

The Quarterly Update

Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash & Wayne Counties

April 2022 - Volume 2 - Issue 1

COUNTY DIRECTOR UPDATE



Hello Spring! After the snow and ice this past winter I think we can all say we are ready for the warmer weather and all that it brings. We have new farm babies arriving in our 5-county area and 4-H kids learning to care for them.

4-H Staff are busy finishing up spring workshops and preparing for summer shows/fairs. Master Gardeners are working on spring and summer presentations, workshops, and projects. SNAP-Ed staff are continuing to provide support and information for their sites and preparing for cooking schools this summer.

Time got away from us after the holidays so in this issue you will find highlights of different activities from October of 2021 - March of 2022.

As you read this issue of the Quarterly Update, I invite you to reach out to me with any questions on programming or to see how Extension can help you.



Thank you for your continued support of University of Illinois Extension!



Tara Buerster

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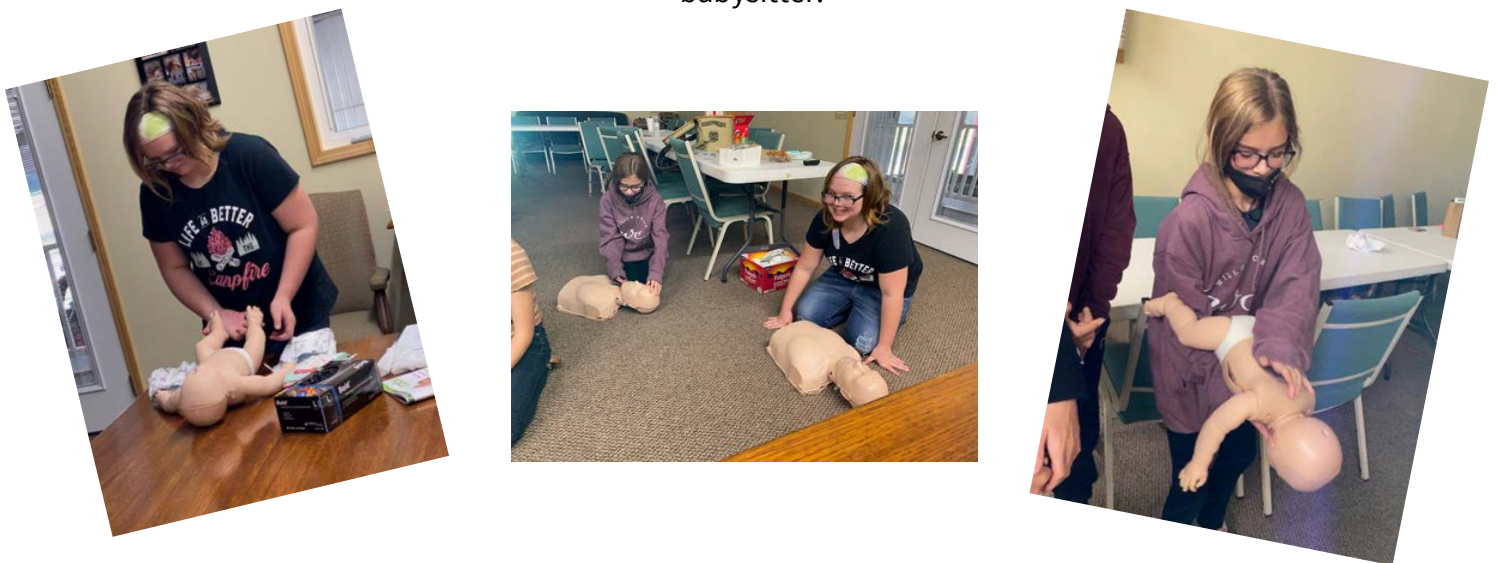
4-H IN A BAG MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

We had such a success with our monthly “4-H In a Bag” activities in 2020 and early 2021, we decided to start them again for this past fall and winter. Once again, kits were put together for those participating and then a 4-H Coordinator did a live lesson that is broadcast on our Extension Facebook page. November started off with “DNA Extraction Lab”, in December participants made Window Clings. January brought "Mystery Messages", followed by a crystal snowflake project in February and a final lesson in March on "Gardening in a Glove".



Child and Babysitting Clinic with Basic First Aid and CPR

The Wayne County Extension office and Fairfield Rural Fire Department collaborated to host a Child and Babysitting Clinic with Basic First Aid and CPR. We had 6 youth who took advantage of this opportunity and was able to get their certification in CPR, to make them a more responsible babysitter.





Lawrence County 4-H Honored Those Who Served

Lawrence County 4-H believes in honoring the Veteran's of the community and the retiring of the American flag. That is why 22 Lawrence County 4-H members and Red Hill High School FFA members placed 407 American flags on Veteran's graves at the Bridgeport Cemetery. Each Veteran was honored as members placed flags, they thanked them for their service. Members of Lawrence County 4-H and Red Hill High School continued to honor Veteran's during the flag retiring ceremony that was held at the Bridgeport First United Methodist Church Parking lot where they retired 40 large flags and 120 grave flags.



Wayne County 4-H Members participated in Veteran's Day Parade

Wayne County 4-H celebrated Veteran's Day by participating in the Veteran's Day Parade in Fairfield. 4-H members along with Wayne County 4-H Coordinator, Yvette Anderson, carried the county 4-H banner and tossed out candy to those in attendance.



The month of December was very busy with various workshops in our 5-County Unit. 4-H and non-4-H members enjoyed making ornaments, candy, gnomes, wreaths and other items. Most items were donated to local nursing homes or senior living centers.





NATIONAL 4-H WEEK



Edwards, Lawrence, Wabash and Wayne Counties 4-H programs celebrated National 4-H week October 3rd -9th with many fun activities. Richland County celebrated 4-H week recently, February 28th-March 6th, with several activities for their members.

Airbrush Cake Decorating

In March Ashley Spray taught an Airbrush Cake Decorating workshop at the Extension office in Edwards County. Several Youth attended and went home with some neatly designed cakes. Those in attendance had a great time and their families were able to enjoy some yummy cake that was airbrushed just for them during the workshop.





Wabash County Livestock Judging Club

Wabash County 4-H started a new Livestock Judging Club this year. The members and leaders have been working hard and in March attended their first contest of the year at Lake Land College. The team placed 11th out of 62 teams. We are very proud of this new club and will be anxious to see how they do at future competitions.



Richland County Members join Illinois 4-H Healthy Teen Ambassador Team



Pictured Above: Olivia Zwilling and below: Karlee Piercefield.



2021 brought the development of Illinois 4-H Healthy Teen Ambassadors. Richland County 4-H members Victoria Zwilling and Karlee Piercefield were among the 15 ambassadors who attended the National 4-H Summit for Healthy Living. The summit brought teens from across the county together virtually to help teens develop knowledge and skills to address today's issues facing nutrition education, physical fitness, and wellness. Both Zwilling and Piercefield gained skills to become healthy living changemakers in their community.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- April 5th - First Aid & Farm Safety Workshop - Wabash County
- April 15- Green Tree Grant Tree Planting - Edwards County
- April 21 - SPARK at the Olney Library on Wind Energy - Richland County
- April 23 - Barrow Boosters Showpig Clinic - Edwards County
- April 23 - Rabbit Workshop - Wabash County
- April 25-26 - Conservation Days at Sam Dale Lake - Wayne County
- May 26 - SPARK at the Olney Library on Creating a Lightning Bug - Richland County
- June 10 - Dog Show - Richland County
- June 10 - Cat Show - Richland County
- June 13 - Food & Clothing Show - Edwards County
- June 20 - Decorated Food Show - Lawrence County



- July 9-16 - Wayne County Fair
- July 16 - 22 - Wabash County Fair
- July 20 - 30 - Edwards County Fair
- July 22 - 30 - Richland County Fair
- July 30 - August 5 - Lawrence County Fair



Fairfield Monthly Classes

SNAP-Ed Community Workers have continued to offer monthly nutrition classes at the Wayne County Extension office.



Looking ahead for the SNAP-Ed program

SNAP-Ed Community Workers are currently conducting direct education and participating in information booths at their sites throughout the 5-county area. This summer they will also be working on the following:

- Summer Cooking School - 2 weeks in June
- Assisting Unit 24 and providing lessons in their counties.
- Partnering with Purdue University and their Reaching Rural Veterans Program for Wabash County.

Canner Lid Testing

Again this summer our Unit will provide Canner Lid Testing for pressure canners with dial gauges. The Edwards and Wayne County Offices will be available to test canner lids all summer.

Richland, Lawrence and Wabash will have specific testing dates. More information on testing dates will be available after May 1st.



Canning Workshop



Food prices and food availability have you concerned? Have you always wanted to can your own produce but never learned? Do you know how to can but would like to refresh your skills? In June Illinois Extension Educator, Mary Liz Wright, will be conducting a Canning Workshop on basic canning and preserving safely. The workshop will be held in Mt. Carmel. Watch our website and facebook page for more information.



Meet Some of Our Master Gardeners

Darla Bradham, Master Gardener

Darla Bradham finished her volunteer and continuing education hours in December 2021 to become a Master Gardener. Darla lives in West Salem with her husband, Jeff, and has two sons, Austin Rodgers and Daniel Rodgers, 2 wonderful grandchildren and another grand baby due in April.

When asked why she became interested in the Master Gardener program, Darla simply said, "I love flowers!! I remember when my youngest son was in junior high, his friends thought we were rich because we had flowers. (I was a single mother) Most of the flowers were given to me." Darla says she has liked everything about the Master Gardener program so far, except for the poison ivy!

Elliot and Samantha Brazil, Master Gardener Interns

Elliot and Samantha Brazil are Master Gardener Interns from Olney. Samantha and Elliot both love to garden and spend time outside. Elliot also really enjoys primitive camping/hiking with his friends.

When asked why they were interested in becoming a Master Gardeners, Elliot said "It's a nice cross-section of our interest in gardening/plants along with helping to beautify our community and bring awareness/exposure to the joys of growing things!"

Elliot and Samantha are interested in beautifying their small community and getting exposure to gardening (both edible plants and flowers etc.) to the youth in their community either through the local schools or through community gardens.

Karley Dagg, Master Gardener Intern

Karley Dagg, from Cisne, became a Master Gardener Intern after finishing her training in December 2021. Karley says she has always taken an interest in studying plants, especially to learn more about specific plants that can be deadly allergens. Ironically, she is allergic to several plant species. Karley plans to work towards her graduate degree in forensics with a focus in botany and aspires to work in forensic botany, the utilization of plants in criminal investigations.

Karley said she became interested in the Master Gardener program because she has always enjoyed serving in her community. "I knew that it was important to me when returning from college to do something in my free time to teach others in my community about plants. The Master Gardener opportunity allows me to continue to learn and perfect my own skills while helping others."

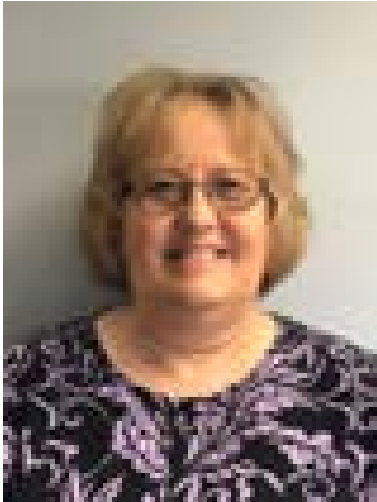
Karley is looking forward to facilitating classes for small groups or individuals or offering one-day courses in summer kid camp programs. She is also interested in beginning a monthly newsletter focused on backyard plantings to help community gardeners appreciate the importance of each plant in their unique garden.

Master Gardener Program Growing

As of January 2022, we now have 2 Master Gardeners, 3 Master Gardener Interns in our Unit and 2 Master Gardener Trainees, who started their coursework in early February. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please reach out to Tara Buerster, buerste2@illinois.edu, or Dana Hart, dbhart@illinois.edu.



Jane Jones join Illinois Extension as Community Worker for SNAP-Education Program



Jane Jones joined Illinois Extension in November as a SNAP-Education Community Worker. Jane joins the Extension family with many years of field experience working with youth and families in various capacities. Her agricultural connections and appreciation for the foods we consume provides a great platform for teaching nutrition education. Jane resides in Ellery with her husband, Tony. She will be providing nutrition education for Wayne and Edwards counties.

Sam Gaither taking on a new role as the 4-H Youth Development Educator for Unit

Sam Gaither is not new to Illinois Extension, but on January 6th she started a new role as the 4-H Youth Development Educator for our Unit. Sam is very passionate about 4-H and Youth Development as a 4-H Alumni, 4-H Mom, and over nine years of service as an 4-H Youth Development Extension Program Coordinator serving in Crawford and Lawrence counties. She will serve as the Youth Development Educator for all five counties. Sam resides in Lawrenceville with her husband Ben, and daughters Makinzie and Haley.





Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne-Counties

County Director



Tara Buerster
County Director
Unit 25

Office Support



Theresa Reid
Office Support Associate
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Debbie Buchanan
Office Support Assistant
Lawrence County



Dana Hart
Office Support Assistant
Wabash / Edwards County



Sheri Pitts
Office Support Assistant
Richland County



Jessica Simpson
Office Support Assistant
Wayne County

4-H Youth Development



Sam Gaither
4-H Youth Development
Educator



Yvette Anderson
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Wayne



Debra Collier
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Edwards

Vacant
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Lawrence

Vacant
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Richland



Megan Pierson
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Wabash

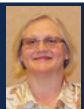
SNAP-Ed



Kirby Hunt
SNAP-Ed Community Worker
Richland County



Jane Jones
SNAP-Ed Community Worker
Wayne/Edwards Counties



Carol VanMatre
SNAP-Ed Community Worker
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