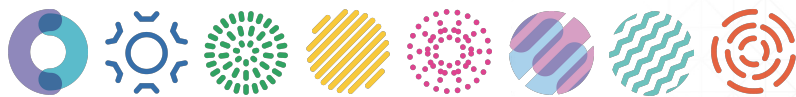


2026-2028 Plan of Work



Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.

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Planning ahead is how we make sure our communities thrive. This Unit Plan of Work is our roadmap for action for the next three years. It helps Illinois Extension focus on what matters most—supporting families, farmers, and neighborhoods—while using time and resources wisely.

The plan is built on local input and real data, so every goal reflects the needs and priorities of the people we serve. By setting clear targets, building strong partnerships, and creating programs that make a difference, we can measure progress and celebrate success.

This process also keeps us accountable and transparent, showing our stakeholders exactly how we plan to strengthen agriculture, health, and community life across Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties.

Strategic Priorities and Themes

Illinois Extension recently completed a strategic planning process to help guide the organization over the coming years and better serve the numerous and diverse communities across the state. As part of the strategic plan, six new strategic priorities were introduced, each with specific themes intended to guide programs and partnerships. For our local Plan of Work, the priorities and themes were selected based on interviews and conversations with key stakeholders across the three counties, as well as a review of secondary data sources to affirm what was learned from the interviews. The local priorities and themes selected were:

Community

Supporting strong and resilient youth, families, and communities

- Thriving Youth
- Connected Adults and Families
- Skilled Leaders
- Involvement and Service
- Resilient Communities

Environment

Sustain and restore natural resources in home and public spaces

- Healthy Plants and Landscapes
- Thriving Natural Resources and Environment

Food and Agriculture

Maintain a safe and accessible food, fibers, and biofuel supply

- Food Access
- Food Systems
- Crop and Livestock Production

Health

Maximize health equity and access, and support health promotion

- Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

Programs and Partnerships

For each priority and theme selected, we have specified the staff, partnerships, and programs that will help us focus on meeting the goals of each priority. This is not just a snapshot of present times, but a look forward to future plans that we will work towards over the next three years. These lists are not meant to be final or definitive, but rather a starting point for continuing existing partnerships and creating new partnerships.

Community

Partnerships: Cantrall Elementary School, PORTA School District, West Lincoln-Broadwell School District, Athens Public Library District, Sangamon County COAD, United Way, Williamsville Public Library and Museum, Athens High School National Honor Society

Programs: Summer Camps, Classroom Programs, Disaster Recovery Planning

Staff: 4-H team and administrative staff



Environment

Partnerships: Motherland Community Gardens, Prairie State Beekeepers, Oasis Senior Center, Illinois Department of Agriculture/Illinois State Fair

Programs: Russell Allen Garden Day, Introduction to Beekeeping Course

Staff: Jennifer Fishburn (Horticulture educator), Hunter Buchanan (Local Foods program coordinator), Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists



Food and Agriculture

Partnerships: FarmFed Cooperative, The Farms of Illinois, National Weather Service Central Illinois (Lincoln), Heartland Beef Alliance

Programs: Farm Business Foundations, Annie's Project, Safe Food Handling classes, Local Food Advisory Council

Staff: Reagen Tibbs (Commercial Agriculture educator) and Hunter Buchanan (Local Foods program coordinator)

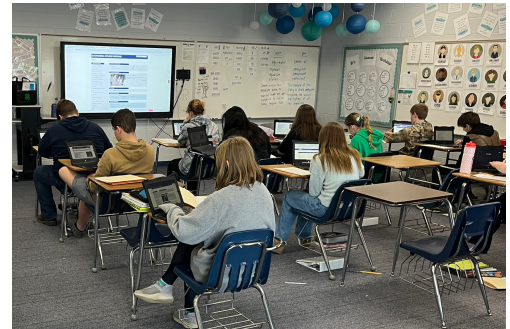


Health

Partnerships: Elementary schools across Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties

Programs: Welcome to the Real World

Staff: 4-H staff



Illinois Extension
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