Meeting Local Needs 2014

Guthrie County Extension Staff

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Guthrie Co. 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
- Strengthening Families
- Improving Nutrition and Health
- Increase Family Financial Capabilities

Jim Calvert, Chair  
Mike Thomas, Vice-Chair  
Sheree McClellan, Secretary  
Rhonda Barr, Treasurer  
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ISU Extension and Outreach provides educational opportunities for economic development, food and the environment, health and well-being, and K-12 youth outreach. We meet local needs, so Guthrie County can be an even better place for the next generation.

Jim Calvert  
Extension Council Chair  
Terry Torneten  
Regional Director

2014 Farm Bill

In 2014 the Guthrie County Extension and Outreach Office hosted four informational programs on the 2014 Farm Bill. ISU Extension & Outreach Farm Management Specialist, Shane Ellis, facilitated the meetings and discussed the Farm Bill, Agriculture Risk Coverage ARC & Price Loss Coverage PLC sign-up options, and much more. He was also available to answer specific questions. The programs were offered in in Templeton, Adair, Guthrie Center, and Coon Rapids.

Youth Build Fairy Gardens

Ten Guthrie County youth learned how to make a Fairy Garden, with the help of Karwyn Gibson. Each participant was given three plants, one bench or arbor. They then learned exactly what it takes to create their own fairy garden, with their own personal touch. Each Fairy Garden was unique to each youth’s own taste and interests.
VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) was offered at the Guthrie County Extension Office for the fourth year. This free service was offered to individuals with an income of $57,000 or less. It was offered every Thursday evening through tax season & also on two Saturdays. This service is provided by IRS trained & certified volunteers. In 2014, over 100 people took advantage of VITA services.

Council Elections

Guthrie County voters had the opportunity to elect five members of the Guthrie County Extension Council at the Nov. 4 election.

Extension Council members are elected at large and all voters in the county were eligible to vote for five candidates.

Successful candidates who will be serving on the Guthrie County Extension & Outreach Council starting in Jan., 2015 are: Jim Calvert, Jim Clark, Sheree McClellan, & Erica Tunink.

3rd Annual Cy-Hawk Tailgate Party

Several Cyclone & Hawkeye fans enjoyed our 3rd Annual Cy-Hawk Tailgate Party on September 12.

Grilled hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water were served. “Change Wars” between fans of both universities raised a total of $35.49, which was donated to the Guthrie County Food Pantry.

Youth Pinterest Party

Ten youth enjoyed a Pinterest Party at the Extension Office. They made several fun Pinterest projects and enjoyed pizza once the projects were complete.

Money Talk

Money Talk was offered in June and eight people took advantage of the five-session course, designed to enhance long-term financial security. Participants learned financial basics, insurance essentials, investment fundamentals, retirement realities, and legal issues.

3rd Graders Safety Day

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was held on May 6 and 7 at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds. Over 202 Guthrie County 3rd graders attended and learned about animal safety, ATV safety, electrical safety, railroad safety, grain safety, PTO safety, sun safety, and helmet safety.

Farm Transition

A Farm Ownership & Management Transition night was held in July to 40 participants.

This workshop provided information that could help make the generational transfer of a farming operation a little easier. Topics included methods for the legal transfer of assets, how to avoid or minimize tax penalties, & transferring management responsibilities.

Child Care Provider Programs

Two child care provider programs were offered this year: Linking Food with Literacy & Don’t Give Kids a Tummy Ache. Linking Food with Literacy taught providers how to connect with children while exploring literacy strategies, how to help children to be “school ready”, & ways to increase children’s academic success. Don’t Give Kids a Tummy Ache taught them how to identify risk for foodborne illnesses, differentiate non-hazardous & potentially hazardous foods, recognize food-handling errors, & how to set goals to carry out sanitary practices.

Food Preservation

A food preservation class was taught to ten participants. They were taught the importance of using USDA-approved & tested recipes & methods to eliminate health concerns caused by improperly handled foods.

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