



BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

2019 IN FLOYD COUNTY

Floyd County Partners to Bring Learning to Early Care Professionals

On March 28, County Director Lesley Milius and Human Sciences Specialist Mackenzie Johnson led an interactive day of learning for early care and educational professionals from across north central and northeast Iowa. The event was held at the Borlaug Center in Nashua.

The event was a collaborative effort between Child Care Resource and Referral and the following ISU Extension and Outreach offices: Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, and Mitchell. The event included three separate, two-hour child care



workshops that were presented over the course of the day.

A vendor fair was available over the lunch hour with representatives from Buy.Eat.Live Healthy, Iowa State University

Extension and Outreach, Child Care Resources and Referral, Child Care Nurse Consulting, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Fifty-four early childhood professionals serving 10 counties participated.

Floyd County Offers Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies has started again at the RRMR school. The Reading Buddies program is a

partnership with preschoolers and third-grade students. Each week a story is chosen to highlight how

youth engage each other in reading together and incorporating important literacy concepts.

Floyd County Extension Council Members

Members of the Floyd County Extension Council are elected by citizens to develop local educational programming, from needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, that meets the needs of Floyd County residents. The council has identified these local issues as priorities: offering programming in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; expanding youth programming in our communities and schools; increasing health with healthy foods program; and keeping kids safe with the Farm Safety Program.

Ben Rottinghaus
Extension Council Chair

Bob Mondt
Council Vice Chair

Karol Carpenter
Council Secretary

Donovan Olson
Regional Director

Sue Sedgwick
Council Treasurer

Valarie Bodensteiner
Council Member

Jacie Garden
Council Member

Jay Jung
Council Member

Julie Knecht
Council Member

Ryan Venz
Council Member

Region 3 Hosts All-Staff Retreat at Lime Creek Nature Center

On April 12, Region 3 held an all-staff retreat at the Lime Creek Nature Center in Mason City.

The day began with a team-building activity followed by get-to-know your field specialists and a fun activity for networking. After lunch, staff participated in a scavenger hunt and viewed a virtual vlog of campus resources put together by Darla Olson, Michelle Sackville, and the Osage High School technology class. The day ended with a fun, team-building activity led by Gail

Castillo before wrapping up. Staff got to know each other, enjoyed fun activities, and learned about resources available. Positive outcomes from the event include an opportunity for county staff to learn more about programs offered by our area specialists, a chance to participate in team-building



exercises to strengthen connections between staff, and the opportunity to learn about the benefits of collaboration.

Floyd County Holds On My Own and OK Program



Nora Springs third graders started On My Own and OK in April. This program consists of six weekly lessons in which students learn skills for increased independence. Lessons combine in-class learning with at-home activities to encourage discussion among family members

about decision making, stranger danger, weather emergencies, first aid and fire awareness, Internet safety, and healthy living. Students were excited to receive their own mini first aid kits.

This program has great family involvement as students bring back their family activities sheet to share what they discussed at home.

Floyd County Wraps Up Successful First Year of Nutrition Program

Floyd County just finished a successful first year of an Iowa Nutrition Network School Grant Program.

The program has allowed Floyd County to expand the Pick a Better Snack Program. It is now provided to 14 classrooms at Washington Elementary. The school was able to qualify based on the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. The program allows students in K-2 to try a new fruit or vegetable each month. Students also learn about how

fruits and vegetables are grown, how to store and prepare them, how they help our bodies, and a variety of other interesting facts.

Both the students and their families have enjoyed being a part of this program. When they were asked about the favorite thing they tried, they shared that their favorite options included jicama, broccoli, mango, and oranges. The school



and teachers shared that they have enjoyed having this program and are excited to continue it into the future.

Floyd County Offers Fun and Educational Programs for Clover Kids

June has been a busy month for Floyd County Clover Kids! The month started with prep and project day where they learned about what to expect at the county fair. They made a small flower planter and did melted crayon art.

At Jungle Journey day camp, they learned about the jungle and the many creatures that call the jungle their home. The Mystery day camp taught kids about crime scene

science and the fun of finding clues and solving mysteries.

Clover Kids partnered with Hy-Vee to provide gardening camps for grades K-3 and 4-5.

At the four-week Sprouting Up Science program, kids learned about gardening, plant science, and nutrition. Kids also enjoyed picking produce from the Hy-Vee garden to make their own healthy and tasty recipes!



Floyd County Fair Bounces Back After Tornado with Successful Fair



The Floyd County Fair was held July 17-21, highlighting all the hard work of 4-H youth in Floyd County. The fair took a different turn in planning this summer when a late May tornado ripped through the fairgrounds and destroyed five buildings. Despite being down to one main building to house all non-livestock exhibits and the 4-H food stand, the fair went remarkably well and 4-H'ers were able to show all their exhibits, both static and livestock, with a few minor schedule changes. Photo courtesy of Jo's Photos.

Floyd County Partners on Recovery Planning for the Fairgrounds

On Aug. 28, approximately 60 leaders and community members from ISU Extension and Outreach, the 4-H Committee, the Fair Board and the FFA chapters gathered to identify and prioritize the needs of county fair and prepare for moving forward on a plan for the future.

The event was facilitated by Scott Timm and Aimee Viniard-Weidemann, specialists in Community and Economic Development. The group identified the important activities that need to continue at the fair and then outlined the roles of the parties moving forward. The discussion revealed a



need to improve communication between the groups. Moving forward, groups will outline their needs and share them with the

Fair Board. The Fair Board hopes to use the input to inform a plan to rebuild by the start of the 2020 Floyd County Fair.

Floyd County Enjoys Family Harvest Party

Floyd County families got to enjoy a 4-H Family Harvest Party Oct. 13 at the Floyd County Extension office. The purpose of the Harvest Party is to bring families together to celebrate the fall har-

vest and to provide an incentive for youth to enroll in 4-H. A total of 56 4-H'ers enrolled and/or re-enrolled that night. Those who enrolled received a discount on their enrollment.

In addition to youth enrolling in 4-H, families who participated shared conversation with friends and neighbors, enjoyed a light supper, and participated in crafts. Over 100 community members attended.

Floyd County Hosts STEM Camp and Family Fun Night

On Sept. 16, Floyd County kicked off Clover Kids by hosting a "Blast Off" Family Fun Night with 85 people in attendance.

Kids read "A is for Astronaut-Blasting Through the Alphabet" by Iowa State alum and astronaut Clayton Anderson and did fun space-themed activities, including making and launching paper rockets. A pizza dinner was provided, and questions were answered about the

upcoming Clover Kids' year. Five T-shirts were given as door prizes, and returning Clover Kids were entered into a drawing for a free year of Clover Kids!

On Sept. 19, a rock and roll STEM camp was held for Charles City third through fifth graders at the Floyd County Extension Office. Six youth attended and had fun learning about what makes things move and the laws of motion by making balloon-powered cars,



Newton's cradles, and hover discs. They used what they learned to design and create their own marble mazes.

Floyd County Holds Farm Bill Meeting

Twenty-six farmland owners and operators had the opportunity to learn about options available to them at the 2020 Farm Bill Decisions program offered in Charles City. One of the events was held Nov. 21 at the Youth Enrichment Center on the Floyd County Fairgrounds. Farm Management Specialist Melissa O'Rourke

spoke about resources for farmers on the Ag Decision Maker website. "There are important decisions coming up this winter for both landowners and producers on Iowa farms," said O'Rourke. "Our goal is to assist as many farmers as possible. Our farm management specialists have scheduled more than 50 informa-

tional meetings across Iowa." Human Sciences Specialist Cindy Thompson spoke about farm stress and Barry TerHark, USDA Cerro Gordo County Executive Director, provided an FSA program update and discussed important considerations for Iowa farmland owners and operators. Farm Credit provided refreshments.

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ADV.18.04H September 2018