A Note from Adam Feig

A journey by definition propels us forward. We can return to the places we have been, we can revisit familiar people – but we cannot turn backward, in time or in practice. Change is imminent; as I have written several times over the last few months, the policies that shape the landscape of services and supports for people with disabilities in this country are transforming as dramatically as has occurred in a generation – right now. The year ahead holds promise, as well as many risks – but like it or not, 2017 is going to be different. This means not just working to promote those outcomes, but also identifying the areas where effective services leading to a higher level of quality and continuous improvement are being ignored or even untapped. This is not always going to be comfortable, but our openness to change will lead us in the direction that promotes the optimal levels of independence and inclusion that we all seek.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders, county officials, and customers. We in Unit 25 strive to provide excellent researched based programming and top-notch customer service. Even with the uncertainly of the IL budget we have pushed through and managed to increase our contacts and our programming for you. In the upcoming year, we will continue to provide excellence.

Please enjoy the following report, as this has been an outstanding year for the counties of Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne.

Adam Feig
County Extension Director
adamfeig@illinois.edu
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

SNAP-Ed provides educational classes and partners with community organizations to reach residents in need of our services. Classes are provided at community locations that are natural places where people go on a regular basis.

Our Seven Focus Areas for Programming Include:

- Schools
- Childcare Centers
- Youth Centers
- Community Centers: Programs for Adults
- Food Distribution Sites
- Farmers Markets/Grocery Stores
- Faith-based Sites

The success of this program has opened up the addition to two full time employees to be added to cover the five county area.

Start Date  
9/1/2015

End Date  
8/31/2016

Counts

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Why Join 4-H?

See your potential in 4-H! Exciting things are happening in 4-H today. 4-H lets kids try new skills and express themselves through fun hands-on activities. Working on projects helps connect kids with their friends, families, communities, and the world. 4-H helps kids gain confidence and develop life skills that will help them be successful in their future.

4-H is more than livestock and cooking, today 4-H members are involved in computer, photography, visual arts, horticulture, theatre arts, dog obedience, natural resources, health, electricity and interior design. There is a project for everyone.

University of Illinois Extension works with the schools to provide programs such as Kitchen Safety, Personal Safety, Welcome to the Real World, and Gold Rush Day. Tech Fest was held in October and this event has been happening for the past three years.

It takes everyone to make this event successful. Last year 94 kids attended from the Albion Grade School, West Salem Grade School, and Home School Groups. The day is filled with Science, Engineering, and Technology. It has been great to see how the schools, churches, and community work together to have events such as this for the youth.

Theresa Reid, Edwards County
Edwards County

4-H is alive and well in Edwards County! Currently we have 5 Active Community Clubs, 30+ Volunteer Leaders, 140 4-H members and several special interest short term community groups. Our clubs meet monthly and have many activities and events during the year. All of the clubs are very active doing community projects each year.

Many of these are seen, but many go unseen and we are proud of all that they do for the small community that we live in. In the 2015–2016 year our youth really loved the hands on workshops.

Aly Williams shows a visual arts paint project she created at the “Make & Take Workshop”

Horse Camp held in Edwards County
4-H Programs

**WAYNE COUNTY**
In 2016, Wayne County held 30 workshops to suit every child’s needs. The workshops were a variety ranging from leather working, floriculture, cooking, tractor driving and safety, photography, dog obedience and welding just to name a few.

The 4-H Federation was reorganized this year. The biggest goal they set for the year was to pay for each 4-H member’s $20 program fee. This group of 10 youth had to raise $3,000 to cover this fee and they reached their goal. To say we are proud of this group of youth is an understatement. We have had several families thank us for taking the burden of paying this fee away from them. This is truly a community service activity in disguise.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (RICHLAND)**
In 2016, the Richland County 4-H Youth Development team partnered with the Richland County Summer School Program (not sure that is the correct name of the program?) to offer youth a unique gardening opportunity. Youth worked alongside Extension and community volunteers to plant and care for a “pizza” garden. The themed garden contained a variety of produce for making a pizza. Upon harvest youth used the produce to make homemade pizza sauce and toppings for their pizzas. Youth learned the importance of gardening and fresh nutritious eating habits.

**TEENS AS TEACHERS (WAYNE)**
For the first year in Wayne County, we offered a program called Teens as Teachers. We had 6 Federation members commit to teaching at least 6 lessons on dairy to all of Wayne County second and third grade classrooms. 4-H and these 6 teens (taught in pairs) went into 18 different classrooms in the month of October.
Lawrence County 4-H and Lawrence County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom collaborated again this year with the Teens as Teachers Ag in the Classroom. Two eleven year members, Emma Heath and Sarah Stovall, were trained to teach Beef and Dairy by-products to all third graders in Lawrence County. Youth were amazed to learn that marshmallows and candy were by-products of beef. All third graders enjoyed a great by-product of Dairy, as they learned how to make ice cream. This is a great learning process not only for the third grades but also for our teens as teachers. Our older youth are considering a role in teaching or joining local Agriculture Committees to create lessons for youth to learn about agriculture.

Late February, the Lawrence County Federation hosted a 4-H Carnival for the Lawrence County Community. Five 4-H Clubs provided games and prizes, while the Federation provided concessions at Lanterman Park in Bridgeport. The night was successful in bringing 4-H members and non-4-H members together for a night of fun. We successfully signed up new members after this community event. The federation youth have been asked to provide a carnival night again.

4-H Fall Extravaganza at Beall Woods State Park was held in September. It was held with the intent of reaching new 4-H members. The evening consisted of outdoor activities (pumpkin painting, nature hike, making s’mores) and an opportunity for new families in attendance to learn about what 4-H is, meet some of the leaders, and enroll. Laptop were set up for new members to enroll with 4-HOnline on the spot. It was a successful event that resulted in 13 new members enrolling.

Some 2016 statistics regarding Wabash County 4-H:
- Clubs – 9 total consisting of:
  - 6 community clubs
  - 1 Cloverbud club (for 5-7 year olds)
  - Shooting Sports club
  - 4-H Federation (for high school aged members)
- 4-H Members: 118
- 4-H Club Adult Leaders: 14
Safety Comes First!

Edwards

Lawrence

Fire Safety

Farm Safety Day

Wabash

Wayne

CPR
Outdoor Education!

Tiger Zone After School Salsa Garden

Richland

Nature Day

Wabash
Tanner Scherer is an eleven year 4-H member of the Hilltoppers Club in Richland County. He currently is representing Illinois 4-H as the 4-H representative on the Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee. As an active 4-H member he has served on various 4-H community service and leadership committees and been past President of the Richland County 4-H Federation. Tanner shows cattle at the Richland County fair along with electricity, woodworking and welding projects. Additionally, in 2016, Tanner was selected as the Illinois tractor driving champion and received second place in the national competition.

Garrett Williams is a ten year 4-H member of the Southern Smilers Club in Richland County. He is currently on the State 4-H Livestock Ambassador Team and also a Livestock Ambassador Representative on the Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee. Locally, Garrett serves as the Richland County 4-H Federation President, leading the county in community service projects and leadership opportunities. Garrett has a wide variety of projects showing cattle, swine, dogs, crops, entomology, natural resources, welding and public presentation at the fair.

**ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Unit 25 has a unique club that is growing strong that takes place in Richland County. Robotics/Science/Engineering SPIN club meets each month. The club has hands on activities based around REST (Robotics, Engineering, Science, Technology). Members from all five counties take part in this growing program.
Fair, Friendship, Fun, 4-H
The mayors of Albion, Lawrenceville and Olney issued proclamations declaring October as Manufacturing Awareness Month. The project celebrated the positive impacts that local manufacturing and distribution firms have on our economy. Extension staff prepared press information, alerted local media and coordinated schedules for the events. Conversations between officials and staff focused on each community’s hopes for economic progress.

Appreciation Month evolved from national efforts to familiarize the general public about 21st century factories and warehousing. Technology, safety, quality and efficiency present problem solving and career opportunities. Further, production and distribution industry sectors generally pay above minimum wage. Guiding concepts may be found at: http://www.mfgday.com

Companies involved in the making of “things” combine into the 9th largest economy in the world. Manufacturing sustains 18.5 million jobs in America and over 500 thousand jobs in Illinois. Once “manufactured”- trucks and conveyors, boxes and bags, cash registers and computers help to move and track all other items made. Central location, abundant resources, major road and rail routes continue to encourage a large distribution economy in our part of the state.
Welcome Steve Groner

Steven Groner as the new Extension Educator for Community and Economic Development serving Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne Counties. This position also conducts a partnership program with the Lawrence County Industrial Development Council. Steve will be dedicated to matching resources and programs, offered by the University of Illinois, to local projects.

Steve started his career as a product designer and now applies those skills to solve complex business problems. After earning a MBA degree from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois he then focused on marketing assignments with several well established downstate manufacturers. As his experience grew, the companies placed him into education, planning and leadership roles.

Most recently, he served as director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Success at Kaskaskia College. Programs included; a regional small business development center, start-up incubator space, youth initiatives, foreign trade education and entrepreneur clubs. They then expanded services to help start-up companies grow after launch—adding tools such as profit analysis, long-range planning and roundtable peer discussion groups. This community service closed in 2016, along with similar centers around the state, as colleges dealt with significant reductions in funding.

Steve believes in lifelong learning and appreciates the depth of resources that the University of Illinois Extension Network provides. Each day he meets people dedicated to our region and looks forward to tackling economic development issues together.

For resource information or programs that could help benefit your business or organization please contact Steve at stevenrg@illinois.edu or call (618) 943-5219

2016 Medicine Disposal
Pounds Collected

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Staff Directory
SERVING EDWARDS, LAWRENCE, RICHLAND, WABASH, & WAYNE COUNTIES
## Council Members

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<td>Richland</td>
<td>Olney, IL, 62450</td>
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<td>Kathy St Ledger, Vice-Chairman</td>
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"If you want to touch the past. Touch a rock. 
If you want to touch the present. Touch a flower. 
But if you want to touch the future. Touch the life of a child."