

WHAT WE WANT #STRONGIOWA

2018 IN GUTHRIE COUNTY

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 Guthrie County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Guthrie 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

STEM Fest—30 local businesses and partners had booths at STEM Fest with small & simple STEM related activities for the youth to participate in (ie: a vet engaged youth with how to post pigs, a nurse demonstrated how to measure heartrate, and the FFA chapter showed how to extract DNA from strawberries.) The March event that was held in Coon Rapids at the high school was a large success.



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.

Barb Gigar
Extension Council Chair

Mike Thomas
Council Member

Bret Hodges
Council Member

Terry Torneten
Regional Director

Sheree McClellan
Council Member

Chad Sheley
Council Member

Jim Calvert
Council Member

Anna Kastner
Council Member

Kim Durst
Council Member

Jim Clark
Council Member



Health and Well-Being

STEM Summer Lunch Program—200 youth had summer food and Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) fun in June. The children enjoyed learning about a wide variety of topics: nature, agriculture and local heroes.

Partners on this program included Guthrie Center Elementary Staff, New Opportunities, Panorama EMS, Guthrie County Farm Bureau, Guthrie County Sheriffs Department, Guthrie County Emergency Management Agency, Guthrie Center Fire Department, Iowa DNR, Hometown Heros at the Guthrie Center Library and Horizon Equipment of Audubon.

Food and Environment

In June, local women of Guthrie County, attended the Southwest Iowa Women in Ag tour which featured stops at Early Morning Harvest, Lauritsen Cattle Company and Veterinary Associates of Manning with Rexanne Struve. Participants learned about each operation and how they contribute to the agriculture industry. Early Morning Harvest out of Panorama is a diversified organic farming operation that produces wheat that they then market to businesses around the

country. They also have an aquaculture system in their greenhouse that allows them to produce fresh produce to be sold in the onsite store that offers other goods that the farm produces. Lauritsen Cattle Company is co owned by Clara Lauritsen, their operation is unique because buyers will send their cattle to them to get fed out. Veterinary Associates of Manning is ran by Dr. Rexanne Struve who has created a unique way to preform caesarian section pig deliveries in a sterile environment.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Youth in Stuart and surrounding communities have had the opportunity to participate in Makerspace at the Stuart Public Library. A makerspace is a collaborative work space inside a school, library or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. This challenges youth to think outside of the box and that tinkering is a necessary component of learning. Over 80 youth have participated in the afterschool or no school program. Youth have constructed clothing from plastic bags, built challenge activities from cardboard, learned how to use a 3D pen and much more! This program has been offered as a free program thanks to a grant from the Governor’s Scale-up grants for the purchase of the tools and subsidized by Guthrie County ISU Extension.

ISU Extension and Outreach

Guthrie County

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