

The Quarterly Update

Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash & Wayne Counties

January 2023 - Volume 3 - Issue 1

COUNTY DIRECTOR UPDATE

Winter time, typically a time to reflect and slow down a bit, but in Extension I think we all feel like it's full speed ahead as we conduct programming and plan for the upcoming spring and summer.

Staff in both 4-H/Youth Development and SNAP-Education are busy providing workshops, trainings and informational sessions. Our Master Gardeners are working on upcoming plans for spring/summer workshops and activities. Our Unit is also planning to expand educational programming into other Extension program areas this year.

We also have one office preparing to move. The Edwards County Extension office will be moving to the square, in Albion, in a few short months and we are very excited about the new opportunities that will await us on North 5th Street.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of our County Boards, Council, Foundations, Volunteers and other partners in our five counties. Your support helps us continue our mission to bring programming to our five counties to allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to change and opportunities.



Tara Buerster
County Director
buerste2@illinois.edu



CONNECT WITH US!



Email us at: uie-elrww@illinois.edu



Edwards: 618-445-2934
Lawrence: 618-943-5018
Richland: 618-395-2191
Wabash: 618-262-5725
Wayne: 618-842-3702



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*4-H Wabash County, Illinois
*University of Illinois Extension -
Wayne County 4-H



Youth Development

Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne Counties



Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash and Wayne counties' 4-H programs celebrated National 4-H Week October 2nd through the 8th with many fun activities. Themes for each day of the week were: Service Sunday, Member Monday, Time Machine Tuesday, Why 4-H Wednesday, Thankful Thursday, and Favorite Project Friday.

4-H Achievement Nights

4-H Achievement Nights were held in each of our 5 counties throughout October and November. This is a special evening to celebrate our members hard work and accomplishments and also recognize our Volunteers and Friends of 4-H. Awards were handed out and members and their families were able to enjoy the evening together.



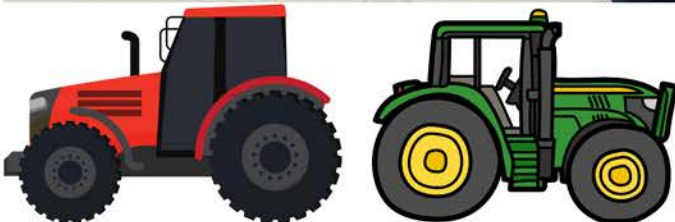
Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Tractor Safety Course in Richland County

In November, youth participated in a Tractor Safety Course at the Richland County Extension Office. The course meets the U.S. Department of Labor and Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture (HOOA) requirements that identify certain agricultural tasks as particularly hazardous when performed by youth under the age of 16. GEARING UP FOR SAFETY is designed to meet the current training requirements that includes classroom lessons, written test, operational test and certification upon completion. If you know someone under 16 interested in this course, please be watching for the dates for our Winter Session!



Veterans Flags in Lawrence County



Each November, Lawrence County 4-H members meet prior to Veteran's Day and place flags on the Veteran's graves at

Bridgeport Cemetery. This year 4-H members placed 407 flags at the cemetery. The members also take part in the flag retiring ceremony helping retire several flags from their community. We enjoy teaching our youth about honoring the flag and all of those who served.

Matt Bare named 4-H Food Advocate of the Month

In October, Matt Bare, member of the Bone Gap Cardinal Club in Edwards County, was named 4-H Food Advocate of the month. Matt wrote for and received a \$1,000 grant to help stock the Zion Food Pantry in West Salem. Matt has been a 4-H member for four years and has shown himself to be a natural leader for both his club and other members in 4-H.





Wabash County Painting Workshop

In November we partnered with Creative Space from Albion to teach a painting lesson in Wabash County. Each child left with an agriculture-themed painted canvas. While each canvas was the same image to paint we saw the creativity start to flow within the kids and each picture took on some individuality. The kids enjoyed the evening and we appreciate Creative Space taking time out of their evening to teach this workshop.



Wayne County Welding Visit



In November the Enterprisers Club hosted a Welding Workshop. The kids learned how to use a torch, a plasma cutter, and how to arc weld. The workshop was taught by David Hutchcraft and Wayne County Farm Bureau donated welding gloves for all kids in attendance.

Lawrence County Ambassadors assist Ag in the Classroom

Lawrence County 4-H Ambassadors helped Lawrence County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom with a lesson to 4th graders in December.





Wabash County Ornament Workshop

On December 1st we had an evening of crafting and fun and made ornaments in Wabash County. Each child in attendance made 4 ornaments. They could keep one to take home and the other 3 were donated to Oakview Nursing Home for the holidays.



Wayne County 4-H Volunteering at the Park Christmas Lights



On December 9th, Wayne County 4-H members and 4-H Leader, Yvette Anderson, worked the Festival of Lights at Leo French Park collecting donations for Volunteers for a Progressive Fairfield.

GEM Lessons at St. Joe

4-H Youth Development Educator, Samantha Gaither, and Richland County 4-H EPC, Ryan Littlejohn, taught Get Experience in Mindfulness (GEM) classes to the 6th graders at St. Joseph Catholic School during the month of December.



State Junior Leadership 4-H Conference

We had three Richland County Youth attend the State Junior Leadership Conference in October. It was a busy weekend full of learning, public speaking skills, making dog toys from t-shirts as a community service project and making pumpkin pie in a bag.





Edwards County Tech Fest

On Friday, October 28th, the Edwards County fifth graders participated in the 8th Annual Tech Fest. The University of Illinois Extension sponsored the County wide event. The event took place at the House of Prayer Church in Albion. A total of 69 kids participated in the STEM activities.

All 5th graders from Albion Grade School, West Salem Grade School and area Home School groups participated. The day was fun filled and busy learning about technology, science and engineering.

The day began with a presentation by Brian Koontz of Elastec Corporation. Elastec, builds oil containment booms for cleanup of oil spills. Brian did an outstanding job showing the students how their equipment works, and how it helps keep the environment clean.

The students had four sessions they attended. The sessions included, Boat Challenge, Catapults, Eco-Bot Challenge, and EV3 Robot. Some activities presented were 4-H National Youth Science Experiments and helped them develop math skills, learn engineering concepts, determine the most effective environmental clean-up solution for a simulated toxic spill, and have fun working together.

The University of Illinois Extension office would like to THANK the volunteers/sponsors that made this event possible. House of Prayer for use of their facility, Edwards County Farm Bureau for sponsoring the Eco-Bot Challenge, 4-H Leader Kathy St. Ledger and AITC Coordinator Mackenzie Kiewitt for teaching the Eco-Bot station, and local school administrations for allowing their students to take part.





Wabash County Fall Fun Fest

Wabash County 4-H hosted their annual 4-H fall fun fest on Tuesday, October 4th, during National 4-H week. It was great to see so many of our Wabash County 4-H'ers and some new faces. During the fall fun fest, we were able to talk about the Wabash County 4-H program and all the different opportunities we have to offer. The youth got to make some yummy caramel apples, enjoy some hotdogs, and have several different hands-on activity booths we had set up.



Holiday Fun in Lawrence County

Some holiday fun was had in Lawrence County in December for the 4-H Holiday Workshop.

Youth made stocking cap ornaments, reindeer puppy chow, brownie pops, ornaments for the nursing home and cards for the hospital. Everyone had a great time in this holiday/community service workshop as they prepared for the holiday break.



LOOKING AHEAD...

- Wednesdays (Jan-March): Fly to the Sky Workshops - Richland County
- January 11 - Spark at the Library - Paper Horses - Lawrence County
- January 14 - Genealogy Workshop - Lawrence County
- January 16 - Public Speaking Workshop - Edwards County
- January 16 - Tag-A-Long Workshop - Edwards County
- January 18 - Spark at the Library - Paper Horses - Richland County
- January 28 - Cake Decorating - Wayne County
- February 4 - Beef Weigh-In - Lawrence, Richland, and Wabash Counties
- February 5 - Beef Weigh-In - Edwards County
- February 8 - Spark at the Library - Paper Hearts - Lawrence County
- February 15 - Spark at the Library - Paper Hearts - Richland County
- February 20 - Speech & Demonstration Contest - Edwards County
- March 8 - Spark at the Library - Pool Noodle Plane - Lawrence County
- March 11 - Tractor Safety - Edwards County
- March 15 - Spark at the Library - Pool Noodle Plane - Richland County
- March 20 & 27 - Salad Workshop - Edwards County

West Salem Grade School utilizes SNAP Education Programs

West Salem Grade School has partnered with University of Illinois Extension to offer Nutrition Education to students. This school qualifies for services with 50% of the student body eligible to receive supplemental food assistance.

Kindergarten through second grade classes are utilizing the Organ Wise Guys Curriculum. Students are introduced to the main body organs, the function of those organs, and how to keep these valuable organs healthy. Students enjoy a fun story based on the Organ characters.

Third through fifth grade classes are utilizing the Serving Up My Plate curriculum. This curriculum introduces the United States Department of Agriculture My Plate to students. Interactive hands-on activities build off the My Plate concepts to make this a fun way for students to learn healthy eating habits and choices.

The nutrition education materials are taught by Community Worker, Jane Jones, monthly to students throughout the school year.



EAT.MOVE.SAVE Booths

Community Workers have been busy at local food pantries and health fairs with their Eat Move Save Booths focusing on My Plate and nutritious family meals. SNAP-Ed Community workers interact with the clients throughout the events, discussing family meals, their challenges and benefits. Children are given the opportunity to explore food pictures and create a plate of colorful food using all the food groups.



Carol VanMatre honored with two awards at State INEP Conference

Carol VanMatre, SNAP-Ed Community Worker, received two awards during the State INEP Conference held in Champaign in October. The first award was the Team Player Award. This award is granted to those individuals who value the team's success above their own individual success. They work well in a group and strive to display a helpful, cooperative, and positive attitude toward co-workers at all levels. Carol's second award was the Ace of Innovation – Digital Medium Award. This is awarded for overall excellence in providing and implementing programming to reach audiences via Digital Medium over the past two years.

Thank you Carol for all you do and congratulations on your awards!



Kirby Hunt has been busy teaching kids and adults

Kirby Hunt, SNAP-Ed Community Worker, has been busy teaching Organ Wise Guys at RCES for the kindergarten classes, Serving Up My Plate for 3rd grade, and EATPLAYGROW for adults & children 6 & under, for families at Head Start and KidZone. She also offers classes at the library for the public, as well as Catch Kids Club classes for K-5th grade at the library.

She is also teaching adult classes. Monthly, she teaches My Plate My Family at SWAN & WIC, along with having monthly EATMOVESAVE booths at WIC, Master's Hands, Olney Public Library, and the SIHF Medical Clinic.





Estate Planning Series in Richland County

In October, Illinois Extension and the Richland County Homemakers Education Association put on an Estate Planning seminar series entitled "Preparing for End of Life Issues". The series ran for 4 weeks and had speakers from the areas of Hospice, Funeral Home, Investments, Secretary of State, Insurance, Legal, Banking and Taxes. The sessions were well attended and a lot of valuable information was given to those in attendance. The series was well received and we are planning future seminar series on this topic for other counties.



*Thank you to our panel of presenters:
Roni Lambird,
Sherry Harder,
David Lobacz,
Travil Hall,
Bart Zuber,
Julie Herring,
Elizabeth Geier, and
Kara Webber.*



Annual Extension Conference

Illinois Extension hosted their annual conference face-to-face, for the first time since 2019. The 2-day conference was held November 15-16 at the I-Hotel Conference Center in Champaign. Keynote speaker was Dr. Marshall Stewart from University of Missouri Extension. Several informative breakout sessions were also held. A group of staff from our unit attended in-person, with the remaining staff attending virtually via zoom.



L to R: Ryan Littlejohn, Megan Pierson, Theresa Reid, Samantha Gaither, Dana Hart, and Tara Buerster



Logan Kennard Hired As New Wabash County 4-H Youth Development EPC

We are excited to announce that Logan Kennard has been hired as the new Wabash County 4-H Youth Development Extension Program Coordinator and started working on January 4, 2023. Logan is a native of Wabash County and has strong ties to the Wabash County 4-H program and Wabash County Junior Fair. Logan attended Southern Illinois University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education, with a minor in Animal Science. While attending college, Logan was a member of the SIU Livestock Judging Team. Since graduating, Logan has taught 8th grade Science and high school Agriculture courses and served as the leader for the Wabash County 4-H Livestock Judging Team.



Ryan Littlejohn Transferring to Wayne County as New 4-H Youth Development EPC



Ryan Littlejohn, 4-H Program Coordinator for our Unit in Richland County, and currently covering Wayne County, will be transferring to the Wayne County office permanently as of January 17th.

Ryan has been working for Illinois Extension for almost a year now and brought a lot of new and exciting things to Richland County 4-H during his time there. Ryan is a 3rd generation 4-H member and a Kansas 4-H Alumni. Ryan has an extensive background working in agriculture and with youth and volunteers. Ryan and his wife, Hallie (Anderson) Littlejohn, are very excited about getting back to the area and working with the youth of Wayne County.



County Director



Tara Buerster
County Director
Unit 25

Office Support



Theresa Reid
Office Support Associate
(Fiscal) Edwards County



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



Samantha Gaither
4-H Youth Development
Educator



Debra Collier
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Edwards



Logan Kennard
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Wabash



Ryan Littlejohn
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Wayne



Maisie McClure
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Lawrence

Vacant
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator-Richland

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
Wabash/Lawrence Counties

Office Support Extra Help

Annie Buckles
Bea Kibler
Amanda Loveland
Lauren Russell
Renee Smith
Deb Sterchi
Debbie Webb

Edwards County
350 North Seventh St.
Albion, IL. 62806
(618)-445-2934

Lawrence County
10722 Cherry Blvd.
Lawrenceville, IL. 62439
(618)-943-5018

Richland County
306 South Fair St.
Olney, IL. 62450
(618)395-2191

Wabash County
738 North Market St.
Mt. Carmel, IL. 62863
(618)262-5725

Wayne County
#2B Frontier Dr.
Fairfield, IL. 62837
(618)842-3702