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:

- Strengthening Families
- Economic Development
- Youth Who Are Productive Citizens
- Healthy Living

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 Hardin County can be an even better place for the next generation.

Dennis Friest
Extension Council Chair

Darwin Miller
County Extension Administrator

County Extension Council

Back: Jeff Roll, Dennis Friest, Scott Bahr, Kristi Harris, Francis Fritz  Front: Gayle Granzow, Jennifer Mitchell, Val Cook, and Peggy Rash- Daniels

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A crop and land stewardship clinic was held for 250 farmers and agribusinesses. Topics focused on management and technological advances to improve crop production efficiency and utilizing sustainable practices to improve the environment. An agricultural expo featuring 26 partnering sponsors was held in conjunction with the clinic.

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Economic Development

Hardin County Extension held a luncheon meeting for local manufacturers, economic development directors, and county board of supervisors on services available from ISU’s Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS). CIRAS Account Manager Derek Thompson spoke to the group and scheduled follow-up meetings with interested manufacturers.

CIRAS partners with companies and communities to help them prosper and grow.
Health and Well-being

A Senior Information Fair was held for senior citizens and those who have a vested interest in senior citizen care. Information was presented on Fall Prevention, Healthy Cooking, Long-term Care Insurance, Senior Housing Options, and Living in Your Home Longer. Information on these topics helps seniors and those who care for them make better decisions to improve the health and well-being of senior citizens.

A Family Fest was held with 400 people attending. Participants interacted with 40 displays featuring county-wide services available for the health, safety and well-being of families. A county-wide directory of services was provided for every family attending. The free event also provided a time of social interaction, food, entertainment, and an afternoon of family fun.

Food and the Environment

Food and the Environment

Educational programs were conducted for local food growers. Program topics included soil preparation, soil testing, composting, soil amendments, rain barrel water collection, irrigation systems, raised bed gardens, protecting pollinators in our environment, diversification, sustainable practices, and a local foods potluck supper. Over 100 local food growers have participated in one or more local food programs held the past three years.

A food preservation workshop was held with Nutrition and Health Specialist Mary Krisco presenting information on safe methods of food preservation such as canning, freezing, dehydrating, and pickling. Safely preserving locally grown foods helps people “Preserve the Taste of Summer”.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Kindergarten through fifth grade students at Eldora-New Providence Elementary School built eight raised bed gardens and planted peas, tomatoes, pumpkins, lettuce, watermelon and peppers last spring. The garden was tended by a summer school class and the students enjoyed their harvest upon returning to school. The raised bed gardening program created interest in selecting and identifying healthy foods to improve their diet, health and well-being and the importance of maintaining a sustainable environment for food production.

One hundred and seventy-two 4-H members exhibited livestock at the Hardin County Fair held July 10-14. Fifty-eight 4-H members exhibited non-livestock projects. Projects were critiqued and evaluated by judges. 4-H members learned valuable life skills from judge’s comments and working cooperatively with other 4-H members, club leaders, and parents.

Several Hardin County 4-H members exhibited at the Iowa State Fair and placed high in their respective classes. Rebecca Stowe’s project received the Iowa Questers Preservation & Restoration Award and was named Outstanding Historical Quilt at the Iowa State Fair.

… and justice for all

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach