



Extension Council Update December 20, 2021

3 Minutes on the Extension Budget Cycle

A new video in the “3 Minutes...” series is available. The topic is timely; we review the extension budget cycle and ways you can be part of the process beyond approval in January. View the series [here](#) and let us know if there’s a topic you’d like to see in a future video by submitting it to the [IECA Virtual Suggestion Box](#).

State of Iowa Extension Council Association 2021

On November 20th, the IECA board of directors met in Ames for the quarterly board meeting and also to take part in an action planning session. The action planning was led by retired extension staffperson Nancy Franz and provided the board an opportunity to identify how the Iowa Extension Council Association can help councils across the state to better engage as elected officials. The foundation of the action planning session was a “State of IECA” presentation by Executive Director Jennifer Vit. View this 19-minute [video](#) to learn about the association and how we promote engagement for all extension councils.

Lawrence Named Interim Department Chair for Animal Science

Vice President John Lawrence has added a new title to his name....Interim Department Chair for Animal Science. Dr. Lawrence is filling a temporary void while the department searches for a new chair to lead the Animal Science Department. It is expected he will serve as interim chair for the remainder of the fiscal year and he will continue as Vice President for Extension and Outreach during this time.

Webinar Set for Councils to Discuss Fairs & Events

County Extension Council members are invited to attend a webinar to learn about new guidance regarding protests, appeals and disciplinary action for county offices to utilize in fair and event situations. In December 2021, Iowa 4-H implemented [Positive Youth Development guidelines](#) to aid county extension staff and extension councils in navigating possible behavior and rule infractions as they pertain to fairs and events.

On January 11 from 6-7 PM, Mike Anderson, State Ag & Natural Resources Program Manager with Iowa 4-H Youth Development will be presenting *Behavior & Rule Management for Fairs and Events*.

Email ieca@iaextensioncouncils.org for the Zoom link.

4-H Core Principles Review Committee

Iowa extension councils are represented on a committee reviewing the [4-H Core Principles and Organizational Structure](#) document that guides the Iowa 4-H program. The group met recently in Ames to begin the review of the document that is cobranded between Iowa 4-H and the Iowa Extension Council Association. Representing IECA are board members Connie Casson from West Pottawattamie County, Jenna Bormann from Humboldt County, Pam Olerich from Greene County, Dennis Jordan from Linn County, and IECA Executive Director Jennifer Vit. The other committee members represent County Services staff and youth staff.

Council Members Needed for Iowa Legislative Insider

Registration is open for the [2022 Iowa Legislative Insider](#) to take place Wednesday, February 9, 2022, in Des Moines. The Iowa Legislative Insider is an opportunity for extension council members to share the good word about extension in our communities and learn alongside 4-H members.

Participants will listen to special speakers and visit in person with legislators at the Capitol. The event is open to all extension council members and 4-H members in grades 8-12. Those enrolled in 4HOnline (youth or volunteers) can register through the "Events" tab in 4HOnline. Council members register using the online [registration form](#).

If you want to hear a little more about the benefits of sending at least one council member to attend the Legislative Insider, ask your region's [IECA Board member](#) to attend a meeting.

We are seeking experienced advocates to help out with the day. If you've been to the Capitol before to advocate for a cause (Extension and Outreach, Farm Bureau, school board, union, etc.) and would feel comfortable informally guiding groups of first-timers through the process on the morning of Feb. 9, please contact [Jennifer Vit](#).

Extension Council Conference

Mark your calendar to attend *Iowa Extension Council Conference: Meaningful Connections* on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center in Ames. We look forward to gathering together again after the pandemic disruption and the conference will allow for plenty of networking and learning from others. The conference sessions focus on giving you tangible, useful information for your role as an elected official in a short one-day event. Look for registration to open in late January!

Save the Date

- **Behavior & Rule Management for Fairs and Events webinar** - Zoom - Tuesday, January 11, 6:00-7:00 PM
 - **Serving All Iowans training** - Zoom - Thursday, January 20, 5:30 - 6:00 PM
 - **IECA and 4-H Legislative Insider** - 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)
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