

Secretary Naig Awards 28 Choose Iowa Grants

Grants will help farmers, small businesses, and non-profits expand and diversify the availability of Iowa grown, raised, and processed products



Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced last week that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has awarded 28 Choose Iowa cost-share grants to Iowa farmers, small businesses and non-profits totaling \$463,000. The announcement was made during an event at Jasper Winery, one of the grant awardees. Several Central Iowa operations were awarded grants.

These Choose Iowa cost-share grants were created to assist Iowa farmers, businesses and non-profits with their efforts to increase or diversify their agricultural product offerings, expand markets and shorten the supply chain.

“Choose Iowa is about connecting consumers to the great products that Iowans are growing, raising and processing in communities of all sizes across our state,” said Secretary Naig. “As Choose Iowa builds into an easily recognizable brand that can be used by

farmers, producers, processors, farmers markets, food retailers and many others in the supply chain, these cost-share grants will help build capacity to meet the growing consumer demand for Iowa products.”

The grants will support a wide variety of projects, including cider production from Iowa grown apples, fruit and vegetable processing, cold storage for meat, expanded processing of dairy products, hydroponic lettuce and microgreens, Iowa grown flowers, beer production from Iowa honey and many more.

These cost-share dollars leverage additional private investment. The highly competitive grant application process has yielded grant requests totaling nearly \$3.3 million during the first two years of the program, a number far exceeding available funding.

Choose Iowa grant allocations that were awarded today include the following in Central Iowa:

That Iowa Girl | Panora

| \$25,000
Increase warehouse capacity to expand markets for more small Iowa producers. | Total project budget: \$65,701.50

Farm Story Meats | Ames | \$25,000

Increase cold storage capacity for direct-to-consumer meat sales. | Total project budget: \$55,374.32

Jasper Winery | Des Moines | \$25,000

Add cider production capacity using Iowa grown apples. | Total project budget: \$65,000

Brewer Family Farms, LLC | Dallas Center | \$14,960

Add value-added meats for schools through the Farm to School program. | Total project budget: \$29,920

Brightside Aleworks | Altoona | \$18,000

Add gluten-free brewing capacity utilizing Iowa honey. | Total project budget: \$41,149.82

Central Iowa Shelter Services | Des Moines | \$25,000

Add capabilities for online sales of tilapia and hydroponic lettuce. | Total project budget: \$51,460

Picket Fence Creamery, LLC | Woodward | \$25,000

Increase production capacity for new value-added dairy products. | Total project budget: \$50,000

Lutheran Services in Iowa | Des Moines | \$4,402

Increase produce processing capacity and enhance equipment for incubator farm produce raised by non-American born farmers. | Total project budget: \$8,804.67

STEM Night

(Continued from Page 1.)

many kids were up to the task, and several got all the questions correct. Anyone with a perfect score was eligible for the grand prize—a \$20 gift card to Beans & Beignets—and the winner of the drawing was Jayden Gibson.

All of the booths offered fun and educational activities. Some highlights included flying a small drone with Madison County Emergency Management, learning about caring for your teeth with Earlham Family Dentistry, making ice cream with Beans & Beignets, fun exercises with EFIT, learning about spine health with Earlham Family Chiropractic, learning about electricity with Lillie Plumbing & Heating, a fun money activity with Hometown Market, working with robots with Bricker-Price Block, learning banking basics with Earlham Savings Bank, a life-saving demonstration with Earlham Rescue, and much, much more!

“We have lots of talented professionals working in a variety of businesses in our community and surrounding area, and we want to showcase all those options to our students,” said Mrs. Sheffield. “Those business partnerships help bring authentic learning experiences from STEM careers to our students. And, each year, our attendance keeps growing and feedback is positive, so, of course we want to offer that fun learning experience again.”



(Above) Amelia Schoger steps lightly at the EFIT booth. (Below) Rory Meyer flies a drone with help from Madison County Emergency Management Director Dio Ayala.



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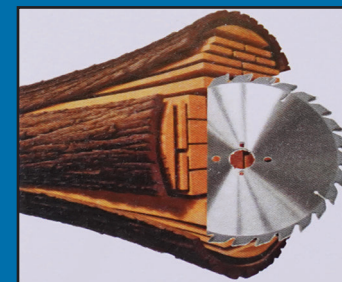
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Attorney Marc A. Humphrey
Personal Injury, including Medical Negligence and Sexual Harassment

300 Walnut Street Suite 5
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Phone: 515-331-3510



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