

BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

ISU Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. We are working with the people of Johnson County for what we all want: a strong Iowa.

Johnson 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
- Agriculture Management
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Outreach

Economic Development

The 2016 Ag Chemical Dealer Update meeting took place on Nov. 22 at the Clarion Highlander Hotel and Conference Center in Iowa City. Seed, chemical and fertilizer dealers, agronomists, crop consultants and farm managers had the opportunity to hear the latest information on weed management for 2017, pest resistance, corn disease outlook and nitrogen recommendations. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists provided the most up-to-date recommendations and addressed future crop production challenges.

Meaghan Anderson, Field Agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach, gave special focus to herbicide management and Palmer amaranth this year. There is potential for new technology to be approved by the next growing season and current issues with Palmer amaranth across the state are being addressed.

Health and Well Being

Four Family Nutrition Nights (FNN) were held this fall at Iowa City Community School District (ICCS) elementary schools, through a partnership between the ICCSD and Johnson County Extension. Johnson County Extension Nutrition Educator, Joy Nye, took leadership of the project



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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.

Lori Donahoe
Extension Council Chair

Gene Mohling
Regional Director

and recruited community partners to be a part of these nights. Partners included Scott Koepke from Grow Johnson County who distributed fresh vegetables from their community garden, North Dodge Hy-Vee and United Healthcare who offset the cost of salad cups for participants to eat, and Hills Bank, who donated funds to cover 16 produce prep kits that were distributed as door prizes.

During the FNN families rotated through stations focusing on English language learner programming, literacy, physical education and fitness, and nutrition education. Nye led the nutrition education station, which focused on the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. Copies of the "Johnson County Guide for Food and Assistance" from the Hunger Task Force were also distributed to interested families.

ISU Extension and Outreach Johnson County

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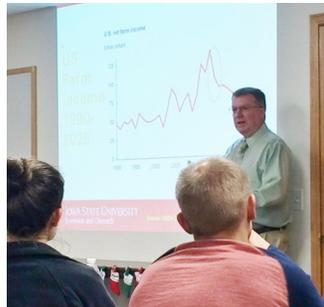
Agriculture Management

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Johnson County hosted an Ag Outlook and Management Seminar on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016.

The program provided participants with a concise evaluation of current market conditions, expected trends in crop and livestock income potential and management implications.

Speakers included Iowa State University state specialists Chad Hart, associate professor in economics and extension grain markets specialist; Lee Schulz, assistant professor in economics and extension livestock specialist; Wendong Zhang, assistant professor and extension economist; and Ryan Drollette, farm management field specialist.

This program took a deep look into the outlook for agriculture in 2017 and provided an opportunity to discuss the current situation with university experts on the Iowa economy.



K-12 Youth Outreach

Seventh and Eighth grade students from North Central Junior High in North Liberty have the opportunity to

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participate in a *free* after-school club called Noble Knights.

This club, led by Amey Kollar, Johnson County Extension Program Associate, is a collaboration between Big Brothers Big Sisters and 4-H of Johnson County. They meet weekly October through May.

BBBS Mentors are a positive influence and commit to meeting with a student one-on-one weekly. Together the students and mentors actively participate in hands-on 4-H projects such as: team building, problem solving, and communication; visual arts; food & nutrition; outdoor adventures; STEM; crop production; shooting sports; field trips; and service projects. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors has invested funding through the Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development Program to support the Noble Knights club; making a positive impact on improving outcomes for 15 youth per school year while also preventing juvenile crime and delinquency.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program helps children reach their potential through professionally-supported, one-to-one relationships with mentors that have a measureable impact on youth. These programs include: *Community-Based Mentoring where volunteers spend one-to-one time with a child, doing activities while building a lasting friendship. *School-Based Mentoring where volunteers meet with an elementary, junior high or high school student for one hour each week during the child's school day. And *Brothers Achieving Manhood a mentoring program in which high school freshmen young men are matched with a one-to-one male mentor, and the youth and their mentors meet together weekly for dinner and discussion. A collaboration with The Dream Center.



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