

Lifelong Learning. Lifelong Impact.

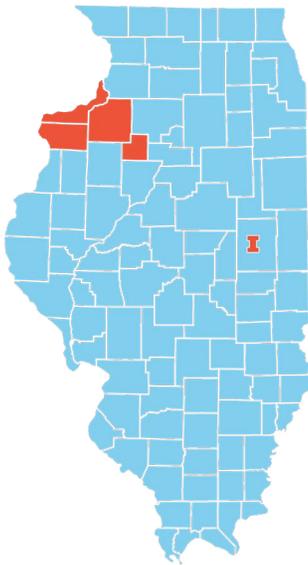


Serving Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties
ILLINOIS EXTENSION IMPACT REPORT 2025





Jenny Garner
County Director



Advancing health, resilience, and opportunity across our communities.

Greetings! I want to express my sincere thanks for your dedication to the mission of University of Illinois Extension. The progress we have made throughout Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark counties has been possible because of your encouragement, collaboration, and support of our work.

This year, our programming placed a strong emphasis on health and well-being. “Together at the Table” discussions created space for meaningful conversations about food and nutrition. A cohort of University of Illinois Landscape Architecture students created sustainable design concepts for Mel McKay Park.

Other community projects—from vegetable growing and Grow-a-Row efforts—expanded access to fresh, local foods. SNAP-Ed’s Eat.Move. Save. program supported nutrition education and physical activity.

4-H cooking and social-emotional learning programs helped youth build healthy habits and emotional resilience. Demonstrations of cover cropping further promoted sustainable farming practices across our region.

This past year we sadly bid farewell to seven devoted SNAP-Ed staff members due to the loss of federal funding. Despite this challenging transition, we are immensely proud of the three decades of nutrition and physical activity education SNAP-Ed has delivered and are grateful for their service.

Even in times of transition, Illinois Extension remains a vital resource, connecting people to opportunities that enhance their lives. Thank you for your shared commitment to creating healthier, stronger futures.

Jenny Garner,
County Director

Cover photo: Rock Island
County 4-H Master
Showmanship.

Illinois Extension Makes an Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's land-grant mission thrives each day through Extension 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

2025 Engagement

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

738 Communities Served	831K+ Program Attendees	9.4M+ Webpage Views	9.8M+ Social Media Visibility	1.8M+ YouTube Impressions
249 Educational Sessions/Week (28K+ Annually)	83 Online Courses Accessed by 13K+ People	10,846 Local Government Education Webinar Reach	1,848 4-H Clubs 20,242 4-H Club Members	68,697 Fair Exhibits 295,379 4-H Experiences

Partnerships

Resource Generation

5,129 Program Volunteers	277 Community Gardens	2,830 School and Community Partners	\$15,026,392 Value of Volunteer Contributions	\$499,188 Value of Donated Produce Grown or Facilitated	\$960K+ External Funds Secured for SNAP-Ed Partners
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On July 4, 2025, the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminated all funding for Illinois Extension's SNAP-Ed nutrition education program. Here's the impact by the numbers:

Up to \$135M Estimated Annual Loss in Future Economic Returns on Investment in Illinois	2 million+ Residents Lost Access to Food and Health Education	1,754 Partners Including Schools, Food Banks, Early Childhood Centers, Public Health Departments, and Local Agencies Impacted	200+ Staff Members Affected by Layoffs	30 Years of Infrastructure and Network Building for the SNAP-Ed Program Lost
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Growing healthier communities

Across Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark counties, Illinois Extension worked alongside residents, partners, and volunteers to expand learning opportunities, support families, and build resilient, thriving communities.

611 educational sessions

were delivered across the unit by educators, program staff, and committed volunteers.

16,600 individuals

participated, receiving practical, research-based information they can use in daily life.

This year's work reflects a shared belief that health is shaped not only by individual choices, but by the systems, environments, and relationships that support people where they live, learn, work, and grow.

Illinois Extension's programs reflected this commitment in every corner of our four-county region. Educators and volunteers worked side-by-side with community partners to increase access to reliable nutrition education, strengthen youth leadership pathways, support local food systems, and expand opportunities for lifelong learning.

Whether through research-based workshops, hands-on projects, or collaborative initiatives that respond to local priorities, Extension efforts helped cultivate environments where individuals and families can thrive and where healthier communities continue to take root.

Illinois Extension-supported gardens, like the Riverside demonstration garden, supply fresh vegetables to local food-access partners.

Growing food, growing community

Extension efforts to expand access to fresh, nutritious food continued through programs like Growing Illowa Food Together (GIFT) Gardens, where local growers came together to donate produce to area food pantries.

Illinois Extension collaborated with Tapestry Farms, Iowa State University Extension, River Bend Food Bank, and the Quad Cities Community Foundation on the project. Growers received tools, signage, and ongoing guidance through a bi-weekly newsletter. These contributions nourished families and strengthened local food systems.

64,063 pounds of produce

were supplied from the GIFT Gardens collaboration delivered to 18 community food agencies.



GIFT project partners unveil final number of donated produce at a press conference. Photo credit: Jonathan Turner/WVIK News.



Honoring the final year of SNAP-Ed

With the federal elimination of SNAP-Ed in 2025, this year marks the conclusion of our local program. The program's influence endures in the skills it built, the collaborations it fostered, and the healthier environments it helped shape across the region.

400 SNAP-Ed programs

were delivered across community sites in 2025, ensuring continued access to high-quality SNAP-Ed education.

2,138 participants

took part, learning practical strategies for healthier choices at home, school, and in the community.

SNAP-Ed's measurable outcomes—participants reached, classes delivered, partnerships strengthened, and long-term health impacts—tell only part of the story. Its deeper legacy lives in the social capital it built: shared meaning, dignity, cultural richness, and community connection. When its ending was first announced, partners and participants responded with overwhelming appreciation, underscoring how strongly the program is valued.



SNAP-Ed staff, including Hannah Reeves, lead Illinois Jr. Chef camps that teach hundreds of youth cooking and nutrition skills.

Staff attend an event earlier in the year, during the final year for seven SNAP-Ed colleagues whose contributions will be missed.

A network of community partners

SNAP-Ed's collaboration with local schools and agencies reflects nearly two decades of shared commitment to student and family well-being. Since 2007, school districts have ensured that teachers and after-school coordinators were connected to SNAP-Ed programming, recognizing the value of consistent, high-quality nutrition education.

SNAP-Ed worked with 102 partners

including 27 K-12 schools, 13 early childhood centers, 20 emergency food sites, and 42 additional agencies.

SNAP-Ed has supported our community food pantries, public housing, health departments, nursing homes, and other agencies by sharing nutrition and wellness lessons and resources. SNAP-Ed staff engaged with community members at family nights and community fairs. They conducted food waste studies in public schools, led Illinois Jr. Chef summer camps, brought in-school and after-school lessons to classrooms, and conducted many other impactful nutrition education programs.



SNAP-Ed community worker Emily Hoskins shares Eat.Move.Save. resources at Extension's Winter Wellness Family event.



Empowering health through education

Through research-based education, strong community partnerships, and statewide collaboration, Illinois Extension's Nutrition and Wellness programs equip residents with practical food-skills and improved nutrition knowledge, while supporting long-term health across the region.

Local nutrition education builds everyday success

Food and Nutrition Educator Kristin Bogdonas delivered a strong slate of local programs involving chronic disease prevention and management, healthy aging programming, food preservation, and food safety. These programs help people build confidence and skills to reach their personal health goals.



Programs like the Gluten-Free Sourdough Bread and Jam Workshop, led by Kristin Bogdonas (center), equip participants with practical skills they can use at home.

Nutrition programs have bite

777 direct education contacts

received practical nutrition and wellness programming from Kristin Bogdonas.

150 participants

attended in-person Honey and Health programs, with 95% reporting increased understanding of honey's therapeutic and culinary uses.

Thousands

tune in each month to the Wellness Wake Up Call for timely nutrition guidance.

60,000 readers

engaged with Start the Week off Right articles in the Dispatch/Argus and Quad City Times, covering timely topics to support everyday healthy living.



Illinois Extension's nutrition offerings, including the MIND Diet workshop that Kristin Bogdonas led in March, deliver the latest research on timely health and wellness topics.

Extending research-based nutrition education statewide

Bogdonas supported statewide initiatives that translated current nutrition research into practical programs, webinars, and toolkits for families and educators. Statewide offerings included Honey and Health, Sourdough, Sustainable Eating, new Diabetes curriculum, 5 Ways to Protect Your Bones, produce storage videos, and the SARE SmartServe Toolkit.

Tai Chi for arthritis and fall prevention

With fall-related injuries rising globally, fall prevention has emerged as a critical global health priority for the aging population. Tai chi provides a practical, accessible approach to improving balance, mobility, and pain relief. Illinois Extension expanded access to this evidence-based, CDC-recognized program through specialized instructor training. Bogdonas completed training in September, preparing her to offer the program locally in 2026.

Wellness Wake Up Call podcast

Bogdonas continued hosting the Wellness Wake Up Call on WVIK, reaching thousands each month and drawing an international audience. Episodes—now also video-recorded for YouTube and aired on Western Illinois University's NPR station—covered topics including back-to-school nutrition, healthy aging, lung health, diabetes awareness, and winter wellness.



Tune in to the weekly Wellness Wake Up Podcast wvik.org/podcast/wellness-wake-up-call



Community-driven food access solutions

The Floreciente Community Garden in Moline continued to demonstrate the power of community-led food access efforts. Since launching in 2021, the garden has produced 1,168 pounds of fruits and vegetables for community meals and neighborhood families. Partnerships with the Palomares Social Justice Center and Master Gardeners support its design, maintenance, and education.

During their Midwest convening, members of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators toured the garden, drawing national attention to this neighborhood initiative and its sustainable partnership model.

Their visit also underscored SNAP-Ed’s role in making this work possible—and the implications of the program’s scheduled departure in February 2026—prompting conversations about sustainability, equity, and continued investment in community-based solutions.



The Floreciente Community Garden—an Illinois Extension, SNAP-Ed–supported, award-winning collaboration—has produced more than 1,000 pounds of fresh food and expanded community resources. Its impact provides a strong foundation for the work ahead.

Expanding the model: growing the west end (launching 2026)

Building on the momentum of the Floreciente Garden project, Illinois Extension secured \$38,920 through the Clean River Advisory Council and the QC River Connections Grant at the Quad Cities Community Foundation to launch Growing the West End in 2026. This new project will transform underutilized land at the Thurgood Marshall Learning Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center into community donation gardens and green gathering spaces that strengthen environmental resilience, access to locally grown food, and neighborhood vitality.



Reducing Food Waste and Expanding Access of Nutrition Education

Food and Nutrition Educator Kristin Bogdonas and SNAP-Ed Educator Tayler Louscher played key roles in a statewide interdisciplinary project designed to help families make full use of fresh produce. The team developed a series of research-based produce-storage videos now used across Illinois to support healthier eating, reduce food waste, and stretch household food budgets.

Originally created to serve SNAP-eligible audiences, the videos are broadcast in food pantries, Family and Community Resource Centers, and DHS offices. The project has since expanded to benefit all community members and the videos are available online through the Storing Food webpage and the Picking, Preparing, and Storing Fruits and Vegetables YouTube playlist.

Impact

Platform	Total Reach
Picking, Preparing, and Storing Fruits and Vegetables (YouTube playlist)	32,000
Storing Food webpage	1,106
Combined Extension reach	33,106

Interdisciplinary State Team Award Winners



Kristin Bogdonas, Food and Nutrition Educator



Tayler Louscher, SNAP-Ed Educator



Find the Together at the Table tutorials and more extension.illinois.edu/food/storing-food



Horticulture: Celebrating 50 Years of Growing Together



2025 marked a landmark moment for Illinois Extension as the Master Gardener program celebrated 50 years of cultivating knowledge, beauty, and community across Illinois.

A Regional Celebration of Gardens, Learning, and Legacy

The anniversary was a living showcase of the partnerships, people, and places that define the horticulture work in the unit. Community members, volunteers, and partners enjoyed a full day of tours at three signature Master Gardener sites, each representing a different chapter of the program's history and future.

Riverside Gardens, Moline offered guided tours of the GIS-mapped tree walk (pictured above), demonstration food gardens, pollinator habitat, and a hands-on greenhouse make-and-take.

At the Floreciente Community Garden, a 2024 Extension Diversity Award recipient, attendees learned how a neighborhood-driven vision grew into a thriving community space supported by Master Gardeners and SNAP-Ed. Visitors contributed produce and pantry items to a community food drive supporting local families.

The celebration concluded at the historic Hauberg Estate, where guests explored a developing Master Gardener project, toured the Robert Spencer-designed mansion, and learned about Jens Jensen's landscape legacy before gathering in the Carriage House for refreshments and conversation.



At the celebration, Master Gardeners lead tours of their projects like the food demonstration garden at Riverside.



Strengthening horticulture education



Illinois Extension’s horticulture team—educator Emily Swihart and coordinator Tracy Jo Mulliken—worked alongside Master Gardeners to help residents build practical skills, deepen ecological awareness, and make informed decisions about their landscapes.

- **Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening** reached more than 160 participants with research-based sessions on emerging issues, from new plant trends to jumping worm awareness.
- **The Spring Series** supported more than 75 learners in identifying invasive species, observing local wildlife, practicing restorative outdoor activities, and improving food production skills.
- **Library partnerships** expanded access for families and new gardeners, offering approachable, research-based programs in all four counties.

Reaching learners across state lines

Gardening in the Air connected more than 650 participants to expert instruction, allowing learners from across the region to access high-quality horticulture education, regardless of location or mobility.

Connecting communities to expertise

Media outreach brought timely, research-based guidance to broad public audiences through television, radio, blogs, and podcasts, helping residents stay informed and connected to Extension resources.

Master Gardeners: the heart of community impact

Master Gardeners play a key role in extending knowledge and helping others learn to grow through their volunteer service—from supporting community gardens and educational outreach to planning events, answering the horticulture helpline, sharing resources at the QCCA Lawn and Garden Show, and much more.

Horticulture program snapshot

179 residents

received research-based horticulture guidance through the helpline and in-person visits.

539 environmental consultations

supported informed decision-making in homes and communities.

2,590 pounds of produce

valued at \$5,495—donated from Master Gardener-led food donation gardens, strengthening local food access.

440 lbs of produce

contributed by Give Back Gardening participants to area food pantries, extending the reach of home-grown generosity.

3,759 learners

participated in environmental education programs delivered through 56 research-based sessions offered by Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark Counties.

69 Master Gardeners

supported horticulture education, contributing service valued at \$193,984 to local communities.

Honoring outstanding volunteers

Several local Master Gardeners were recognized for excellence at the state level: Jane Arensdorf, Deb Corso, Julia Martin, and Gail Pickering received Sustained Excellence honors, while Sue Atkinson and Cindy Lenger earned the Outstanding Master Gardener award.



Visit the Master Gardeners Horticulture Helpline
go.illinois.edu/AskMasterGardener

Strengthening local capacity, leadership, and disaster preparedness

Volunteer reception center training



Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development Educator Russell Medley helped Disaster Ready Quad Cities organize a Volunteer Reception Center training to strengthen local disaster response capacity. The session prepared participants to register, screen, and coordinate spontaneous volunteers during emergencies and included a hands-on simulation. Led by Volunteer Iowa at the American Red Cross, the training equips volunteers to be ready for real-world conditions.



The Volunteer Reception Center training expands the region's pool of disaster-ready volunteer leaders.

Regional housing study



The regional housing study for Henry, Mercer, and Stark counties, completed in 2024, is already informing local planning efforts. Russell Medley shared the results with each county board in the spring. Communities are now using the study to strengthen planning efforts, support grant applications, and pursue affordable housing tax credits.

- **Galva** used the findings to guide a 44-acre housing project that includes a mix of housing types and community amenities.
- **Stark County** is using the data to explore independent and assisted living options that support aging residents.



Student-community partnership



Illinois Extension connected local partners with University of Illinois expertise and student talent. Russel Medley coordinated the collaboration between the City of Rock Island Parks and Recreation Dept., the U of I Landscape Architecture program, and Open Space Design Studio. Guided by professors Laura Payne and Beth Scott, the college students developed a master plan concept for Mel McKay Park, bringing fresh design ideas to the city and giving students hands-on experience in community-based planning.



University of Illinois Architecture Design students visit Mel McKay Park to develop a master plan.

Effective governance



Illinois Extension provides research-based training and resources for county and municipal leaders, including:

- **Leadership Academy:** Medley was among the presenters training officials on legal requirements, hazard mitigation, and other core responsibilities.
- **Local Government Education Webinars:** Supports 75 local leaders with timely updates on state and federal issues, broadband, data centers, and other emerging policy topics.
- **Emerging Cities of the Quad Cities:** Medley leads meetings for leaders in Henry, Stark, and Mercer counties to share best practices and explore community and economic development opportunities.



Supporting Water Quality, Soil Health, and Sustainable Agriculture Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Illinois Extension continued its leadership in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, supporting efforts to reduce nutrient loss, protect water quality, and strengthen long-term agricultural sustainability. Watershed Outreach Associate Nicole Haverback helped expand the Free Cover Crop Program in NLRs priority watersheds through funding from the Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff.

\$100,000 in free cover crop seed was distributed across Mercer, Henry, Carroll, Whiteside, and Coles counties in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The program supported farmers with less than three years of cover crop experience, allowing them to try to or expand the practice without the cost of purchasing seed. The grant also supported a statewide virtual farmer panel, creating opportunities for farmer-led discussion and shared learning.



Nicole Haverback and Nicolette Pysson, Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District, stand near cereal rye cover crop seed provided by Illinois Extension.

Cover Crop Adoption and Farmer Support

These efforts contributed to improved soil quality, reduced erosion, and healthier waterways across Illinois. By lowering financial barriers and connecting farmers with peer experiences, the program strengthened both environmental outcomes and long-term farm resilience to face future challenges.



Visit the new INLR website
extension.illinois.edu/nlr



Farmers discuss economic considerations of in-field nutrient loss reduction practices at the 2025 Farm Series.

Farmer-Led Conservation

A farmer-led discussion hosted by Illinois Extension and Precision Conservation Management equipped participants with practical strategies for nutrient loss reduction, financial incentives, and conservation decision-making.



The petting zoo is a popular attraction at Farm in the Park.

Growing Agriculture Literacy

Hundreds of youth across Mercer County gain hands-on agriculture knowledge through the Mercer County Ag Education Program. Illinois Extension partners with the Mercer County Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Conservation District to help students understand the role agriculture plays in daily life.

Program Coordinator Teresa Kirwan brings hands-on ag lessons to classrooms with the help of volunteers, and distributes monthly Ag in a Bag kits to libraries and businesses for at-home learning. The program also brings community events such as Farm in the Park, Ag Safety, and Touch-a-Truck Days, and offers summer Teacher Institute Days to equip educators with ag-focused curriculum.



4-H: Clubs, Community, and County Pride



4-H: helping youth find their spark

4-H empowered youth across the unit to explore their interests, build confidence, and develop practical skills through hands-on learning, community clubs, county fairs, and strong local partnerships.

Hands-On Learning in Clubs and Events

2025 included another Livestock Fitting Clinic in Mercer County with Sherrard FFA, where youth gained knowledge of animal care and show preparation. Fishing clubs, shotgun and archery programs expanded outdoor education and skill development.



Teen leadership opportunities

4-H is a great place for teens to gain leadership skills. Members in community clubs serve as officers and mentors, while Teen Federation and Teen Teachers clubs provide opportunities to plan events and lead workshops.



Teen Teachers, like Willa, help plan and lead hands-on activities at events like the 4-H Holidays Around the World.

Community service is a core part of the 4-H program. Clubs like the Zuma Zippers, pictured here volunteering for Toys for Tots, give youth first-hand experience in giving back.

Building healthy habits through Cooking 101

4-H also advanced physical health and lifelong skills through Cooking 101, a statewide signature program that teaches youth nutrition basics, kitchen safety, and confidence in preparing healthy meals. With sessions offered during the school year and summer, youth learned practical skills that support healthier habits at home and in their communities.



In Kewanee, SNAP-Ed community worker Darcy Eggmann leads a Cooking 101 session that builds youth skills in nutrition, kitchen safety, and healthy meal preparation.



Learning that reaches beyond the club

4-H's commitment to learning extended into classrooms, libraries, and schools. Partnerships brought mindfulness and social-emotional learning to youth, including a comprehensive 4-H expressive painting course at the Moline Public Library where teens strengthened SEL skills through creative exploration. The "Build Your Future" virtual club further expanded access by supporting career readiness with interview practice and digital literacy.



Jennifer Peterson, 4-H educator, leads middle school youth through a Welcome to the Real World simulation.

Financial literacy for middle school youth

8th graders from Mercer County and Kewanee strengthened financial skills through Welcome to the Real World simulation. 205 students explored careers, salaries, taxes, payment methods, and the costs of adult living. With support from volunteers, they made budgeting decisions for housing, transportation, insurance, and food. Many said the session opened their eyes to real-life expenses and how they think about future careers.



IDNR's Madison Jones offers a fishing lesson to 4-H member Henry McKamey at a summer camp collaboration.

Community partnerships that spark discovery

4-H partnered with local organizations to expand hands-on nature and STEM learning. Programs included: Fishing and Outdoor Exploration with Spring Forward, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Moline Parks and Recreation. After school Natural Science with Hauberg and Spring Forward, and STEM Learning through Rock Island Parks and Recreation, after school program.

Competition success

4-H youth can compete as part of livestock judging, horse judging, and horse bowl teams. The Henry/Stark senior livestock judging team placed 3rd in the state, and Sam Nightingale of Henry County earned "high overall individual" in the Senior division. Five members were also selected for Illinois' state team that will compete nationally.

Horse bowl teams from Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer counties also excelled. The senior team won the state competition and placed 5th in the nation in Louisville, Kentucky. Two junior teams placed 1st and 3rd at the regional level, the highest competition available for ages 8-13.



Henry/Stark Senior Livestock team members are Mason Palmer, Avery Knupp, Sam Nightingale, Cole Kinsella, Nolan Orwig, and Kashen Ellerbrock. Coaches are Haley Gruber and Nicole Haverback.



Sr. Horse Bowl team members Maddie Oltman, Emma Steiger, Danielle Gorbach (coach), Anna Hessell, and Ruth O'Brien take 5th place at the National Horse Bowl Competition in Louisville.





4-H documentary honors local veterans

4-H In the City members completed a yearlong civic engagement project that culminated in the original documentary, "Salute to Service", honoring seven local U.S. military veterans. They received Grand Champion Civic Engagement Group Project at the Illinois State Fair.

Through mentorship from Kelly and Tammy Rundle of Fourth Wall Films, the members gained skills in interviewing, filming, and editing while building meaningful connections with local veterans. The film premiered at the Moline Public Library and was later broadcast on local PBS station WQPT, extending the reach of the youths' work and showcasing the power of youth voice, storytelling, and community collaboration.



4-H in the City members and leader Lori Tharp visit KWQC TV-6 to discuss their documentary, "Salute to Service".

Volunteers power the 4-H experience

More than 60 dedicated 4-H volunteers mentored youth, creating supportive spaces where young people could build confidence, develop life skills, and explore their interests. Volunteers led community clubs, assisted at county fairs, and offered hands-on learning in areas ranging from livestock and general projects to STEM and creative arts. Their commitment made it possible for youth to learn, lead, and thrive.

Growing leaders for tomorrow

4-H provides youth with meaningful opportunities to learn, lead, and contribute to their communities. Through hands-on projects, supportive volunteers, and partnerships that expand access, young people build confidence, practice real-world skills, and discover new interests. This foundation of learning and belonging strengthens communities now and prepares the next generation to step forward with purpose.

4-H 2025 Impact

Across Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark counties, Illinois Extension worked alongside residents, partners, and volunteers to expand learning opportunities, support families, and build resilient, thriving communities.

With support from incredible volunteers, 4-H staff, staff educators Jennifer Peterson, and Elaine Kaple, and coordinators Melissa Fudge, Lyndsey Flickinger, and Kristen Parchert made a huge impact on positive youth development in our communities:

4-H by the Numbers

801 4-H club memberships

reflect strong youth engagement in the unit.

61 community clubs

provide spaces for learning, leadership, and belonging.

5,161 4-H learning experiences

delivered through clubs, events, and special programs.

2,094 fair exhibits

showcased the skills and achievements of 4-H members at county fairs.

63 adult volunteers

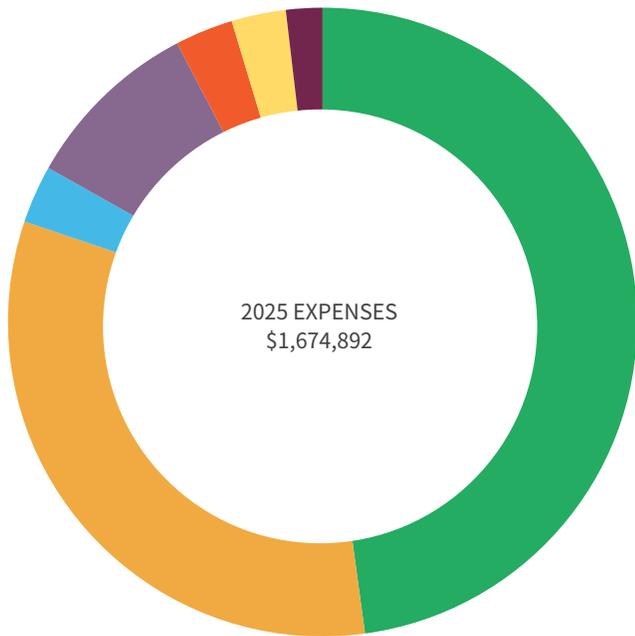
contributed **6,048 hours** of service **valued at \$207,386**, supporting youth development.

Showcasing skills at the county fairs

County fairs remained a cornerstone of the 4-H experience, giving youth the chance to showcase their hard work, practice public speaking, and celebrate their achievements with family and community members. 4-H fair events highlight the breadth of learning that happens throughout the year—from livestock and general projects to creative arts and STEM.

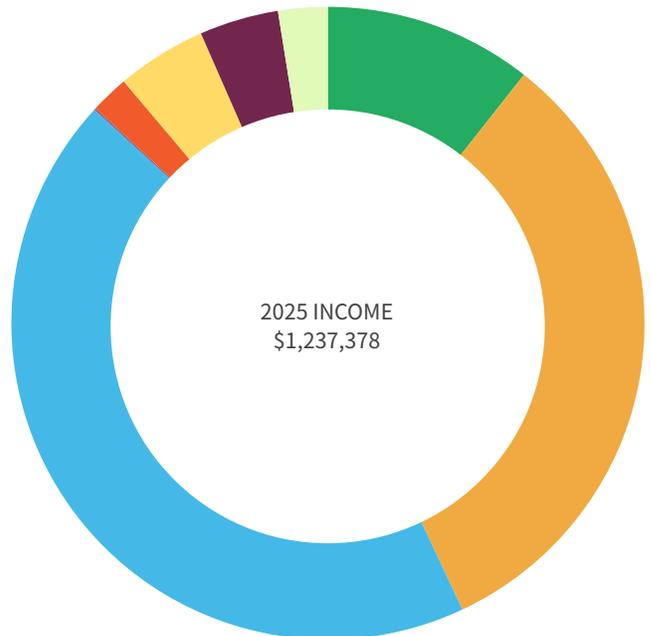


4-H General Projects gives youth the opportunity to explore their interests in more than 150 areas.



2025 EXPENSES
\$1,674,892

Amount	Report Categories
801,367.02	Program Expenses and Salaries
541,595.00	Federal SNAP-Ed Program
49,748.64	Materials/Supplies
154,072.78	Utilities/Rent
50,000.00	Smith Lever
46,808.21	Transportation
31,301.04	4-H Awards



2025 INCOME
\$1,237,378

Amount	Report Categories
\$131,520.64	State Funds/Match
\$400,753.86	County Board
\$541,595.00	Federal SNAP Grant
\$1,211.43	Other Grants
\$24,277.29	Program Fees
\$56,718.97	Local Donations
\$50,000.00	Smith-Lever Fund
\$31,301.04	4-H Premiums



Financial Report

University of Illinois Extension operates through a three-way funding partnership among the State of Illinois, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the county boards of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark counties. SNAP-Ed programming is supported through a federal USDA grant.

These partnerships bring significant programming dollars into the four-county unit, matching local contributions with state and federal support. Additional resources come from local businesses, foundations, and individual donors who contribute through the Henry County 4-H Foundation, Mercer County Extension & 4-H Foundation, Rock Island County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation, and the Stark County 4-H Foundation. Support from the local Extension Council and the Illinois 4-H Foundation further strengthens the local donation income that helps sustain programs.

2025 Grants and Sponsorships

Local support for programs included:

- **\$38,920:** Clean River Advisory Council and the QC River Connections Grant at the Quad Cities Community Foundation for Growing the West End
- **\$10,000:** Constellation Powering Communities for tree equity programs
- **\$6,050 Mercer County Ag Education including:** \$3,050 from local businesses, \$2,500 from the Mercer County Farm Bureau, and \$500 from the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District
- **\$4,700:** Mel McKay Charitable Trust for horticulture programs
- **\$1,000:** Rock Island Community Foundation for 4-H programs
- **\$500:** Big River Resources and River Valley Cooperative for the Farm Series
- **In-kind supplies:** NRA for 4-H Shooting Sports

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Illinois Extension

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College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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