Franklin County Celebrates 100 Years of Extension

On November 4 Franklin County Extension hosted an open house to celebrate 100 years of service during 4-H Awards night. The event was an opportunity to recognize the achievements of 4-H Clubs and the kids that participate in 4-H, as well as an opportunity to thank the community for its support.

Extension Council member Carolyn Oleson was recognized for 50 years of service to Franklin County. Vice President Lawrence and Council Chair Gary Stenzel presented the award.

Franklin County Extension also hosted an open house to for its 100th anniversary. On hand to recognize the achievement was John Lawrence, Vice President for Extension and Outreach.

Lawrence noted the significance of Franklin County’s effort to create its own extension office, including how county residents raised money locally to create an office and support its activities.

Franklin County Prepares and Serves Community Meal

As part of our 100th year celebration, the Franklin County staff and council served a community meal at the United Methodist Church on February 8. Over 125 people attended the meal. A community meal is served every Thursday and is free to all who attend. Food is purchased by the pound from the Food Bank of Iowa in Des Moines, and local businesses and groups take turns preparing and serving the meal each week.

Extension Council Members

We want communities and farmers to thrive, and families and children to be healthy. 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 Franklin County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

- **Gary Stenzel**
  Extension Council Chair
- **Liz Carr**
  Treasurer
- **Carolyn Oleson**
  Council Member
- **David Pingel**
  Council Vice Chair
- **Joe DeVries**
  Council Member
- **David Schoning**
  Council Member
- **Sarah DeBour**
  Council Secretary
- **Pam Meints**
  Council Member
- **Mercedes Guerrero**
  Council Member
- **Donovan Olson**
  Regional Director
Gran Festival Attracts Area Residents in Franklin County

Gran Festival was held in downtown Hampton on June 9. The event is intended to celebrate the ever-growing cultural diversity of the region. All proceeds from the event go to support the LaLuz Hispana Outreach Center. This year Gran Festival marked its third year of offering fun activities to the community and it continues to grow. The day was filled with vendors, community booths, delicious food and Latino bands.

Franklin County Extension participated with a booth providing information about services available from Extension. Staff were on hand to offer bracelet making for kids. In addition, water bottles, t-shirts and cups were given away every hour.

Franklin County Kicks-Off Leadership Series

The 2018 Teen Leadership Series began October 24 with 17 students from West Fork and Hampton –Dumont CAL school districts participating.

Students meet monthly and participate in activities that build communication, leadership and stress management skills. The Real Colors curriculum was used at the first session to help students identify their “color” and learn about the strengths of their personality type and how to interact with the other colors.

Franklin County Volunteer Earns 4-H Award

April was a member of the Reeve Rosettes 4-H club in Franklin County. She served as an officer and exhibited many projects over the years. She is a role model for young women, as she was the first president of Iowa Women in Agriculture. She also assists with an area Women Around Ag Conference and has served on the Iowa 4-H Foundation and Iowa Soybean Association boards.

April inspires those around her by being an advocate for the agriculture industry. For the past 15 years, April has been a volunteer for the Reeve Hampton Hustlers 4-H Club, where she has assisted in teaching Food Safety and Quality Assurance. She is also one of the county’s beef project leaders and is the assistant beef superintendent for the Franklin County Fair.

Congratulations to April on receiving this well-deserved award!
Franklin County Utilizes STEAM to Teach Skills to Students

In Fall 2017 West Fork School District reached out to Franklin County Extension in hopes of getting a STEAM club started for 2nd through 4th graders. STEAM is an approach that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics to guide student learning.

Starting in January 2018 twenty-nine Franklin County students signed up for the West Fork STEAM Club. They divided into two groups and they met on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays each month through May.

January’s topics were: the importance of our dairy food group, reading and comparing labels, and doubling and halving a recipe. The STEAM project highlight was helping students create their own snacks!

Pictured is Wendy Fullerton, Curriculum Coordinator, helping the students measure cheese on their pizza wrap snacks.

Franklin County After School Science Club a Success

Afterschool Science Club was a great success this year in Franklin County. It was held at Hampton-Dumont Middle School each on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 pm. The Sci Club provided a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents to learn and have fun!

Students in 4th and 5th grades explored a variety of STEM activities, including: volcanoes, salt, rollercoasters, Newton’s Laws of Motion, Kids in the Kitchen, yeast/bread making, chocolate and cheese making, kitchen chemistry and kite making.

Franklin County Teams up with Schools for School Gardens 101

Staff from West Fork, Hampton-Dumont and CAL schools spent five weeks attending the School Gardens 101 program in Franklin County. Each school has put together a team to work on expanding and adding new school gardens to their districts.

Participants spent time each week working on their comprehensive garden plan. They also learned about soil, composting, seeds, garden design and farm to table from local experts.

Students and staff will see the results of this project later this spring when the raised garden beds are built and planted, and this summer and fall when the gardens are harvested.
Franklin County 4-H Attend Aksarben Stock Show in Grand Island, Nebraska

Two teams of nine Franklin County 4-H members competed at the AK-SAR-BEN Invitational Livestock Quiz Bowl, Saturday, September 29 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Questions covered topics of animal science the youth learned. Team 1 included Jacob Fjeld, Mikayla Fjeld, Justine Jordahl and Isaac Vosburg. They placed third out of 10 teams from six states, and Jacob earned 2nd place top individual. Team 2, Jackson Wohlford, Joshua Wohlford, Madison Vietor, Paula Jorgensen and Natalie Dohlman also participated.

100 Years of Extension Displayed at Franklin County Fair

County Fair time is a team effort and this year the Franklin County staff worked extra hard to set up a special display to celebrate 100 years of Extension at the Franklin County Fair July 18-22 in Hampton.

The extensive display included photos, books and a timeline featuring historical achievements of Extension from the past to present. Publications were on display to view and to learn from and visitors could see the names of family, friends and neighbors who have served on the Extension Council over the years.

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