



Illinois Extension

Serving Bond,
Clinton, Jefferson,
Marion and Washington

Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.

ABCs of Nutrition

Preparing School Food Service Teams

University of Illinois Extension Educator Ashley Hoffman partnered with the Illinois Department of Education to provide the annual ABCs of Nutrition training for school food service professionals from across the region at Centralia High School in July. Clinton County food service staff represented included Trinity Lutheran Hoffman, Aviston Elementary School, Germantown Elementary School, All Saints Academy, Bartelso Elementary School, and St. Rose Elementary School.

The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to meet annual professional development requirements while helping ensure local students have access to safe, nutritious meals during the upcoming school year.

Community Benefits

- Improve food safety practices in school kitchens to prevent foodborne illness and create safer dining environments.
- Equip food service professionals to provide nutritious, high-quality meals that support student health, growth, and academic success.
- Ensure school nutrition programs remain up to date with current regulations, best practices, and food safety standards through professional development.
- Increase efficiency, improved meal quality, and reduce waste by enhancing staff knowledge and toolkits.
- Strengthen partnerships between Illinois Extension, the Illinois Department of Education, and local schools throughout the region.

78 Number
of Attendees

Dear Community,

This summer, University of Illinois Extension continued to strengthen Clinton County through research-based education, community partnerships, and youth development opportunities. From providing professional training for school nutrition staff and connecting local dairy producers with university experts, to maintaining pollinator habitats, Extension programs helped residents access practical knowledge that improves quality of life and supports local community needs.

Our commitment to developing future leaders also remained strong. Local youth gained hands-on experience in precision agriculture through a partnership with Kaskaskia College, showcased their talents through 4-H programs and the Show of Champions, and explored environmental stewardship through gardening and natural resource education. Together, these efforts are building stronger communities, supporting local industries, and preparing the next generation for success in Clinton County.



JORDEE KOEHLER

County
Extension
Director

Jordée Koehler

Extension Academy Visit

Demonstrating Local Impact

University of Illinois faculty meet with local Extension staff during the Extension Academy visit to Clinton County. Participants gained firsthand insight into local Extension programming and community partnerships, including the pond management programming in collaboration with the Prairie Research Institute's Illinois Water Survey. By bringing together specialists from diverse disciplines across Illinois, the program strengthened collaboration, expanded awareness of local needs, and enhanced Extension's ability to deliver impactful programs in local communities.



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 Clinton County

Supporting Strong and Resilient Youth



Clinton County 4-H Clubs

- 4-H Buttercup and Cloverbuds
- 4-H Clovers and Cloverettes and Cloverbuds
- Aviston 4-H Aces and Cloverbuds
- Beaver Prairie Bandits and Cloverbuds
- Klover Kids and Cloverbuds
- St. Rose Clover Crew and Cloverbuds
- Sugarcreek 4-H Country Kids and Cloverbuds

Clinton County 4-H SPIN Clubs

- All Saints LEGO Club
- Aviston LEGO Club
- Clinton County Federation
- Rod N Reel Fishing Club
- Shooting Sports - Archery
- Woodchucks - Woodworking Club

2025-26 Clinton County 4-H Numbers

Youth Members

185

Youth Representing Clinton County

County Fair General Projects

177

State Fair General Project Entries

31

- General Project Champions - 6
- General Project Reserve Champions - 5
- General Project Inspire Award - 1

Volunteers

20

County Fair Livestock Entries

325

State Fair Livestock Entries

28

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

Clinton County General Projects

11

Total Livestock Entries

154

Clinton County Livestock

3



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 members 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.



Drone Workshop

Giving Youth a Hands-on Opportunity with Precision Ag

Through a partnership with **Kaskaskia College**, the Fields to Flight Drones Workshop gave youth a hands-on experience with precision agriculture technologies transforming local agriculture. Youth learned about drone technology and services from professionals, watched drone demonstrations, and flew drones to explore the future of the industry.

Community Benefits

- Spark youth interest in agriculture and drone technologies.
- Future workforce development.
- Introduce youth to the newest precision Ag technology and learn about the future of agriculture.
- Build partnerships with Kaskaskia College to help youth explore new technologies and career options in agriculture.





Cultivating Future Environmental Stewards

Scouts Grow Skills Through Gardening

Illinois Extension partnered with local Clinton County Scout troops 281 and 211, along with Crew 8269, for a hands-on Gardening Merit Badge program at the Carlyle Fairgrounds Pollinator Plot. The impact of the program extends beyond earning a merit badge. By developing practical life skills and an appreciation for nature, participants gained the knowledge and confidence to become responsible environmental stewards in their communities.

Topics Covered

Seed Germination
Transplanting
Tool Care
Garden Safety
Basic First Aid in the Garden
Pollinators



Master Gardeners and Naturalists in the Pollinator Plots

Maintaining Educational Plots

Master Gardener volunteers maintained pollinator plots at the **Clinton County Fairgrounds** and **Aviston Grade School**, supporting local pollinators while creating educational spaces that promote conservation and environmental stewardship.



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.

Community Benefits

- Maintain plots to support local pollinators.
- Provide educational opportunities to local community groups delivering research-based horticultural information.

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

Clinton County

1163 N. Fourth St, Breese
Phone: 618-526-4551
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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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



Illinois Extension

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