

WHAT WE WANT #STRONGIOWA

2018 IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach connects the needs of Iowans with Iowa State University research and resources. As we celebrate 100 years of Extension in Pocahontas County, 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

Over the past 5 years, the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) at Iowa State University has served over 37 clients in Pocahontas County providing an estimated economic impact of \$375,000, while adding or retaining 23 jobs.

In 2017, Varina was one of 10 communities in the state selected to participate in the Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. Varina's goals included improved sidewalk system, improved pedestrian safety, signage and economic development.



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.

Larry Movall
Extension Council Chair

Judy Krips
Council Member

Brent Svuba
Council Member

Terry Janssen
Regional Director

Julie Wurr
Council Member

Robert Wagner
Council Member

Mitch Aden
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Jean Trimble
Council Member

Anita Fischer
Council Member

Randy Bass
Council Member



Food and Environment

The 2012 Ag Census showed over 7,000 principal women farm operators in Iowa, representing nearly 869,000 acres. An additional 25,000 lowan women are involved with the family farm or are landowners. During the 2018 growing season, field agronomist, Angie Rieck-Hinz partnered with Holly Frerk from Pocahontas County Extension and Larrette Kolbe, NRCS District Conservationist for Pocahontas and Buena Vista County to offer **Women's Agronomy in the Field** on a farm near Rembrandt. Four sessions were held during the growing season and 15 women attended. The sessions covered how to conduct stand assessments, how to stage corn and soybeans, how to make replant decisions, corn and soybean scouting to make management decisions such as fungicide applications or treating for soybean aphids and soil sampling interpretations. The participants rated the sessions as extremely valuable to their operations and shared their increased confidence in making management decisions.

Farmers with larger livestock operations are required to be certified to haul manure on their fields or hire someone who is certified. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach provides the **Manure Certification Training** for this certification which focuses on safety, separation distance regulation, and proper utilization on manure resources. Higher feeding of Dried

Distillers Grains has increased the levels of sulfur in the pits by 300% in the last decade resulting in higher hydrogen sulfide gas production in pits which is deadly. Our program focused on hydrogen sulfide monitoring while pumping to protect our farmers and their livestock. 28% of producers reported using or planning to use these safety monitors and 7 have follow-up with phone calls because of monitors warning famers.

Health and Well-Being

Through a collaboration with Pocahontas County Extension and Outreach and Pocahontas Community Hospital Wellness Committee the program, **"What About Me? My Wellbeing"** was offered to an average of 62 employees during February of 2018. Wellbeing research demonstrates success in changing individuals behaviors that result in improved wellbeing and lower health care costs.

K-12 Youth Outreach

4-H Clover Kids tour Dutchland Dairy learning about different feeds the cows are fed. Thirty-five children enjoyed the tour of the newborn calf barn and the milking parlor.

LegoMindstorms under the direction of Sue Jarvis, Master Robot Volunteer began in February 2018. Due to the generous support of the Pocahontas Community Foundation Grant and the ISU Extension and Outreach Pocahontas County 10 youth in our county had the opportunity to learn all about robots starting with the DASH robots and the Lego EV3 expansion kits that were purchased with the foundation funds.

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