



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**University of Illinois Extension
Sangamon, Menard, and Logan Counties
Extension Council & Board Meeting Agenda
July 24, 2025 – 7 p.m.
Logan County Extension Office
980 N. Postville Dr., Lincoln, IL 62656**

- **Call to Order** – Chairman Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- **Present:** David Mendenhall, Dawn Wheat, Daniel Fulton, Charlotte Judd, Jadyn Wheat, Terri Casey

- **Previous Meeting Minutes**

There being no corrections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

- **Financial/Fiscal Updates**

Extension was not able to secure additional State of Illinois funding in this year's state budget.

The Menard County Farm Bureau has sold its building to Menard County. The county will continue our current lease, and we do not anticipate any immediate changes to our operations. However, the county does plan to undertake renovations and updates to the building. We'll need to remain flexible during this process, as some adjustments may be required to accommodate the work.

- **Program Updates**

Casey handed out staff program reports and pointed out some highlights.

Important Update on SNAP-Ed Program

With deep regret, Casey shared that federal funding for the SNAP-Ed program had been discontinued under the Big Beautiful Bill. As a result, Extension is forced to sunset the program entirely, ending a 30-year legacy of vital nutrition and health education in our community. This program has served countless individuals through schools, food banks, and community partnerships, and its loss will be deeply felt.

This will affect 217 Extension staff from across Illinois. This change also means that Unit 16 will be saying goodbye to three dedicated team members whose passion and service have been the heart of our SNAP-Ed efforts.

- **Staffing Update**

Hunter Buchanan started as the new Local Food Systems Program Coordinator on June 2. Through additional financial support from Sangamon County, we are now able to fund this position, which will be working throughout the unit and area to help strengthen food systems by connecting producers with buyers, especially institutions, as well as identify barriers and help connect resources, groups and individuals together to build a more sustainable system.

Sherri Bishop, Logan County 4-H Program Coordinator, left in mid-June to move back to Missouri to be closer to family.

Maddie Atterberry, Sangamon County 4-H program coordinator, left the position in mid-June and is currently assisting with the Horticulture and Master Gardener programs.

Michelle Whipple, 4-H Metro Educator, left in mid-June to return home to Florida.

We currently have Carissa Davis, 4-H Youth Educator and Stacie Skelton, Menard County 4-H Program Coordinator (80% time, she works 4 days a week) running the program in all three counties.

The Logan County 4-H position was posted, and interviews were recently conducted. Hoping to get the position filled soon.

Currently holding off on relisting the Sangamon County EPC and metro position since things are in flux both with the 4-H program and as the Unit continues to calculate the effects of the loss of the SNAP-Ed program and its funding.

- **Reaching New Audiences/Meeting Community Need**

Casey mentioned that there is currently an additional open seat on the council, and she is seeking diverse voices to join our Extension Council, especially those who understand the needs of historically underserved audiences, as well as serving audiences most at risk and in need of our services. She asked the council that if they know of someone who could represent these audiences and whose experience would be helpful, please reach out to her and she will reach out to them.

Youth members present discussed FFA and it would be helpful to seek ways 4-H and FFA could work together for the benefit of both of their members. Perhaps reaching out to Ag teachers in the unit.

- **Set Future Meeting Dates**

Thursday, October 16, 2024 – 7 PM (Springfield)

- **Public Input**

There was no public input.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Mendenhall adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.