

# Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.



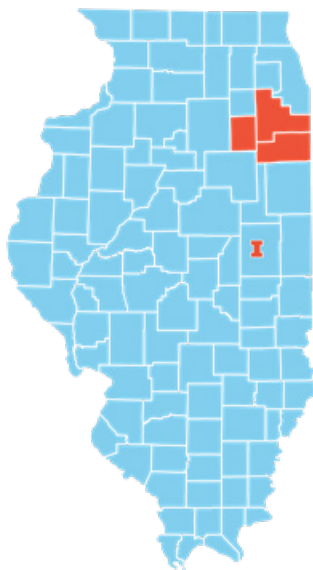
Serving Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties  
Illinois Extension Impact Report 2024







Marilu Andon  
County Director



# Local voices bring local impact

**As I sit and contemplate 2024 and how we've impacted the community, the words "growth" and "stability" come to mind.**

For over 100 years, University of Illinois Extension has been a cornerstone of trustworthy knowledge and resources brought to local communities by experts from Illinois' largest and most trustworthy institution.

The last year has been an exciting time of growth. We have grown our team twofold in just one year, recruiting top experts to fill much-needed positions in our community.

We bring in highly skilled local experts to tackle the challenges that local communities face. Extension tackles local issues by developing educational programs, extending knowledge, and building partnerships to support people, communities, and their environments.

Extension also provides stability. Whether a swarm of cicadas descends and we need to answer questions about tree protection, or a contentious election presents challenges for young families and we need to provide resources to help parents have tough conversations with their children, Illinois Extension remains a bedrock for trustworthy information.

Throughout our history, we have been embedded in local communities. Illinois Extension recently went through a period of strategic planning. This plan reflects our work and helps us plan for the future.

Extension will continue to take the lead. Our new vision inspires our future:

We will be a leading force in fostering a legacy of sustainable development, lifelong learning, and community resilience regarding community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, and health via technology and discovery, partnerships, and workforce excellence. We will leverage innovative research, cutting-edge technology, and collaborative partnerships to build a future where every community member is equipped to thrive in an evolving world. Our commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and transformative education will be the catalyst for positive societal change.

We thank you for your continued support as we look to a future changed by impactful local voices.

Marilu Andon  
County Extension Director

Cover photo: Bethany, a 4-H4All club member explains her project to Director Marilu Andon and Youth Educator Brittney Muschetto



# Illinois Extension Makes an Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's land-grant mission thrives each day through Extension's programs, resources, knowledge, and dedicated staff that are responsive to eight strategic priorities:



Community



Economy



Environment



Food and Agriculture



Health



Partnerships



Technology and Discovery



Workforce Excellence

## 2024 Engagement

Extension leaders, staff, and stakeholders define priorities that create meaningful, mission-centered outcomes throughout the state:

730

Communities Served

805K+

Program Attendees

9.7M+

Webpage Views

22.4M+

Social Media Impressions

2.5M+

YouTube Impressions

547

Educational Sessions/Week  
(28K+ Annually)

90

Online Courses Accessed by  
12K+ People

12,484

Local Government Education Webinar Reach

1,840

4-H Clubs

67,917

Fair Exhibits

20,339

Members

261,012

4-H Experiences

## Partnerships

5,563

Program Volunteers

266

Community Gardens

2,922

School and Community Partners

\$15,735,213

Value of Volunteer Contributions

\$514,316

Value of Donated Produce Grown or Facilitated

\$4.7M+

External Funds Secured for SNAP-Ed Partners





# Local offices, local impact

## Financial Report

Illinois Extension provides programming to communities in Grundy, Kankakee, and Will counties. Through local, state, and federal funding streams, Extension is able to provide exceptional programming through a team of knowledgeable educators and program staff.

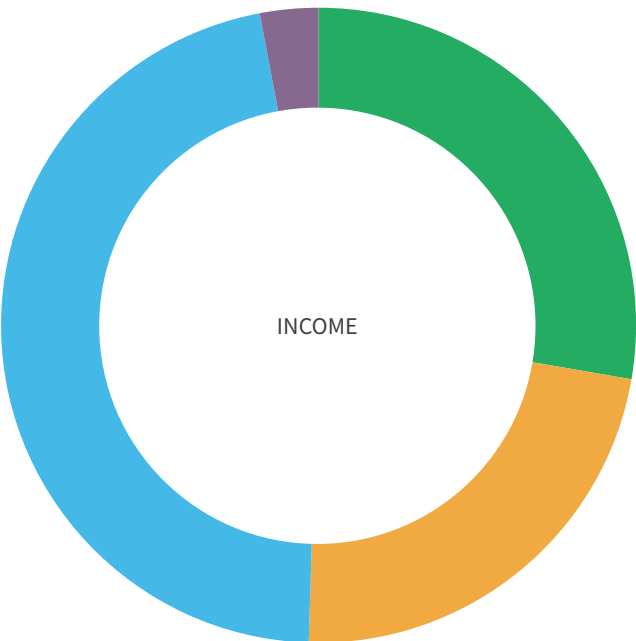
Federal funds include Illinois Nutrition Education Program grant and Smith-Lever fund monies. Local funds include donations from 4-H Foundations, 4-H Federations, United Way of Grundy County, United Way of Will County, and program fees.

## Independent report showcases impact of Illinois Extension on local communities

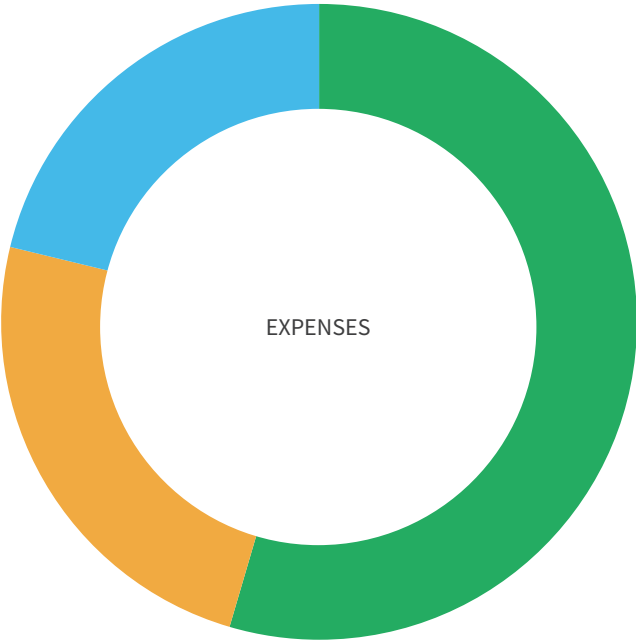
Extension’s unique funding structure combines federal, state, and local resources mixed with volunteer time and in-kind donations, creating a diverse funding stream whose impact extends beyond traditional financial metrics such as ROIs. However, in an independent report in 2020, Extension’s robust breadth of work directly in the communities had economic and functional impacts of nearly 10 times more than the Illinois Extension budget.



Read the full report online  
[go.illinois.edu/ExtensionImpact](https://go.illinois.edu/ExtensionImpact)



Amount	Source
28%	County
23%	State
47%	Federal
3%	Local



Amount	Source
54%	Programs and Outreach
24%	Office and Operations
21%	SNAP-Ed



# 22,186

People reached by direct Extension programming<sup>1</sup>



**\$373,970**

Value of volunteer time<sup>2</sup>

## Illinois Nutrition Education Program



**4,366**

Program Attendance



**311**

Free cooking classes

## 4-H Youth Development



**11,757**

4-H Experiences



**2,121**

Fair projects



**Over one-third**

of engaged 4-H youth self identify as BIPOC or Hispanic/Latino

## Natural Resources, Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Agribusiness



**5,884**

Program Attendance



**2,629**

Volunteer hours

<sup>1</sup> Individuals participating in multiple program areas may be counted more than once.

<sup>2</sup> Based on Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time.











# You may know Extension as many things

Whether you know 4-H, classroom embryology, Master Gardener training, greenhouse school programs, afterschool robotics, SNAP-Ed, or another program, Illinois Extension works behind the scenes with local experts solving local problems.

Illinois Extension programs have different names because they address many different problems – but they all have one thing in common: They are all implemented by Illinois Extension directly within the communities of Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties.

Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities.

Housed within the College of ACES and relying on local, state, and national funding sources, Illinois Extension is part of the nationwide Cooperative Extension network. In Illinois, a workforce of over 600 staff serves the state's 102 counties through 27 multi-county units that forge partnerships, respond to local needs, and develop programs to make the state and its residents happier, healthier, safer, and more prosperous.





Robbie, a 4-H 4 All Club member, shares his project on Navarro Farm pigs at the Project Showcase in June.







# 4-H4All brings the 4-H experience to all

## 4-H4All helps adults with disabilities through partnership with Navarro Farms.

The 4-H experience is for everyone. At least, that's what the sign says. Illinois Extension prides itself on programming that everyone can access and enjoy. But for the adults of Navarro Farm, there were some challenges.

"The 4-H age is typically 8 to 18, but that poses an issue for the passionate adults who have neurodevelopmental differences," says Brittney Muschetto, youth development educator, "Tina Gnade approached us with an amazing plan to provide a space for adults with disabilities to come together, learn new life skills, and participate in their own project showcase as part of the 4-H program."

As a volunteer at Navarro Farm, a five-acre farm that creates agricultural experiences for people with disabilities, Gnade recognized the exceptional value of the 4-H program. So, she contacted the staff who ran the 4-H program, and the rest is history.

Now in its second year, the 4-H4All club is a 4-H club at Navarro Farm for adults with disabilities. As participants work to find their spark in various activities, they complete projects and share their passion with their peers. The year culminates in a project showcase in June.

June of 2024 saw the culmination of a year's worth of work at the inaugural project showcase. As participants set up booths to showcase their projects and some of their work around the farm, the public arrived to take part and were given a passport to help guide them through the ten stations.

At each station, participants like Robbie and Bethany explain their projects. For Bethany, this was a glimpse into the process of candles and candle making. For Robbie, his work with the Navarro farm pigs.

A strong sense of community brings people together to develop shared goals, support one another in times of need and growth, and work together for the good of the whole. Accepting and celebrating differences creates an environment where all voices are recognized and respected. When strong networks of peers and organizations support youth and families, all community members feel they belong and are valued.



I am so proud of the hard work and dedication of all who participated in the 4-H4All 2024 showcase. It was such a joy to walk through and hear about all the great experiences everyone had. I learned a lot, and this project is a great example of what happens when 4-H members find their 'spark' and can explore their interests in safe spaces filled with mentorship.

Brittney Muschetto,  
4-H youth development educator







6000 - 7999 Steps = 1 leaf  
 8000 - 9999 Steps = 2 leaves  
 10,000+ Steps = 3 leaves

Week Of	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Weekly Total
10/7			9,700	10,010	10,200	10,356	14,867	55,133
10/14	8,220	12,056	13,071	14,700				48,047
10/21	9,400	15,452	14,021	12,471				51,344

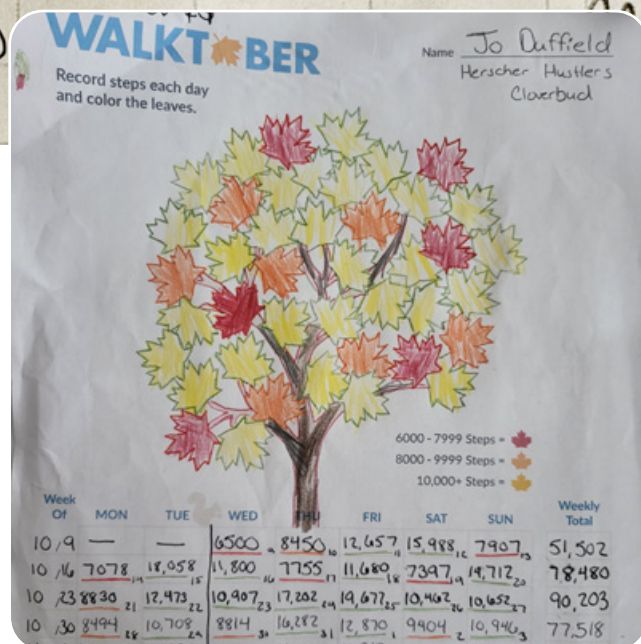


## Coloring sheets and habit trackers encourage healthy choices in 4-H youth

Illinois Extension brings Walktober to the classroom by making healthy choices the easy choice to promote movement and healthy living among youth.

A healthy lifestyle is hard to achieve for many Americans who are living increasingly sedentary lives. Healthy habits are influenced by the local community. Now in its second year, Illinois Extension held Walktober – a ‘challenge yourself’ style contest that sees youth challenge themselves to walk at least 10,000 each day (or as many as makes sense for them) and track their progress each day.

Forty-nine youths participated in the 2024 event. As each day was completed, youth tracked their steps by coloring in leaves on the Walktober coloring sheet tracker. Participants also received information each week, which included new recipes and physical activities they could try. In all, the program encouraged youth to stay active and eat healthier.



Personal health decisions are influenced by the broader community and environment where we live. By working together, we can create environments where healthy choices are the easy choices. Classrooms, school cafeterias, food pantries, workplaces, and other built environments play an important role in promoting health and well-being.





## Esports contest brings fun and career development together for area youth

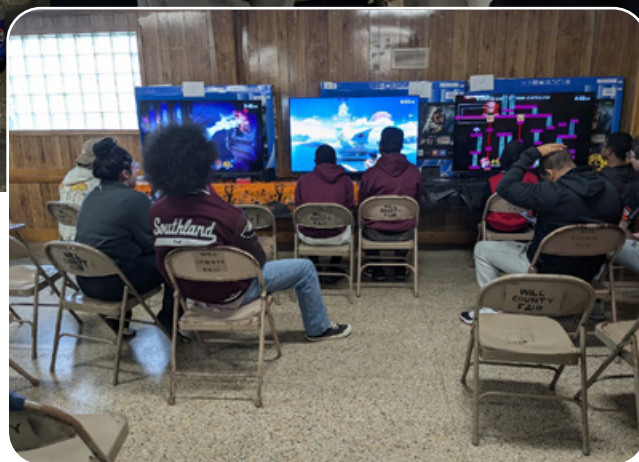
Illinois Extension teaches leadership, mentorship, and sportsmanship through unconventional means: Competitive video games.

Illinois Extension's 4-H program creates opportunities for youth to find their interests — their “spark” — and explore those interests while learning important life skills. The second annual 4-H LodgeCon Esports contest held in 2024 brought 34 area youth from across Grundy, Kankakee, Will, and surrounding counties together to compete in a bracket-style video game tournament.

Competitive electronic sports is an exciting 4-H program that connects popular PC and console gaming experiences with the greater model of 4-H learning. As youth explore, they learn more about the industry, an industry growing rapidly with many scholarships and career opportunities. More importantly, youth learn important life skills, like teamwork and communication skills.

Though unconventional, esports contests such as this teach youth important life skills, like sportsmanship, leadership, and team-building skills that apply to all areas of life.

Maezie Nettleton, 4-H STEAM Program Coordinator



### 97% of youth

self-reported that they felt supported and safe at the LodgeCon esports contest



### Nearly 3 in 5 youth

self-reported that they feel they can make an impact on others after participating.

There is an ongoing need for Illinois to develop innovative ways to nurture its workforce through career exploration, training and re-training programs, and other opportunities for refining the skills of the current workforce and the workforce of the future. Career exploration begins during early childhood and extends into adulthood. The earlier that an individual can begin this process, the sooner they are able to establish their sense of identity in the world of work. Having a prepared, skilled, and resilient workforce in place ultimately increases tax revenue for the state. But most importantly, helping youth find their spark teaches essential life skills as they follow their dreams.



Learn more about this fun program  
[go.illinois.edu/4hesports](https://go.illinois.edu/4hesports)









# Elections are stressful, but Illinois Extension provides resources for parents

As youth experience more of the world around them, in school, with friends, or simply watching the news, they may have questions. Questions about current world events or even more abstract questions like dealing with stress can be hard on parents. This roadblock leads to feelings of unpreparedness.

In 2024, the country faced one of the most politically contentious elections in history. Parents were faced with the unenviable task of explaining these issues to their kids and answering difficult questions like ‘Does my voice matter?’ or ‘What does [insert political issue] mean?’

Illinois Extension stepped up to the plate with research-backed resources to help. Connecting with others and encouraging civic learning and engagement is something that 4-H is passionate about.

Youth understand and hear more than you may realize. A lot of youth have been studying and learning about the election in school, as well as hearing things in the media and through friends. Youth may come home and have questions or concerns about topics they’re learning about, and sometimes having those discussions can be difficult.

Brittney Muschetto,  
4-H youth development educator

As parents and caregivers have questions, Illinois Extension provides resources to guide parents through the difficult conversations that their parents face. Youth who understand the importance of civic engagement and feel empowered to participate in their communities will be better prepared for the future.

As parents have questions, they can turn to Illinois Extension and 4-H. During the 2024 Presidential Election, 4-H provided resources available online and in print. The resources ranged in scope from helping teens deal with stressful situations to discussion questions assisting parents in navigating open and honest conversations. They were dispersed throughout Grundy, Kankakee, and Will counties online, via social media, and in the news. One resource online had almost 100 page views in the three weeks after launch.

Even outside of election season, the resources presented continue to assist parents. Resources include:

University of Illinois Extension’s Terrific Teachable Moments app gives parents resources to help with social and emotional learning.

Resources on Civic Engagement from Illinois 4-H include a brief overview of civic engagement and what it means to be involved in the community.

Resources for helping children and teens cope with stress of all kinds that they may experience in life.

Stressful seasons of life are hard on everyone. The Strong Couples Project, led by researchers and educators, is designed to provide free, proven online help for relationships.

According to Muschetto, conversations, especially with older youth, are crucial. She shares some tips: “Be open-minded and remain respectful of their viewpoints. Remember, they are living in a very different world than the one you grew up in. Encourage youth to do their own research and educate themselves on topics, not just trust what they hear from others.”

Through these resources, Extension is working to ensure that both youth and parents feel confident in discussing issues of importance and that youth are ready to lead with informed voices in the future. A strong sense of community brings people together to develop shared goals, support one another in times of need and growth, and work together for the good of the whole. Accepting and celebrating differences creates an environment where all voices are recognized and respected. When strong networks of peers and organizations support youth and families, even the most vulnerable community members feel they belong and are valued.







# Making an impact on food access and education in local communities

## Illinois Extension is moving the needle with hard work by improving access through research, community service, and advocacy.

Research shows a strong link between food insecurity, poor physical and mental health, and even poor academic outcomes for children. Food insecurity is not just about hunger. It also indicates a decrease in access to food that is culturally relevant and nutritionally robust. Food insecurity affects every community in Illinois. Illinois Extension connects youth, volunteers, and partners, working together to address the needs of communities most impacted by food insecurity through research, community service, and advocacy.



**4,366**

Program attendance



**39**

Partnerships: Includes emergency food sites, K-12 schools, and other organizations



**311**

Nutrition Classes

The Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education provides community-based education centered around nutrition for individuals and families eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Eat. Move. Save. — Illinois' iteration — is delivered by Illinois Extension and University of Illinois Health's Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion.

The SNAP-Ed program is unique because it empowers participants with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices, prevent obesity and chronic diseases, and secure a healthier future. Many participants then share this knowledge with other members of their household and the community, further extending the impact.

In 2024, Illinois Extension in Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties saw a program attendance of 4,366 in SNAP-Ed programs. Four community workers and one educator conducted 311 nutrition classes using the Eat. Move. Save. framework, which gives actionable education to encourage the public to make healthier choices in eating, movement, and smart shopping tips for free in the community.









The work is helping. Not only is the work making a difference in the lives of participants, but systemic changes are being made at the organization level: In 2024, twenty-three policy, system, and/or environment changes were adopted by SNAP-Ed partner organizations.

Eating healthy and living active lifestyles help move the needle in long-term health. More than half of Illinois adults have a known chronic health condition, with many facing inequities that make improving their health more challenging. People of all ages need trusted and reliable research-based information to make health decisions that enhance their quality of life.

Illinois Extension, through SNAP-Ed, also helps people locate food. The Find Food IL food map is a project that helps families and residents find the food they need. By entering a zip code, residents will be shown areas in their community offering free food or meals, summer meal sites, retailers accepting SNAP/ LINK or WIC coupons, and more.

Over fiscal years 2020–2022, IL SNAP-Ed partnered with an independent third party to conduct an assessment to determine the impacts of the program. Full details can be accessed online, which highlights the immense success of the program. Illinois SNAP-Ed returned between \$5.36 and \$9.54 per dollar spent. A return-on-investment analysis estimated the economic benefits of the IL SNAP-Ed program per dollar spent. A model was constructed using program data and prior literature to



estimate the number of obesity and food insecurity cases prevented by IL SNAP-Ed. Altarum's Value of Health model was then used to estimate the total value of future health and economic improvements from the prevented cases.

Along with its growing list of community partners, Illinois Extension delivers creative and sustainable solutions to ensure that support is available when and where people need it.



Learn more about this fun program online  
[extension.illinois.edu/global/snap-education-impact](https://extension.illinois.edu/global/snap-education-impact)





# Learning about the world...in an hour



## Illinois Extension teaches horticultural topics to a busy world through information-packed, one-hour sessions.

The world is a busy place. As people run from work to home or home to the grocery store, what little time remains is booked far in advance and by “important things.” This means that a lot of people aren’t taking the time to learn about important topics like the environment. That is, until someone asked the question, “Could we ask people to give us just an hour?”

It was an interesting suggestion. But what can be learned in an hour? Illinois Extension might answer “make salsa,” “grow your own tea,” or “build a wren house” thanks to a new method of delivering programs: power hours.



In 2024, over 10 horticulture and natural resources power hours were held. These included interesting topics like:

- Winter Sowing
- Pruning: The Kindest Cut
- Grow Your Own Tea
- Gardening for Cats

Each program was designed specifically for busy schedules, allowing it to fit flexibly into the lives of a wide range of participants. Each featured a deep dive with a scope of only a single subject and was packed with robust information and hands-on activities.

I really like these make and take programs. Not only do I learn about the plants, but I go home with a garden I made myself. And I have the growing information and some recipes to try too!

The program was such a significant success that it is expanding in 2025, expanding to include programs for youth and adults centered around topics like succulents, herbs, and more.

There is growing evidence that time spent around plants and in green spaces has many benefits, including improved health, better interpersonal relationships, and a higher quality of life. Sustainable home landscapes also increase property values and build stronger ecosystems for plants and wildlife.





# Illinois Extension WILDERNESS WEDNESDAY



## Bringing free natural resources education to households across the community

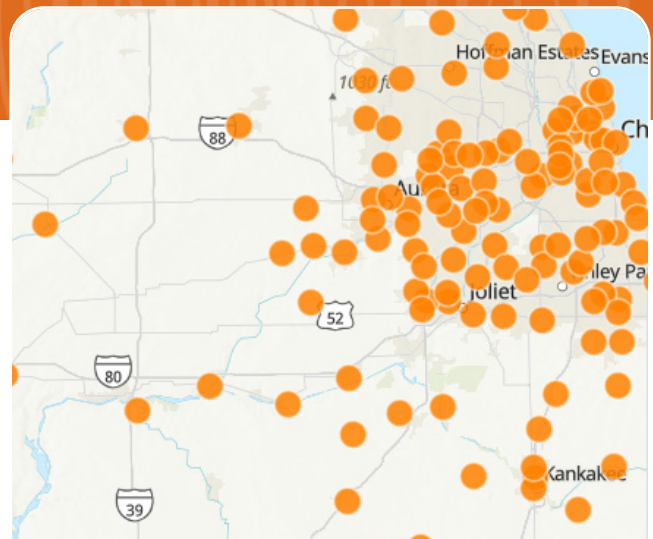
Illinois Extension connects experts with attendees across the state in free educational webinars – for people in over 200 unique locations.

The survival of planet Earth depends on the quality of water, land, energy, and air. These shared resources must be managed through sustainable practices that support ecological balance.

Illinois Extension has been a staple in the community, offering free educational opportunities that target specific issues that communities are facing. Wilderness Wednesday is one program.

Very interesting and in-depth presentation! I appreciated how Maria took the time to describe how the analyses she was using worked and the different shortcomings of each method.

Program participant



Participants span a wide variety of locations

Set up locally in Kankakee County, these free webinars span the length of natural topics that are of particular importance to Kankakee and surrounding locations. Participants glean a wide variety of knowledge to help them lead more sustainable lives.

In 2024, viewers tuned in live from over 200 different zip codes that spanned across Illinois and ten states.

In a changing climate, Illinois Extension helps Illinois residents make informed choices on stewardship of these natural resources to ensure a sustainable environment and ecosystems supporting healthy living and climate-resilient communities.



Learn more about this fun program online  
[youtube.com/@uiegkw](https://youtube.com/@uiegkw)



ЦИКАДА  
отряд, ровнокрылые хоботные  
*Quesada gigas*



## When the buzz comes knocking, Extension is ready with answers.

**When the largest cicada swarm in over 220 years descended on the state, Illinois Extension stood poised to answer questions and relief through scientific knowledge.**

In 2024, the news throughout Illinois was abuzz with talk of a historically significant cicada boom. Two periodical cicada broods, XIII and XIX, emerged simultaneously. The last time this happened was in 1803. The next time it happens is 2245.

As talk of this swarm made mainstream news, people had questions. Residents, experts, and the media alike all turned to Illinois Extension for research-based, reliable information they could trust to inform decisions and waylay fears.

Horticulture Educator Nancy Kuhajda personally helped address hundreds of questions. What follows are just a few questions and answers that were provided.

Can you spray something to kill the cicadas underground?

No, there are no recommendations to kill cicadas below or above ground. They are only a nuisance insect. Any pesticide treatment would do more harm to the environment, and it is not appropriate.









Has Illinois Extension published a proposal on how homeowners can protect their trees from the oncoming locusts this Spring, and perhaps approved commercial businesses that will spray trees for homeowners?

For trees during the periodical cicada emergence this spring/summer, there is no application of anything recommended at all. Most trees will not need any extra care.

But if you have young fruit trees, cover them with a small gauge netting – some people purchase netting from fabric stores because it is inexpensive. The recommendation is to cover the trees when emergence begins and then remove the cover when they are gone within three to five weeks.

We recommend this covering because the only real damage that cicadas do is when the female lays her eggs. As she lays her eggs, she makes slits with her ovipositor (egg tube) in the ends of branches. Sometimes these slits will weaken the end of branches, and they may break off. It is only significant for fruit trees because of the spur-bearing branches.

I've included a link below with more information on this year's cicada emergence.

If homeowners purchase a sprayer to spray their own trees, what should they be sprayed with? Vinegar?

University of Illinois Extension only recommends materials specifically licensed for legal tree application. Home-made solutions are not recommended.

In this case, vinegar can be very burning as it is a mild acid and can damage the foliage.

Please let me know if you have any further gardening questions. I am happy to help!

We have a few trees that are only about three years old. We're hearing that some people are covering their young trees with netting to keep the cicadas off of them. Is this something that you think we should be doing?

Thanks for reaching out! These trees should be fine. If they were small whips, I would have you cover them.

In this size, the only thing that could happen is, if it is hot and dry in the late summer when the female lays her eggs (and she does at the tips of the branches), you might see some tips break off, but it will not harm the health of the tree.

Young fruit trees are our biggest concern because of the spurs (short branches on which the fruit is borne). If she damages those on a young tree, it would slow production later on.



## Providing answers for all of life's problems.

Illinois Extension provides answers for a variety of life's challenges and stands as a resource for residents and organizations to refer questions to so they can be answered by one of Illinois' largest network of experts.





### AGRABILITY: HELPING FARMERS MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE

For many farmers, the presence of a disability or chronic health condition can jeopardize their agricultural futures. Many refuse to seek help. Yet, with some assistance, agricultural producers and workers with disabilities can safely and effectively continue to earn their livelihoods in production agriculture and participate fully in rural community life. AgrAbility serves farmers, veterans, and farmworkers with disabilities or chronic diseases and provides resources, free and customized on-site farm assessments to identify barriers, safe equipment recommendations, and so much more. To date, AgrAbility has provided more than 1,500 farm clients with one-on-one services.



Learn more about AgrAbility  
[extension.illinois.edu/agrability](https://extension.illinois.edu/agrability)



### TACKLING FARM MENTAL HEALTH WITH FREE VOUCHERS AND INFO

Agricultural work includes several unique stressors, such as impacts of weather and events, commodity prices, loan interest rates, managing the farm business, long work hours, working with heavy machinery, and, at times, working closely with family. Stress among people in agriculture is critical to talk about because it can contribute to adverse mental health outcomes. People in agriculture have higher rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and deaths by suicide compared to the general population. Illinois Extension is here to help. In addition to resources, a voucher program allows agricultural producers and their families to seek help free of charge.



Learn more about how Illinois Extension can help  
[extension.illinois.edu/health/farm-mental-health](https://extension.illinois.edu/health/farm-mental-health)



### CERTIFIED LIVESTOCK MANAGER TRAINING TO THE COMMUNITY

Illinois Extension and the Illinois Department of Agriculture offered the Certified Livestock Manager Training to local professionals in February 2024. Depending on an operation's size, livestock manager training certification is required for many Illinois production livestock facilities. Having certified individuals on staff strengthens an operation through shared knowledge and building conversations with individuals responsible for livestock care. Whether large commercial agriculture operations, small farms, or community and backyard gardens, the future of food supply relies on the use of practices that boost production and capacity. Growers at all levels benefit from effective, efficient, and sustainable approaches to cultivating produce, crops, and livestock that feed their families, communities, and the world.





# Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.

## Vision

University of Illinois Extension will be a leading force in fostering a legacy of sustainable development, lifelong learning, and community resilience regarding environment, food and agriculture, health, community, and economy via technology and discovery, partnerships, and workforce excellence. We will leverage innovative research, cutting-edge technology, and collaborative partnerships to build a future where every community member is equipped to thrive in an evolving world. Our commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and transformative education will be the catalyst for positive societal change.

## Mission

Our mission is our broad and enduring purpose:

**University of Illinois Extension develops educational programs, extends knowledge, and builds partnerships to support people, communities, and their environments as part of the state's land grant institution.**



Learn more about Illinois Extension's new strategic plan  
[extension.illinois.edu/strategic-planning](https://extension.illinois.edu/strategic-planning)



Illinois Extension staff and other community leaders and legislators gather for the Grundy County Community Forum event



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## STAFF

### County Director

Marilu Andon  
Director

### Communications and Marketing

Anthony Warmack  
Program Coordinator

### 4-H Recruitment and Engagement

Brooke Baker-Katcher  
Program Coordinator

### 4-H Youth Development

Emilia Elabed  
Educator

Brittney Muschetto  
Educator

Laura Valentine  
Educator

Maezie Nettleton  
Program Coordinator

Barbara Dubravec  
Program Coordinator

Chloe Nelson-  
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Program Coordinator

Micaiah Owens  
Program Coordinator

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Nancy Kuhajda  
Educator

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Program Coordinator

### Illinois Nutrition Education Program (INEP)

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Isabel Dyche  
Community Worker

Harold "Quinn" Kilburg  
Community Worker

Janet Moody  
Community Worker

Areli Pineda  
Community Worker

### Office Support

Olivia Koerner  
Office Support Specialist

Mariana Maldonado  
Office Support Specialist

Nicole Alvarado  
Office Support Assistant

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## EXTENSION COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUP

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 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.

### Grundy County

Angelica Carmen  
Nathanael Greene  
Sara Mitchell  
Randy Seggebruch

### Kankakee County

Dale Bowman  
Mark Hodak  
Johari Kweli  
John Tamblyn  
Kim Yohnka

### Will County

Rev. Herb Brooks  
Lin Scharnhorst  
Sally Skoff  
Alex Tyle-Annen

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## OFFICE INFORMATION

### Grundy County Extension

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### Kankakee County Extension

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### Will County Extension

100 Manhattan Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60433  
(815) 727-9296  
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**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the event coordinator. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

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