



2016 Impact Report

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
SERVING DEWITT, MACON & PIATT COUNTIES



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives

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A Note from Our Director

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 and 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 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 we serve.

Enclosed in this year's Impact Report, you will find innovative programming that connects to audiences of all ages. One example is our unit wide Maker event, which had 43 exhibitors from around the state and reached over 1,000 people. While the educational needs of our communities continually change, University of Illinois Extension has positioned itself to adapt to those changes. Extension prides itself on providing "cutting edge" educational programs rooted in research-based information. The programs highlighted in this report only scratch the surface of what is being done in DeWitt, Macon and Piatt Counties.

I hope that you will enjoy learning more about our programs and their impact. In fact, my hope is that you will come and participate in some of our programs in 2017.

Doug Harlan, County Director
dharlan@illinois.edu



SNAP-Ed

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education is a free nutrition education program for low-income individuals. SNAP-Ed programs are focused on improving the likelihood that participants will make healthy choices on a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate. Through 66 community collaborator sites in Macon and Piatt Counties, SNAP-Ed reached more than 27,280 children, adults and seniors.

**I've been using your recipes for over 30 years.
It's really helped me stay healthy.**

SNAP-Ed Participant



*Alpaca SPIN Club
- Morgan Drozs,
Callia Meyen, Brooke
Reeves and Chase
Hasler.*

156 Volunteers
232 Members
1,332 School Participants
12 4-H Clubs
4 Shooting Sports SPIN Clubs

STEM Learning

Through the *Science Discovery* series, 120 youth learned about the water cycle; 95% said they would like more science activities. Twenty-four members attended two *Woodworking Workshops*. Under adult supervision, beginners made a shelf and used a scroll saw. Advanced members made a couch table. The 16 members who attended an *Aerospace Workshop* assembled and learned about model rockets. *Electricity Workshop* members learned electrical safety, basic wiring and how to test a circuit. Each of the 15 members built an Air-Propelled car.



Electricity Workshop - Owen Earl, Chandler Hunt, Levi Albertson, Mia Villanueva, Logan Deerwester, James Toohill, Sonny Villanueva, Katie Toohill, Ethan Aughenbaugh, Mason Holt, Grant Holt, Alex Deerwester, Chase Hasler and Matthew Connelly.

Seven 4-H workshops led by 29 adult volunteers were held in DeWitt County in 2016 to help 4-H members with their projects and improve their skills.

Animal Science

The annual 4-H *Beef Clinic* is put on by Beef project families with volunteer speakers and demonstrators. In 2016, 130 attended. As the culmination of the Alpaca SPIN club, members put on an alpaca workshop with felting and yarn making demonstrations for 35 attendees.

Food & Nutrition

Cookie Workshop members were taught the proper way to measure ingredients, cake decorating techniques and other fun ways to decorate. Five groups with three members each made a different cookie and everyone got to decorate cookies from each group to take home. Members also made five craft projects to take home.

Cloverbud Clubs Growing

Cloverbuds have grown in DeWitt County. Clinton and Farmer City both have clubs with a total of 32 members between the ages of 5 and 8. Even more Cloverbuds are mixed in with 4-H community clubs.

In 2016, 18 Cloverbuds showed a project at the DeWitt County 4-H Fair. Members learned about different art mediums and used them to make projects from painting to clay monsters. The last meeting for the year was all about caves. Cloverbuds explored cardboard box "caves" and made cave wall paintings.



Soil & Cover Crops

In August during a *Cover Crop Planting* field day, Local Food Systems and Small Farms staff, LFSSM, and partners discussed the importance of soil health to long-term productivity and how cover crops are a big part of the Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. In addition, a video of this field day was made to use at winter farmer meetings. The Decatur daily newspaper and the local farm radio station covered the program.

 UIExtenDMPLocalFoodSmallFarms



Photo by the Herald & Review – Soil Scientist Roger Windhorn discusses cover crops and soil health.

Where Does My Lunch Come From?

For the second year, Extension partnered with the Old King's Orchard Community Center for youth farm tours. The highlight was when 16 children rode a sweet corn harvester and learned how it is picked. Pre- and post-surveys showed a more than 10% increase in the children's likelihood to eat new vegetables. This program received a statewide Unit Team Award for Interdisciplinary Excellence.

Mercy Gardens

The LFSSM program provides technical expertise for Mercy Gardens. Their training program teaches people skills to help them obtain a job while producing food on 5 acres of urban gardens on vacant lots in Decatur. The gardens produced nearly 12,000 pounds of produce with an estimated value of nearly \$30,000. Produce was distributed at neighborhood stands, the Northeast Food Pantry or used in meals at the Good Samaritan Inn.

IN 2016

We responded to more than
800 requests for information

Farm Tours

In 2016, 40 children and adults attended farm tours in Macon and Piatt Counties coordinated by the LFSSF program. Evaluations show there is a continued interest in these types of tours and in people wanting to buy more locally grown foods. This year, we connected families with eight local farmers.

Master Naturalists

In 2016, nine new Master Naturalists graduated from the training program. They did RiverWatch training and a bird watching field trip to Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge area. We now have 53 active and intern Master Naturalists with more than 2,000 hours volunteered in the community. With the calculated value of a volunteer hour set at \$23.34, the Master Naturalists have donated nearly \$47,000 in services to our communities.

Twenty-five individuals attended the *Water Celebration* event on April 2, where they learned about the importance of water, rain barrels, gardening with less water and river ecology. This annual event is held in memory of Master Naturalist Carolyn Mason. Approximately 20 people attended the March 12 Annual Meeting with RiverWatch Coordinator Matt Young speaking about the Illinois RiverWatch Network's work to engage volunteer citizen scientists to monitor and collect stream data in their communities.

 UIExtensionDMPmn





Left to right -
Ania Carey, Amy
Leman, Kayla
Glover, Kieshawn
Walker and Cory
Washington.

Research shows that long term positive youth development programs provide the greatest increases in youth life skill development and leadership. During the 2015-2016 4-H year, club participation increased 8% to 784 members.

A Global Community

Future work environments will demand high degrees of cultural understanding. With financial assistance from the Brandt Foundation, four 4-H members from Maroa and three from Decatur addressed hunger issues in Macon County by holding a food drive in Maroa, collecting more than 100 cans of food. They also recruited 24 volunteers to package 10,806 meals for Northeast Community Fund.

WeConnect

Macon County 4-H hopes to inspire a sense of understanding and confidence in youth so they will thrive in culturally diverse settings. The six-day WeConnect program reached more than 65 youth at MacArthur High School. Evaluation results showed significant changes in their ability to be culturally aware, treat others with respect, recognize negative stereotyping and be comfortable in new situations.

State Awards

- ▶ **Alyssa Garner**, Maroa Livestock 4-H Club, Illinois State 4-H Award for Leadership
- ▶ **Julia Taraszewski**, Homesteaders 4-H Club, Illinois 4-H Award for Project Mastery and the Illinois Farm Bureau Leadership, Citizenship and Professionalism Award for top 10 4-H members
- ▶ **Lyric Tyus**, SNAP! Junior Leader, state representative to National 4-H Healthy Living in Washington, D.C.

THIS YEAR

**Individual participation
increased 14% to 3,515 members**

Entrepreneurship

4-H is working to give youth the skills to turn their ideas into reality.

3D Printing Entrepreneurship Club: Six students developed products, discussed market strategies and pitched ideas to sponsors. They made almost \$500.

4-H Marketing Club: Youth marketed and sold almost \$10,000 in corn and soybeans donated to the Macon County 4-H and Extension Foundation. This program is in partnership with Top Flight and Clarkson Grain.

Going Solo: 65 youth completed this five-day simulation to create and run a jewelry business, competing against other teams using a profits and losses computer simulation. All of the businesses saw a profit.



Taylor Crouch, Maroa Livestock Club, helping with the Brandt Neighbor to Neighbor project.



Salsa Workshops

From participants who love salsa to those who were new to it, 22 adults and youth attended three hands-on salsa workshops around the unit. Participants discussed how they would adapt the provided salsa recipes for their personal tastes, and 86% reported that they learned new information.

Healthy Eating Through the Aisles

With more and more food products available every year, consumers are challenged to find nutritious foods that make eating healthy easier. Through a partnership with County Market, 57 youth and adults attended five grocery store tours in Macon County to learn about finding healthy food options in the aisles. Of those who completed surveys, 96% reported they planned to apply one new shopping skill or task learned in the program.

Savvy Eats

As part of Money Smart Week, 37 individuals from our three counties and some from outside the unit, received a free daily e-newsletter called *Savvy Eats*. Each e-news contained tips, ideas, recipes and information on ways to save time and money in the store, at home, and in cooking and preparing food. Of the 10 who returned the survey, 90% said they learned something new.

Testing Canner Lids

Home food preservation, including canning, is popular among older generations and growing with younger generations. One of Extension's free services is testing pressure canner dial gauges for accuracy. Annually testing the accuracy of a canner dial gauge allows canners to make adjustments to the pressure needed if they know their gauge is reading incorrectly and ensure food safety. Of the 23 tested gauges, we recommended 16 canners needed to adjust their pressure and three gauges needed to be replaced entirely.

IN 2016

Extension tested 23 pressure canner gauges for free

Bringing Back the Basics

In year two of the do-it-yourself series, participants joined in hands-on classes making cheese, sauerkraut and sauces in DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties. Three cheese classes introduced 35 participants to making mozzarella. Evaluations showed 96% of participants planned to make it at home. In the sauerkraut class, 9 out of 10 participants planned to make the sauerkraut at home. All 12 participants in the sauces class planned to make at least one recipe at home.



Zach Potts at the *Where Does My Lunch Come From* Piatt County 4-H program.

A Need for STEM

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - employees play an important role in the competitiveness and economic growth of our nation and STEM jobs are projected to grow by 17% by 2018. In 2016, different STEM principles were incorporated at events with hands on activities. Each principle tied into a 4-H project area and participants were given more information on exploring these areas.

Junk Drawer Robotics

A local teacher volunteered as a 4-H leader for 136 sixth graders in the Junk Drawer Robotics program. More than half of participants said this club helped them understand what an engineer does.

4-H Food Challenge

DeWitt and Piatt County 4-H teamed up with Champaign County for the third annual 4-H Food Challenge contest at the Fluid Event Center in Champaign. Thirteen teams participated in the 2016 contest learning how to work with teammates under pressure and cook with what you have.

DeWitt county went from one to two teams, with the newest team receiving third place. New this year were two teams from Cerro Gordo, one of which won second place. Monticello also had two teams participate. The program continues to grow for DeWitt and Piatt Counties. Last year, three teams participated from the two counties, this year six teams participated. Cerro Gordo is an underserved audience in the 4-H and youth program, so having two teams participate was a success.

OF SUMMER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
70% were new to 4-H programs

Summer Workshops

Participants learned about sheep farming and processing fleece in the *Fleece Fun Workshop*. At the *Chop, Sizzle, Wow* cooking workshop, young chefs made everything from stir-fry to pizza to fruit pies while learning about kitchen safety and gaining new skills. We built rockets and kites at our *Aerospace Workshop* in partnership with Allerton Park. A *Robotics Workshop* taught members how to build, program and troubleshoot LEGO® robots. These members will join the Piatt County robotics team which participates in the State Competition.



Connor Altan tests his pinwheel at the *Exploration Station* pool program in July.



Master Gardener Plant Sale

The University of Illinois Extension horticulture program in DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties helps thousands of people in Central Illinois every year by answering horticulture questions, organizing the Master Gardener program and leading classes such as the Bringing Back the Basics program on Small Space Gardening and Composting Year Round.

The Macon County Master Gardeners had a variety of projects in 2016 such as purchasing 100 native tree seedlings for students at Garfield School or a new partnership with the A.E. Staley Museum to landscape, research and plant heirloom rose and soybean gardens.

The Piatt County Master Gardener program is growing in size and reach with three produce gardens at the Monticello Area Community Garden located outside Kirby Medical Center and new demonstration gardens at Allerton Park.

Macon County Plant Sale & Award

The Master Gardener Plant Sale is held every May at the Macon County Fairgrounds in Decatur and has become a destination event for Central Illinois. More than 600 people of all ages attended in 2016. Many come back year after year for the quality and diversity of plants and the first-rate knowledge they receive about them. Master Gardeners coordinate the event, with 46 volunteers donating 550 hours last year.

Besides being a major fundraiser, committee members expanded the educational components of this event to include literature handouts, descriptive plant tags, native and pollinator plant stations, plants organized by sun requirements, tomato growing advice about the 30 heirloom tomato

varieties for sale, and plenty of Master Gardener assistance and information for any horticulture related questions. The Master Gardener Plant Sale Committee won the prestigious “2016 Team Award” at the annual Illinois Master Gardener Conference August 19 in Champaign. The 2016 committee was chaired by Jodi Baldwin, Pat Curry, Cheryl Schmidt, Stephany Smith and includes a large team of Master Gardener volunteers.

DeWitt & Piatt County

Twenty-two people attended tomato and grafting workshops in Piatt County. Grafting plants is done by professionals to increase vigor and disease resistance, propagate and develop new strains. Hobbyists can do it for the same reasons. In DeWitt County, 15 people attended the *Little Livestock: Worms!* presentation as part of the Bringing Back the Basics series. Attendees had the opportunity to make a vermicomposting system and learned how to turn kitchen waste into nutrient rich soil additives.





St. Mary's Hospital Day Care Garden

Four volunteers worked more than 70 hours at the St. Mary's Hospital Day Care Garden in 2016. The raised bed and container gardens between the Adult and Child Day Care centers help the children to learn about gardening and the adults benefit from interacting with the children. In the summer, children join the Master Gardeners once a week to help care for the gardens and to talk about how things grow. The summer ends with a chip and salsa party, with the salsa made from the vegetables and herbs grown there for this very purpose!

Decatur Fairview Park Projects

The Master Gardeners finished identifying and mapping the 78 species of trees in Decatur's Fairview Park. This led to a fall *Tree Walk*, with 34 people attending a self guided tour through the park with five Master Gardener stations. The enthusiasm of attendees about a small area cleared of the invasive plant honeysuckle bush spurred a clearing day with six Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Plans to eradicate it from the park through collaboration with other agencies and volunteer groups in April 2017 have begun.



Monticello Gardens & Plant Swap

The Monticello Community Garden had 12 plots reserved its inaugural year, including one garden grown by the Kirby Hospital Apple a Day Café and three by Piatt County Master Gardeners who donated produce to area food pantries and the Senior Services of Monticello. At the Allerton Visitor Center, the Master Gardener demonstration gardens are taking off. In addition to pollinator and rain gardens, plans are underway for a native garden. The first *Great Plant Swap* was in September; 18 people learned about seed saving and traded perennials.

Speaker's Bureau

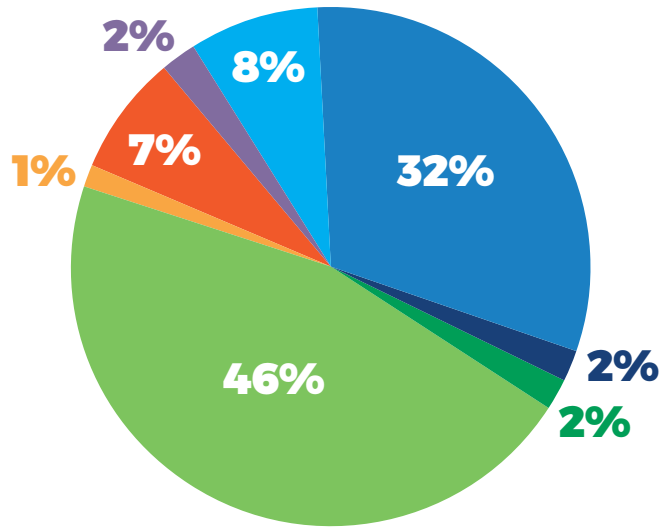
The *Speakers Bureau* is made up of 11 talented Master Gardeners who are available upon request to give presentations on more than 20 topics. In 2016, they spoke about Illinois Wildflowers, Growing Herbs, How to Make Rain Barrels and more reaching 194 individuals. Macon County has one of the most robust speakers bureaus in the state. Their brochure was shared at the Illinois Master Gardener conference as a model of the range and depth of knowledge Master Gardeners can bring to our communities.



Financial Report

The 2016 operating budget was \$1.45 million. Extension is funded through a combination of locally raised, county board, state, and federal dollars which are returned to the community through educational programming.

■ \$708,161	County Board
■ \$29,730	Local Sources
■ \$33,250	Gifts/Donations/Grants
■ \$479,629	State County Board Match
■ \$125,000	Program Income
■ \$36,000	Federal Income
■ \$113,510	State Income
■ \$21,745	4-H Premium



Individuals Reached

Demographic Group	Total
White	32,582
Black	8,646
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	48
Asian	675
American Indian or Alaskan	86
Some Other Race	346
Two or More Races	2,031
Unknown	2,370

Extension Council Members

Betsy Barnick	Meggan Holt
Megan Barth	Raeann Huffman
Kathleen Bell	Dave Mills
Ffion Boehme	Kristy Powell
Scott Burnsmier	Carol Ropp
Judy Coffey	Theodore "Quint" Shambaugh
Pete Daughtery	Randy Shumard
Chuck Fay	Raymond Spencer
Maria Ford	Emily Zelhart
Angela Foulke	

Online Outreach

Did you know that from the Extension website you can register for programs, download 4-H newsletters and forms, read any of the five Educator blogs and find contact information for our offices and staff? Our mission is to extend knowledge to our communities in a variety of formats, which besides our website and Facebook includes Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube and our *Out Standing in the Field* agriculture podcast which can be found on iTunes.

Website



1.1 million
Page views
in 2016

Blogs



73
Educator monthly
and weekly blogs

Facebook



2,166
Followers of
7 Facebook pages



Pinterest.com/
uofiextenDMP



Instagram
@UIExten_DMP



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Community Partners & Sponsors

4-H Memorial Camp
Agriculture Watershed Institute
Allerton Library
Allerton Park & Retreat Center
Archers Alley
Archer Daniels Midland
Bement Chamber of Commerce
Bement School District
Blue Ridge School District
Boys & Girls Club of Decatur
Brown & Brown Farms
Bryant Cottage
Busey Bank
Carriage House Apartments
Caterpillar
Catholic Charities
Cerro Gordo School District
Child Care Resource Service
Children's Museum of Illinois
City of Decatur
Clinton Community Unit School District
Connie's Country Greenhouse
Clinton Journal
Clinton Community YMCA
County Market
Creative Kids Daycare
Crossing Healthcare
DC Bodyworks
DCC Marketing
Decatur Area Arts Council
Decatur Correctional Center
Decatur Day Care
Decatur Gun Club
Decatur Housing Authority
Decatur Indoor Sports Center
Decatur Macon County Senior Center
Decatur Park District
Decatur Public Library
Decatur Public Schools
Decatur Rehab Center
Decatur Family YMCA
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation
Decatur Memorial Hospital
DeWitt County 4-H Foundation
DeWitt County Coalition
DeWitt County Farm Bureau
DeWitt County HCE
DeWitt County Housing
DeWitt County SWCD
DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department
Dick Van Dyke Appliance World
Decatur is Growing Gardeners
DMH Specific Performance Enhancement Center
DOVE
East Park Baptist Church
Faith in Action
Farm Credit Illinois
Farm Progress
Farmer City Library
First Christian Church, Monticello
Garden Club of Decatur
Garden Path
Good Samaritan Inn/Mercy Gardens
Head Start, Macon County
Health Alliance
Heart of the Sangamon Eco-partnership
Herald & Review
Holy Family Catholic School
Hope Welty Public Library
Illinois Association for HCE
Illinois 4-H Foundation
IMPACT Coalition
James Millikin Homestead
Jubilee Farm
Kids Castle Learning Center
Kirby Medical Center
Koss Farms
Leroy Farmer City Press
Macon County 4-H & Extension Foundation
Macon County Ag in the Classroom
Macon County Conservation District
Macon County HCE
Macon County Health Department
Macon County Fairgrounds
Macon County Farm Bureau
Macon County Obesity Prevention Coalition
Macon County SWCD
Maddox Sweet Corn Farm
Main Street Church of the Living God
Maroa-Forsyth FFA
Maroa-Forsyth Public Schools
Millikin Center for Entrepreneurship
Millikin University Chemistry Department
Molina Healthcare
Monticello Community Unit School District
Monticello Farmer's Market
Mt Zion District Library
MRI
My Healthcare Coordination
New Salem Baptist Church
Nord Farms
Northeast Community Fund
Old King's Orchard Community Center
Oxford House
Piatt County Farm Bureau
Piatt County HCE
Piatt County Journal-Republican
Piatt Mental Health Center
Piatt County Nursing Home
Piatt County SWCD
PrairieErth
Prairie Skies Public Library District
Richland Community College
Rotary Club #180
Salvation Army
Scovill Zoo
Southern Piatt Record Herald
Soy Capital Bank
Spring Creek Apartments
St. Mary's Hospital
Tate & Lyle
Topflight Grain Cooperative
Thistlebrae Farm
Timberview Alpacas
Triple M Farm
U of I Plant Biology Greenhouse
WAND TV
Warner Hospital & Health Services
Waynesville Library
WCIA TV/ciLiving
Wee Folks Daycare
Weldon Public Library District
Weldon Springs State Park
WHOW Radio
WILL Urbana
Wolfe Orchard
The Woods
Weights Away
Youth with a Positive Direction

Extension Staff

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Educators

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Doug Gucker, *Local Food Systems & Small Farms*

Caitlin Huth, *Nutrition & Wellness*

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Candice Hart, *Horticulture*

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Brittani Garner, *Master Gardeners*

Rebecca Hugo, *4-H SPIN Clubs*

Dena Hyde, *Local Food Systems & Small Farms*

Samantha Rusk, *4-H & Youth Development*

Emily Steele, *Publicity & Promotions Specialist*

Courtney Stewart, *Publicity & Promotions Specialist*

Sarah VanRheeden, *SNAP-Ed*

Cory Washington, *4-H Metro Youth Development*

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Kim Gibbons, *DeWitt County 4-H Youth Development*

Susan Houska, *Piatt County 4-H Youth Development*

Chandani Kothari, *SNAP Education*

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

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact 217.877.6042

The Illinois Nutrition Education Program is funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).