

## Highlights from Region 8 May 2020

### Bullet Points from Rich

- Many regional events have been canceled recently because of the COVID-19 virus. Please be safe in your communities. Please visit county website and Facebook pages for innovative learning opportunities being offered.
- Structured for Success will be implemented on July 1, 2020.

### Search for Excellence Award to Marshall County Master Gardeners

The youth education gardens in **Marshall County** received a 2020 [Search for Excellence award](#). The project educates and empower adults and youth to grow and consume fresh, healthy produce. Master Gardener volunteers help youth grow produce at elementary and middle schools. The produce is then donated to local food pantries. The award recognizes the Master Gardener volunteers for their outstanding contributions to their communities, providing significant learning and impact.



### Youth Earn State 4-H Awards

We are proud to congratulate the outstanding youth from our region who won state 4-H recognition.

Carla Edleman, **Story County** – Swine State Project Award

Katherine Barnes, **Boone County** – Communications State Project Award

Dillon Hanlon, **Story County** – Home Improvement State Project Award, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Youth Council

Alanna Schroeder, **Boone County** – Robotics State Project Award

Caleb Hartsook, **Story County** – Woodworking State Project Award

### Extension in Action



Nicole Leidal, Story County's Buy. Eat. Live Healthy educator, was awarded the Golden Apron Award at the annual EFNEP/FNP recognition luncheon. This award recognizes Nicole's exceptional service from the past year to the community, to colleagues and to programming. This new, traveling award will be

given to a different educator each year. Christine Hradeck, SNAP-Ed and EFNEP program coordinator, said, "This is our first year presenting it, and we chose Nicole to receive it! She has made so many special contributions this year, including presenting with me at Mary Greeley grand rounds, assisting with county training videos for staff, serving on our mentorship group and expanding her service to new audiences in Story County. She is such a wonderful asset to our team and we are pleased to present her with the award."



Lori Hardman, **Hardin County** youth coordinator, prepared a tagging checklist for swine, sheep and goat exhibitors. The office checklist includes both manual and email components to make the process flow smoothly for staff, parents and exhibitors.

ISU Extension and Outreach and other organizations are joining ranks to uplift the small business community throughout the entire state by starting the [Iowa Small Business Relief Fund](#).

Mary Wilkins, youth outreach coordinator for **Story County**, fulfilled a request to offer an online babysitting program during the COVID-19 pandemic as a support for students who may be babysitting children of essential workers. In two days, Mary transformed her face to face program to a free

online program for any Iowa student in fifth through twelfth grade. Participants complete three components in order to be emailed a program certificate. First, participants complete a self-learning portion using the information provided on the website. Next, students participate in one WebEx online group learning session that is offered every Thursday afternoon. Finally, participants are then emailed a link to complete an online babysitting quiz. The goal is to have students feel confident and prepared for babysitting responsibilities. Eighteen participants have completed the program. The online program is currently planned to be available through May.



**Story County** Extension is providing nearly 400 STEM packets to school meal distribution sites. Each week a lesson is prepared and the paper packets are delivered. To supplement the STEM packet, a short YouTube video is created to introduce each STEM experience. The Helicopter Hang Time kit from STEM in Action was one lesson implemented. This kit was awarded to Story County Extension this year through the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Scale-Up STEM Program. Lessons from STEM Lit to Go have also included Blast Off and Super Shapes.

**Boone County** is also distributing kits to about 300 youth in Madrid and Ogden. The kits are geared toward students from kindergarten to eighth grade and are shared once a week with school lunches. The kits have included math, gardening and rocketry activities so far.



This is a bowl that is being delivered to youth in Boxholm by **Boone County** Master Gardeners Marva Stark and Carolyn Ross. Originally, it was going to be a youth outreach program about gardening, including planting these salad bowls and a pizza garden, and now it is an at-home tasting experience. In the late summer, youth will pick from a pizza garden planted by the Master Gardeners and make their own pizzas.



During ISU Extension and Outreach Week, **Story County** staff painted and distributed kindness rocks throughout the county. If you happen to find a rock, post a picture on the Story County Facebook page, and then hide the rock for someone else to find. Story County staff also handed out bags of appreciation filled with goodies and resources to

post offices, childcare providers, grocery stores, food pantries and gas stations throughout the county. Recipients of the bags were so excited and appreciative that staff thought of them.



The **Story County** 4-H Youth County Council received a \$500 Pioneer Award to build new display shelving for static exhibits during the Story County Fair. The application was submitted by County Council President Dillon Hanlon.

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