Fayette 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:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Health and Well-being
- K-12 Youth and Outreach

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The “Growing Greener Through 4-H” Club continues to grow in numbers of youth and adult volunteers involved along with community partners. Highlights for the year include: 1) Producing 150 red geraniums for a local church’s 150th Celebration; 2) Hosting a soil health field day. Attendance on kid’s day was 75 and 145 on the adult day. Club members helped out by serving a locally grown meal; 3) 4-H members brainstormed ideas for future fundraising for a new cover on the high tunnel, working with a local farmer to cut and sell corn stalks for fall décor; 4) The club also partnered with a local hospital, Palmer Lutheran, creating a garden growing produce to benefit the patients, staff and the community. Volunteers started from scratch to prepare the soil for a community garden, which grew 10 different varieties of produce. Fresh tomato slices on sandwiches and coleslaw made from the cabbage were favorites of the hospital staff and the patients liked the fact that the vegetables were coming from a garden located on the hospital grounds.

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.

- Neil Lansing, Extension Council Chair
- Kraig Tweed, Regional Director
- Dalene Gosse, Council Member
- Dennis Lueder, Council Member
- Justin Steffens, Council Member
- David Turner, Council Member
- Dawn Jacobsen, Council Member
- Peggy Sparrgrove, Council Member
- Bill Thom, Council Member
- Open, Council Member
Community & Economic Development

Research provides strong evidence that collaborative, community efforts have the strongest impact on long-term substance use and overall healthy choices. In Fayette County a team of professionals, in conjunction with North Fayette Valley Community Schools leadership, continue to explore prevention efforts through implementation of Life Skills curriculum in both 7th and 8th grade at NFV, as well as ongoing efforts to engage families in related programming.

Health and Well-Being

Finances of Caregiving was offered in Fayette County in February. Participants were able to learn the importance of planning for caregiver and care-receiver during the five week class. Also, the importance of involving the whole family so that loved one wishes are clearly understood. Furthermore, the participants learned the cost of caregiving including, options and how Medicare and Medicaid works.

In fall 2017, Your Money Your Future – Making Ends Meet was offered in Fayette County. Participants were able to learn how to increase their saving and decrease their spending to live within their means was the goal for the class.

ServSafe was held in Fayette County in November. Twenty food service managers participated in the food safety certification course, earning the credential-Certified Food Protection Manager. These managers are now certified for five years.

K-12 Youth and 4-H Outreach

4-H is an important youth development program in Fayette County. 4-H has positively impacted youth during the past year. There are 14 4-H community clubs and 3 Clover Kids clubs with a total of 272 kindergarten through 12th grade youth enrolled. Fayette County also offers project clubs in the areas of sewing, dog, horse, dairy judging and quiz bowl. With a little imagination everyone can and will become a STEM lover! This statement became a reality during the program offered at the North Fayette Elementary School both in the spring and fall of 2017. 37 individuals participated in the 6 hour afterschool program held over 8 weeks. Hands-on activities were held in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. Getting youth involved in the afterschool program helped with recruiting new 4-H members.

Renovations on the fairgrounds was a huge undertaking raising over $24,000 to add a new roof and replacing the siding on the 4-H, FFA and open class building along with putting in new doors on the west side. Monies raised were through a quilt raffle, started in March, donations and the balance during “celebrity showmanship” contests held at the county fair. Over 175 persons participated in the species of sheep, swine, beef, and dairy.

Centennial

Fayette County Extension celebrated their 100th anniversary during 2017. In celebration, several special events were held throughout the year including a youth and adult coloring contest, ice cream and children’s games offered during community celebrations and 75 harvest bags delivered to area farmers. An informational and historical booth at the county fair featured 100 years of Extension work. A plaque presentation was held during the Fayette County Fair to mark the occasion.

ISU Extension and Outreach

Fayette County
218 South Main Street
Fayette, IA 52142

County Extension Staff

Deb Kahler  
Office Manager  

Judy Mohlis  
Office Assistant  

Michele Kelly  
County Youth Coordinator  

Mark Storlie  
Swine Specialist  

Cindy Thompson  
Human Sciences Specialist  

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Ross Wilburn, Diversity Officer, 2150 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, 515-294-1482, wilburn@iastate.edu.