



Extension Board Meeting

Ogle County- 4-H Horse Show, July 31, 2025, at 8:30 AM

Ogle County Fairgrounds, 1440 N Limekiln Rd, Oregon

MINUTES

1. Introduction: Present: Ogle County Board members, Stan Asp, Rick Fritz, and Lyle Hopkins, Heather Coyle, Mike Delany, and Teresa Schwarz.
2. Observed the 4-H Horse Show taking place in the Horse Ring.
3. Interviewed staff member Abigail Nelson, 4-H Educator. Also interviewed Bethany Kennedy, a 4-H volunteer and a 4-H mom.
4. County Needs Discussion: The value of Extension to local communities and the needs of Ogle County were discussed. Themes included continued youth development, agriculture business and sustainability, agriculture education, natural resources (soil and water), and minority and new audiences. The civic engagement program, Hometown Leaders in Ogle County was discussed. This program is achieving career awareness and courthouse services awareness to youth. Heather mentioned that Hometown Leaders was formed due to the aging of county board members and individuals not running any longer for a position on the board. Heather stated that Extension is trying to “spark interest” in the younger people on what the county board does, and how they can be a part of it by running for it. One idea for Hometown Leaders is to have a “Running for Office” segment added to it and to get a civic or government educator to partner with Extension and this program. The idea of a Youth Advisor Council was brought up. Heather stated that it would align with Extension’s Strategic Plan and would be countywide. She stated that research shows that youth who are involved in their community, stay in their community as adults or come back to their community. Heather talked about losing SNAP-Ed funding and how she just filled all the SNAP-Ed positions in the unit. She explained that she lets campus know that we talk to the county boards to see what the needs are to be addressed in our communities. She stated that we are focusing on a priority area, workforce development and how she would like to increase Extension across a lifespan and understand opportunities in local communities by offering programming that has the longest impact, i.e. Paddle and Learn. This program identifies different watershed issues and teachers write or rewrite their curriculums for the local watersheds and watershed issues.
5. Budget Materials
 - a. Annual Budget Plan
 - b. Impact Report
 - c. Program delivery locations report
 - d. Extension rationale
 - e. County Funding Request- will be the same as FY25, \$130,000 plus cost of living.
6. Breakfast, Adjourned at ~10:45 AM

Council Roles Summarized: * Linking University of Illinois Extension with local leadership, communities, agencies, and organizations.

* Supporting and advocating for Extension programs. Identifying needs and potential resources (human, financial, physical).

* Advise the program planning and implementation processes. * Assuring council membership represents all segments in counties served. *

Assuring program outreach meets equal opportunity and program access guidelines.