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 Howard County for what we all want:

Max and Georgia Schmidt-4H Hall of Fame

Howard 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:

- K-12 Youth Outreach—Making Youth Productive Leaders and Communicators
- Human Sciences—Strengthening Families
- Food and the Environment—Childhood Obesity
- Economic Development—Enriching our Communities

Economic Development

ISU Howard County Extension and Outreach works to collaborate with the Howard County Economic Development Board, making sure we both are working for growth in Howard County. A recent workshop on How To Turn Travelers Into Customers was held for business and community members to learn the importance of first impressions. Extension Staff also participate in Sector Board meetings in cooperation with NICC Community College. Sector Board members work together to inform and increase community and business knowledge about careers for our youth. The Sector Board recently hosted several leadership trainings for current business members to enhance their abilities in leading their organizations. Sharing Together Equals Growing Together!

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.

Doug Nath
Extension Council Chair

Brent Mehmert
Council Member

Jessica Reis
Council Member

Kraig Tweed
Regional Director

Diane Gardner
Council Member

Steve Mahr
Council Member

Cindi Kath
Council Member

Allen Johnson
Council Member

Gary Sovereign
Council Member

Elaine Weyers
Council Member
Health and Well-Being

A collaboration with Child Care Resource and Referral lead to an engaged evening of discussion around stereotypes and bias statements with an OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts workshop. Twenty early childhood professionals explored stereotypes they have experienced and practiced in communication strategies. Howard is part of a 5 county/9 agency collaboration to enhance outdoor learning opportunities for children and families through research-based and field tested programming called Nature Explore. Early childhood professionals from Howard County attended training this fall, with more training opportunities to come over the next several years.

Food and Environment—Ag & Natural Resources

In Iowa, commercial/private pesticide applicators must obtain and maintain a pesticide applicator certification to handle and apply pesticides. Extension staff develop and deliver pesticide applicator educational materials for those needing to pass certification exams. Extension staff also develop and present educational materials for recertification workshops provided either as live meetings or webcast/video programs. Each winter, Howard County conducts four live recertification meetings for about 234 private pesticide applicators in the county, and about 14 webcast/video programs at the Extension office for 40 plus commercial pesticide applicators across 16 different pesticide certification categories. All of this training ensures crops and food production is safe for consumers and ensures our environment is protected. Swine Ventilation Trailer training to benefit swine producers learning about proper ventilation to save money on heating and cooling costs. Commercial and confinement manure applicators also receive annual training. Dairy producers meet yearly for Dairy Days training in Riceville. Ag Outlook each year brings in speakers in marketing crops and livestock, economic trends and vision, livestock production, and environmental concerns.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Working with youth grades K-12 is a major emphasis in Howard County. We have over 70 clover kids in Cresco and Riceville. Clover Kid programs. 187 4-H members in nine 4-H clubs makes a strong impact at the County Fair and Spring Fair. Summer day camps also serves all Howard County youth K-6. Our annual Fall Farm Safety program provides safety training for all 4th grade students in Howard County. We have now three years of increased swine projects with the Reicks View Ag Education Center being able to let children on farms and in town 4-H and FFA members raise swine projects in a state of the art facility. 4H members are training yearly on FSQA—Food Safety Quality Assurance—now called YQCA. 20 plus 4-H leaders with experience from one to 35 years in the program. Youth Committee members guide the program direction in project areas of STEM, Family and Consumer Science, Creative Arts, Ag and Natural Resources, Personal Development, Animals, much more. We are very proud that Max and Georgia Schmidt were inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in August at the Iowa State Fair.

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ISU Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct questions to the Diversity Officer, 515-294-1482, extdiversity@iastate.edu.

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