

Experiences • Confidence • Opportunity • Future • Growing • Service • Committed • Camaraderie • Mentors • Legacy
 Enrich • Develop • Charitable • Community • Inspiring • Creative • Spectacular • Enjoyable • Generational • Generations
 Basics • Fulfillment • Discovery • Life-long • Helpful • Thankful • Educate • Farms • Awesome • Science • Kids • History
 Family • Preparedness • Established • Epiphany • Impact • Informative • Leadership • Companion • HCE • Gardens
 Powerful • Passion • 4-H • Exponential • Leaders • Revolution • Help-Desk • Quality • Connection • Opportunity • Grow
 Experiences • Memories • 3-D • Help • Blessing • Network • Remarkable • Phenomenal • Resilient • Transforming
 Healthy • Partnership • Lead • Sustainable • Quality • Outside • Answers • Collaboration • Spark • Inspirational • Super
 Incredible • Fantastic • Fun • Explore • Innovative • Technology • Give • Assistance • Empowered • MG
 Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious • Success • Clover • Impact • Dedication • Resource • Exciting • Communication
 Hands-On • Education • Synergy • Memories • Educating • Original • Friendship • Rewarding • Sprout • Focus • MN
 Teamwork • Knowledge • Responsibility • Inspire • Experiences • Confidence • Opportunity • Future • Growing • Service
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100 YEARS
 investing in You

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 Charitable • Community • Inspiring • Creative • Spectacular • Enjoyable • Generational • Generations • Basics
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving DeWitt, Macon, & Piatt Counties

It is my pleasure to represent a staff of outstanding professionals who strive daily to positively impact the lives of the citizens of DeWitt, Macon & Piatt Counties. The staff does a superb job of developing and presenting educational programs that address issues in both urban and rural settings. There is not enough room in this brief format to report on the hundreds of individual programs that have been offered by the staff this past year. Nor is there enough room to report on the substantial impact those programs had on thousands of individuals throughout the counties that we serve.



Enclosed in this year's Annual Report, you will find innovative programming that connects to audiences of all ages. In closing out our 100th Year Anniversary, the words showcased on the front of this annual report highlight the individual impact that Extension has made on the lives of those we serve. While times have changed, the foundation of Extension is still rooted in providing our communities with the research and information they need, when they need it. We have enjoyed showcasing the success of University of Illinois Extension in our 100th Year Anniversary, and look forward to the future ahead.

~Doug Harlan, County Director

Find Us In Your Community!

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8425 Katie Road
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web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/



Illinois Nutrition Education SNAP-Ed Annual Report

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is nutrition education provided for SNAP participants and other eligible low-income individuals. SNAP-Ed programs focus on nutrition education and obesity prevention. Programs are evidence-based and focused on behavior change. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate.

In Macon County alone, there are 37 program sites that reached over 28,254 contacts. Based on those contacts, teachers reported that 93.7% of the students that are served seem more aware of the importance of a healthy diet. In addition, 87.5% of these teachers gave their students more physical activity breaks.

DeWitt County 4-H

A Foundation in Community Tradition



Sometimes the most impactful programs to our patrons are cross collaborations between University of Illinois Extension program areas. A perfect example of this is the “Where Does My Lunch Come From?” program that was hosted in DeWitt County during the summer. Thanks to collaborative efforts between 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition & Wellness and Local Food Systems & Small Farms, 9 youth (ages 8-12) set-out on an adventure to see where their food comes from. During the three day program, the youth had an opportunity to check out local small farms to see what was happening in their community. The youth then prepared a lunch related to the agricultural tour they did that day. Trying new fruits and vegetables along with new recipes made the experience of the program come full circle for the youth. *One of the youth who participated commented, “I think that I could even make this food for my parents.”* Based on the youth surveys, data suggested that short-term exposure to produce, both at the point of growing and at tasting, can increase interest in eating and the willingness to try these fruits and vegetables.

DeWitt County 4-H Members

137 4-H Members

from DeWitt County completed their 4-H records resulting in 17 outstanding second year applications.

145 4-H Members

and their families attended Achievement Night showcasing the dedication and hard work of 4-H members and volunteers.

100 4-H Members

and their families participated in International Night which has taken place for over 14 years.

YOUTH CONNECT WITH TEEN TEACHERS

Denise Mathews and Faythe Newberry wanted to try a little something different when it came to being part of 4-H this year. Both teens took on the challenge of being teen teachers for science programs like the Sneaky Science SPIN Club and Be a Mad Scientist Day in DeWitt County. The teen teachers conducted experiments with 4-H youth showcasing the science principals that go behind them. Denise commented, “It is fun to see the kids get excited about science and know that I was a part of that experience.”



148 youth participated in the National Science Experiment, Rockets to the Rescue, through the Clinton School District. Youth stepped up to the task of designing a rocket out of everyday materials including recyclable two-liter bottles, cotton balls, pipe cleaners, rubber bands and a protractor. Each group then had an opportunity to launch their rocket to see if they could have a successful mission. Evaluation results showed that more than 80% of the participants would like to participate in more science activities in the future.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● *HORTICULTURE & MASTER GARDENERS*

PIATT COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER GARDEN



Master Gardeners and Horticulture staff assisted in creating a small space garden for the Piatt County Mental Health clients. The garden had straw bales, home-made bucket gardens and commercially made Earthboxes. As a result, Mental Health Center staff cited an increase in enthusiasm about gardening and learned how to incorporate vegetables into meals. Clients were positive about kale chips that were made from kale grown in their garden. Clients that had modified textural diets were also able to enjoy some of their harvest and were particularly excited about the lettuce that they grew.

OLD KING'S ORCHARD

In 2014, Macon County Master Gardeners partnered with an Old King's Orchard 4-H club to help establish a vegetable garden. Many of these inner-city youth had no experience in gardening. During this program, 43 youth participated in planting tomatoes, learned how to plant root bound plants and learned the important role that mulch plays in gardening. The youth labeled all of the varieties of tomatoes that they grew. Plans are underway to provide support to Old King's Orchard for a garden in 2015.



SMALL SPACE VEGETABLE GARDENING DEMONSTRATION

During 2014, a focus for small space gardening was to equip all ages and abilities with ideas on how to successfully garden in a given space, no matter how small. A workshop on small space gardening, with 85 attendees, highlighted topics such as vertical gardens, gutter gardens, Earthboxes and bucket gardens. Extension staff developed a blog, Buckets, Bales & Bushels to help to grow with others in the community. Staff also created several ideas for small space gardening at the Piatt Extension Office to show various options that gardeners have when traditional space is not available.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

- A total of 13 workshops
- were presented by Macon
- County Master Gardeners to
- a variety of community and
- civic groups. A total of 558
- people were in attendance,
- over 50% more attendees
- than in 2013. Topics
- included tomatoes, micro-
- greens, growing the right
- plant for the right spot,
- creating curb appeal and
- garden fertility.

MASTER GARDENERS

Six Piatt County Master Gardeners earned 143 continuous education hours in 2014.

Macon County Master Gardeners answered 394 Help Desk calls. Because of the Help Desk, callers indicated they intended to change their gardening practices based on the information they were provided. A few of these changes include using mulch to conserve water and proper disposal of plants with powdery mildew.

Piatt County Master Gardeners answered 74 Help Desk calls during 2014.

Macon County Master Gardeners contributed 5,756 volunteer hours to multiple projects in Macon County. These hours are the equivalent of \$129,797.80 worth of service. This is based on the Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time.

In Piatt County, six Master Gardeners contributed 524 volunteer hours to multiple projects in Piatt County, equating to \$11,816.20 worth of service.

In DeWitt County, 24 people participated in horticulture programs held at V. Warner Library in Clinton. Programs offered were Small Space Gardening, Composting and Fall Gardening.

Over 2,000 people attended Gardening Insights, Plant Sale and Garden Walk in Macon County.

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS & SMALL FARMS



DOWN ON THE FARM TOUR

A heritage turkey farm, a small fruit and vegetable farm and a farm with bison were all on the schedule to visit for 49 men, women and children participating in the Down on the Farm Tour. Participants learned first-hand from the farmers about the processes used to raise their meats, fruits and vegetables. After the tour, 82% of participants indicated that they would specifically seek out locally raised meats, fruits and vegetables.

WHERE DOES MY LUNCH COME FROM?

This program, a collaboration between Local Food Systems and Small Farms, Nutrition & Wellness and 4-H from DeWitt and Piatt Counties, gave children an opportunity to visit six farms to experience how local farmers produce the meat, vegetables, milk and honey that they consume. With nine children participating in the program, we learned that children that have short-term exposure to seeing where their food comes from are more willing to try foods that they otherwise would not consider trying.



ANNIE'S PROJECT

This program focused on helping women develop their farm management skills and decision making tools for their farms.

Nineteen women attended six weekly sessions to listen to agricultural professionals discuss the issues of farm business accounting, marketing, risk management and much more. Each participant indicated that the program was beneficial and helpful. Participants suggested that they would participate in an Annie's Project, Part 2 if it were made available to them.

DEWITT, MACON, PIATT MASTER NATURALISTS

Eight people successfully completed the Master Naturalist training program consisting of ten weekly classes and field trips to Starved Rock State Park and Sugar Grove Nature Center. We now have 36 active and intern Master Naturalists who have logged more than 2,000 hours of volunteer time in our communities in 2014. This program is possible due to the assistance of several local partners including Decatur Park District and the Macon County Conservation District who help instruct, and provide accommodations for the group.

PRUNING PRINCIPLES FOR THE HOME ORCHARD

In early March, hobby fruit growers met on a blustery day to learn about pruning their trees at the orchard of Tim Kielar in Clinton. All participants were able to try their hand at pruning after learning the basic skills of the art.

PUTTING SMALL ACRES TO WORK

This program focused on topics such as Agroforestry, Goat Production Basics, Beginning Beekeeping, Lessons Learned on My Small Farm and Basics of Pasture Management. Of the 24 participants, 100% indicated that they improved their knowledge of small acreage management, their confidence in using small acreage management principles, their understanding of farming practices, their ability to develop goals for their land, and their ability to find small acreage resources. In addition, 100% of the respondents stated that their objectives for attending this workshop were met or exceeded.

STEWARDSHIP DAY IN CLINTON

We spoke with 163 Clinton Elementary School fifth graders about DeWitt County's many natural resources and their importance to the county and its citizens.

HORSE PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Twelve local horse owners attended a program that showed them how they could improve their pastures so that their horses would have more green grass available to them. This program was a partnership with the Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Macon County 4-H

Members are *Leaders in the Nation*



Maroa Livestock 4-H Club member, Alex Ruwe, represented Macon County 4-H at the LCP Premier 20 State

Conference, one of only ten 4-H members to receive the honor. She also attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, winning the trip for her Animal Science 4-H records.

Alex commented, "LCP opened my eyes to how many different careers there are within the ag industry and brought me close to other 4-H members who value leadership and appreciate the opportunities 4-H provides. The workshops and leadership activities allowed me to branch out and develop my leadership skills on a new level."

SNAP! Junior Leader, Keyana Thompson, represented Macon County 4-H at National 4-H Council, leading trainings on youth /adult partnerships and teens as teachers for national audiences in March and in July.

"Having this opportunity has allowed me to gain a better understanding of how different states do programs that are similar to what we do here. I love teaching other people about how we work with kids and teach them about nutrition. I hope what we do inspires other youth, in different states, to do the same."

Keyana Thompson, 4-H SNAP! Junior Leader



4-H Robotics

Macon County 4-H is a leader in 4-H Robotics, teaching skills for the workforce of the future.

- Seven innovative robotics clubs reaching 82 youth.
- 4-H RoboStorms hosted both a regional FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) and FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC) regional competition in Macon County.
- Two Macon County clubs competed in FTC, four in FLL competitions and three in the State 4-H Robotics Competition.
- Macon County 4-H was invited to showcase robotics and 3D Printing at the Decatur Small Business Expo. The Chamber of Commerce picked 4-H over businesses to represent this new and innovative technology.
- A former Macon County 4-H Robotics team member served on the committee to plan the 2015 4-H State Robotics Challenge.
- Two 4-H robotics club members chose to mentor FLL teams outside of 4-H.

SURVEY SAYS:



OVER 95% OF OUR 4-H TEEN TEACHERS RECOGNIZE THEY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

4-H TEACHES TEENS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Macon County 4-H embraced the Teen Teacher program model, successfully training 42 teens in four different program areas to lead programs for audiences aged 5-11 years. Thirty-one of the teens completed surveys about their experience with the 4-H program. These surveys showed that overwhelmingly our Teen Teacher program helped our youth. Their programs included:

- ◆ YES! Cloverbud Summer Camp reaching 107 youth
- ◆ SNAP! Summer Nutrition Activity Playground Nutrition Camp reaching 275 youth
- ◆ 4-H Robotics Program reaching 26 youth
- ◆ 4-H Aerospace Camps reaching 175 youth





Piatt County 4-H

Putting a New SPIN on Youth Programming



Slicing, dicing and mystery ingredients were the name of the game at the first ever Illinois 4-H Food Challenge hosted in Monticello, IL. Two teams from Piatt County took part in head to head competition along with teams representing Champaign and Iroquois Counties. In this competitive cooking competition similar to shows like “Master Chef” or “Iron Chef,” teams of 3-5 high school students took on the challenge of creating delicious and healthy dishes from the basket of mystery ingredients that they were given. 92% of the participants believed that they would practice healthier eating habits because of this challenge along with knowing more about food safety.

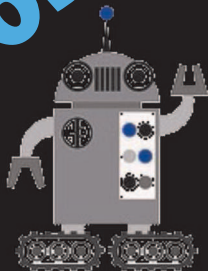


ROCKETS TO THE RESCUE

72 fourth and fifth graders from DeLand-Weldon and Bement took part in 4-H National Youth Science Day. Each youth team had to work together to create a rocket that could deliver food supplies to a fictional island after a natural disaster cut them off from their food supplies. Youth learned about the scientific method through hands-on experimentation and documentation as well as discovering the excitement of science and its every day applications.



ROBOTS



New for 2014 is the Piatt County 4-H Robotics Club. While small in numbers, the mighty club is preparing for a few of their first competitions including the FIRST® LEGO® League competition along with the Statewide 4-H LEGO® Robotics competition in the spring of 2015. Currently, they are honing their programming skills so that they can complete a series of challenges with their team built robot.



SPIN IT!

Piatt County 4-H was able to offer a Winter Series of SPIN Clubs. A total of five independent SPIN Clubs ran consecutively and covered a wide variety of topics including:

- ◆ Wild, Wild Wilderness
- ◆ Create with Clay & Crafts
- ◆ Science in the World
- ◆ Cooking & Baking Around the World
- ◆ Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

Each club met once a week for six weeks. As a part of the club, there was an opportunity for 4-H members to participate in a community service project relating to their subject, along with a presentation to their families at the conclusion of the series.





Community Partners & Sponsors

DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

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4-H Memorial Camp
 Agriculture Watershed Institute
 Allerton Library
 Allstate Insurance
 Archer Daniels Midland
 Arthur Graphic
 Atwood/Hammond District
 Barclay Library
 Bement Chamber of Commerce
 Bement School District
 Blue Mound Leader
 Blue Ridge School District
 Bryant Cottage
 Caterpillar
 Cerro Gordo Library
 Cerro Gordo School District
 Children's Museum of Illinois
 Cim-Tek
 City of Decatur
 Clinton Journal
 Clinton Rotary
 Clinton School District
 Clinton Tree Commission
 Clinton YMCA
 Connie's Country Greenhouse
 CONO
 County Market - Monticello
 DCC Marketing
 Decatur Area Projects Board
 Decatur Arts Council
 Decatur Celebration
 Decatur Fire Department
 Decatur Memorial Hospital
 Decatur Park District
 Decatur Police Department
 Decatur Public Library
 Decatur Public Schools
 Decatur Tribune
 Decatur YMCA
 DeWitt Human Resources Center
 DeWitt County 4-H Foundation
 DeWitt County Constitution
 DeWitt County HCE
 DeWitt County NRCS

DeWitt County SWCD
 DeWitt County Housing
 DeWitt Friendship Center
 DeWitt/Piatt Health Department
 DIGG
 DMH Wellness Center
 DOVE
 Eastern Illinois Food Bank
 Faith in Action
 Farm Progress Show
 Farmer City Library
 Farmer City School District
 Forsyth Public Library
 Garden Path
 Greater Decatur YMCA
 Head Start - Macon County
 Head Start - Piatt County
 Heart of Sangamon
 Heartland Tech
 Herald & Review
 IAHCE
 Illinois Chapter of the NRA
 Illinois Children's Museum
 Coalition for Community Service
 Illinois 4-H Foundation
 Illinois Children's Museum
 John Warner Hospital
 Leroy/Farmer City Newspaper
 Kirby Medical Center
 Macon County 4-H Foundation
 Macon County Conservation
 Macon County Fairgrounds
 Macon County Farm Bureau
 Macon County Health Department
 Macon County HCE
 Macon County NRCS
 Macon County Obesity Prevention
 Macon County Public Health
 Macon County Senior Center
 Macon County Sheriff's Office
 Macon County SWCD
 Macon Health Department
 Mansfield School District

Maroa-Forsyth Public Schools
 Maroa Park Program
 Maroa Public Library
 Monticello Community Building
 Monticello Farmer's Market
 Monticello - First Christian
 Monticello Rotary
 Monticello School District
 Mount Zion Public Schools
 Mount Zion Region News
 Mount Zion Recreation Dept.
 Obesity Prevention Coalition
 Partners in Education
 Piatt County 4-H Foundation
 Piatt County Farm Bureau
 Piatt County HCE
 Piatt County Journal Republic
 Piatt County Nursing Home
 Piatt County NRCS
 Piatt County SWCD
 Piatt Mental Health
 Prairie Pulse
 PPG Industries
 Richland Community College
 Ring Container
 Rock Springs Nature Center
 Rotary Club #180, Decatur
 RSVP
 SAIL
 Salvation Army
 Scovill Zoo
 St. Mary's Hospital
 Southern Piatt Record Herald
 Soy Capital Bank
 Tate & Lyle
 U of I Plant Greenhouse
 Vespasian Warner Library
 Walmart
 Waynesville Library
 Weldon Library
 Weldon Springs State Park
 WAND TV
 WCIA TV
 WHOW



WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE, CHANGING LIVES

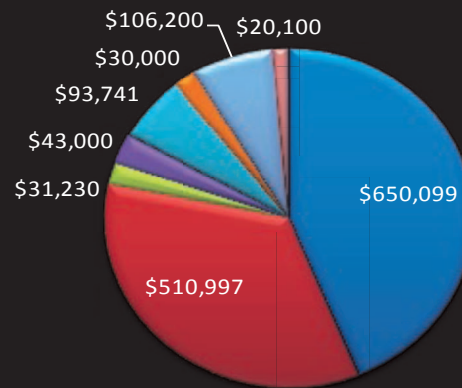
Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

What Are Our Logos?



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WHAT IS OUR BUDGET? DeWitt, Macon, & Piatt Counties Extension Budget



- County Board - \$650,099
- State County Board Match - \$510,997
- Local Sources - \$31,230
- Program Income - \$43,000
- State Income - \$93,741
- Federal Income - \$30,000
- Gifts/Donations/Grants - \$106,200
- 4-H Premium - \$20,100

WHO PROVIDES PROGRAM GUIDANCE?

DeWitt, Macon & Piatt Extension Council

The Extension Council participates in identifying local needs, providing guidance in programming and program evaluation.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Karen Allen | Pete Daughtery | Kathleen Piatt |
| Emily Bakken | Thomas Dubson | Theodore Shambaugh |
| Megan Barth | Julie Glawe | Alison Skelton |
| Bill Buechsenschuetz | Denny Hill | Rosalie Summers |
| Scott Burnsmier | Randy Keith | Julia Taraszewski |
| Judy Coffey | Sharon Middleton | Vasudha Pinnamaraju |
| Susan Cooper | Laura Miller | Jan Wenke |

*University of Illinois Extension Staff
Committed to Your Community*

County Director

Doug Harlan - Serving DeWitt, Macon & Piatt Counties

Educators

Sherry Fulton - 4-H Youth Development

Doug Gucker - Local Food Systems & Small Farms

Caitlin Huth - Nutrition and Wellness

Amy Leman - 4-H Metro Youth Development

Jennifer Schultz-Nelson - Horticulture

Program Coordinators

Beth Allhands - Macon County Master Gardeners

Rebecca Hugo - 4-H SPIN Clubs

Dena Hyde - Local Food Systems & Small Farms

Mindy Peterson-Lindsey - Marketing

Samantha Rusk - Macon County 4-H Youth Development

Courtney Stewart - Publicity & Promotion Specialist

Karyn Traum - Horticulture & DeWitt/Piatt Master Gardeners

Cory Washington - Macon County 4-H Metro Youth Development

Community Workers

Kim Gibbons - DeWitt County 4-H Youth Development

Susan Houska - Piatt County 4-H Youth Development

Anita Tyus - SNAP Education, Macon County

Work Program Participants

Charlotte Cook - SNAP Education, Macon County

Office Support Specialist

Peggy Mechling - Macon County

Office Support Associate

Diana Leischner - Piatt County

Office Support Assistant

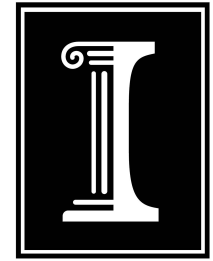
Lindsey Burden - DeWitt County

Diane Dowd - Macon County

Brittani Garner - Macon County

Lynda Pittman- Macon County

Diana Tibbs - DeWitt County



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Macon County Office

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Office Hours

**8:00am-4:30pm
Monday-Friday**

