Bullet Points from Rich

- 176 educational events were held in March and 135 events are scheduled for April. [www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/default.asp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/default.asp)
- Celebrate ISU Extension and Outreach Week April 8-13.
- The 2018 Custom Rate Survey is available. [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/)

North Central Iowa Crop Clinic

Collin Hurd, founder and CEO of Smart Ag, was the keynote speaker at the North Central Iowa Crop and Land Stewardship Clinic March 15 in Iowa Falls. Hurd addressed farming with driverless technology and artificial intelligence. Other crop-related topics were addressed by ISU Extension and Outreach specialists during the daylong event. More than 150 people attended.

Hardin Council Earns Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes an extension council’s outstanding commitment to the mission of ISU Extension and Outreach and the delivery of research-based or evidence-based programming. This award was presented at Annual Conference.

Boone School District Partners with Local Foods Team

Who doesn’t want students to eat fresh, local foods in schools? The argument most often heard against using local foods is that they are too expensive. But we found from the hard work going on at the Boone Community...
School District that this is not always the case. Lori King, the director of food services for the district, had done a terrific job increasing awareness of local foods in the district. She has increased her procurement of local foods for the schools with assistance from ISU Extension’s Local Foods Team.

Symposium Focuses on Veterans and Military Community

Iowa’s veterans, active-duty military and the professionals who serve them are invited to learn about educational opportunities from ISU Extension and Outreach and its partners.

“Building Awareness: The Military Community and ISU Extension and Outreach” will be offered May 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Sun Room at the Iowa State University Memorial Union on campus. The symposium is a statewide event open to anyone interested, including the military community at Iowa State, local veterans’ groups, agencies and individuals who support the military community, county veterans service offices, and ISU Extension and Outreach faculty, specialists and county staff.

Extension in Action

SWITCH continues at Sacred Heart and United Community Schools in Boone. For “Chew” weeks, Sacred Heart had a Try Day Friday to taste colorful rainbow carrots, peppers and cherry tomatoes. They had a high five day at lunch for those that drank all of their milk. Annette Brown taught the second “SWITCH UP your Taste Buds” exploratory lesson, which included measuring correctly, making breakfast cookies and planning the menu for the meal they will prepare in April.

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Prepared by: Rich Wrage, Region 8 Extension Education Director

Mary Giese, a member of the Marshall County Extension Council, presented at ISU Extension and Outreach’s Annual Conference Feb. 28. She reported on the work of a committee formed to improve ISU Extension and Outreach’s internal communication.
Seven Hardin County 4-H’ers participated in 4-H Legislative Day. 4-H’ers visited the Iowa Hall of Pride and took a tour of the historic Iowa State Capitol. One highlight was meeting with Hardin County Reps. Dave Deyoe and Pat Grassley.

On March 3, more than 200 people braved winter temperatures to visit the Marshall County Family STEM Festival. The event brought together families and 16 exhibitors to engage children in hands-on STEM activities. The event was a partnership between the North Central Stem Hub, Marshall County Extension, Iowa Valley Community College District and the Marshalltown Community School District.

Jess Soderstrum, Story CYC partnered with Laura Leichty to speak at Branching Out Day at Central Elementary in Nevada. We discussed the importance of handwashing and sampled kiwifruit and spinach with over 200 kids throughout the morning.

Story County Master Gardeners held their 2018 graduation and recognition celebration March 18th at Reiman Gardens. Adam Janke, Asst. Professor and Wildlife Specialist gave a presentation titled 'Bringing Nature Home'.

Three participants were recognized as Master Gardener Interns, after completing an introductory course on to the program, and we welcomed one new active Master Gardener to the Story County Master Gardener Association.