



Extension Council Update October 29, 2021

Discussion of Two-Way Scorecard Communication Tool Reports

Last week, you should have received an email that included your county's report from the fourth Two-Way Scorecard Communication Tool (April through August) and a link to the [statewide report](#).

We encourage you to look at both reports and submitted comments prior to your next extension council meeting in order to have a thoughtful discussion about how to **better communicate** and **plan programming**. Scores from those two categories indicated the most need for improvement in most counties statewide. Some extra planning and open communication will help everyone better serve the needs of Iowans in all our communities. If you have questions about the Two-Way Scorecard or the process, feel free to reach out to [Jennifer Vit](#) or [Andrea Nelson](#).

Structured for Success: Our first year

After nearly two years of study, planning, and feedback, Structured for Success officially launched July 1, 2020. Dr. John Lawrence, Vice President for Extension and Outreach and Assistant Vice President Andrea Nelson prepared [a summary of our first year](#). They have described milestones reached, as well as areas for improvement and growth. We encourage council members to read the report and continue to provide feedback via the Two-Way Scorecard Communication Tool and the Extension and Outreach [Virtual Suggestion Box](#).

County Programs and Contacts Reports

Using the MyData contact management system, county staff can now pull a County Programs and Contacts report for the current and previous month. Ask your county or regional director to provide these reports in your council meeting packets to help you better understand the work being done in your county.

ISU Benefits open enrollment starts Nov. 1

Open enrollment for ISU benefits November 1-19, 2021. County staff can elect benefit changes or begin coverage for 2022 without a qualifying event. Additional information is available on the [County Extension Benefits website](#). Ed Holland, ISU director of benefits, provided information about upcoming open enrollment and updates to 2022 ISU insurance benefits available to county extension staff, as well as updated premium information for councils; a [recording of the October 18 HR Learning Hour](#) is available.

It's important to note that extension councils must authorize any benefits, including ISU insurance benefits, before any county employee may enroll. A council also determines how much of the insurance plan is provided as a benefit and how much will be an employee payroll deduction.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Ambassadors Needed

As Iowa State University Extension and Outreach works to engage new audiences for extension programming, Vice President John Lawrence and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor Regenea Hurte are seeking extension staff and council members to serve as Diversity Ambassadors. These individuals will serve as local, frontline ambassadors for diversity goals, projects, and initiatives. The Ambassadors will help Extension and Outreach guide our efforts going forward and maintain consistency of statewide civil rights and diversity, equity, and inclusion responsibilities. If you're interested in serving as an Ambassador or would like more information, please contact Regenea Hurte at RAHurte@iastate.edu or 515-520-1832.

4-H Guidance: Sharing Participant Information

Iowa 4-H has clarified guidance for sharing participant information, when it is appropriate, and under what conditions. The guidance is based on formal agreements with trusted partners such as fair boards, nonprofits, schools, etc. Trusted partners are often at the table as we provide educational programming, events, and support for our youth and families. To provide clarity to our partner relationships, 4-H has created a Youth Information Sharing Policy for Iowa 4-H. This document can be found on the [4-H regulations and guidance](#) webpage (see the partnership development section). Over the next few weeks, 4-H also will provide an FAQ and sample phrasing for you to use in your partnership agreements.

Staff Training Follow-up

Late summer and fall have been busy with staff trainings ranging from geographically-based area meetings (six held across the state in September and October) to program-area-based trainings like YouthFest (for staff with 4-H/youth program responsibilities). If your council doesn't already receive a report from staff who participated in these professional development opportunities, it's appropriate to ask them what they learned or what ideas they can use in your county. The breadth of information shared at those staff trainings and development days is immense! Your staff was sure to enjoy their time engaging and networking with others from around the state, especially after the pandemic suspended most face-to-face trainings. Council members may find it interesting what kinds of sessions, new programs, and materials are shared during those trainings.

Save the Date

- **IECA and 4-H Legislative Day** - Des Moines - Wednesday, February 9, 2022
- **Extension Council Conference** – Ames - Saturday, March 5, 2022 (target audience is council members, but staff also encouraged to attend)
- **Extension Annual Conference** – Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (all staff and council members may attend)

Did You Know...

...you can go to the [Department of Management website](#) to look at any county extension budget?

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Our mailing address is:

IECA

611 Roosevelt St.

Lisbon, IA 52253

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