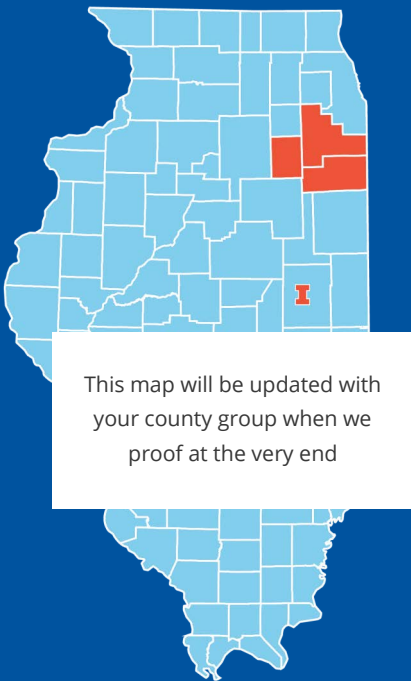




University of Illinois Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. Based in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Extension is the statewide outreach program of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.



This map will be updated with your county group when we proof at the very end

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A Message from the Chancellor

The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is an economic engine and a driver of innovation deeply rooted in the Illinois prairie and engaged statewide, from Cook County to Cairo. Illinois Extension brings the University to your doorstep. Extension educators live and work alongside you in every county, allowing the university to support local leaders, businesses, farmers, and residents to address grand challenges and everyday problems with practical, research-based solutions. As a youth, my own 4-H experience inspired a rewarding career in agricultural research and higher education. Today, it's an honor to lead this great public university and deepen its commitment to serve the people of Illinois.

Robert J. Jones
 Chancellor, University of Illinois



A Message from the County Director

It is my pleasure to present the 2018 Impact 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. University of Illinois Extension is about learning. We provide educational programs and research-based information enabling local citizens to make practical decisions that improve the quality of their lives. This annual report highlights just a few of our major accomplishments for 2018. You will find information about 4-H Youth Development, Horticulture, Local Food Systems and Small Farms, Nutrition and Wellness, 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!

Thank you to everyone who makes Extension successful!

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



Extension Education Outreach

Facebook Likes



7,307

Page Likes on 11 Pages & 2 Groups

Blogs



36,909

Total Blog Views (3 Unit & 1 Regional Blog Contribution)

Published Media



651

Published Print & Online Articles

Radio Waves



65+

Radio or TV Interviews

Face-to-Face Education



22,569

Adults and Youth Reached



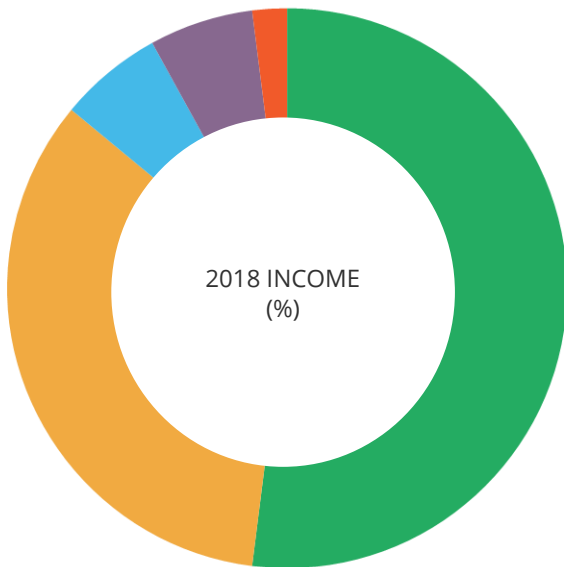
1,411,738 Members indirectly educated through Extension resources

2018 Extension Council Members

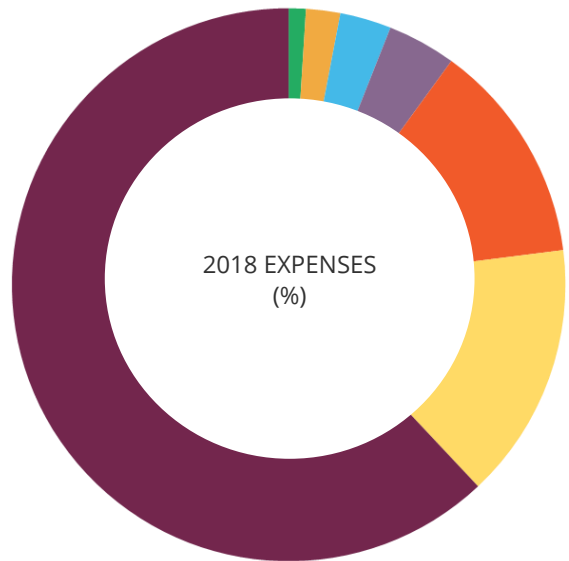
Hillary Aggert
Shirley Blackburn
Sarah Craft
Tom Creswell
Tammy Johns

Raejean Kuntz
Ed McKibbin
Jaycie Schertz
Emily Schirer
Sherri Schlatter

Dustin Smith
Ellaina Stadel
Clayton Thomas
Blaine Troyer
Linda Faye White



- 52 Local Sources
- 34 State Match
- 6 U of I General Revenue Fund
- 6 Self Supporting
- 2 Federal Smith Lever



- 62 Salaries
- 15 Program Educational Services & Supplies
- 13 Rent/Leases/Utilities
- 4 Travel
- 3 Equipment and Maintenance
- 2 Office Supplies/Postage/Printing, etc.
- 1 Separation Pool



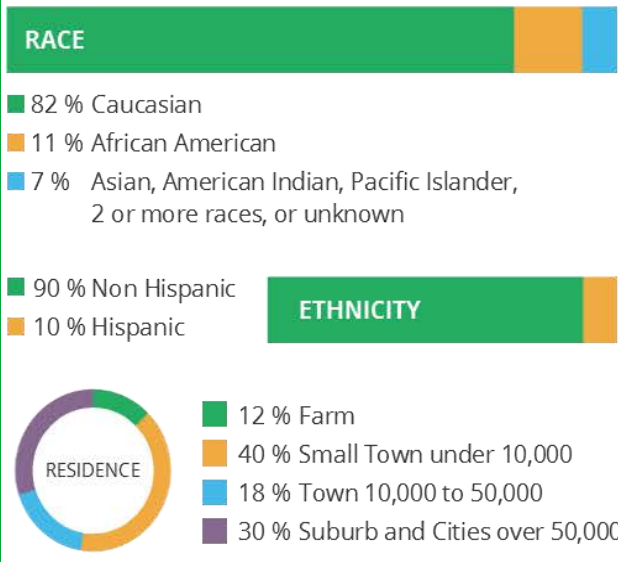
Reaching Through 4-H



Serving Youth in Livingston, McLean, and Woodford Counties

Wherever you live, 4-H is there. Whoever you are, 4-H is the place where you belong and are part of the club, where you serve in the world where you live, where you act on matters important to you, and where you learn to accomplish the dreams you strive to achieve. Illinois 4-H empowers and prepares youth for success — for today, tomorrow, and a lifetime.

Program Reach

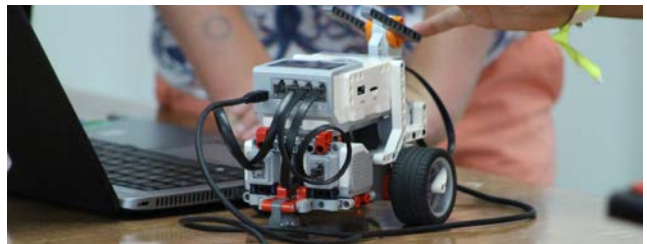


Innovative STEAM Programming

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Agriculture, Mathematics)

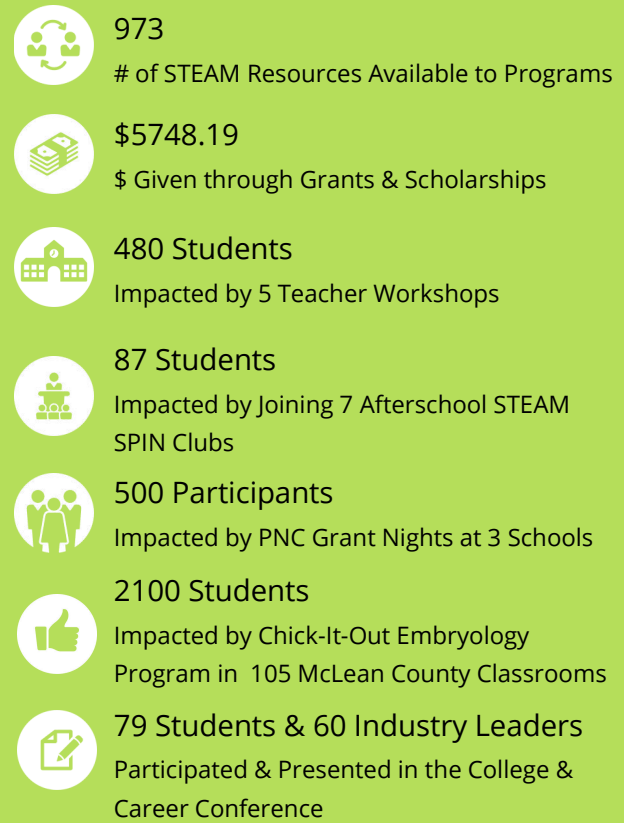


Great discussion with industry professionals at the College & Career Conference.



Robotics kits are just one of over 900 STEAM Resources available to 4-H Clubs and area Teachers through STEAM.

STEAM Statistics



Find out about joining 4-H and more STEAM activities at go.illinois.edu/LMW



Livingston, McLean &
Woodford County 4-H
106 4-H Community &
Cloverbud Clubs
32 SPIN Clubs



#Thats4H



4-H Livestock Youth are Leaving their Mark

From champions in the show ring to judging team contest memories, our Livingston, McLean & Woodford 4-H youth involved in the livestock project area, made 2018 memorable.



Master Showmanship takes patience and care and these are just some of the skills represented by Woodford County 4-H member, Keaton Stoller - 2018 Master Showman at the IL State Fair. *(Hayley Stoller)*



Both Kate Henkel (Woodford - Left) and Addison Raber (Livingston - Center) tested their livestock knowledge to each receive \$1,000 scholarships during the Illinois 4-H Superior Young Producer Award Contest at IL State Fair.



Livingston/McLean County 4-H team including (L to R): Ellie Drach, Skye Schumaker, Brian Clapp, Ty Drach, Paige Lemenager, Emerson Tarr, Rachel Duffy (Not Pictured: Ada Duffy, Garrett Rhode, and Preston Rhode) who all competed at the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Learning “All Around the World” afterschool at Unity Community Center



Illinois State University Students teach Unity youth Spanish, German and French throughout the semester.

Whether it be through song or a fun activity, Unity youth travel the world every Thursday night, without ever leaving Unity. This is through the help of Illinois State University students from the LAN 320: World Language Teaching in the K-12 Setting course at ISU and their professor, Sue Hildebrandt.

The Unity World Languages program is an opportunity for future French, German and Spanish teachers to put into practice what they are learning in the classroom with young language learners at Unity.

- ▶ Beginning in 2012, World Languages is Unity's longest running program – celebrating 10 semesters
- ▶ In 2015, the program was recognized as a Global Engagement Initiative Program by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- ▶ In 2016, Sue was awarded an ISU Civic Engagement grant which brought new language learning resources to Unity

Unity Community Center staff members appreciate Hildebrandt's flexibility, dedication, and look forward to the future of the program with Sue and her students.

“Just the way [Hildebrandt] kept the partnership going and strengthened it in different ways. She's helped us to find new connections, and showed us what a good partnership can look like,” said Elizabeth Replinger, Extension program coordinator at Unity.



Find these quotes, excerpts and more on World Languages at ISU News at <http://bitly.com/2KeBWWL> by Emily Nafzinger.



Celebrating 15 years of the "Best Place Yet"

Unity Community Center celebrated their 15th year in 2018. It had humble beginnings and today, is still a thriving, growing community center in North Normal.

Unity was the sole brainchild of former Extension staff, Kathy Johnson. Kathy was a single mother living in the Orlando Avenue area and saw first-hand the need for youth and families in the neighborhood. Kathy first attempted to offer 4-H programming in centers located in three of the apartment complexes in that same area. After much planning and promoting, no one showed up to the offered programs. Sadly, the neighborhood and community suffered a tragedy. This event solidified Kathy's vision and fueled her passion to start an after-school center. She went to the Extension County Director and shared her vision, and was told if she could find fiscal support, that the U of I Extension in McLean County would match it and be the lead agency.



15 years ago, Kathy Johnson saw potential in a place that needed assistance and the vision became Unity.

Kathy found a three-suite building that had a vacancy. The building also housed the Normal Police substation and a laundry mat. She contacted the property owner who supported the idea and gave her time to find resources to pay the rent. Kathy began forming partnerships with the Town of Normal, Unit 5 school district, local churches, and businesses including State Farm. The momentum and excitement could not be contained and more partners came to Kathy wanting to help, including Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College.



Check out more about the Unity Community Center at go.illinois.edu/Unity

These new partnerships came with monetary or in-kind donations and along with awarded grants, Unity opened its doors June of 2003. The opening was celebrated with an Orlando Block Party where there was a contest to name the center and Unity Community Center-The Best Place Yet was born!



Unity Staff members recognize Kathy Johnson for her years at Unity at Unity Gives Thanks celebration.

Although Kathy moved on from Extension, others share her passion and today, the Unity Community Center encompasses all three suites of its original building, taking over both the vacated laundry mat and police substation. Our partnerships also remain strong with support including teaching classes to our youth, donations, national recognition of partnerships and projects, and more. Unity started with one full-time staff person and now has three, as the number of youth has increased. A 15-year Open House Celebration is on hold as Unity is currently under renovations for a new commercial kitchen! We cannot wait for 2019 to keep showing why Unity is still The Best Place Yet!



Unity and 4-H youth meet with Lt. Governor Sanguinetti.

2017-2018 Unity Enrollment

- 78% Black/African American
- 13% White
- 2% American Indian
- 7% Asian
- 6% Hispanic
- 94% Non-Hispanic
- 59% Female
- 41% Male



46 Students!



Master Gardener Statistics



155
Master Gardeners



1,304
Total
Page Likes



11,002.25
Volunteer Hours



1,937.75
Continuing
Education
Hours



\$271,645.55
Value to Communities

**Total for all Livingston, McLean & Woodford Master Gardeners*

Everything's a Buzz at Pollinator Palooza

What was simply an idea, became an event, and brought 175 youth and adults, friends and families out to take a walk with the pollinators at Illinois State University Horticulture Center in Normal.

Welcome to Pollinator Palooza!

Seventeen educational stations manned by Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Extension staff, and community partners were stops along the way of learning every step to being a pollinator.

Partnering with the Central Illinois Beekeeping Association brought tasty samples of bee-products, and taught families bee communication with their famous "Waggle Dance." Ecology Action Center helped the public troubleshoot issues for a more "Yard Smart" home landscape.



Youth and adults learned the steps to communicating just like a queen and her bees. (Cindy Kinate)



Guests at Pollinator Palooza learned all about bees, bee products and many other pollinator facts. (Cindy Kinate)

The Master Gardener stations helped everyone discover the Monarch lifecycle, the difference between butterflies and moths (and the importance of each) and pollinator-friendly herbs through fun games and activities.



Youth also had the opportunity to make hummingbird feeder kits, sweep a prairie, go on a pollinated-fruit scavenger hunt, and much more! Seeing youth learn the "waggle dance" through the gardens, helped them see the importance of pollinators.



The view walking through the beautiful plants and gardens on display at Pollinator Palooza at ISU Horticulture Center.



Master Gardeners partner up to address food access

McLean County Master Gardeners established the Holton Homes Neighborhood Garden in 2004 in West Bloomington. Starting the garden in space owned by the Bloomington Housing Authority, the Master Gardeners transitioned to raised beds and self-watering planters in 2014. These provided additional areas of learning for the youth involved in the Nature Workers 4-H SPIN Club. Club members participate in weekly gardening lessons, including care and maintenance of the garden, and in August are able to exhibit the flowers and produce at the McLean County 4-H Show. Being part of the 4-H program allows club members additional educational opportunities and encourages leadership and citizenship development. In 2018, the project received a grant through the Growing Illinois Food Access Allocation (GIFAA) program to expand the garden project to local seniors.



Nature Workers 4-H Club members learn gardening lessons all year long to present at the 4-H Show.

The Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Program combined forces to impact hunger on a local level.

Through this collaboration, funds were provided to local Master Gardener projects that expanded healthy food access to limited resource individuals and families. The GIFAA program is affiliated with the multi-state “Growing Together” initiative of innovative partnerships expanding food access.

The main goal of the program was to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries for those who experience food insecurity in Illinois. In addition, SNAP-Ed supported effective food use by providing nutrition education for food pantry clientele and by assisting food pantry staff with promoting and handling fresh produce. A third goal was to establish community partnerships and capacity to sustain improved food access.

At Holton Homes, this grant provided funding for a small expansion of garden space in order to provide produce for families of Holton Homes Nature Workers, seniors living in an adjacent housing complex (John Kane Homes) and residents at other Bloomington Housing Authority locations. This grant included money for topsoil, tarps, garden tubs, small tools, gloves, and tomato supports. It also provided funds to purchase a required garden scale to weigh and document all community garden produce distributed to area residents.

- ▶ Number of Youth in 4-H Club: 13
- ▶ Number of Seniors Reached: 20
- ▶ Number of Master Gardener hours: 260.5
- ▶ Pounds Harvested: 300 lbs.
- ▶ Educational Programs Offered
 - SNAP-Ed: 7 and Master Gardeners: 14



What started as a piece of land has become raised bed gardens and a healthy food source for the community.



Livingston County Master Gardeners Create Youth Movement

The Livingston County Master Gardeners developed horticulture lesson kits in 2014 to meet the demand of youth program requests. The kits cover insects, pollination, web of life, and seeds/germination. The Master Gardeners offer the lessons to 2nd and 5th-grade classrooms in Livingston County. In the 5 years the program has been offered, Master Gardeners have been able to teach lessons at every elementary school in Livingston County.

An initial group of Master Gardeners, including a few retired elementary educators, coordinated the efforts of the program. Each kit includes an inventory list, lessons with a hands-on activity and all the supplies needed, including books, posters and handouts. There is no cost for the school to participate in this program. All expenses are covered by Master Gardener fundraising efforts and Extension support.

The use of the kits has also expanded outside the classroom. Master Gardeners are now using the kits for summer programming, library programs and after-school programs.



Master Gardeners are always thinking of new projects and kits to create to take into the classrooms.

They {teachers} love the Master Gardeners visiting their classroom and appreciate them sharing their passion and knowledge with the students.
LIVINGSTON COUNTY TEACHERS

Master Gardeners continue to update the lessons every year and add new and interesting components. Teachers also mention that they appreciate these enrichment lessons align with the current teaching standards and are a great addition to their curriculum.



Youth education has been impacted by the volunteer hours of Livingston Master Gardeners visiting their classes.

Number of Students Reached:

- Fall 2018: **382**
- Spring 2018: **363**
- Fall 2017: **554**
- Spring 2017: **142**
- Fall 2016: **200**
- Spring 2016: **155**
- Fall 2015: **136**
- Spring 2015: **209**
- Fall 2014: No lessons
- Spring 2014: **153**

TOTAL: 2,294 Youth Reached



Keep up with the LMW Master Gardeners by searching @MidIllinoisMasterGardeners on Facebook!



To Teach, Grow and Share

This year, the horticulture program and Woodford County Master Gardeners not only taught people how to grow vegetables and herbs but also opened up further access to this fresh food for community members with limited access.

The Woodford County Master Gardeners assisted the Great Oaks Community Church 'Garden of Giving' in Germantown Hills with gardening education and growing assistance, allowing them to donate produce from their garden.

- ▶ Gardening education and teamwork allowed donations of 3800 lbs. of produce to local food banks
- ▶ Produce donated included green beans, broccoli, tomatoes and cucumbers
- ▶ Great Oaks Church volunteers and the Master Gardeners delivered produce to
 - Open Arms Food Pantry in Metamora
 - First United Methodist Church in East Peoria
 - Fresh Food Hub to be distributed wherever it was needed in the Peoria area



Woodford County Master Gardeners stroll through the "Garden of Giving."

The East Peoria food pantry was especially grateful for all of the fresh produce since it is not a farming community. The people cannot get over all the choices of the fresh produce. Many may not have the financial resources to buy fresh vegetables at the grocery store so the produce from Garden of Giving is a real blessing to them.

LISA GARBER, WOODFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER



The "Garden of Giving" was much more than just a garden.

Horticulture Educator Kelly Allsup, along with Master Gardeners, planted herbs, tomatoes, green beans, carrots, and leafy greens at Heartline and Heart House in Eureka. This added to the monthly "stretch your dollar" class curriculum by teaching participants about gardening and horticulture.

Programs included make your own herb container and celebrating the harvest with a vegetable swap, where Master Gardeners and community members shared their abundance of produce in order to put these delectable treats in the hands of community members that may not have the opportunity to grow their own gardens.

Heartline program Coordinator, Blaine Troyer, said "the program participants felt more connected to their community knowing they were willing to share their extra garden produce in a fun mini farmers market style give away."



It lets us all eat garden fresh tomatoes regardless of our resources.

KELLY ALLSUP, HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR



Master Gardeners



Master Naturalists





Hitting the Trails

If you have never attended a local National Trails Day celebration before, save the date this June, pack a lunch, and find some local trails! Master Naturalists' partner with Sugar Grove Nature Center for a day of hiking and discovering trails, nature crafts, honeybee and bird learning stations, first aid, trail safety, and many more activities for the entire family. A record number of over 300 attendees joined us in 2018 to celebrate and spend the day in nature's beautiful backyard.



Master Naturalists taking advantage of the activities along the trails during 2018 National Trails Day.

- ▶ Over 300 Attendees
- ▶ More than 10 Activity and Learning Stations in a location with over 7 miles of hiking trails available
- ▶ Illinois Raptor Center appearance including bald eagles, owls, hawks and their handlers

Different from year's past, we welcomed some very special guests from the Illinois Raptor Center including a bald eagle, owls and hawks for a special show, questions and more. Youth and their families were excited to have such an up-close and personal experience with these amazing animals.



Baby owls at the 2018 National Trails Day event at Sugar Grove Nature Center.

It's the day to pack a picnic lunch with your entire family and hit the trails in a place where you can enjoy nature at its finest without even paying a penny.

Master Naturalists on planning National Trails Day events

Master Naturalists Statistics



89
Master Naturalists



740
Total Page Likes



4,348.25
Volunteer Hours



993.25
Continuing Education Hours



\$107,358.29
Value to Communities

**Total for all Livingston, McLean & Woodford Master Naturalists*



State Master Naturalist Conference in Monticello, IL.



Follow the journey of our Master Naturalists at Facebook by searching Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists @IGPMN.

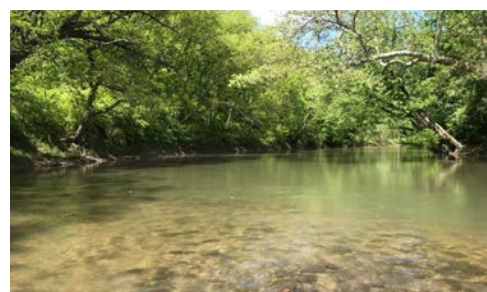


Grand Prairie Grain Guild: Producing “Locally” and Selling “Locally”

Local Food Systems and Small Farms work with the grain guild has helped farmers access value-added markets that increase their net income and farm profitability. This has resulted in more young people being able to return to family farms, and opens up the possibility of generating a living wage from farming smaller acreages.



One local family in McLean County is one example of a generation transition to organic and added value to grains through local markets. A 25-year-old farmer is now selling organic wheat flour, cornmeal, and pancake mix to Green Top Grocery in Bloomington. Sales have exceeded \$7,000 dollars in 2018, thus encouraging him to transition 100 acres to organic, to continue research and development for new food products, and to make plans to build a restaurant as part of their family maple syrup business.



MIDDLE MACKINAW PROJECT

Help farmers learn how to create healthy soils that can feed plants with minimal external inputs. This will lead to lower input costs and higher net profits for farmers.

Extension’s Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator Bill Davison worked with a diverse team to secure \$150,000 in funding from the Chicago Community Trust to fund the Middle Mackinaw Project in Woodford County. This project has already engaged 6 organizations to come together to deliver workshops and field days to promote crop diversity, agroforestry and regenerative agriculture on farms.

FLOURISHING IN THE REFUGE FOOD FOREST

Participants in the tours, workdays and workshops report an increased appreciation for the flavor of different types of fruit and the ease of growing and managing crops like nut trees and currants. Many people have become informal ambassadors for the food forest and recruit others to come experience it. In peak season from late June through September, an average of 16 people walked through the food forest per day and a smaller number of people visited in spring and winter, producing an estimated total number of visitors near 5,000 per year. Through Facebook, people have built a community by sharing recipes and tips on canning, freezing and cooking with fruit. Many people have tried new fruit and new recipes after seeing what others have done with their harvest. The food forest continues to grow in size and is viewed by many as a valuable community asset that improves quality of life according to the beliefs below.



FOOD FOREST COMMENT BOX:

1- *“My kids have never picked berries from a plant, I asked them what they thought, ‘Awesome!’ was the reply. In fact, one child, with blackberry juice all over his mouth, said that this was one of the best days ever.”*

2- *“Thank you, those of you who are putting work into the plants! You have made some children very happy! Someday we will try and get over to help care for the plants as well. We will for sure be back. I mixed the blackberries with apples for a pie last night. They are very proud of it. I am grateful to have something like this in our community.”*



Search “The Refuge Food Forest” in Groups on Facebook to get in on the discussion.



Advocating for School Wellness

Schools are not just in charge of improving the academic success of its students; they are also in charge of improving the health of its students. Having a strong school wellness policy is essential in providing the framework for establishing a school environment that promotes students health and well-being. University of Illinois Extension helped one school district update their school wellness policy to meet new federal regulations. Prairie Central School District now has a comprehensive wellness policy and even established a school wellness committee.

Within one year, the committee submitted the school wellness policy, implemented a non-food reward policy and provided teachers with a list of alternative ways to reward children, held a family wellness night and began posting wellness events happening in the community to their local newsletter. In addition, University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator Jenna Smith and Nutrition and Wellness Program Coordinator Rachel Benn conducted a tray waste audit to gauge how much food is thrown in the trash.

Having a strong school wellness policy is essential in providing the framework for establishing a school environment that promotes students health and well-being.

JENNA SMITH N&W EDUCATOR



New Trays Decrease Food Waste

The team conducted Smarter Lunchroom assessments. The Smarter Lunchroom Movement is an approach that promotes a more appealing school cafeteria environment and uses behavioral economics to influence eating behavior. One of the principles is to “Enhance Taste Expectations”; in other words, if food is presented in an appealing way, people may be more inclined to consume it. New trays were purchased to replace the old, worn-down trays they had at Prairie Central Elementary. With new trays, the team conducted a tray waste audit to study the use of new colorful trays to reduce waste and increase school lunch consumption. In addition, before the new trays were implemented, students were asked to vote on which tray of food they would choose (viewing the same meal on both, old and new tray) to assess attitude and behavioral intent.



Our Nutrition & Wellness team helped transform school lunches and decrease food waste.



Follow along with Jenna at *Simply Nutritious, Quick & Delicious* at go.illinois.edu/SimplyNQD

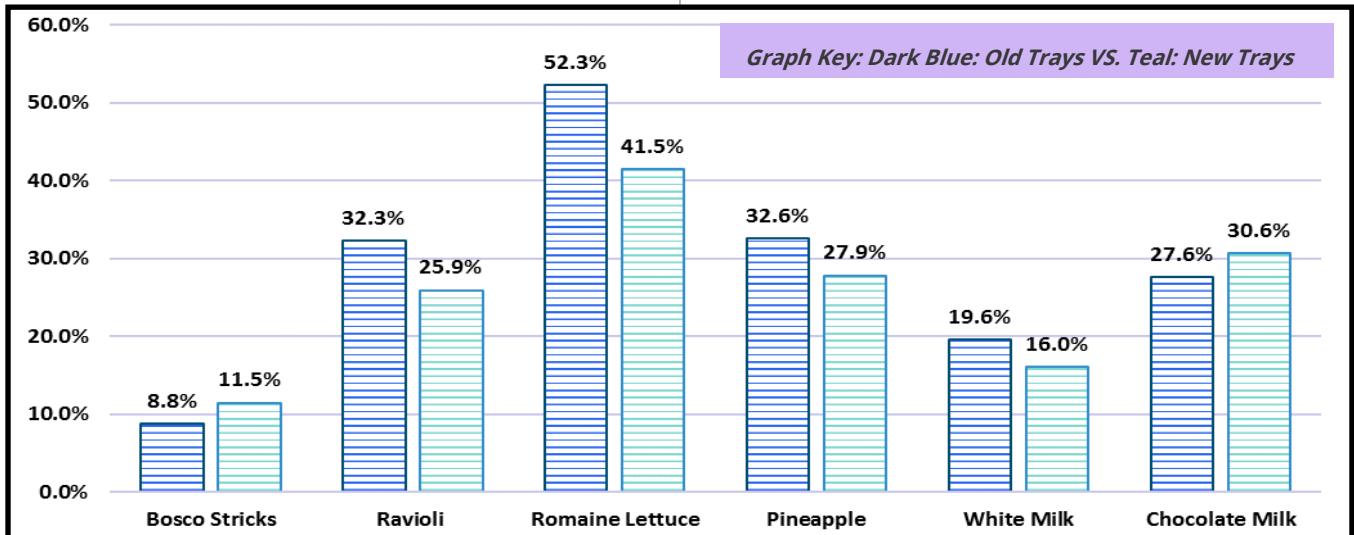


Totaling up Waste: Tray - By -Tray

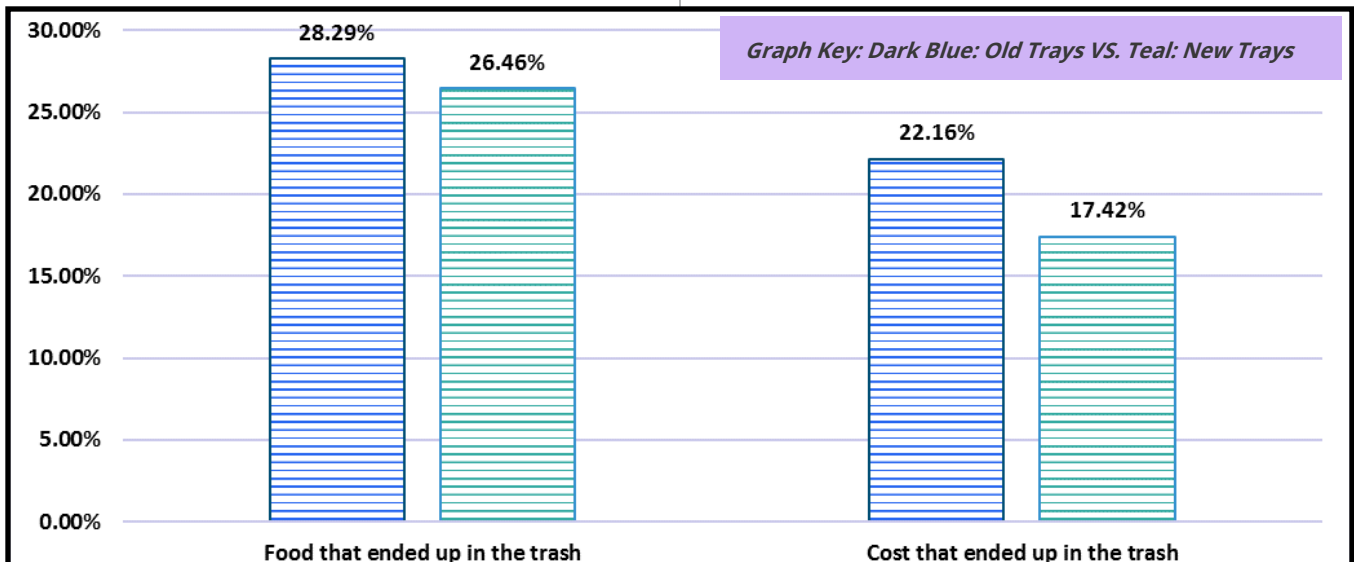
The new trays did in fact result in less food waste as the graphs depict below. Plus, the survey revealed 28 students voted that they would choose the food on the old tray, and 314 voted that they would choose the food on the new tray. Also, half of the lunch periods provide recess after lunch and half provide recess before lunch. Interestingly, of the total waste, 56.5% came from lunch periods where recess was offered after lunch, and 43.5% came from lunch periods where recess was offered before lunch; this fits the research that students eat more when recess is offered before they sit down for lunch.



By the numbers! 314 students chose food on the new trays vs. 28 students that chose food from the old trays.



2018 Tray Waste Study Results by Food Served % (Top Graph) and Total Waste Comparison % (Bottom Graph)





SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION (SNAP-EDUCATION)

SNAP-Education works with Illinois families in need to make the healthier choice an easier choice where they eat, shop, live, play and learn. Through classes and workshops, and by collaborating with community partners to adopt research-based solutions to encourage healthier nutrition and activity choices, SNAP-Education positively impacts the families and communities we serve.

Serving Local Families



3,859
Total SNAP-Education Participants



21.3%
Adults



78.7%
Youth



11.5% Identified as Hispanic
47% Identified as Non-Hispanic
41.5% Unknown



- 73.2% White (2,823)
- 22.3% Black (861)
- 2.9% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (110)

Our Community Partners



18
K-12 Schools



2
Youth Centers



10
Early Childhood Centers



1
Stores and Markets



13
Community Centers



5
Food Pantries and Food Banks

Let Youth Do the Cooking

Summertime means Illinois Junior Chefs cooking classes come to life! Youth ages 8 to 13 participate in a week of classes that include cooking skills, tasty recipes, safety tips in the kitchen, how to eat healthy, and much more!



Youth show off their recipe for yogurt parfaits at camp.

On the first day, a grandmother dropped off her grandson. She warned me that he will not help in the kitchen and he is not happy to be here. By the last day when she dropped off her grandson for camp, she shared that he has helped make lunch the last two days and this morning he asked when do we get to leave for camp. She was excited that the cooking school had encouraged him to have a more active role in preparing meals.

Illinois Junior Chefs Story



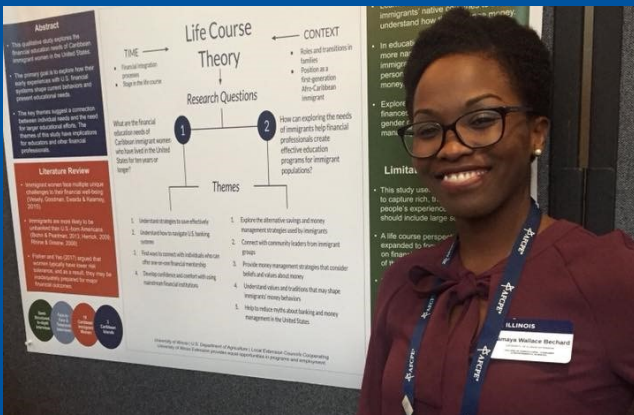
Learning how to properly measure out whip cream at Illinois Junior Chefs last summer.



Find recipes, photos and more resources at go.illinois.edu/EatMoveSave



The Return of Consumer Economics University of Illinois Extension Consumer Economics program offers a rich, timely, resilience-focused, and research-based approach to teaching personal finance. The consumer economics program provides leadership in the delivery of personal finance education to youth, adults and community-based organizations. This year, the program welcomed a new educator who is excited about innovative programming to help youth and adults build and maintain financial resilience. The program serves diverse audiences through multiple platforms and formats that support positive financial education.



Our counties welcome Dr. Camaya Wallace Bechard | Extension Consumer Economics Educator | Presenting at a 2018 National Finance Conference.

Empowering Youth for the Future

Many youth and young adults in Illinois and around the country struggle to understand basic financial concepts as they move from high school into adulthood. The consumer economics program works to provide evidence-based and developmentally appropriate financial education to youth throughout our counties. This past year, we offered various youth-focused financial education programs in multiple settings:

- › Schools
- › Youth Centers
- › Conference Centers



Teaching Finance to Youth (Photo: rawpixel on Unsplash).

Money Mentors Back in McLean

Camaya is excited to revamp the Money Mentors program. The money mentor program trains volunteers to deliver research-based and sensitive personal finance education through one-on-one mentorship with community members (i.e. mentees) and through community outreach activities. Current mentors receive continuing education opportunities and mentees follow steps to increase their financial education.

Logging into the Financial Future

Consumer economics programs are changing and using different platforms to connect with audiences. Various formats help educators to share important information on creating spending plans, investing in retirement saving plans and shopping for food in non-threatening and non-restricting ways. Through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and SoundCloud, the consumer economics teams provided educational information and materials to help money consumers gain more knowledge or applicable strategies on how to manage their finances effectively.

- › Camaya's Blog: Fearless Financial Future
- › Contributor to team blog: Plan Well Retire Well
- › Twitter Account: Search @SaveFearlessly
- › Consumer Economics team launched its new podcast. Search "Family Financial Feuds" on SoundCloud
- › Facebook: University of Illinois Extension Livingston, McLean & Woodford County by searching pages @UofIExtensionLMW



In 2018, over 13,000 people visited our team blogs: Plan Well Retire Well and Fearless Financial Future! Follow along with Extension's Consumer Economics Team!



Follow along with Camaya at Fearless Financial Future at go.illinois.edu/FearlessFinancialFuture



Staff Member	Extension Role
Bobbie Lewis-Sibley	County Director
Sara Halihan	Business Manager
Kelly Allsup	Educator, Horticulture
Alcha Corban	Educator, 4-H Youth Development Livingston, Woodford & Unity
Bill Davison	Educator, Local Food Systems and Small Farms
Brittnay Haag	Educator, Horticulture
Emily Saddler	Educator, 4-H Youth Development McLean County
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