



# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

## 2019 IN DES MOINES 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 Des Moines County for a #STRONGIOWA.

### Des Moines 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:

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

### Economic Development

#### Applicator Recertification Trainings

- 53 Applicators attended Private Pesticide Recertification
- 91 Applicators attended Commercial Pesticide Recertification
- 8 Manure Applicators

These applicators learned best practices to protect or environment, community and help their clients.

### Health and Well-Being

#### ECERS – Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale

Twelve childcare providers attended the ECERS training in Burlington. The Environment Rating Scales are nationally recognized tools used to assess and improve the quality of child care programs. Environment Rating Scale workshops are eight-hour programs that offer step-by step guidance for making helpful changes that can make a real difference in the work providers do with young children.

### 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.

**Barbara Kerr**  
*Extension Council Chair*

**Aaron Cling**  
*Council Member*

**Janet Smith**  
*Regional Director*

**Patti Jo Patton**  
*Council Member*

**Brenda Wischmeier**  
*Council Member*

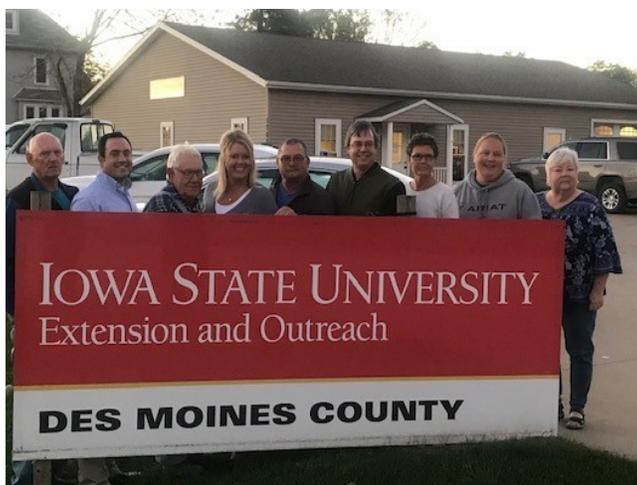
**Jennifer Lane**  
*Council Member*

**John Dockendorff**  
*Council Member*

**Dwight Byerly**  
*Council Member*

**Dean Van Ness**  
*Council Member*

**Brian Diewolf**  
*Council Member*





## Food and Environment

### Local Food

ISU Rising Star interns and Local Foods Coordinator, Morgan Hoenig, provided local food educational programming at libraries, farmers markets, and food pantries this summer. Program attendees learned how food grows and got to taste lots of different fruits and vegetables. 217 youth in Des Moines County were impacted by these outreach efforts.

### Master Gardeners

There are 48 Master Gardeners in our Des Moines County group and they have logged 2,482.67 volunteer hours this year.



Des Moines County Master Gardeners were awarded the MG Growing Together Grant again this year, and used these funds to expand their donation garden. Ten raised beds were constructed and a dozen fruit trees were planted, which will provide home-grown produce to local food pantries for years to come. This year over 3,122 pounds of fresh, local produce were donated to low-income residents as a result of this project.

## 4-H and Youth

Des Moines County 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences. Currently 498 youth have been reached and 88 adult volunteers have helped to “Make the Best Better”. 15 4-H Clubs and 3 Clover Kid groups are active and a specialty club, the Des Moines County Sewing Club, was established this year.

The Des Moines County 4-H Teen Council provided Stay Safe, Take a Break bags and buckets to 200 Des Moines County farmers this fall. This endeavor utilized all four educational areas of Extension and made a profound impact on the farmers reached. One family stated, “We are so very thankful that someone remembered the farmers during these trying times”.

Des Moines County 4-H continued their partnership with the Burlington Community School District PIECES After-school program by providing a Youth Marketplace curriculum to 5th and 6th graders at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School. The 10 young entrepreneurs put together a board of directors, elected officers, determined if they were going to provide a service or a good, put together a business plan, developed a budget, sought funding, researched materials needed, and began production. The members were able to sell their Christmas ornaments before and after a band concert and showed a profit.

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