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

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:

- Economic Development example
- Food and the Environment example
- Health and Well-being example
- K12 Youth Outreach Example

We are proud of the programming we have delivered in 2018 and look forward to meeting your needs in 2019. We welcome your input!

Economic Development

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is an IRS-sponsored program that certifies community volunteers to prepare and electronically file basic tax returns at no cost for low to moderate income individuals and families earning up to $53,000. Lucas County Extension sponsored a VITA site in Corydon for eligible residents of this county. Families saved the cost of tax preparation and avoided expensive loan advance fees.

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.

Nicole Burgett-Williams  Extension Council Chair
Sue Henderson  Regional Director
Jody Steenhook  Council Member
Fred Wilker  Council Member

Tammy Jeanes  Former Council Chair
Shane Irving  Council Member
Danielle VanRyswk  Council Member
Melissa Goering  Council Member

Elizabeth Floyd  Council Member
Health and Well-Being

Back-to-School
The annual back to school event held at Carpenter Hall was an opportunity to share educational materials with families. Joyce Lash, Human Sciences Extension, set up a table with materials from Nutrition and Wellness, Family Life and Family Finance. Popular publications included: What’s for Lunch, It’s in the Bag, the Dare to Excel Newsletter, and Child Identify Theft, What to Know and What to Do.

Master Gardener Opportunities
During 2018, the Lucas County Office offered a series of horticulture programming. Participants were encouraged to get active outdoors by completing garden-related activities such as winterizing their garden, using pumpkins, and creating new landscapes. Gardening is a great way to get fresh air, get exercise and reduce screen time.

Food and Environment

Cooking Programs
Highly successful programs of Quick Fix Freezer/Crockpot Meals were offered from Lucas County Extension. The office teamed up with Hy-Vee’s registered dietitian nutritionist to prepare freezer meals to be taken home at the end of the course. These easy meals may be grilled, baked, or placed in the crockpot.

K-12 Youth Outreach

Lucas County 4-H Cookbook
Our Lucas County Youth Council collected some of their favorite recipes for everything from appetizers to vegetables. The cookbook even contains the famous maid-rite beef burger recipe as used in the Lucas County 4-H Food Stand plus helpful hints for each area of content. The cookbooks sell for $10 each and proceeds go to the youth council.

Tie Blankets
On June 27th, to show the community that our youth care, tie blankets were made as a service project and taken to our local nursing home and to assisted living residents. This day camp was offered to both boys and girls and was definitely a hands on activity.

Lucas County Adds Youth Outreach Educator to Staff
In 2018, Lucas County ISU Extension and Outreach added Ronda Morrett to its staff as the Youth Outreach Educator. This newly created position was developed to engage Lucas County’s youth in STEM education through a partnership with the Chariton Elementary Schools’ new K-5 STEM special class, which engages youth in 30 minutes of hands-on STEM education each week. Please welcome Ronda to the team!

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