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

Ida 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
- Ag and Natural Resources
- K12 Youth Outreach

Food and Environment

Ida County hosted a ServSafe food safety certification course in November. Seven food service managers or workers participated. The course covers food safety practices such as proper personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, purchasing food from safe sources, preventing cross contamination, and cooking/holding food at the correct temperatures. This helps increase food safety skills and knowledge and decrease the risk of foodborne illness in and around Ida County.

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.

Kyle Rohik
Extension Council Chair

Andrew Butcher
Council Member

Valerie Georg
Council Member

Terry Janssen
Regional Director

June Knop
Council Member

Kyle McBride
Council Member

Tammy Neubauer
Council Member

Denise Van Dusen
Council Member

Connie Werner
Council Member

Jeff Miesner
Council Member
K-12 Youth Outreach
In Ida County one of our main focuses is youth development. 4-H is one of the areas that provide an opportunity for communication, leadership and community involvement. Ida County has 132 active 4-H members.

In 2018 a monthly afterschool Clover Kids program was started in Holstein for Ridge View students to meet the needs of K-3 youth. 10 youth participated in hands on STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) activities, that had them working together and using their problem solving skills to find solutions to the tasks provided.

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Farmers with larger livestock operations are required to be certified to haul manure on their fields or hire someone who is certified. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides the Manure Certification Training. This certification focuses on safety, separation distance regulation, and proper utilization on manure resources. Higher feeding of dried distillers grains has increased the levels of sulfur in the pits by 300% in the last decade resulting in higher hydrogen sulfide gas production in pits which is deadly. Our program focused on hydrogen sulfide monitoring while pumping to protect our farmers and their livestock. Nearly 28% of producers reported using or planning to use these safety monitors and seven had follow-up phone calls because of monitors warning farmers.

Economic Development
Approximately 17 people participated in the Planning & Zoning Workshop on October 10, 2018. This workshop is designed to introduce the basic principles of land use planning and development management to elected officials, planning and zoning officials, and board of adjustment members without formal training in the subjects. The Planning & Zoning workshop highlights legal issues frequently faced by local officials such as variances, special uses, nonconforming uses, spot zoning, hearing procedures, and conflicts of interest.

County Extension Staff

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