



Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.

New Partners and New Programming in Bond County

New Partnerships, Lasting Impact for Bond County Youth

This year, Bond County 4-H expanded opportunities for youth through several new community partnerships. Collaborations with the **Globe Theatre**, **Bond County Humane Society**, **Greenville University Equine Department** and **Bond Christian Service Camp** provided hands-on learning experiences that connected youth with STEM, animal science, leadership development, and career exploration.

Youth participated in a LEGO Robotics and Movie Day at the **Globe Theatre**, explored responsible pet ownership and care during a Cat 101 Workshop with the **Bond County Humane Society**, and learned about correct equine care and basic veterinary skills through a workshop with the **Greenville University Equine Department**. Teen leaders also strengthened their teamwork and leadership abilities during a retreat at **Bond Christian Service Camp**.

These new partnerships allowed local organizations to share their expertise and resources, creating engaging educational experiences that helped youth build skills, explore interests, and strengthen connections within their community.

Dear Community,

This summer, University of Illinois Extension continued to strengthen Bond County through partnerships that support youth, families, producers, and community organizations. Local residents gained practical horticulture knowledge through educational programs and garden partnerships, producers connected with university experts to learn about emerging dairy technologies, and volunteers expanded Extension's reach by sharing educational opportunities at farmers markets and community events. These efforts helped connect residents with research-based resources that support agriculture, lifelong learning, and community engagement.

Extension also invested in the future of Bond County through hands-on youth development programs. From cooking schools that built nutrition and life skills to Little Roots gardening activities that taught youth the value of growing and donating food to the local food pantry, young people gained experiences that foster leadership, responsibility, and service. Combined with strong participation in 4-H programs and exhibitions, these opportunities are helping prepare the next generation while strengthening connections across our communities.



Jordee Koehler

JORDEE KOEHLER
County
Extension
Director

Extension Everywhere

Illinois Extension provides relevant and research-based programming to address personal and community challenges, but understands that time and distance may be a barrier to attending in-person workshops and programming. Extension experts work to develop online video content and resources so that our communities can access our resources anytime.

Online Video Library



[go.illinois.edu/
YouTubeBCJMW](https://go.illinois.edu/YouTubeBCJMW)

Financial Resources



[go.illinois.edu/
BCJMWFinances](https://go.illinois.edu/BCJMWFinances)

4,155

People Reached by Finding
Financial Blog Posts in 2025

65,852

Horticulture How-To Video Views
in 2025

4-H in Bond County

Supporting Strong and Resilient Youth



Bond County 4-H Clubs

Curious Minds

Dreamcatchers and Cloverbuds

Dudleyville and Cloverbuds

Liberty and Cloverbuds

Old Ripley and Cloverbuds

Prizewinners and Cloverbuds

Showstring and Cloverbuds

Stars and Stripes and Cloverbuds

Trailblazers and Cloverbuds

Wall Street 4-H Club and Cloverbuds

Bond County 4-H SPIN Clubs

Little Roots

Fishing SPIN Club

Super Stitchers

Teen Leaders

2025-26 Bond County 4-H Numbers

Youth Members

133

Volunteers

16

Youth Representing Bond County

County Fair
General Projects

72

State Fair
General Project
Entries

15

General Project Champions - 3
General Project Reserve Champions - 5

County Fair
Livestock Entries

227

State Fair
Livestock
Entries

72

Show of Champions

Giving Youth Another Opportunity to Show Their Skills

University of Illinois Extension believes in allowing our youth to show off their skills and knowledge. The Show of Champions unites 4-H members from Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington counties, allowing them to meet youth from neighboring counties with the same passions and interests, making new friends along the way.

The 4-H youth who won special awards in their county shows are invited to showcase their knowledge, talents, and creativity and feature their high-quality animal handling skills. The fifth annual Show of Champions livestock shows were held on August 20 and 22 and the general projects show was held on August 27 at the Roland Lewis Building in Mt. Vernon.

Show of Champions Numbers

Total General
Projects

74

Total Livestock
Entries

154

Bond County
General Projects

5



4-H Shows

University of Illinois Extension provides youth with opportunities to develop skills, explore interests, and discover their passions through 4-H. The 4-H Shows give our local youth an opportunity to gain the confidence and skills needed for future success.

Community Benefits

- Develop responsibility in the care and wellbeing of show animals.
- Learn about animal nutrition and equipment needed for animal care.
- Connect youth with peers who have the same passions and interests as them.
- Develop independence in youth to research and pursue general projects that they find interesting.
- Connect youth with community and professionals as they work through their projects.
- Provide youth with opportunities to set goals, practicing and learning new skills, and building confidence as they work on and present their projects.



Youth Cooking School

Expanding the Summer Cooking School Program

Illinois Extension expanded cooking schools this summer to provide a hands-on cooking experience for local youth. Illinois Extension continues to invest in nutrition and cooking education helping equip the next generation with skills that promote healthier lifestyles and greater independence in the kitchen.

Skills Learned

- Measuring ingredients accurately.
- Following recipes and cooking instructions.
- Identifying and using kitchen tools and equipment properly and safely.
- Practicing food safety and sanitation.
- Checking safe cooking temperatures.

Community Benefits

- Increase nutrition knowledge, help youth make healthier food choices and provide a basis for improved long-term health and wellness.
- Build confidence and independence, preparing youth to safely prepare meals for themselves and their families.
- Youth develop practical life skills such as meal planning, food safety and following directions.
- Expand nutrition improving access to nutrition education for youth in rural communities.
- Reduce food waste by teaching youth how to properly use and store ingredients.
- Develop lifelong skills and habits, reducing future health risks associated with poor nutrition.



Growing Knowledge Through Partnerships

Cultivating Skills, Connections, and Community

This July, Illinois Extension Educator Chris Lueking partnered with the Greenville Garden Club for an educational presentation at Stockland Orchard. Participants toured the cut-flower beds in the orchard, learning firsthand about cut-flower production.

The hands-on experience provided participants with valuable knowledge they can apply in their cut-flower gardens to grow flowers for personal enjoyment or to share with others. By connecting Illinois Extension with the Greenville Garden Club local growers can learn practical skills and learn more about the stewardship of green spaces.

Skills learned

Flower Production Tips
Cut Flower Garden Planning
Proper Plant Care
Handling Insect Pressure
Weed Management



Little Roots Programming

Growing More Than a Garden in Bond County

Bond County 4-H, the Bond County Food Pantry, and local Master Gardeners partnered to help youth learn about gardening and giving back. The Little Roots program donated the produce to the Bond County Food Pantry, teaching the youth involved the importance of giving back.

Dairy Tech Tour

Strengthening Support for Local Dairy Agriculture

Illinois Extension Educator Chris Lueking participated in the Dairy Tech Tour in Clinton County. Illinois Extension staff, University of Illinois faculty, agricultural professionals and local producers met to explore and discuss emerging technologies and innovative management practices. The tour provided a valuable opportunity for producers to engage directly with university experts, exchange knowledge, and discuss research-based solutions to challenges facing today's dairy industry.

Community Partners

- Illinois Milk Producers Association
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Derek Nolan, University of Illinois Extension Faculty Specialist

Local Benefits

- Build a more resilient dairy industry.
- Inform local producers about new technologies available to improve production.
- Provide the latest research-based information to assist on-farm decision-making.

Farmers Market Support

Growing More Than a Garden in Bond County

Bond County 4-H leaders and Master Gardener volunteers partnered throughout the summer to represent University of Illinois Extension at farmers markets and community events.

Through informational booths and outreach activities, volunteers connected residents with upcoming youth and adult programming, including 4-H clubs, workshops, and horticulture education opportunities. These outreach efforts increased awareness of local Extension resources while helping families discover new ways to learn, engage, and serve in their communities. Through their dedication, volunteers continue to expand Extension's reach and strengthen connections across Bond County.

Upcoming Events

We believe in the communities we serve and are committed to our mission of developing educational programs, extending knowledge, and building partnerships to support people, communities, and their environments as part of the state's land-grant institution.

September Events

Sept 12-Nov 7 (Tuesdays) | 5:30-7:30 pm

Master Naturalist Training (18+)
Patriot's Park, Greenville

Sept 14 | 5:30-8:30 pm

Rain Garden Training (18+)
Jefferson County Extension Office

Sept 15 | 2-4 pm

Back to Basics: Beekeeping (18+)
Big T's Honey Bee Farm, Greenville

Sept 15 | 4-5 pm

4-H Creative Makers: Apples Edition (Ages 5-18)
Okawville Farmers Market

Sept 15 | 5-6 pm

4-H Bouquets & Bows Workshop (Ages 8-18)
Clinton County Extension Office

Sept 21 | 5:30-8:30 pm

Rain Garden Training (18+)
Jefferson County Extension Office

Sept 25 | 9 am - Noon

Rain Garden Installation (18+)
Jefferson County Extension Office

Sept 28 | 5:30-7 pm

4-H Pumpkins & Petals (Ages 8-18)
Marion County Extension Office

Sept 29-Oct 27 (Tuesdays) | 5:30-7:30 pm

4-H Junior Master Naturalist: Forestry Program (Ages 8-18)
Patriot's Park, Greenville

October Events

Oct. 1 | 10:30 am- Noon

Back to Basics: Composting 101 (18+)
Clinton County Extension Office

Oct. 8 | 5-6 pm

Bond County 4-H Open House (All Ages)
Bond County Extension Office

Oct. 10 | 9-11 am

Back to Basics: Basic Tree Care (18+)
Carlyle Lake Visitor Center

Oct. 12 | 9-10 am

4-H Fashion on a Budget: Smart Shopping & Personal Style
(Ages 8-18)
Roxzen Rose Boutique

Oct. 12 | 9:30-10:30 am

4-H Under the Hood Auto Workshop (Ages 8-18)
K & J Chevrolet

Oct. 12 | 10 am-Noon

4-H Watts Up? Electricity Workshop (Ages 8-18)
Marion County Extension Office

Oct. 12 | 1-2 pm

4-H Woodworking Workshop (Ages 8-18)
Washington County Extension Education Center

Oct. 12 | 1-4 pm

4-H The Great Pumpkin Build Workshop (Ages 8-18)
Marion County Extension Office

Oct. 12 | 2:30-5 pm

Woodworking Workshop (Advanced Session) (Ages 8-18)
Washington County Extension Education Center

Oct 13 | 4-5 pm

Pizza and Herb Session (Ages 5-18)
Okawville Farmers Market

Oct 16 | 9-11 am

Ag Explorers Workshop
Gateway FS in Venedy

Oct. 17 | 10-11:30 am

4-H Frames of Fall: A Photography Adventure (Ages 8-18)
Marlow's Pumpkin Patch

Oct. 20 | 4:30-5:30 pm

Clinton County 4-H Open House (All Ages)
Clinton County Extension Office

Oct. 26 | 6-7 pm

4-H Sew Ready: Basic Sewing Skills for Everyday Life (Ages 8-18)
Jefferson County Extension Office

Bond County

208 Academy, Pocahontas
Phone: 618-664-3665
Monday - Thursday,
7 a.m. to Noon & 1 - 5 p.m.
Friday by appointment

Event Calendar



[extension.illinois.edu/
bcjmjw/events](https://extension.illinois.edu/bcjmjw/events)

Check Out More Information Online



extension.illinois.edu/bcjmjw



go.illinois.edu/YouTubeBCJMW



go.illinois.edu/FacebookBCJMW

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

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