



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Boone County

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Ellie Hildebrandt
Heather Nelson
Amy Hildebrandt
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Jane Zeien

DeKalb County

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Ellie Davis
Dori De La Cruz
Joe Dombek
Noe Escamilla
Lillian Hetland
Araceli Lopez King

Ogle County

Carson Conderman
Chelsea Eden
Jody Hayes
Trent Heller
Bode Martin
Jeannette Mingus

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
November 28, 2023
Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting started at 7:02 p.m. Those present included: Jane Zeien, Gina DelRose, Lillian Hetland, Ellie Hildebrandt, Amy Hildebrandt, Lillian Hetland, Jeannette Mingus, Melissa Irwin, Jodi Baumgartner, Johnna Jennings, Nicole Groezinger, Katie Williamson, and Kathy Dombek.

Johnna announced and introduced the newest member of our 4-H team, Ms. Katie Williamson. Katie is a new unit EPC that will be working on reaching new and underserved audiences in school and after-school settings. Katie shared a few things about herself to the group.

Program Updates

Kathy – started 4-H clubs with Opportunity House, Village of Progress, and NASAR and they did 4-H project judging this fall with the members.

She did another Juntos Family event at Rock Valley. She, Mike and now Katie are doing in-school programs at KEC, RAMP, and DeKalb High School.

Nicole – did a Discover 4-H Day after General Project Show. She believes there were like 200 people in attendance throughout the day. She did another this fall as a 4-H Carnival and had another 200 in attendance. Recognition program; Pie Baking Class; Cooking with Hope Haven coming along with Cloverbud Party and Holiday Fest.

Melissa – Hometown Leaders to introduce kids to county government and jobs and careers in Boone County. Attended a county board meeting, and then spent a day visiting all sorts of departments within the county government.

Animal Camp with Park District where each day they featured a new animal. Cloverbud Day Camp was held this year with a Watermelon theme. Working for about year now to form the Boone County 4-H

Foundation. They recently got their 501C3 status. They did a trunk or treat with Federation. Did a fall food shower with over 1,000 pounds of food collected, and military mail with 3,023 cards being done. This weekend is Hometown Christmas with trees being decorated and donated to families in need.

Jodi – Archery Postal Shoot this fall was hosted. 4-HJ Ambassador team have been in parades, did a winter drive for coats, gloves, and winter items, and they have a skating party this weekend, and will be starting classroom presentations.

Johnna – All three counties did 4-H General Project Shows and 4-H Fairs. In Belvidere School District we did two weeks of 4-H Cooking Schools. A multi-unit 4-H Camp, Cooking Schools, Real World – Life in Action, Health Jam at Oregon School and much more.

Signature Programs for 2023-24

Johnna shared that each year the Illinois State 4-H office requires that each county sign up to one Signature Program. A Signature Program is a program offered across the state where evaluations are gathered to show impact in youth programming.

Here is the list of the Signature Programs we are doing for the 2023-24 4-H year.

- Welcome to the Real World – Unit activity; Ogle County – Forreston High School Sophomore Class
- Health Jam/Health Rocks – Ogle County – Oregon Elementary School 5th graders
- Embryology – Unit activity
- 4-H Cooking 101 – Boone County at Belvidere Summer School
- IL Oak Tree Savannas – Boone, DeKalb & Ogle
- Juntos – Boone County at Belvidere Middle School
- Junior Master Gardener – DeKalb County – Summer gardening program
- Teen Teachers – Boone County with Summer Cooking School; Multi-county/unit 4-H Camp.

Jane Zeien asked if we ever do career fairs with the Welcome to the Real World as she would be willing to come and present as she is a food scientist. Johnna explained that when we did the unit program “Real World – Life in Action” we had presenters from a variety of careers come to visit with the youth participants. We will add Jane to our list when we look at offering this program again in the future.

Gina commented that the “Welcome to the Real World” sounds a lot like the Poverty Simulation that was done in Boone County for county officials.

Johnna asked if anyone had any additional comments or questions. She thanked the members for attending and for giving their time to serve on this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.