



2017 Impact Report

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
SERVING JO DAVIESS, STEPHENSON,
AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES

I ILLINOIS

Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



ILLINOIS

Extension

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A Note from Margaret Larson, County Director

We are so fortunate to live, work and play in northwest Illinois! University of Illinois Extension is well positioned to serve so many in our communities: our offices are centrally located in our counties, the twenty-five staff members in the unit have diverse and unique talents and expertise, and our volunteers, partners and supporters are amazing. Extension staff are very active in offering a wide variety of programming throughout the year, and our “audience” changes with each program due to new participants. In reviewing program information, one of the observations often made is the number of attendees who have never participated in an Extension program before. We love adding new people to our family!

Our work would not be possible without the funding we receive from local groups, in addition to the state and federal funding for Extension. Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties provide annual funding, along with the 4-H and Extension foundations from each county, the Winnebago County 4-H Showboard, and the Winnebago County Farm Bureau.

We also receive a great deal of support and opportunities from our many community partners. Without our excellent relationships the network staff have developed, we would not be able to provide some of the excellent programs and resources Extension offers in northwest Illinois.

One of the highlights of 2017 was the visit by ACES Dean Kim Kidwell in June. We were so honored to have her spend a day with us while she learned about our work and partnerships in the area. Dean Kidwell’s support of Extension is evident and her vision for our sustainability in Illinois is inspiring.

This Impact Report provides an overview of a small selection of our local programming. It is by no means comprehensive and just touches on our work and impact in our counties. I hope that you learn a bit more about our work, and encourage you to contact me to learn more.





Staff Directory



Margaret Larson
County Extension
Director



Phillip Alberti
Extension Educator,
Commercial Agriculture



Jackie de Batista
Extension Educator,
4-H Youth Development



Carol Erickson
Visiting Extension
Educator, SNAP-Ed



Antionette Hobson
Extension Educator,
4-H Youth Development Metro



Grant McCarty
Extension Educator,
Local Food Systems &
Small Farms



Diane Reinhold
Extension Educator,
Nutrition & Wellness



Stanley (Jay) Solomon
Extension Educator, Energy &
Environmental Stewardship



Gina Adams
Extension Program
Coordinator, SNAP-Ed



Alex Burbach
Program Coordinator
Jo Daviess County



Samantha Burbach
Program Coordinator
Winnebago County



Stacy Cwiklo
Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development



Nikki Keltner
Program Coordinator
Stephenson County



Angela Miller
Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development



Margo Turman
Program Coordinator
4-H Youth Development



Mia Chase
Community Worker,
4-H Youth Development



Barbara Curry
Community Worker, IL
Nutrition Education
Programs—INEP



Theresa McGee
Community Worker,
SNAP-Ed



Laurencia Hubbard
Community Worker,
SNAP-Ed



Linda Ricker
Community Worker



Rita Gillette
Community Worker



Deb Koch
Office Support Specialist



Gayle Arnold
Office Support Associate



Tammy Bene
Office Support Assistant



Julie Miller
Office Support Assistant



Commercial Educator Joins Staff in 2018

During the last months of 2017, the recruitment and selection process for a commercial agriculture educator took place. Phillip Alberti joined the staff in early 2018. This position is the culmination of several years work by County Director Margaret Larson and Extension Administration and is the pilot for commercial agriculture positions within county offices and Extension units.

Phillip will enhance Extension’s already robust commercial ag programming in northwest Illinois and will focus on commercial crop production and assisting producers by providing resources for row crop production. His area of expertise includes soil fertility, corn and soybean management practices, cover crops, and no-till systems.

Volunteer Programs “Extend” Our Reach

In Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties, our Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteer programs are thriving and growing. Our counties are impacted by the work that they do and the support they provide to Extension and our community partners, schools and municipalities.

Our volunteers are valued members of our team and we appreciate their service!

214 Volunteers
consisting of:

148 Master Gardeners

66 Master Naturalists



8,681.25 Volunteer Hours
consisting of:

467.50 Jo Daviess Master Gardeners

1,374.25 Stephenson Master Gardeners

4,215.75 Winnebago Master Gardeners

2,623.75 Master Naturalists



Community Involvement



Program Coordinator Nikki Keltner received the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council award for Outstanding Educator.



Extension educators Phillip Alberti, Grant McCarty (not pictured) and Jay Solomon assisted Al Kelchner in developing a grazing plan for his acreage. Kelchner is converting subprime row crop land into a productive pasture system at Willow Creek Farms. The group is pictured using aerial imagery as a decision tool for optimizing grazing and environmental benefits.



Extension Council members Rick Dittmar, Don Klinger and Drew Groezinger, meet with Dean Kidwell at Groezinger Produce Farm near Stockton, IL.



Jeff White is an Extension Council member, Winnebago County Master Gardener, and northwest Illinois representative on the Extension State Advisory Council. Here, Jeff and wife Judy – also a Winnebago County Master Gardener – teaches youth about horticulture during the Pizza Garden Program at the county office.

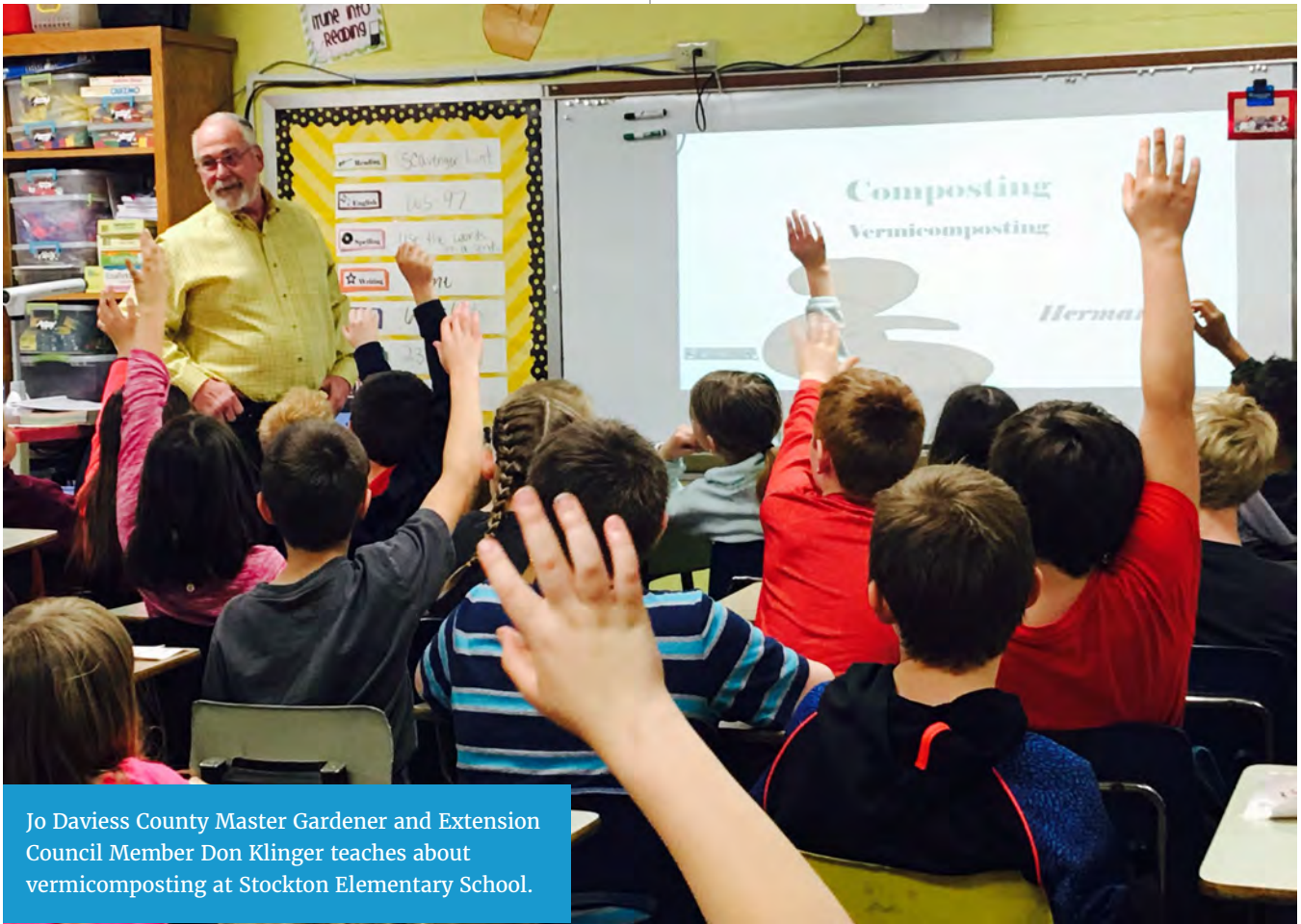
Extension Council Members

Our University of Illinois Extension unit spans Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties in the northwest corner of Illinois.

The Extension Council is authorized by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, in accordance with state law, to be actively involved in the operation of the University of Illinois Extension. Extension Councils cooperate with Extension staff in planning, promoting, developing, implementing, evaluating, and financing an Extension program designed to meet the needs, interests and resources of the local communities served.

University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs in five broad areas:

- › Energy and environmental stewardship
- › Food safety and security
- › Economic development and workforce preparedness
- › Family health, financial security, and wellness
- › Youth development



Jo Daviess County Master Gardener and Extension Council Member Don Klinger teaches about vermicomposting at Stockton Elementary School.



Extension Council Member Beth Baranski, demonstrates a rainfall simulator at an Extension cover crops program.

Extension Council Members

- Ms. Angie Goral, Rockford
- Ms. Faye Lyon, Rockford
- Mr. Jim Webster, Rockton
- Mr. Rick Dittmar, Elizabeth
- Ms. Beth Baranski, Galena
- Ms. Monica Pierce, Freeport
- Ms. Kevyn-Ann Sutter, Lena
- Mr. Don Klinger, Galena
- Mr. Don Kowalski, Rockford
- Mr. Mike Shore, Freeport
- Mr. Jeff White, Kirkland
- Mrs. Bev Haselhorst, Freeport
- Mrs. Chris Urish, Freeport
- Mr. Drew Groezinger, Stockton
- Ms. Jenny Quinones, Freeport
- Mr. Bob Deschepper, Rockford
- Ms. Martesha Brown, Rockford

Extension Council members serve as catalysts and leaders in shaping the vision for Extension in support of county/unit citizens.



Stanley (Jay) Solomon, Jr - Environmental and Energy Stewardship Educator

Energy Efficiency Programming

Energy efficiency education has been a part of winter preparation workshops, indoor air quality/moisture management, and home money saving workshops for many years. The common message was to make changes and improvements that have reasonable payback periods or increase the value of the home while providing better comfort.

Reducing air infiltration, lighting choices, and appliance upgrades have been major topics over the last few years. Consumers continue to be interested in learning more about selecting proper compact florescent or LED bulb upgrades to meet their needs, considerations for timely household appliances upgrades to save energy cost, and comparing the energy use of new appliances.

An Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) grant has provided resources and a focal point for reinvigorating our energy efficiency educational effort. ISEIF grants fund consumer education about new smart grid/smart meter technology and consumer energy programs based on the technology. Extension received \$250,000 to implement a statewide education effort involving six educators from across the state. The 2017 extension team consisted of the four energy and environmental stewardship educators and two community and economic development educators. Stanley Solomon was the primary investigator (PI) and project lead on the grant. Our core message has been, “Smart grid is really about the opportunity to make smart choices.”

Developing a solid connection between energy efficiency upgrades and energy savings has been difficult for many consumers. The lag time between making an upgrade and the connected energy use report (monthly bill) arrival has been as much as 30 45 days. Smart meter integrated technology offers a new opportunity to make this connection for the consumers with near real-time energy use and cost data available.

Consumers will be able to access hourly energy data within 24 to 48 hours of actual energy use, offering the potential to help many people quantify use and saving. Emerging consumer side technology will

Our core message has been “smart grid is really about the opportunity to make smart choices.”

**STANLEY (JAY) SOLOMON, JR.,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY
STEWARDSHIP EDUCATOR**

provide almost instant data to the consumer. With this technology, questions such as, “How much is an older large appliance costing me to run? Did I really save energy and cost by upgrading?” will be easy to answer with real, personalized energy use numbers.

The initial smart meter grant education project focuses on helping people access the information and consider various pricing structures offered to them. The various plans have the potential to save many consumers money without making significant changes to their current energy use. However, the long-term goal is to help area residents make better energy use choices, including energy efficiency improvements. Do more with less energy and/or cost!

The project has received approval for another year with \$228,000 in additional funds and the team will grow to at least eight educators from across the state.



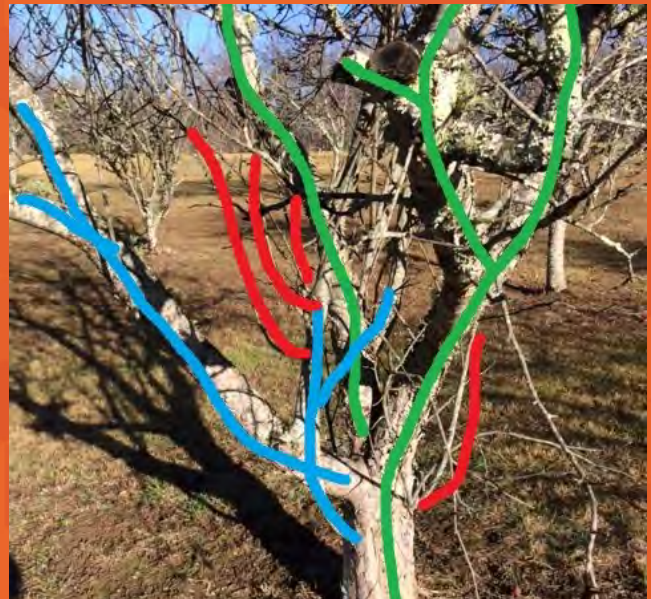


Apple Pruning Class

The Introduction to Apple Tree Pruning: Older and Neglected class was held in multiple locations during 2017. This course was designed for those with older apple trees where pruning had been neglected and ignored for many years. This was a need McCarty observed throughout the region and was hearing from local participants. A version of this course was also delivered on the Local Foods and Small Farms Team Winter Webinar Series with 117 participants throughout Illinois and from other states, receiving an additional 3,257 views on YouTube as of 5/22/2018. Collectively, this program was delivered to 87 participants in Jo Daviess (62 participants, 4 times), Stephenson (as part of Joys of Gardening, 27), and Winnebago (as part of Gardening for Food, Fun, and Flowers, 17). The Jo Daviess program was extended to include a discussion on insect and disease management.



Grant McCarty demonstrating pruning techniques during the Apple Pruning Class.



Participants send photos which are then edited with Microsoft Paint with different colors to show the structure of the tree. Green is the leader branch, blue are the scaffold branches, and red are suckers. This “coloring” method is reinforced throughout the program.

Before the course at all locations, McCarty asked participants to send in photos of their apple trees to markup using the Microsoft Paint program. This allowed McCarty to use a color coded system to draw the apple tree structure so participants could better understand the correct form they needed on their tree. This method (using Microsoft Paint) has not been used before in this region nor in any of the available literature. While some participants’ photos were sent to McCarty and used in the class, those that weren’t were sent back with markups and suggestions on what cuts to make. This consultation further connected McCarty with the participants in a better engagement and outreach. McCarty will be following up with them this winter to see how their trees are doing.

Additional comments from the course included, “We learned a great deal from this workshop”, “This was perfect for clearing up indecision on what to keep and what to sacrifice”, “Very informative meeting”, and “Very informative. Thank you.”

This class was held again in Oregon (twice) and Rockford (twice) in late 2017 and early 2018, respectively. Additional classes will be held in the fall of 2018.



University of Illinois Extension Educators Recognized for Small Farms Webinar Series

University of Illinois Extension educators that serve Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties were recognized on a statewide level by University of Illinois Extension for their contributions to the Small Farms Winter Webinar Series.

“The webinar series lets Extension educators cover a particular topic for new and experienced fruit, vegetable, livestock, and other farmers,” said Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Extension Educator and one of the educators recognized for his contributions. “Many of the topics are those that have been presented in person locally but were modified to be delivered statewide during the winter.”

Each week, a local foods and small farms educator, horticulture educator, or energy and environmental stewardship educator present a different topic for participants throughout the Midwest.

Along with McCarty, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator Jay Solomon, and Horticulture Educator Candice Hart, were recognized for the Team Excellence Award presented on November 30th at the University of Illinois Extension Annual Conference in Champaign.



Webinar Series

Each year, county, township, and municipal elected and appointed officials and administrators from across the state learn through the Local Government Education webinar series. Participants benefit from the advanced instruction and broad expertise that instructors bring to our programming, and from the question-and-answer session following each presentation. In 2017, 1,400 local government officials learned through the live webinars and program recordings on a variety of topics, including State and Federal legislative updates, Infrastructure for Economic Development, Disaster Recovery, Rural Youth Retention Strategies, and the Opioid Crisis in Illinois.



For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/lge

Developing the Creative Economy



Area residents interested in starting a creative-related small business attended a U of I Extension workshop co-sponsored by the Freeport Art Museum on April 26. This program was offered in support of local efforts to bring more business downtown, create jobs for young people in the community, and to diversify the workforce in the area.

Developing the Creative Economy was designed for community leaders and economic development professionals who want to tap into the creative talent in their communities to build viable businesses, adding to household income for the entrepreneur and increasing economic activity in the community. The program helps community leaders expand economic and entrepreneurial development by developing a culture that appreciates and supports the creative talents of residents, including those living in low-resource households. Creative entrepreneurs include artists, designers, musicians, boutique retailers, specialty food producers and other creative enterprises. “Artistic talents know no socio-economic boundaries. Creative people can contribute, regardless of educational attainment, income levels, mental or physical disability, race, ethnicity or gender,” stated Extension Educator Pam Schallhorn during the workshop.



Food Safety: Yes You Can! Preserve It Safely!

Several home-food preservation workshops were offered to the public by Nutrition and Wellness Educator Diane Reinhold during the spring and summer months. The ultimate goal of the Yes You Can! Preserve It Safely program is to ensure safe home-food preservation, preventing the incidence of foodborne related illnesses due to improperly handled food and/or outdated home food-preservation practices.

Programs offered this canning season included Freezing Your Summer Harvest, Water Bath and Pressure Canning Basics, and Preserving Practice: Jams and Jellies. Additionally, consumers had opportunities to have their pressure canner gauges tested for accuracy, which is critical for the prevention of botulism.

This program series benefits individuals, families and communities in a variety of ways. It provides opportunities for changes in knowledge, attitudes, skills, and/or intent to change which often leads to improved quality of life. Some of the areas of change include increased understanding of the USDA guidelines for home food preservation, change in home food preservation practices, reducing sodium intake by reducing sodium in canned goods, building family relationships by working together, and stress management, as many find gardening and canning enjoyable. These programs also encourage the purchase of produce from local farmers markets.



Programming for School Food Service Personnel

Through partnerships with both Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education, University of Illinois Extension is able to offer professional development and continuing education units to individuals working in school food service.

The ISBE project has enabled Nutrition and Wellness Educator Diane Reinhold, and Sustainable Nutrition Assistance Program Educator Carol Erickson to go into local school districts and provide in-person training to staff on a wide range of topics which satisfy the USDA professional standards. This is a huge benefit to community, as it helps our local school districts meet the necessary requirements without having the added expense of travel and seminars fees.

In 2017, 223 individuals were provided with continuing education through a variety of workshops, including The How and Why of School Meal Portions, Marketing of School Meals Inside and Out, Cashier Training; Recognizing the Reimbursable Meal at Point of Service, and the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification Course.

U of I Extension meets the needs of local community stakeholders by providing low-cost programs focused on food safety, such as the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification course. This in-person course allows individuals to obtain the necessary eight hours of training followed by the two-hour examination required by the State of Illinois. This training is required for both the initial Food Service Sanitation Manager certification, and for the recertification, which is required every 5 years.

Color Me Healthy Curriculum

Community Worker Barb Curry presented the Color Me Healthy Curriculum to SNAP-Ed income eligible preschool classes in Freeport. The curriculum engages children ages four and five to learn about nutrition and physical activity. The information helps to stimulate their senses using color, music and exploration of their senses to teach children that healthy eating and physical activity are fun. The curriculum explores a variety of foods and beverages for good health, including unfamiliar and culturally diverse foods.

Parent handouts in English and Spanish were provided and reinforce the messages presented in the classroom. The information was presented to the children using picture cards and singing songs along with imagination trips (to the farm, grocery store, beach, etc.). The program was offered at Amity Day Care, Head Start, YCC Children's Center, Lincoln/Douglas School PASS, and Center School PASS for a total of 22 classes. At this age, many times it is getting the students to want to try something unfamiliar to them. Touch it, smell it, taste it. Hum – it could be good.

USDA Smarter Lunchroom Assessments

The SNAP program helps low income people and families buy food they need for good health. Program Coordinator Gina Adams works to identify critical priority needs and issues to be addressed through the SNAP program. One of the programs that we offered is USDA Smarter Lunchroom Assessments. The Smarter Lunchroom Movement has championed the use of evidence-based, simple, low and no-cost changes to lunchrooms, which can simultaneously improve participation and profits while decreasing waste. A Smarter Lunchroom is one that nudges students towards selecting and eating nutritious foods. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) feeds over 30 million children. This program is an opportunity for kids to select and consume a balanced diet. The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement applies research-based principles that lead children to make healthy choices when provided with the full spectrum of choice.

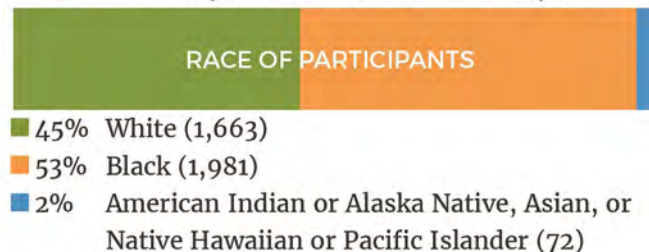
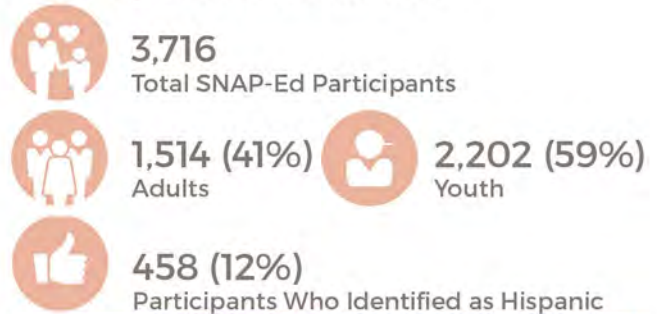
The strategies that the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement endorses have been studied and proven effective in a variety of schools across the nation. The Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs (B.E.N. Center) applies research from the Cornell Food and Brand Lab to school lunchrooms. Research is an ongoing process and there is a great deal of related research available from the Cornell Food and Brand Lab!



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION (SNAP-Education)

SNAP-Education works with limited-resource audiences to make healthier choices where they eat, shop, live, play and learn in their communities. Through classes and workshops, and by working towards policy, systems, and environmental changes, SNAP-Education positively impacts the nutrition and activity choices of people and communities we serve.

Serving Local Residents



Our Partners





Produce Prescription Program Piloted at GPS Farmers Market

What do a prescription pad, a nutrition class, and a farmers market have in common? They are all part of a pilot project that rewards Crusader Clinic participants with vouchers to purchase fresh produce after attending weekly nutrition classes. Advising adults to eat more fruits and vegetables makes sense for better health but is a hard sell for families with limited incomes. The prescription produce program literally provided the carrot to increasing fruit and vegetable consumption.

The four-week pilot project was a collaboration between GPS Farmers Market, Crusader Clinic/Loves Park, and University of Illinois Extension/SNAP Education. The project was funded through a grant intended to expand SNAP participation at GPS Farmer Market in Machesney Park. Their market is one of four markets in the Rockford area that accepts SNAP benefits.



I was surprised how much I liked eggplant and butternut squash. I never bought them because I didn't know what to do with them.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

GPS Farmer Market used grant money to procure “produce prescription pads”, fresh fruits and vegetables for cooking class, and weekly vouchers to be used at the market. Crusader Clinic dietitian Jennifer Atterbury gave “produce prescriptions” to adult patients who could benefit from eating more fresh produce. The “prescription” advised patients to eat more fruit and vegetables and invited them to a weekly nutrition class.

Carol Erickson coordinated the project and led the nutrition classes at GPS Community Church. Participants were introduced to seasonal produce and learned how to prepare it. Weekly recipes featured variety of late summer produce like zucchini, summer squash, apples, eggplant, spaghetti squash and butternut squash. After each class participants received a voucher for \$5 to be redeemed at the farmers’ market.

One success of the class was when participants would come to class and show pictures of the recipes they had made at home using produce from the farmers market. “This is the most vegetables I have ever cooked,” claimed one participant. “I was surprised how much I liked eggplant and butternut squash. I never bought them because I didn’t know what to do with them.”



Galena School District has experienced an influx of non-traditional students over the past decade, many of whom are first or second generation immigrants to America. Approximately 75 students are enrolled in their English Language Learner (ELL) program, a school-based program which helps ensure academic success but isn't designed to help students culturally integrate with their peers. At the same time, students from long-term Galena resident families have embraced their new peers with little conflict but they haven't been provided with any support or training to help them navigate differences between cultures, leading to occasional cross-cultural misunderstandings and self-segregation. In response, Galena Middle School reached out to Jackie de Batista, 4-H Youth Development Educator, to provide cultural competency training to their 250 middle school students with the goal of increasing multicultural interaction, understanding and acceptance.

De Batista taught nine classes from the 4-H curriculum entitled WeConnect: A Global Youth Citizenship Curriculum to all Galena Middle School students over a 5-month period. Topics included defining culture and cultural identity, discovering and celebrating one's own culture, evaluating cultural perceptions and assumptions, combating stereotypes, finding common ground between cultures, and embracing difference. A 17-question

evaluation was submitted to all participants at the end of the program; results showed an overall increase in cultural competency as follows:

- › 5th grade: 12% increase
- › 6th grade: 14% increase
- › 7th grade: 9% increase
- › 8th grade: 14% increase



De Batista will continue to collaborate with Galena Middle School in the 2018-19 school year to build upon this initial success.



Galena Middle School reached out to Jackie de Batista, 4-H Youth Development Educator, to provide cultural competency training to their 250 middle school students.

4-H Demographics	Winnebago	Stephenson	Jo Daviess
Clubs	16	14	8
Members	391	352	170
Cloverbud Members	36	60	32
Male	157	154	78
Female	234	198	92
Residence:			
Farm	83	152	85
Town < 10,000	109	151	80
City > 10,000	199	49	5
Members enrolled in:			
Livestock Projects	154	230	141
General Projects	324	281	159



Annie Hobson, 4-H Youth Development Educator
& Mia Chase, 4-H Tech Wizards Site Coordinator

Metro Youth Development Programming Readies Youth for Careers

Annie Hobson, 4-H youth development educator and Mia Chase-4-H, Tech Wizards site coordinator, work to connect with community leaders, schools, youth organizations, and STEM businesses in Rockford to enhance the learning experiences for youth involved in the Tech Wizards Program. Furthermore, Hobson provides youth leadership training to youth agencies within the Rockford community. Hobson meets with youth and organizations, teachers, and support staff to discuss and create youth leadership opportunities through curriculum development, which emphasizes competency, confidence, connection, character, and compassion.

Through these key facets, Hobson has created and implemented programs such as women's leadership, police academy, cooking in the class, arts through culture, farming in the class, and getting the job. Hobson's leadership activities includes a 4-lesson "mini-series" where 5th grade students dive directly into tough topics such as bullying, positive-decision making, personal health/hygiene, and respecting self. Students are challenged to evaluate these topics through the lenses of teachers, parents, the community, and finally, self.

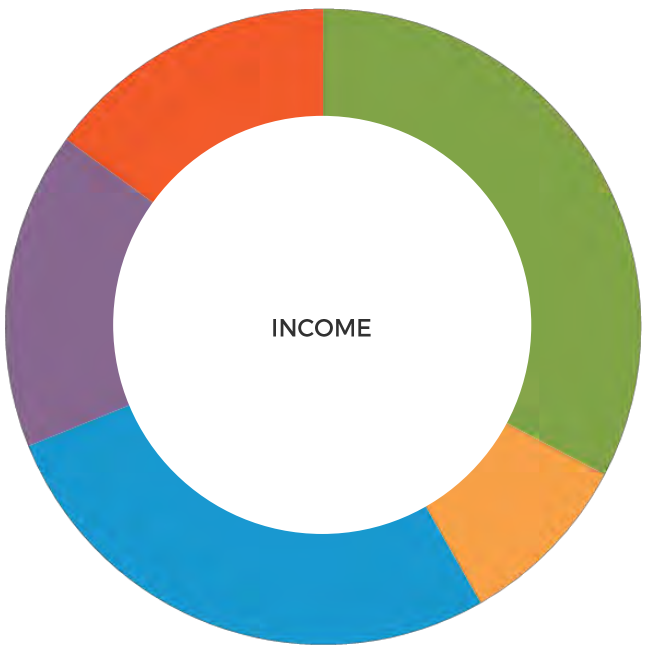
The program is designed to make students more aware of their choices, and it equips them with effective tools that they can use when these issues arise. Hobson has also worked with youth agencies to provide one-on-one trainings to staff members on how to apply youth development methods to behavior management, creating inclusive environments, and time management. Hobson has worked with nearly 300 youth through leadership programs, and more than ten schools and youth-serving agencies. Chase has served more than 200 youth through her STEM outreach efforts, which also includes STEM training for external and internal staff.

The Rockford Public School District strives to engage our youth in exceptional educational opportunities. One way that this goal is accomplished is through the College & Career



Academies, which are small learning environments that link high school youth to real-life experiences through local businesses, community leaders, and local professionals. As our community grows, so does the need to prepare our future leaders for the workforce. One of the academies, EMITT (Engineering, Manufacturing, Industrial and Trades Technology), has a direct link to our 4-H Tech Wizards program.

Tech Wizards is a STEM-focused program that allow youth ages, 11-18 to engage in high quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning experiences in robotics, aerospace, wind energy, 3-D printing, GPS technology, solar power, digital and video photography, and computer programming. These hands-on learning opportunities allow our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to discover and create solutions to real life issues using technology. Additionally, this program connects academically at -risk youth to learning through a fun and innovative approach. Youth are able to integrate classroom science and math lessons with Tech Wizard's sessions. This strengthens their understanding and confidence and it increases their ability to succeed.



■ \$327,000	County Board
■ \$90,431	Local Donations
■ \$271,330	State
■ \$161,522	Self-Supporting Funds
■ \$149,649	FNP/Federal

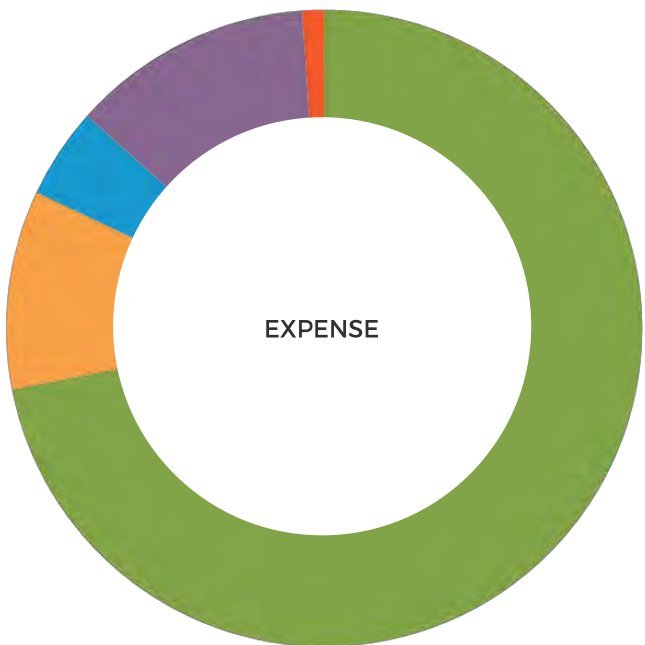
University of Illinois Extension in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties is very fortunate to have the support of many individuals and organizations in our communities. This includes our local funders. In addition to federal and state funding, we also receive financial support from Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties.

In addition, the following organizations provide needed local financial support of our programs:

- Jo Daviess County 4-H and Extension Foundation (501 c-3)
- Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation (501 c-3)
- Winnebago County 4-H Showboard (501 c-3)
- Winnebago County 4-H and Extension Foundation (501 c-3)

These organizations work closely with local Extension staff to ensure that programming can continue to serve area residents of all ages and walks of life.

We are also extremely appreciative of financial support received from the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau.



■ \$719,007	Salaries / Wages
■ \$101,125	Rent / Utilities
■ \$46,000	Travel
■ \$122,800	Program Expenses
■ \$11,000	Equipment



Dean Kidwell Visit

On June 16, 2017, Dr. Kim Kidwell, dean of the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) spent the day in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties, meeting with staff, volunteers, elected officials, and supporters. The dean and other members of Extension and ACES administration started their day at the Winnebago County office in the morning and then travelled to Northwest Community Center to interact (not just observe) with programs being led by SNAP, Tech Wizards, and youth development staff, as well as Master Gardener volunteers. Next stop was the Stephenson County office, where Extension Council members and unit staff gathered for a presentation by the dean and the opportunity to discuss Extension work in the area.



In the afternoon, thirty members of the ag community, including producers, agribusiness leaders, students and education officials met at Keltner Farms to have a conversation with the dean about the College of ACES and Extension and their impact on the community.



Dean Kidwell, a wheat breeder, was thrilled to step into the wheat field next to the barn!



This was followed by a stop at Groezinger's Produce Farm in rural Stockton, learning about the successful enterprise which is the outgrowth of a 4-H project.

That evening, Extension staff were pleased to attend an Alumni Services ACES in Places event at Willow Valley Dairy Farm, hosted by the Lawfer family of Kent. Dean Kidwell shared her vision for ACES, her support for Extension, and her gratitude for all the support of the alumni who attended. This concluded the Dean's 12+ hour day learning about Extension in northwest Illinois.





Alpine Bank Donation to Extension



Jay Solomon and Yijie Xiong at Certified Livestock Manager Training



Master Gardeners Shirlee Iverson and Marcy Wessels give a tour of the Don Opel Arboretum to the Lake Summerset Garden Club.



Master Gardeners, Garnet Fee, Laurie Gothard-Zueger and Don Klinger take vermicomposting to the classroom.



Creating with Grapevines class taught by Master Gardener Sharon Cahill



Winnebago County Master Naturalist Awards Dinner





OFFICE LOCATIONS

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