Lucas 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
- Health and Well-being
- Food and Environment
- Economic Development

We are proud of the programming we have delivered in 2017 and look forward to meeting your needs in 2018. We welcome your input!

K-12 Youth Outreach

McNay 3rd Grade Field Day

Lucas County Extension leverages the opportunity of having the McNay Learning Center here in Lucas County. In collaboration with Lucas County Farm Bureau, Lucas County Extension provided the opportunity for all 3rd grades in Lucas and Warren County to enjoy the morning at the farm.

Entertaining and engaging presenters covered programs on the appreciation of water resources, electricity safety, ATV safety and learning about lambs, made the day a fun and enjoyable outside activity.

Each class enjoyed a tractor/trailer ride and ended the day with grilled hamburger lunch provided by Farm Bureau, Lucas County Extension, and Lucas County Cattlemen. Attendance 142 youth, 28 adults.

Youth Council

The Lucas County Youth Council has maintained high numbers of 4-H members for several years. The council is comprised of 4-H members who are in grades 7 through 12. Our retention level is nearly 100% from year to year with the only change in membership being members graduating out of the program. When the seniors age out, there are young members anxious to join and fill those open seats. The council serves as mentors to the Clover Sprouts and 4-H members in kindergarten through 3rd grade. During the county fair, the council guides our unique Clover Sprout Day in providing education about various topics and an opportunity to show an animal at the fair like their mentors! The Youth Council organizes and hosts a volunteer breakfast each year at the county fair as well as assisting in several other areas throughout the year. During the 2017-2018, 4-H year, the council will focus on fund-raising for a project area within the 4-H program. The ideal, long-term goal for the members of the Lucas County Youth Council is to have these former members step back into the 4-H program as volunteers.

4-H Shooting Sports

In 2017 Grant Goering was selected as one of eight ambassadors in Iowa to promote Safety and Education in Shooting Sports (SESS) throughout the state. These ambassadors serve from June of the current year to June of the upcoming year and receive training to become advocates for the program at county, regional and state levels. Through this program, the ambassadors develop their skills in leadership, public presentation, citizenship, community service, public relations and team building. We are very proud to have Grant in our 4-H Shooting Sports.
Economic Development

Grant Writing Workshop
Requests from our community resulted in the offering of the Grant Writing Workshop delivered to 17 participants by Community Specialist, Jane Goeken. The class filled up quickly, and post-class feedback from the participants was very positive encouraging us to offer the program again!

QuickBooks and Excel Workshop
Lucas County Extension continued a long-term collaboration with Chariton Chamber/Main Street and the Indian Hills Small Business Development Center and offered QuickBooks and Excel classes to local businesses. In 2017 Chariton Public Library and Chariton Rotary Club joined the team to help provide this opportunity to 21 adults in our community.

Health and Well-Being

Produce Basics
Safe Food 101
Sara Spouse, Nutrition and Wellness Specialist networked with the Leadership of Healthy Partnership of Lucas County and delivered programs to SCICAP and the Senior Citizen Center.

Writing your Retirement Paycheck
Eight clients planning their retirement in the next 10 years attended Writing your Retirement Paycheck outlining key factors to consider prior to retirement and two strategies for structuring their retirement income. Human Sciences Specialist in family finance, Joyce Lash provided the instruction.

Food and Environment

2017 Drought Response
Lucas County as well as other counties in south-central Iowa experienced drought conditions causing major concerns for both crop and livestock producers. To address those concerns, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists adjusted the agenda presented to 65 producers at the annual ISU McNay farm field day to address topics including crop growth and development under drought conditions, feeding drought-damaged crops, issues with drought silage and crop insurance considerations. Producers received one-on-one assistance assessing the nitrate levels of corn silage and building cost-effective rations using low quality forages.

Lawn and Garden
In 2017 we increased the lawn and garden programming in support of our local Master Gardeners and Friends. Eight webinars and workshops were delivered. The high level of interest has encouraged us to continue the programming for these clients. Average class size was 10 participants.

Agronomy in the Field
This multi-session workshop offered to women landowners, farmers, conservationists and other women interested in learning more about agronomy. The goals of Agronomy in the Field were to strengthen agronomic skills for women that allowed for better decision-making, provide a better understanding of inputs for crop production, see and understand different conservation practices and increase confidence in communication with spouse, farming partner, ag retailer or tenant.

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