

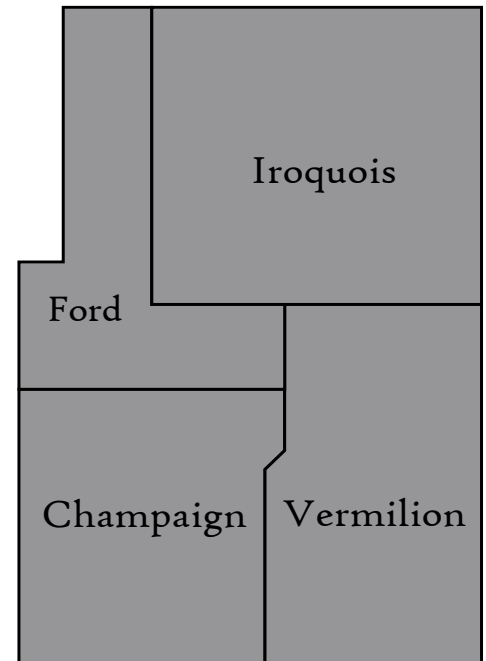
University of Illinois Extension Serving Champaign,
Ford, Iroquois, & Vermilion Counties

FY 2016 Impact Report

Director's Note

Ginger Boas, County Director

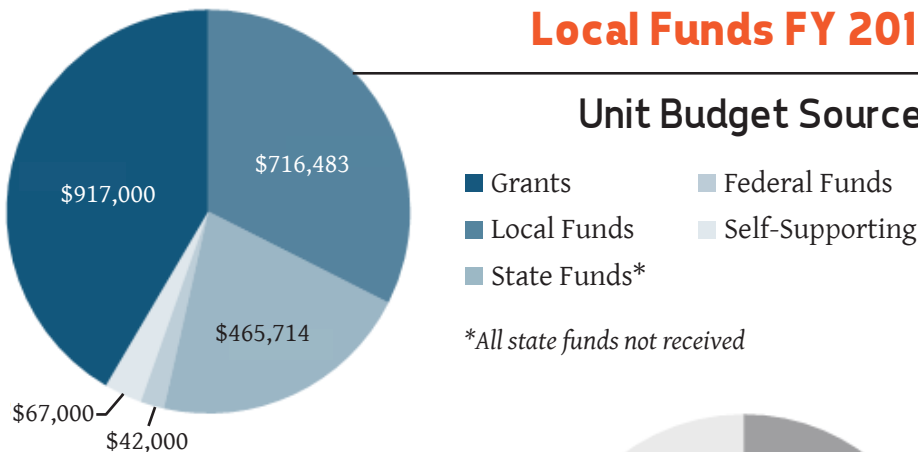
Although the 2016 fiscal year provided many challenges to organizations throughout the state, University of Illinois Extension Serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties continued to provide exceptional educational services and programming through our four-county district. Our unit has directly impacted and improved the lives of over 35,000 people from various backgrounds, serving a diverse crowd of ages, genders, and races. We have engaged with countless volunteers who have provided over 50,000 hours of service in youth development, financial literacy, environmental and horticultural outreach, and nutritional education. It is my pleasure to present to you the areas in which our reach extends and a sampling on how our unit embraces, extends, and exemplifies the statewide Extension motto "Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives."



7,700 youth reached
35,000 people educated
University of Illinois
Extension • Unit 13
950 programs & events
50,000 volunteer hours

Local Funds FY 2016

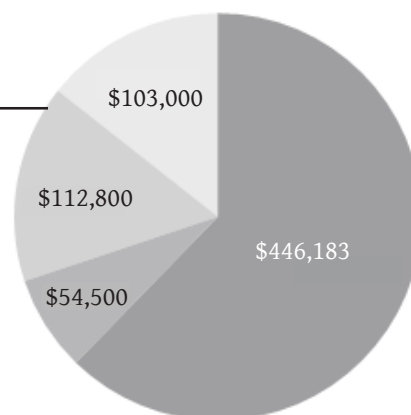
Unit Budget Sources



*All state funds not received

County Board (Levy) & Local Partners

- Champaign
- Ford
- Iroquois
- Vermilion



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Horticulture

Sandy Mason, Educator

When you support Extension, you help horticulture experts and enthusiasts create a more beautiful community while saving natural resources and preserving natural areas. Horticulture programs provide thousands of hours of educational opportunities and volunteer work within communities.

Highlights: Contributed over 30,000 volunteer hours of service in local communities

- Engaged 450 volunteers in the four counties through the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs
- Created Pollinator Pockets to help develop small areas of pollinator-friendly plants
- Established Postharvest Loss Avoidance through Technology and Education to minimize food loss and revitalize urban land
- Tended 13 community gardens



Champaign County Master Gardeners celebrated their graduation on April 12. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties contributed over 30,000 volunteer hours to educating the public and helping the environment.

Local Foods, Small Farms

Steve Ayers, Educator

When you support Extension, you help local farmers learn profitable and efficient business practices while protecting our environment, thus bettering the lives of their family and community. This education leads to the best use of time, money, and human capital while securing jobs in ag.

Highlights: Five programs with the Illinois-Purdue Bi-State group reached over 450 farmers

- Annie's Project taught 25 women business practices for their farms
- Annual Ford-Iroquois Ag Day discussed weeds, weather, and drones
- Monthly Ford-Iroquois Ag Breakfasts covered a variety of farming topics
- Steve Ayers appeared weekly to discuss topics on WCIA



Participants at the August 20 Pond Management Workshop observed a fish shock demonstration on Willow Creek Pond. Programs such as the Pond Management Workshop helped Unit 13's Local Foods, Small Farms team reach over 675 farmers throughout east-central Illinois.

Illinois Nutrition Education Program (INEP)

Irisha Clark (SNAP-Ed) & Melissa Schumacher (EFNEP), Educators

Through your support of the programs put on by Extension, you are helping to ensure that youth and families have access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food. Through our SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs, participants learn food safety, nutritional options, budgeting, and healthy cooking and eating options. These programs lead to a healthy population, which in turn keeps health care costs low and our communities viable.

Highlights: Launched, guided, and completed 30 Smarter Lunchroom Self-Assessments in Champaign and Vermilion counties

- For the first time, SNAP-Ed started offering food service development training in public schools
- Hired new community workers, including a bi-lingual speaker, to expand reach and help new audiences
- Recruited 103 women from Vermilion County to participate in a grant-funded research study to track nutrition and the effectiveness of INEP programming
- Continued to partner with schools, Head Start, WIC, Champaign County Health Department, emergency shelters, the Douglas Center, food pantries, and more
- Finished first year with Lincoln's Challenge, where the team piloted the new Cooking Matters for Teens curriculum for over 150 kids in the community



Educator Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker displays a brain used while instructing throughout the year. Unit 13 Family Life programming focuses on brain health and keeping the mind active through all of life.

Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker, Educator

Through your support, you are helping people across their lifespan learn about healthy living and aging. Brain health programs help individuals understand memory, aging, and lifestyle factors that impact brain function while keeping minds active. Family Life programming leads to personal growth and development for individuals and families, thus improving our communities.

Highlights: Reached a total of 1,068 people to educate on brain health topics • Three 4-part series and 18 individual programs reached over 850 people • Held worksite wellness webinar on Alzheimer’s Disease for 54 Extension employees • Articles by Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker appeared regularly in *Prime Life Times* and *The News Gazette* • Family Files blog grew by leaps and bounds, receiving over 16,300 views

Family Life

Kathy Sweedler, Educator

By supporting Extension, you are helping youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase savings, manage spending, avoid predatory lending, and reduce mortgage defaults. This education leads to personal and community stability.

Highlights: Money Mentors taught 128 second and third grade students about money once a month in Rantoul • Reached 1,600 college students about financial education through programming and displays put on by student interns • Plan Well, Retire Well blog won first place National Communications award



High school teens learned about paying for utilities during the Welcome to the Real World simulation on March 3. Consumer Economics programs help participants young and old alike learn how to budget and manage money.

Consumer Economics

Leia Kedem, Educator

Through your support of Extension, you help participants and the public improve the quality of their diet, learn safe food handling practices, and increase their physical activity. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs and increase quality of life by helping prevent chronic health conditions and establishing healthy habits throughout a person’s life span.

Highlights: Moderation Maven blog posts, including fan-favorites “Recipe Rescues,” received over 1,780 views • Moderation Maven Facebook page reached all-time high of 850 likes • Engaged over 250 people on nutrition topics through social media

Nutrition

4-H Youth Development

Jamie Boas, Educator

Alvarez Dixon, Educator (Metro)

When you support Extension, you are helping our 4-H programs teach youth life skills, including invaluable knowledge for the workforce. These programs teach leadership and decision-making skills that increase the likelihood of youth in becoming civically active. 4-H members demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors and learn to complete tasks, solve problems, and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H helps young people succeed in school and contribute to communities, resulting in a greater future for the youth and communities in our area.

Highlights: Reached 6,132 youth through hands-on activities in agriculture, leadership, cooking, electricity, and STEM • Saw 1,666 youth participate in 4-H clubs (including community and special interest clubs) • Trained 336 adult volunteers to led 4-H clubs • Taught 25 4-H Teen Teachers valuable skills to teach youth healthy eating and agriculture at 5 high schools • Expanded the 4-H Food Challenge program to 5 junior high schools and 5 high schools



4-H members participate in the annual Illinois 4-H Food Challenge, held on March 1 in Champaign. This program teaches creativity, food safety, and preparation. Like many 4-H programs, the Food Challenge also helps youth gain confidence speaking in front of others and practice working as a team.



During “Lights On Afterschool” on October 22, Urbana mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing learns about Champaign County 4-H robotics. This gathering highlighted many contributions afterschool activities like 4-H make to our communities, such as keeping kids safe and inspiring them to learn.

Unit Council

Charles Alt
Katie Brown
Gale Cunningham
Claudia DeWitt

Deb Fruitt
Dave Hastings
Diana Herriott

Jason Johnson
Jody Munsterman
Bill Pool

Barb Schumacher
Carl Sparenberg
Jackson Gady

Unit Board

Charles Alt
Gale Cunningham
Stanley Harper
Diana Herriott

Jason Johnson
Michael Marron
Barb Schumacher
David Hastings

Steve Fourez
Pattsi Petrie
Randy Berger
Kyle Anderson

Debra Busey
Amanda Longfellow
Terrie Scherer