

## Iowa State University Extension and Outreach **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Extension and Outreach is the university-wide outreach component of Iowa State University, and has a fundamental role in the land-grant missions of teaching, research and extension. It has a presence in each of the state's 99 counties, with educators, specialists and volunteers living and working across the state.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences administers the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program, the largest unit of ISU Extension and Outreach. On a daily basis, ANR provides unbiased, research-based information and education to farmers, agricultural professionals, businesses, communities and consumers to grow the economic base of Iowa agriculture.

The Office for the Vice President for Extension and Outreach annually allocates approximately 40 percent of its budget to ANR. Jay Harmon serves as the college's interim associate dean for Extension and Outreach and the interim director for ANR.



### **Programs Provide Links to Campus**

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ANR expertise is represented by 60 on-campus faculty—in 10 departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, one department in College of Veterinary Medicine—and 41 field specialists across Iowa. The ANR program includes 10 Plan of Work teams: agriculture systems and environmental stewardship, crop production/protection, dairy, farm management, horticulture, Iowa Beef Center, Iowa Pork Industry Center, local foods, natural resources and value added agriculture.

ANR programming annually reaches more than 195,966 Iowans through educational events and field days, and millions more visitors to its websites.

### **Food for Thought**

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Each year, ANR engages thousands in providing research-based resources to inform Iowa's farmers, producers, agribusinesses and citizens. ANR programs impact all Iowans, rural or urban, to improve quality of life. Programs include crops, livestock, environmental stewardship, farm management, local foods, food safety, value-added agriculture, natural resources and horticulture.

The ANR Strategic Plan focuses on three programming goals:

- Educate lowans about clean water and healthy habitats.
- Educate lowans about strategies that foster profitable and resilient farm and thriving rural communities.
- Educate producers and the food industry on practices to promote a secure food system.

In 2017, programming offered by ANR aligned with these goals:

- Information and resources about herbicide resistance included:
  - Information was presented at field days about Palmer amaranth identification and how to safely use dicamba.
  - Workshops and conferences across the state shared information regarding accurate identification and implementation of best management techniques.
- A series of Pro-Ag Outlook meetings provided farmers with market conditions, expected trends in crop and livestock income and management implications. The information provided an overview of the agricultural industry, changes affecting Iowa producers and resources for farmers experiencing financial difficulties.
- Other hands-on workshops and field days provided information to Iowa's commercial horticulture farmers on the use of high tunnels, tree grafting and hops production.



ISU Extension and Outreach's Community Food Systems Program has grown from seven communities or regions in Iowa to become a national model for other states. With a national value-added agriculture grant, Iowa State will develop training for local food leadership in eight to 10 states, using train-the-trainer workshops and the development of an online curriculum.

## Long History of "Training"

Agricultural extension at Iowa State dates back to 1904, when Perry Holden, professor of agronomy, traveled Iowa with his "corn train" educating farmers on the importance of selecting and testing seed corn. Iowa State's extension program was 10 years old when the Smith-Lever Act brought together federal, state and county governments as Cooperative Extension.

## Plus Sheets

- ANR by the Numbers: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/files/page/files/ADMIN0017.ANRbyNumbers2017.pdf>
- ANR Strategic Plan: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/strategic-plan>