



McLean County 4-H Member at the Unity Community Center

2016 Impact Report

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
SERVING LIVINGSTON, MCLEAN & WOODFORD COUNTIES





Main Office

1615 Commerce Parkway
Bloomington, IL 61704
Phone: (309) 663-8306
Fax: (309) 663-8270

Branch Office

Livingston County
1412 S. Locust Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
Phone: (815) 842-1776
Fax: (815) 842-6547

Branch Office

Woodford County
109 E. Eureka Avenue
Eureka, IL 61530
Phone: (309) 467-3789
Fax: (309) 467-6034

Unity Community Center

632 Orlando Avenue
Normal, IL 61761
Phone: (309) 862-4041

Overview	3
4-H & Youth Development	4
Nutrition & Wellness	10
Horticulture	12
Master Naturalists	15
Barn Quilt Heritage Trail	16
Local Foods & Small Farms	17
AG & SNAP-Education	19
Consumer Economics	20
Community & Staff	23



A Note from the County Director

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Annual report for the University of Illinois Extension-Livingston, McLean, and Woodford Unit. I am proud to represent the staff and volunteers in our unit who through their hard work make our programming possible.

The state budget crisis has deepened our financial challenges locally, however, University of Illinois Extension has adapted to local needs for more than 100 years. We will continue to serve our local communities for many years to come. While the state budget certainly challenged us, we have continued to provide research-based education in our Unit this past year and are looking forward to continuing our work in 2017!

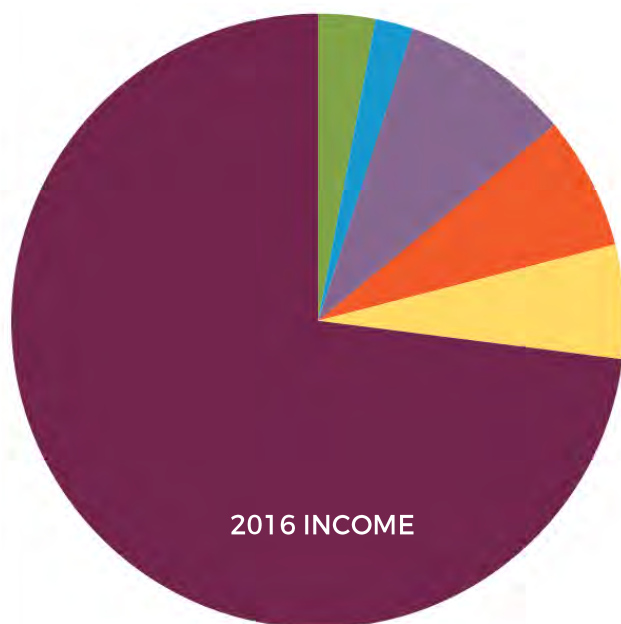
This annual report highlights just a few of our major accomplishments for 2016. You will find information about 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition and Wellness, Horticulture, Local Food Systems and Small Farms, and Consumer Economics. The programs we provide are innovative, research based, and connect to audiences of all ages.

The accomplishments provided in the annual report were possible because of the contributions of our local county boards, local businesses, private organizations, personal donations and generous volunteers. Please join us in the commitment to our mission of.... Extending knowledge and changing lives!

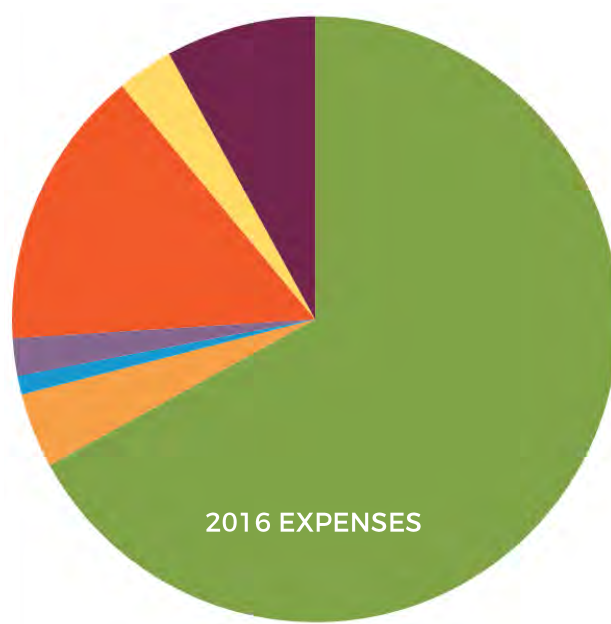
Thanks to everyone who makes
Extension successful!

Bobbie Lewis-Sibley, MBA, SHRM-CP
County Extension Director





- 3% Federal Smith Lever
- 0% State Match
- 2% Gifts and Donations
- 9% U of I General Revenue Fund
- 7% Self-Supporting
- 6% 4-H Premiums
- 73% Local Sources



- 67% Salaries
- 4% Office Supplies/Postage/Printing etc.
- 1% Separation Pool
- 2% Equipment and Maintenance
- 15% Rent/Leases/Utilities
- 3% Travel
- 8% Program/Educational Services and Supplies

EXTENSION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Barry Ankney **W**

Melissa Brown **W**

Kerri Calvert **M**

Rich Clemmons **M**

Kelly Cochran Cohlman **L**

Kathleen Emery **M**

Tammy Johns **L**

Jacob Larkin **L** YOUTH

Deborah Niemann-Boehle **L**

Jack Pfaffmann **W**

Linda Rhodesdf **L**

Sherry Schlatter **L**

Nancy Scott **W**

Chloe Thacker **W** YOUTH

Blaine Troyer **W**

Jennifer Velazquez **M** YOUTH

Jeanie Wager **M**

Linda Faye White **M**

Dee Woodburn **L**

Education Outreach

Facebook



9 Pages
4,313
Followers

Blogs



66,947
Pageviews
in 2016

Columns



521
Print & Online

Adults & Youth
Reached



31,337
Face-to-Face
Education

Community
Reach



1,650,902
Members indirectly
educated though
Extension Resources



Josiah, 1st Place Illinois State 4-H Air Rifle Shoot, alongside 10 Top in State.

Shooting Sports

Josiah just won the Illinois State 4-H Air Rifle Shoot, but that isn't why his life is changed. His life is changed because of 4-H, one simple year of 4-H.

A year ago, Josiah, 17 years old then, joined the McLean County 4-H Shooting Sports Club so he could learn to shoot air rifles. Up until then, Josiah only ever spoke to members of his family. Period. You see, Josiah is a young man with high-functioning autism. He joined 4-H, and his life changed.

Josiah started in the beginner class last October. Although, his shooting improved, the bigger change came in Josiah's interaction with the world around him. Josiah began to engage with others.

"I couldn't believe the change in my child," said his mother, Rene.

In addition to shooting sports, Josiah took up blacksmithing in 4-H, exhibiting this year at the Illinois State Fair. It has led to a new career path for Josiah which his mother said he would not have found without 4-H.

Josiah recently conducted a blacksmithing demonstration where he interacted with the crowd. At one point he turned to the group and said, "Don't be afraid to ask me questions," Rene recalled. "He would never have spoken to anyone before his 4-H experience."

4-H gave us the opportunity for him to do this," Rene said. "I would encourage any parents of special-needs children to consider becoming active in 4-H."

Although Josiah walked away with the championship belt buckle prize Saturday, I'm pretty sure it's everyone else who won the bigger prize that day just by walking the path with a young man named Josiah.

** This was written for release by Illinois 4-H Media & Communications Specialist, Judy Mae Bingman*

STEM

Adventures in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects and clubs were on the rise with growth in all three counties. Grants received in all three counties resulted in the growth of robotics, shooting sports, and gardening. All three counties now have nearly doubled their robotics kits that will be used in schools or by members. McLean County has robotics in the three levels of FIRST (For inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) with the FIRST Lego League, FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) (two clubs/teams) and FRC (FIRST Robotics Championship). Combined, the clubs participated in **11 competitions around the state and country**. We have increased the number of technology kits available for use by clubs and schools by receiving **15** new Lego EV3 kits as well as **15** Lego Expansion kits.

Taking a Look Around 4-H

4-H CLUBS
111 Community & Cloverbud Clubs
21 SPIN Clubs
1,823 Total 4-H Members
 *Largest enrollment in Illinois



PROGRAM GROWTH
5,436 Fair Exhibits
73 4-H Federation Members



413
 4-H Volunteers

MULTI COUNTY 4-H ACTION
 4-H Learn & Fun Day - **150** Youth
30 Sessions
 Science Sleepovers - Outdoor Adventures;
50+ Youth 4-H Officer Training;
30+ Youth





Thaddeus Hughes; McLean County 4-H
Member & 2016 STEM Pillar Award Recipient



Thaddeus Hughes, 2016 STEM Pillar Winner

SPONSORED BY HUGHESNET

Through talks, demonstrations, workshops and interviews, Thaddeus Hughes has engaged more than **6,000** youth in the wonders of science. He has been a mentor for FIRST Lego League and the Illinois 4-H State Robotics Competition for four years. As a mentor, Thad has been responsible for organizing and demonstrating new technologies and the engineering process. Simultaneously, he developed an afterschool program through University of Illinois Extension called Spinning Robots in which he taught **50** middle schoolers basic circuitry and how to build simple robots. He is currently studying engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, a top-ranked school in the nation for engineering.

Thad is an alumnus of the SIT Conference as both a participant and presenter. Two years ago, he served as a member of the Steering Committee. An 11-year member of 4-H in McLean County's Linden Lead'em 4-H Club, he was a charter member of the Metal Cow Robotics Club. He has received numerous awards and represented McLean County and Illinois as the Engineering & Technology State Winner when he attended National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

Thad received a scholarship with his award. McLean County Extension also received funding from the National 4-H Council to help programming as a result of having 4-H member Thaddeus Hughes named a Pillar winner in STEM as part of the Youth in Action program.



Seeing Change

The past 5-7 years, 4-H in Illinois has seen a growth in the non-traditional projects with an emphasis on Science and Technology. We have diligently worked to change the landscape of the program to be more inclusive of youth who may have only viewed 4-H as an organization to join if you lived on a farm. We continue to view Agriculture and Home Economics as cornerstones of the program, and that will not change. As the demographics of the population in Illinois change, so too, must the efforts and focus of 4-H. How?

- ▶ Continue & increase supporting all program and project areas
- ▶ Increased efforts to assist our members with their college and career preparation.
- ▶ Promoting workshops/SPIN Clubs to all youth in all three counties, to ensure the pursuit of all interests including outside the home county.

We know from various national studies that 4-H members that are involved in the leadership responsibilities of their clubs and counties are more successful in college and beyond.

The Livingston, McLean & Woodford Youth Development Team is committed to serving our youth as much as possible to help them reach their potential.



4-H Unit Wide Officer Training



McLean County 4-H Member during Assisted Riders Class, 2016 McLean County Fair
Photo by: Steve Smedley, The Pantagraph

4-H All Inclusive

The McLean County Fair 4-H Show added a few more classes to this year's horse show line up. But these were not just any classes. The program expanded its assisted riders program to accommodate 4-H members with disabilities to be able to compete in more areas of the show.

- ▶ English
- ▶ Western
- ▶ Horsemanship
- ▶ Showmanship
- ▶ Trail class

These skill areas are now eligible in the assisted riders program. This program allows members with health conditions such as Autism to compete and demonstrate independence and mastery with an assistant walking near their horse for safety. The growth of the program in 2016 speaks louder than words can. A quote from a 4-H family in the classes embodied the meaning of just what this opportunity opened up.

"The reception that it got from the community is great. It touched a lot of hearts. It embodies what 4-H is about."



Unity Community Center

The Unity Community Center is our multicultural center that provides programming for youth 5-18 years old from families with limited resources. Unity continues to operate at full capacity with 48 students enrolled each semester. We continue to rely on our volunteers, mostly from Illinois State University, to assist with the tutoring and basic guidance with our youth. We continue to strengthen our ties with the Unit 5 School District, the Town of Normal and State Farm, which are all integral to the success of the program.

A few 2016 updates include:

- ▶ Increased day camps from 4-to-5 weeks
- ▶ Continued two additional day camps with Children's Discovery Museum; 20-25 attendees
- ▶ Ag & Horticulture summer curriculum continued within garden & produce
- ▶ Teen Teachers developed & delivered nutrition & garden lessons with Illinois Jr. Chef program with SNAP - Education overseeing

Spring 2016 Volunteers: 146

Fall 2016 Volunteers: 117

2015-2016 UNITY ENROLLMENT

Ended the year with 48 youth;

- 10% White
- 85% Black/African American
- 2% American Indian
- 2% Two or more races
- 6% Hispanic
- 94% Non-Hispanic
- 62.5% Female
- 37.5% Male



Unity Students
at 4-H Officer
Training

UNITY Community Garden

This was the second summer for our production garden. Unity youth involved in a pilot leadership group, Spark Tank, coordinated a planting party and the garden was planted with approximately 20 youth and adults.



Unity Community Center Garden, Summer 2016
The 60' by 45' garden produced approximately 700 pounds of fresh produce, distributed to area residents. Over 200 pounds of sweet potatoes were taken right away!

In addition to the produce garden, the Unity staff strengthened our partnership with the Midwest Food Bank by distributing fresh vegetables, produce, bread, and other foodstuffs to area residents most Tuesdays and Thursdays since July. We estimate we have distributed over **6,000** pounds of food to families in the Northwest part of Normal.

Teen Teachers Program

A growing area of interest for 4-H teens is the Teen Teacher program. McLean 4-H completed its second year of this leadership opportunity by providing the Health Rocks eight-week program at two Bloomington - Normal Housing Authority sites. We also used Teen Teachers to lead five of the seven weeks of day camps at the Unity Community Center. In all, **12** youth, ages 13 - 17 provided lessons from Agriculture to Robotics, Photography and Recreation.



School Nutrition

Illinois State Board of Education has awarded University of Illinois Extension \$4.5 million to provide training to school foodservice professionals and to develop strategies to nudge students to choose healthier options and ultimately eat them, decreasing food waste. The Nutrition and Wellness team conducted Smarter Lunchroom Assessments in all four Unit 5 junior high schools and provided professional development training to **109** foodservice staff. In addition, the team conducted Smarter Lunchroom Assessments for all eight schools in Bloomington District 87 with staff training to be given in January 2017. After study, a few of the areas of improvement and suggested changes included creating a process of age appropriate naming and labeling fruits and vegetables. Thinking of fun and creative names will be implemented in 2017 and later reevaluated to show the overall impact on student and staff food choices.

Choosing Healthier Options
at Washington Elementary



Diabetes

Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation awarded the Livingston, McLean & Woodford Nutrition and Wellness team \$1500 to provide diabetes education in all three counties. The “I on Diabetes” program was conducted in Livingston county, targeting low-income and minority audiences, which have a higher prevalence of diabetes. **12** people participated in the four-part series where they developed treatment goals, demonstrated carbohydrate counting, watched food demonstrations and joined in physical activity exercises.

100% reported improved ability to prepare healthy foods easily

100% indicated increased confidence in knowing which foods have carbohydrates

Written comment by a Livingston county participant:

“I lost 5 pounds since the beginning of the program [2 weeks ago].”

Moreover, six weeks after the start of the program the participant stated,

“I lost 10 pounds and my blood sugars are down and test around 120 now. Plus, I even got my husband to eat healthier!”



I on Diabetes Program: 12
Participants, 100% Feedback Results



Food Preservation

Increased public interest in locally grown foods has also generated increased interest in home food preservation. The Nutrition and Wellness team has responded with programs focused on food safety practices to ensure that home preserved food is safe for consumption. **64** people in the Livingston, McLean & Woodford Counties have taken advantage of Extension offerings, including lecture classes, hands-on classes, consumer inquiries and pressure canner gauge testing. This year, a brand new class, “Preserving Practice” was introduced, allowing hands-on application of the lessons learned.

I enjoyed learning about canning. It's always been a bit of a “mystery” to me so I feel much more ready and able to can now. Thanks!

PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



Programs held were Jams and Jellies in McLean County and Tomatoes and Tomato Products in Livingston County. Both programs reached full attendance. A few results of the programs were given as feedback.

88% increased their confidence in their ability to use a boiling water bath canner safely and correctly

100% increased their ability to safely can jams and jellies or tomatoes and tomato products



Simply Nutritious, Quick & Delicious
43 Posts; **8,795** Views



Master Gardener, Kenneth Smith
admiring at ICC Community Gardens

Our Horticulture team has delivered high-impact programming addressing beekeeping and conservation of pollinators this year. Pollinator decline can be halted through educating the public on the importance of insect conservation, creating new habitats, and changes in some horticulture and agriculture practices.

- ▶ Presented **16** programs on creating pollinator habitat to **303** attendees.
- ▶ Presented **6** programs on how to teach youth about insects to **129** educators.
- ▶ Presented **6** programs on changing agriculture and horticulture practices to benefit pollinators to **680** attendees.
- ▶ Hosted **7** booths promoting pollinators connecting to **659** local residents.
- ▶ Presented **23** youth programs to **1,021** on the importance of pollinators.
- ▶ Presented Pollinator decline at Purdue Women in Agriculture conference.
- ▶ Presented Gardening with Mother Nature to Illinois Green Industry
- ▶ Presented how to teach insects to youth at American Horticulture Society conference.
- ▶ Answered over **100** community questions on insect conservation.

Master Gardener Statistics



142
Master Gardeners



11,170
Volunteer Hours



1,717.55
Continuing Education Hours



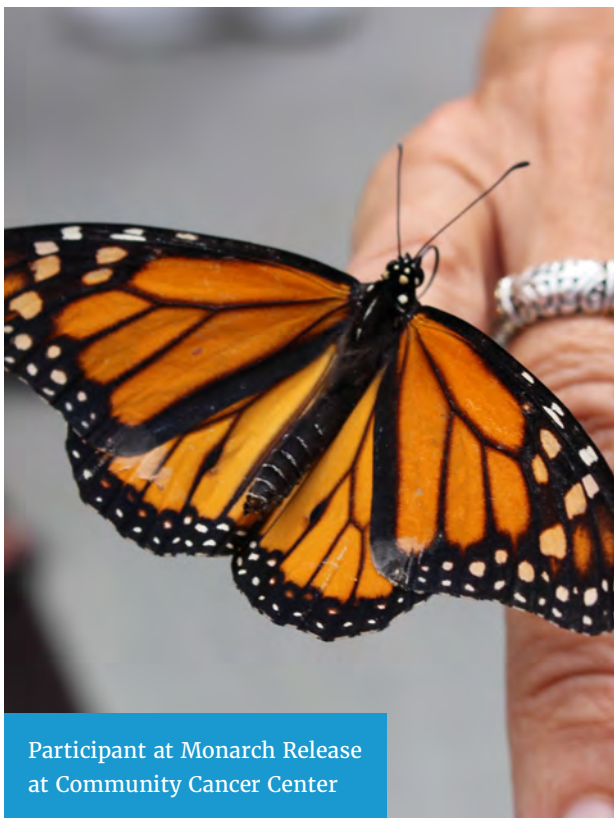
29
Jr. MG & MG Comm. Projects



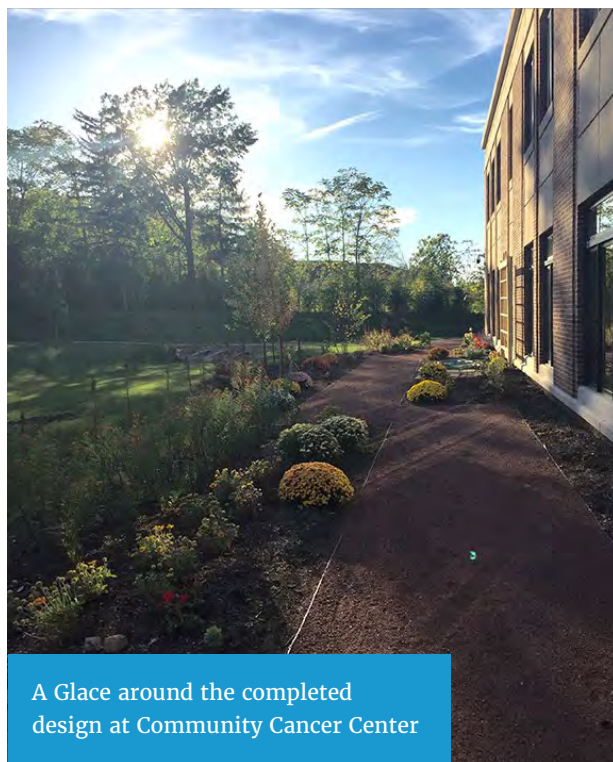
\$263,165
Value to Communities

A Blooming Partnership

McLean County Master Gardeners created an oasis of peace at the Community Cancer Center in Normal for cancer patients, their families, staff and the community at large. The **10,000** square foot Healing Garden consists of a Terrace Garden, Labyrinth (meditative walkway) and Butterfly Garden. Cat Woods, Director of Business and Financial Operation at Community Cancer Center, was thrilled when Master Gardeners wanted to be involved with the design, installation and maintenance of the project. **30** Master Gardeners, along with several community members, contributed over **500** hours in 2016 to develop the tranquility filled outdoor setting. In the spring, a monarch butterfly release was coordinated to introduce the garden to the public. A horticultural therapy workshop is scheduled for June 10 on the healing properties of gardening to continue growth with the project and the community.



Participant at Monarch Release
at Community Cancer Center



A Glance around the completed
design at Community Cancer Center

McLean County Master Gardeners

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Community Cancer Center Gardens
Extension Office Pots
Friends First
ISU Horticulture Center Herb Garden
Mayor's Manor
Sarah's Garden
Westview Park- Gridley

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS:

Bloomington Junior High
Children's Discovery Museum Garden
Holton Homes
LeRoy School Garden
Unity Community Center

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

Home, Lawn and Garden Day
Client Services/Outreach
Bloomington Farmer's Market
Downs Farmers Market
Master Gardener Help Desk & Booths
WJBC Panel

Woodford County Master Gardeners

Nine trainees participated in the first ever Master Gardener training conducted in Woodford County. They join a group of **15** active Master Gardeners. These members were active in 2016 on a few new projects.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

ICC Demonstration Gardens

Hosta Garden

Gazebo Garden

Woodford County Courthouse Herb Garden

Washburn Memorial Gardens

Germantown Hills Middle School Garden

El Paso Library Pollinator Garden

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

Eureka Library programs

Client Services/Outreach

Master Gardener Booths

Plant Science tables

Gardeners' Gathering Plant Sale

Webinars



Woodford County Master Gardeners

Livingston County Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners connected to over 200 2nd and 5th grade students in Livingston County through a school enrichment program.

Master Gardeners set learning objectives, designed curriculum, and trained fellow master gardeners on presenting to youth on seed germination, insects, pollination, plant adaptations, and the web of life.

In their third year of visiting the schools, they have created new lessons and expanded their reach to introducing gardening to the 2nd grade.

Community Projects:

4-H Park Gardens

Dargan Park

Yost House Gardens

Poor Farm Cemetery

Village of Flanagan

Jr. Master Gardener Projects:

Youth Enrichment Lessons

Flanagan School gardens

Educational Programs:

A Day in the Garden Patch

Client Services/Outreach

Master Gardener Help Desk

Pontiac Farmers Market & Booths



Livingston Master Gardeners help out at Learn and Fun Day 2016



WALK THE GROVE *at Kickapoo Creek*

Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists
Walk the Grove Community Project

2016 for the Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists consisted of some key areas of improvement. These included working with continuing education outlets, overall Master Naturalist service hours, gaining active partners, and public programming. All throughout the counties they spent hours spread over land stewardship, invasive species removal, educational outreach, and program administration to reach their goals.

Continuing Education Outlets

- ▶ Lake Bloomington Watershed Quality
- ▶ Soil and Water Conservation
- ▶ Fracking
- ▶ Weather Lore

Master Naturalist Statistics



79
Master Naturalists



4,576
Volunteer Hours



856
Continuing Education Hours



\$155,971
Value to Communities

In 2016, Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists met a goal of over \$500,000 of value from hours to the community with \$544,6996.94 from 2012-2016!

Active Partners

Audubon Gardens
Bloomington Parks and Recreation*
Hedge Apple Woods at Ewing Park
The Grove
White Oak Park
Ecology Action Center*
Fugate Woods
Illinois State University
Horticulture Center
Herbarium
McLean County Parks
MJ Rhymer Family Nature Preserve
ParkLands Foundation
Sugar Grove Nature Center

*New in 2016

Active Partners

Lunch & Learn–Normal Community
High School
Rachel Carson Documentary Viewing
Walk The Grove at Kickapoo Creek
Day of Discovery at IL Natural History Survey
Day of Discovery with PrairieLands
Foundation
National Trails Day



Master Naturalist exploring with family during
Walk the Grove at Kickapoo Creek



McLean County Barn Quilt Heritage Tour

Barns by the Numbers

2016 brought a milestone to the Barn Quilt committee as we oversaw the installation of Barn Quilt number 52 of the McLean County Barn Quilt Heritage Trail. This number helped to exceed the goal set by our founders in 2012 of having 50 Barn Quilts in 5 years.

Sites include several installations on or near historic areas like Rt. 66, David Davis Mansion, and several century farms as well as century barns. This even includes the farm that hosted the 1970 Kickapoo Creek Rock Festival.

Founding co-chairs Kay Henrichs and Karen Gottlieb were honored at the 2016 Opening Event, which also marked their retirement from the committee.

Adding 10 new Barn Quilts to the tour and expanding our community outreach through new marketing efforts are the McLean County Barn Quilt committees' goals.



WHAT WE DO

Help farmers produce diverse, nutrient dense crops for local markets, while using sustainable techniques.

WE BELIEVE

Supporting the development of new markets for locally grown staple crops like grains, dry beans and oil seeds as one of the best ways to help farmers improve sales, and help consumers access fresh, healthy, local food.

HOW WE DO IT

Community-based interactive and social platforms to connect growers & consumers.



WARTHOG WHEAT HARVEST

Grand Prairie Grain Guild

Harold Wilken, Danforth, IL, a farmer involved with the Grand Prairie Grain Guild variety trials, yielded **43,000** bushels of food grade wheat for the Chicago market, including Hewn Bakery and Eataly Chicago. Wilken harvested **7,000** bushels of hard red winter wheat, demonstrating production viability in Illinois.



From Farm to Bakery

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS

Regenerate Illinois

We brought together new partners and funders with faculty and staff from University of Illinois to establish Regenerate Illinois. The goal is to develop a private organic research farm to study crop rotation, soil health, variety trials, and breeding. Funders include Prairie Rivers Network, Lumpkin Family Foundation, and Fresh Taste.

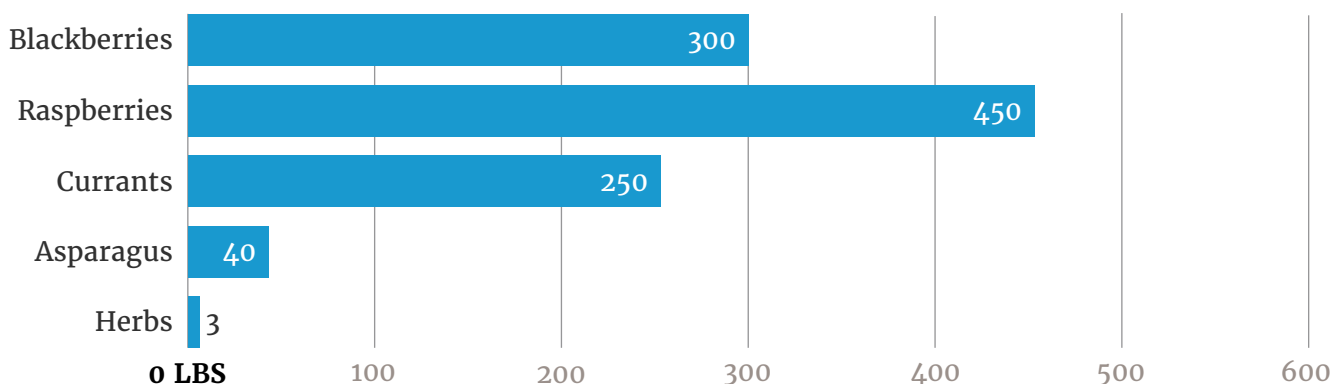


REFUGE FOOD FOREST

Normal, IL

In the project's first productive year, bountiful cane fruit harvest was available to the public. The yields and diversity will increase over 4-6 years. The first tree fruit harvest, including hazelnuts and chestnuts, is anticipated in 2017. The Town of Normal, a partner in the development and maintenance of The Refuge Food Forest, received a \$2500 sustainability award from Corn Belt Electric to design and build an elaborate insect hotel to provide habitat for pollinators at the site.

2016 Food Forest Harvest



ESTABLISHED SEED LIBRARIES

Extension consulted with Rebecca Osland, Attorney and Illinois Stewardship Alliance Policy Associate, in work with Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois Farm Bureau to reach a compromise agreement to update Illinois Seed Law. The new law allows for seed libraries and seed exchanges. Such programs promote gardening, provide free seed, and embrace a cross-section of the community, drawing multigenerational and multicultural audiences. Established in both Normal & Eureka, IL libraries, University of Illinois Extension partners to raise awareness about gardening and its tie to local food. This provides gardeners with more choices in seed use while also encouraging local adaptations.

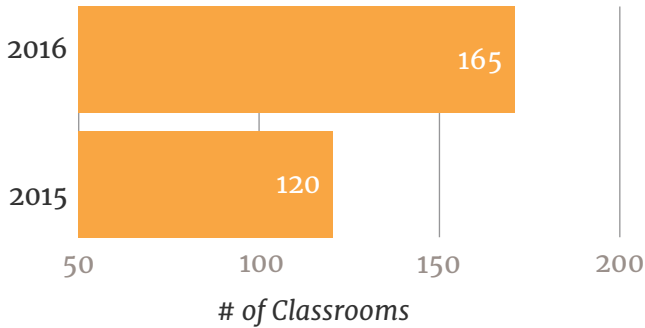
PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING WORKSHOP

A workshop held at the Library for the College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois, drew potential to generate new varieties and introduce more genetic diversity into grand and staple crops in the Midwest. Included farmers and plant breeders from universities in Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota, as well as private plant breeders.



AG in the Classroom

The McLean County Ag in the Classroom reached over **5,200** youth in elementary schools in 2016. The most popular program, Chick it Out, was in **165** classrooms throughout McLean County.



SNAP-ED CURRICULUM LIVINGSTON, MCLEAN & WOODFORD

PRE-K—KINDERGARDEN

Color Me Healthy

It's Fun to be Healthy

KINDERGARDEN — 2ND GRADE

Organ Wise Guys

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS: K—5th

CATCH

SPARK

GRADE SCHOOL

IL Jr. Chef

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Eating Smart, Being Active

My Plate for My Family

SENIORS

Eat Smart, Live Strong

ACTIVITY STATIONS

Stations on locations as food banks, grocery stores, family events, etc. for all ages

Livingston and McLean Counties

SNAP-Education helps those in need make healthier choices by reaching people where they are in their communities with education and hand-on skill building activities.

Program Reach



3,629

Total Individuals Reached



480 (13%)

Participants identify as Hispanic



24%

Adults



76%

Youth



- 70% Caucasian (2544)
- 26% African American (953)
- 4% Asian American, American Indian, or Pacific Islander (132)

Programming Provided at the Following Site Types:

18	3
K-12 Schools	Youth Centers
2	3
Stores or Markets	Agencies or Community Centers
16	5
Early Childhood	Emergency Food Sites





WHO ARE WE

Trained volunteers who meet one-on-one with people who have a financial challenge, whether that is saving money, reducing debt, or recalculating spending plans because of a change in income either up or down.

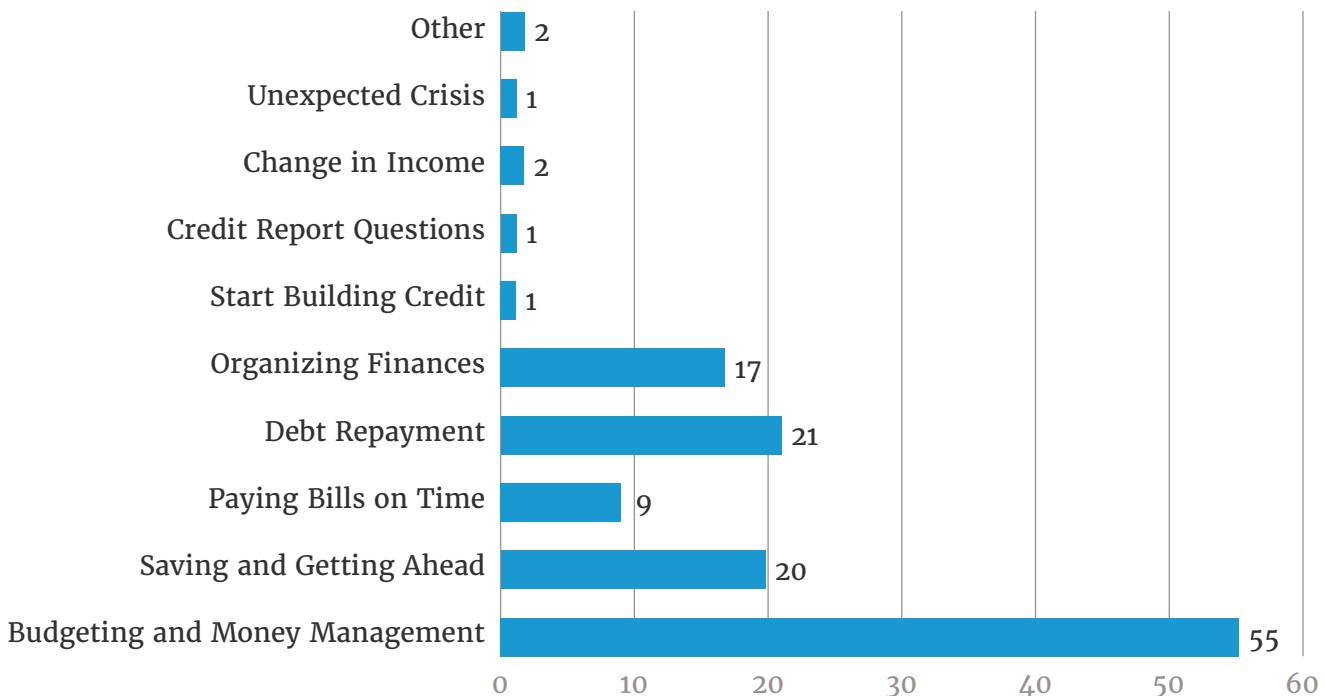
Currently we have mentors in all three counties, looking to help just one person

with their financial challenges. In 2016, we teamed up with State Farm Bank to train a large group of potential mentors that will allow us to double the number of citizens in the program in the coming year. When mentees apply to the program, they are asked to rank their top 5 financial priorities.

Mentees often share their successes to their mentors in different ways such as:

- ▶ Creating a budget to pay down debt in one year
- ▶ Returning rental furniture and investing when discovering real costs
- ▶ Meal Planning & Shopping Lists to maintain food budgets

Financial Concerns of Mentees



Results show the most requested topics by Mentees from April 2014—2016

All My Money

The All My Money: Change for the Better curriculum is revised and on sale. This update of an award-winning curriculum aimed at limited resourced audiences includes special features as:

- ▶ 75% New Material
- ▶ Experimental & Hands on Activities
- ▶ Created for any & all financial skillsets
- ▶ Trains one or adaptable to group teach

This curriculum includes a resource box which helps when training groups. With that exclusive, we are able to expand the reach of Extension educators exponentially. Since the curriculum was printed in October, **85** copies have been sold and two large scale training sessions held:

- ▶ Annual Symposium of the Association of Financial Counselors and Planners Education (National Audience)
- ▶ University of Illinois Chicago Center for Literacy.

21 individuals has been already trained, and several more training sessions are planned for 2017 to expand the reach to a variety of social service agencies and governmental groups, such as county probation departments.

It is all in an effort to prevent people from returning to bad financial habits.



Pam Atkinson, Presenting Budgeting Workshop



Money Smart Week is an annual, National & educational event, created by the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank and hosted locally by a planning team in Bloomington-Normal.

MSW is run entirely by money donated by sponsors of local businesses and the donation of time by local financial professionals teaching classes & programming around town.

Entering its tenth year locally, MSW seeks to provide area residents with a variety of free financial education classes for every general need. Classes include a variety on:

- ▶ Investing
- ▶ Retirement
- ▶ Wills and Estates,
- ▶ Reducing food budgets
- ▶ Gardening
- ▶ Small business topics.
- ▶ Buying or Selling a House

With activities for every age, from reading events for youth at local libraries, to budgeting & retirement programs. Money Smart Week provides thousands of dollars of information free to all. Chaired this year by University of Illinois Extension Economic Educator, Pam Atkinson, Money Smart Week 2016 results showed:

- ▶ Social media "likes" **increased** by **14%**
- ▶ Average class size **increased** by nearly **30%**
- ▶ Total attendance **increased** by **5%**

Livingston, McLean & Woodford Counties 2016



Thank
You!



Directory

County Director

Bobbie Lewis-Sibley

Business Manager

Sara Halihan

Extension Educators

Kelly Allsup, *Horticulture*

Pam Atkinson,
Consumer Economics

Alcha Corban, 4-H —
Livingston & Woodford

Bill Davison, *Local Food
Systems & Small Farms*

Carolyn Hansen, 4-H —
Metro & McLean County

Jenna Smith,
Nutrition & Wellness

Program Coordinators

Sara Attig, 4-H — *Livingston*

Jenna Braasch, *Publicity &
Promotions Specialist*

Staci Coussens,
Nutrition & Wellness

Callie Cummings, 4-H —
McLean County

Brittnay Haag, *Horticulture*

Laura Holland,
4-H — *Metro/Unity*

Elizabeth Repplinger,
4-H — *Unity*

Emily Saddler, 4-H — *STEAM*

Leah Street,
4-H — *McLean County*

Afiwa Tete, 4-H — *Unity*

Reid Young, *Local Food
Systems & Small Farms*

Community Workers

Beth Kraft,
SNAP-Ed — *McLean*

Beverly Long,
SNAP-Ed — *Livingston*

Office Support Associate

Erin Estes, *Livingston,
McLean & Woodford*

Office Support Assistants

Rosemarie Carter,
McLean County

Cindy Kinate,
Livingston County

Paige Wood,
Woodford County



<http://go.illinois.edu/LMW>

ONLINE



UofIExtensionMcLean
LivingstonWoodfordCounties



UIExtensionUnit12



4-H Member with his livestock project at the county fair



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



University of Illinois ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture ~ Local Extension Councils Cooperating

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

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any program, please contact the county Extension Office.

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