

# BUILDING A #STRONGIOWA

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

## Pocahontas 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
- Food and the Environment
- Health and Well-being
- K12 Youth Outreach

## Economic Development

Carol Ehlers, Family Finance Human Science Specialist, offered **Smart Investing @ Your Library** program to promote investor education. Eight participants continued their education via 4 weeks of on-line classes and a face-to-face wrap-up session. Participants reported the following investment actions: recognized need for emergency savings, developed an investment philosophy, read finance and investing articles, and prepared an estimate of retirement savings need.



The Pocahontas County Extension Council guides local educational programming by partnering with ISU Extension and Outreach staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the elected council represents the issues and people of the county.

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.

Peter Seehusen  
*Extension Council Chair*

Terry Janssen  
*Regional Director*

To build knowledge on **Tree Care in Iowa**, Dr. Jesse Randall, Iowa State University Extension Forester, offered information to 8 participants on how to select healthy trees, planting methods, maintaining, pruning trees, and correction of pot bound root systems.

## Health and Well Being

**SERVSAFE** certification is based on the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the Iowa Food Code. 25 food service professionals received special food safety training to help them meet the industry standards and obligations to consumers. Certification is valid for five years.

## ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County

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Partnering with Pocahontas County Public Health to receive the Midas Grant allowed ISU Extension and Outreach in Pocahontas County to bring Human Sciences, Health & Nutrition Specialist, Katie Knobbe, to present, **"How To's With Fresh Garden Produce"**. Knobbe demonstrated three recipes to 96 clients at the Pocahontas Farmers Market.

### Food and Environment

Extension's **Best Practices for Food Safety** webinar, qualified Master Gardeners for educational credit hours. The webinar covered best practices for handling garden produce going to food banks, and the importance of food safety procedures. From this webinar, a current Master Gardener was eligible to apply and received a \$1000 mini grant to support food security projects funded by USDA SNAP-Ed.

A wet fall and winter enhanced the need for a **Drainage Workshop** in the spring. Kris Kohl, Extension Ag Engineer, educated participants on using satellite maps to locate existing tile lines in the fields; optimizing tile size and spacing for crop production; and water quality and options to reduce nitrate loss.

**Commercial and Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training** sessions were attended by 77 applicators in 2016. The initial certification or recertification training sessions were designed to help manure applicators comply with state law. Manure applicator certification helps applicators use manure as a nutrient asset.

Paul Kassel, Extension Field Agronomist, held the annual **Pesticide Safety Education Program** in February with 113 attendees.

### K-12 Youth Outreach

**Summer 4-H Education- Robotics STEM Camp.** Master 4-H Robotics Educator, Sue Jarvis and volunteers assisted 4-7th graders to design and program robots in a 3-day camp. The 4-H Robotics program teaches: basic engineering and programming skills, positive team relationship, improved problem solving, and science, engineering, technology, and math skills. Post evaluation data shows youth involved in 4-H apply STEM to their 4-H projects, develop related workforce skills, and pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. STEM programs are helping Iowa build a future workforce that will support Iowa business and industry and the viability of our communities.

In June, **On Their Own and OK** was offered in Gilmore City with 20 county youth in attendance. Valuable information was presented by staff focusing on how to stay safe while staying home alone.

**Community 4-H Thanksgiving Meal!** Master Food Volunteer, Heather Hull helped 4-H'ers learn basic cooking/baking skills and kitchen safety while serving their community. Over 115 attendees enjoyed the Thanksgiving feast!

We celebrated our 10th year of success with the Annual **Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment Pie Auction** at the Pocahontas County Fair. With the proceeds from the pie auction, the foundation was able to support eight \$500 4-H scholarships to graduating 4-H seniors and many other 4-H activities including: Awards Day at the Rialto Theatre, 16 Animal Science Camp participants, 26 Robotics Camp attendees, 15 Junior Camp participants, and 12 Intermediate/Senior Trip attendees. Without the generous support to the Pocahontas County 4-H Endowment Pie Auction, these 4-H activities would not be available to the youth in Pocahontas County.



### County Extension Staff

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