



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Boone County

Gina DelRose
Brooke Glander
Heather Nelson
Amy Hildebrant
Jael Monteagudo
Dakota Schober
Jane Zeien

DeKalb County

Pat Alexander
Desiree Corral
Ellie Davis
Dori De La Cruz
Joe Dombek
Noe Escamilla
Lillian Hetland
Araceli Lopez King

Ogle County

Carson Conderman
Chelsea Eden
Jody Hayes
Bode Martin
Jeannette Mingus
Gracie Prose

4-H Staff

Johnna Jennings - BDO
Kathy Dombek - BDO
Melissa Irwin - Boone
Nicole Groezinger - DeKalb
Jodi Baumgartner - Ogle



**4-H Expansion and Review
Boone, DeKalb & Ogle 4-H
May 23, 2023
Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

Johnna Jennings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were as follows: Gina DelRose, Brooke Glander, Heather Nelson, Dakota Schober, Jane Zeien, Ellie Davis, Dori De La Cruz, Lillian Hetland, Jeannette Mingus, Kathy Dombek, Nicole Groezinger, Jodi Baumgartner, and Melissa Irwin.

Introductions took place followed by program reports from staff. Johnna shared that since we last met she has done Health Jam in Oregon School with 5th graders; a five-week program called Juntos with Belvidere School District that is geared toward Hispanic/Latino youth in 8th grade and their parents; Chick embryology programming in 54 classrooms in Boone and DeKalb Counties; and soon 4-H camp and cooking schools.

Jodi Baumgartner reported the following in Ogle County: 4-H Camp with 28 teen counselors that we have been training; 27 classrooms of chick embryology in Ogle County; bowling tournament, Day of Dabbling, Fur and Feather SPIN Club, Sewing SPIN Club, and Shooting Sports.

Kathy Dombek shared that she has offered two Juntos family experiences this year for Hispanic/Latino 4-H members with a partnership with NIU. She is also working on “My Hometown is Cool” program in all three counties with Community Economic Development Educator Mike Delany.

In DeKalb County Nicole Groezinger reported on 4-H Super Saturday; Tree Planting with the Soil and Water Conservation District and 4-H families; Jr. Federation is planning their second Cloverbud event; Wellness Fair; Little Roots Club for Cloverbuds; and an upcoming Federation fun day at Russell Woods for 8 -12 year olds.

Melissa Irwin in Boone reported Hometown Christmas event; Planting oak trees with the tree planting program; Care Bags for kids at camp; Operation Christmas Child – jump ropes; Community School Art Class for 6 weeks led by a 4-H family and financially sponsored by the Cosmo Club. An art show took place at the end of the 6 weeks. Belvidere Park District – Science program

taught by her and Johnna for 4 weeks. Developed a multi-county public speaking workshop and public speaking contest. She is also working with Kathy and Mike Delany on Hometown Leaders program where youth will learn about local government and give a youth voice on solar and wind energy.

Needs Assessment Survey

Johnna shared a PowerPoint with the results of a recent needs assessment survey that went out to parents, leaders, members, alumni, partners, and other miscellaneous individuals. (See PowerPoint slides attached).

Results from the survey showed that individuals felt Extension programs that could benefit youth from their communities were as follows:

- 14% Career Exploration
- 12% In-School Programs
- 12% Community Leadership
- 11% Community Clubs
- 10% Animal Science
- 9% STEM
- 8% Healthy Living
- 7% Creative Arts
- 6% Environmental Science
- 6% Events & Conferences
- 5% Food Systems

The unit staff recently conducted a career exploration program on May 6 called “Real World – Life in Action.” This program was for youth grades 7th to 12th and allowed the students to visit six different professionals in the morning, participate in a simulation called “Welcome to the Real World” in the afternoon and to hear from a panel of younger professionals about their career choices.

Members of the E & R committee shared the following during the meeting.

Dori commented that she was surprised that transportation wasn’t a barrier mentioned for participation in the 4-H program. She felt that many things mentioned really fit into social and emotional learning such as problem solving, confidence building, and leadership development. She asked why do we think people don’t know 4-H? Melissa shared that most people think we are for farm kids only and that is our early history. Dori asked about the time commitment to 4-H and how much time does it take. Kathy shared that there are monthly club meetings, but otherwise it depends on the number of projects that the youth choose to take. It could be one project or in some cases 13 or more depending on the 4-H member.

Lillian shared that as a DeKalb 4-H member she feels involvement is related to ones exposure to the 4-H program. She also said sports is a big issue.

Ellie commented that in elementary school Girl Scouts is popular – but we need to get kids when they are younger.

Dori commented about going to school open houses to share information about 4-H. Johnna did tell her that as staff we do try to attend these programs, but depending on the number of school districts it can be extremely difficult and challenging. Often times the best promoter of the 4-H program are the current members and parents.

Jane Zeien said that it is so important to reach the parents. To share what your youth will gain from their 4-H experience.

Gina shared that we need to find ways to connect with parents at their events. She suggested Chamber of Commerces – Welcome Package for new people moving to their area.

Kathy shared that we added program bulletins in teachers school packets at the beginning of the year to promote 4-H programming opportunities.

Dakota commented that when other 4-H members share what they do in 4-H and invite others to attend it helps to grow the program.

Next Meeting Date

Johnna told the committee that they all should have received a share the date reminder recently for our Extension Council Meeting on September 26, 2023 in person at Fatty's Pub & Grille in DeKalb. At this meeting other committee members representing other program areas will also be present. The meal for this program will be covered by the University of Illinois Extension, and we hope you will make plans to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Minutes written and submitted by Johnna Jennings