reading a book as well as hands on STEM learning activities about Roller Coasters, Coding, Elementary Robotics, Gravity, and much more.

This summer Crawford County 4-H created a partnership with the Summer Reading Program at the Norelius Community Library in Denison. Youth were able to learn about bike safety with RAGBRAI coming to Denison later this summer. Youth also learned about farm safety. They practiced experiential learning by climbing into tractors and looked for blind spots and watching watermelons collapse from the weight of a tractor bucket. They learned to respect the power of these heavy machines!

County Extension Staff

Brynna Baumhover
County Youth Coordinator

Kathy Thul
Office Manager