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

Montgomery County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected extension council that guides local educational programming by partnering with staff.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

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

Economic Development

ISU Extension and Outreach Montgomery County functions within our state network of specialists to provide assistance in community and economic development.

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) workshop was held in June for those interested in gaining a better understanding of economic tools to impact the community.

In Montgomery County assistance from ISU specialists provided a business loan of $25,000, a business acquisition of $400,000, a restoration grant for $10,000, Villisca Development Group participation and three small business startups received counseling.

Health and Well Being

ISU Extension and Outreach is a great resource for lifelong health and well-being in Montgomery County.

Caring for our youngest generation is an important challenge. In 2016, Montgomery County offered childcare training through Spend Smart and Eat Smart and MyPlate education. On the opposite end, Powerful Tools for Caregivers was offered, a series designed to help family caregivers learn tools to ensure they are also taking care of themselves.
Food, Family and Fun was offered to families looking to build teamwork, improve communication and have fun while cooking and eating good food.

Food Preservation 101 was offered in May to beginning and experienced home food preservers. Review of the current and updated recommendation and equipment was shared with participants.

In the domain of food safety, ServSafe® was offered several times in Montgomery County. ServSafe is a training that meets the industry standards and restaurants obligation to consumers.

Food and Environment
ISU Extension and Outreach serves as a link for education related to conservation, agriculture and horticulture.

Education in the most current research regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides is given annually to over 150 individuals through our Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT/CPAT) courses. In addition, we provide Manure Applicator Training. All of these certification courses are in place to support best practices for protecting the environment and farm yields.


K-12 Youth Outreach
Youth programming is an important part of our work in Montgomery County. We strive to provide a variety of educational experiences throughout the year in order to build successful future citizens.

4-H continues to be strong in Montgomery County involving over 140 youth in grades K-12 in year-round community clubs and the Clover Kids program. Youth are given opportunities to reach their full potential by working and learning in partnership with caring adults. In 2016, a few 4-H highlights included a Goat Nutrition Workshop, a series of Horse Workshops and Dog Classes and Food Safety and Quality Assurance for youth raising market animals and the year-end culmination of 4-H—the Montgomery County Fair. Project possibilities in 4-H are endless!

Summer is an excellent time for fun learning and we again provided summer day camps for over 55 youth. A Babysitter Clinic was offered in partnership with the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital to teach appropriate skills to young adults caring for children. Diggin’ Up Dinosaurs camp taught discovery skills and ignited science interest in youth K-3 grades. Wind Energy camp provided an opportunity for hands-on learning related to alternative wind energy.

A short-term Afterschool STEM Program was offered for six weeks in the fall of 2016. Youth inquiry was the focus as they learned about science, technology, engineering and math.

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