Hancock 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:

- K12 Youth Outreach
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Health and Well-being
- Reaching Out in a New Way
- 100 Year Celebration

Hancock County Shows Growth in Youth Outreach

ISU Extension and Outreach in Hancock County Extension reached 703 youth in 53 workshops offered from October 2017 - August 2018. Staff-planned workshops are used to introduce youth to a new project area or a possible career path. We build partnerships with local businesses and organizations to utilize and share their expertise. Some workshops provide the opportunity to learn a new technique in a project area and complete a static exhibit project that could be exhibited at the fair. Many workshops provide opportunities for youth to enhance their knowledge in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

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.

Mary Greiman  
Council Chair

Floyd Cutshall  
Council Vice Chair

Darcy Ristau  
Council Secretary

Heidi Konz  
Council Treasurer

Bryan Whaley  
Regional Director

Ryan Eekhoff  
Council Member

Julie Barickman  
Council Member

Cory Greiman  
Council Member

Kody Trampel  
Council Member

Ray Tiach  
Council Member
ISU Extension and Outreach in Hancock County offers several different after-school programs throughout the year.

**Clover Kids**

Clover Kids is for K-3rd graders. There are nearly 100 Clover Kids in Hancock County. Because of the overwhelming number of youth wanting to be involved we have had to break the sessions down by grade. We have two sessions that meet in West Hancock on Mondays and two sessions that meet after school on Tuesdays at Garner Hayfield Ventura. Our theme this year was World of Science. The kids explored basics of science in the everyday things we do.

The fall semester was about exploring bugs. They learned that insects have six legs, three body segments and usually a four stage life cycle. They invented their own insects, explored arachnids, engineered their own insect habitats, examined an ant farm, and discovered all about bees from 4-H’er Keifer Carlson! To top it off the semester ended with a visit from ISU Extension and Outreach’s Insect Zoo.

**After School Kids Club**

After School Kids Club (ASK) is for 3rd-4th graders and meets for eight weeks in the spring and fall. Mondays are at Garner Hayfield Ventura and Tuesdays are at West Hancock. The spring semester was about edible science. The semester was packed with rock candy, fizzy lemonade and pop rock science. The kids transformed into junior scientists, allowing them to learn all about chemistry in the kitchen.

The fall semester was about exploring bugs. They learned that insects have six legs, three body segments and usually a four stage life cycle. They invented their own insects, explored arachnids, engineered their own insect habitats, examined an ant farm, and discovered all about bees from 4-H’er Keifer Carlson! To top it off the semester ended with a visit from ISU Extension and Outreach’s Insect Zoo.

**The Cool Kids Club**

New to our 2018 program lineup was the Cool Kids Club for Garner Hayfield Ventura 5-6th graders. The Cool Kids Club is an eight week after-school 4-H club that will provide hands-on learning, snacks, team building and games with fellow classmates. Our sessions are based on a focus group made up of kids to get ideas of what this age group would be interested in. They are learning about a variety of fun topics such as prosthetics for pets, ice cream, theater arts, chemistry and more.

**The Britt Bakers**

The Britt Bakers is a new four week after-school program offered for West Hancock 5-6th graders. The Britt Bakers focused on the science behind holiday goodies! They learned the difference between hardball and softball candy, what baking powder and baking soda can do for different recipes and how flavoring enhances food.
Club Workshops

Again in 2018 we provided project workshops for our 4-H clubs. Staff went to club meetings to lead a project workshop of the club’s choice so the kids could leave with a completed fair project and goal sheet. Some of the workshops were Pringles can vases, wind chimes and kindness rocks.

First Lego League

Hancock County has 12 First Lego League teams: 7 junior teams for grades K-3 and 5 teams for grades 4-8. This year’s topic for the older group is Into Orbit. Teams need to solve a problem concerning life in space and present it to the judges on tournament day, along with programming their robots to solve the missions on the mat. Some space problems the teams are working on are how the loss of gravity affects things, food shortage for astronauts, atrophy, improving medical kits and doing CPR in space, and more. Jason Lackore, Hancock County Naturalist, was able to blow up the space lab and give the kids a presentation about space. Our teams are traveling to compete against other teams across Iowa.

The topic for the junior teams is Mission Moon. Teams are looking at what it would take to live on the moon, exploring what they would need to know to live there, what they would eat and drink, how they would get energy, how they would breathe, what they would do for fun, and what other problems they would have to solve. Teams will make a poster and use it along with their moon base to share what they learn about making rules and thriving in a new environment and exploring all that is around them.

Youth Cattle Clipping Clinic

Fitting For The Finish was a two day cattle clipping clinic held for youth in and surrounding Hancock County. We had 12 youth plus parents participate in this two-day clinic, coming from Hancock, Winnebago, Wright and Kossuth counties. The kids learned about products, equipment, daily hair care, showmanship, and walked through step-by-step how to clip and fit your calf from start to finish. Brittany Weaver, a Hancock County alumni beef exhibitor, lead the clipping and fitting demonstration.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

ISU Extension and Outreach in Hancock County together with Winnebago County hosted a Master Now to Market Later grain marketing series. About 20 participants met once a week for four weeks. The series concluded with the participants leaving with a rough marketing plan.

Community and Economic Development

ISU Extension and Outreach in Hancock County hosted a Customer Service Training in September. We had 15 participants who came to listen to Steve Adams, an ISU Extension and Outreach Community Development specialist. We had several employees from Winnebago and Stellar Industries attend. Steve did a great job gearing the information to fit manufacturing needs from the audience.
Health and Well-Being

In May Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Family Life Specialist Mackenzie Johnson partnered with Brenda Clark Hamilton, a nationally recognized speaker, to provide It's Not Just Caregiving, a two-series program designed to help caregivers understand the importance of their own physical and emotional care. Mackenzie pulled materials from Iowa ISU Extension and Outreach’s Powerful Tools for Caregiving and combined it with Brenda’s topic about making sure “you as the caregiver” enjoy your life, too.

Reaching Out in a New Way

In September ISU Extension and Outreach in Hancock County started its own video tip series called Inside Wire. The series covers tips and tricks for everyday life that ISU Extension and Outreach can help with. All of our resources and materials come from ISU Extension and Outreach publications.

100 Year Celebration

This year Hancock County celebrated 100 years of organized county extension work. We celebrated in many ways big and small. We added a 100 year celebration corner to our 4-H static exhibit building. Local banks sponsored red 100 year T-shirts for all 4-12th grade 4-Her’s. We created a 100 year calendar featuring current and past 4-H families and volunteers. Our big event was an open house celebration the Saturday afternoon of our county fair. We had a small ceremony to receive the plaque, a 100 year cake made out of round bales, face painting, balloon animals, and to top it off Cy came to visit!