



## **Extension Council Meeting Minutes**

Extension serving Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties - Unit 2

Tuesday, September 26, 2023—6:00 p.m.

Fatty's Pub & Grille, 1312 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb IL 60115

**Present: *Extension Board Members:*** Stan Asp, Patrick Deutsch, Rick Fritz, Lyle Hopkins, and Tom Walberg; ***Advisory Council Members:*** Desiree Corral, Ellie Davis, Dori De La Cruz, Joe Dombek, Noe Escamilla, Candie Fore, Luis Gonzalez, Sarah Hackbarth, Lillian Hetland, Amy Hildebrandt, Rylie Loucks-Kues, Kayse Rushford, Dakota Schober, Mark Schuth, Sherrie Taylor, Heather Wick, Jeff Woodyatt, Barb Wych, and Jane Zeien; ***Staff:*** Bruce Black, Heather Coyle, Mike Delany, Kathy Dombek, Peggy Doty, Connie Handel, Judy Hodge, Cindy Jankiewicz, Teresa Schwarz, and Kara Schweitzer; plus Sandy Arndt and Sylvia Deverell.

This meeting convened at 6:00 PM with County Director, Heather Coyle, welcomed everyone and said that we are here to connect with other advisory committees, get the big picture of what the work of Extension, and to welcome new members and thank members with expiring terms. She started with a “mixer” and asked everyone to state their name, county, and city they are from; what committee they are on; and favorite place to eat. After the introductions, she asked everyone to make their way through the food line and enjoy their supper.

After supper, Teresa Schwarz announced new Extension Advisory Council members and presented them with a Welcome Packet: Pat Alexander (not present), Desiree Corral, Dori De La Cruz, Joe Dombek, Noe Escamilla, Candie Fore, Luis Gonzalez, Rylie Louks-Kues, Jael Montegudo (not present), Mark Schuth, and Jeff Woodyatt. Schwarz also announced the members with expired terms and asked them to come up and receive a thank you gift. Youth members with expired terms and coming off the Expansion and Review Committee are Carson Conderman (not present), Ellie Davis, Brook Glander (not present), Lillian Hetland, Gracie Prose (not present), and Dakota Schober. Adult members coming off the Advisory Council, either for serving two consecutive terms or choosing not to serve a 2nd term and are not present are Lisa Hinrichs and Emily Plapp- Community and Economic Development committee; Megan Johnson, Josh Nelson, and Jamie Nobis- Health and Local Foods committee; Dan Kane and Lisa Mund- Ag and Natural Resources committee. For individuals not present, staff on their committee will distribute the gifts.

Coyle provided notification of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the EEO Program Notification plan and noted that links provided via email.

Notification of Unit 2 Signatories: Heather Coyle, Johnna Jennings, Jodi Baumgartner, and Melinda Colbert for FNB checking account (Boone & DeKalb). And Heather Coyle, Johnna Jennings, Jodi Baumgartner, Melinda Colbert, and Judy Hodge for Harvard checking account (Ogle).

Coyle gave an update on open or soon-to-be open employment positions: 2 SNAP-Ed positions, DeKalb County Office Support position, a 4-H Program Coordinator, and 4-H Educator. The 4-H positions focus on schools and new audiences. If you know anyone that may be interested, they can call the Ogle County office.

Coyle turned the floor over to Jane Zein, Chair, and she headed the business portion of the meeting. She said that everyone received the meeting minutes from last year and read them for errors. **Motion was made to approve the minutes, there was a seconded motion. The Council voted to approve the minutes.**

Chair called for committee reports:

**Health & Local Foods:** Cindy Jankiewicz reported on the programming suggestions made by the advisory council and how Extension put those suggestions into action this past year in all three counties. See attachment A. Details on SNAP-Ed programs were limited because of the SNAP-Ed Educator position vacancy. Cindy also introduced the new Family Life Educator, Kara Schweitzer, and thanked Bruce Black for his work with the Master Gardeners (both are educators from the Whiteside, Lee, and Carroll units who deliver programming in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties in exchange for CED programming).

**Community and Economic Development:** Mike Delany and committee member Sherrie Taylor spoke about the programming they have been working on, including the regional SWOT analysis used to develop a needs assessment over the past year. This analysis identified needs, with the top three being food access, housing, and public transportation. Stakeholders across the region are willing to work together to address needs. Taylor said this Advisory Committee has provided feedback on various information-gathering tools (i.e., surveys prepared for Extension). The committee discussed the needs of partner organizations and how Extension could support them. For example, she said she works for a private-sector business and asked what Extension does concerning promoting internships and apprenticeships in the private sector. Also, how Extension might assist the Workforce Connection and how could the CED team offer programming or planning support to help stakeholders in the region be more effective in related community efforts.

**Ag and Natural Resources:** Peggy Doty spoke about the watershed project and how decisions made by all communities in the watershed impact the region. She mentioned the depletion of the aquifer in Joliet and how that intersects with our counties. For that reason, the focus of her committee will be water education, which would consist of a series of programs through Extension. New is the Master Watershed Stewardship program, educating local community leaders about local watersheds. She spoke about the water grant she received from Wheaton Franciscans last year, and if the renewal goes through, it will be used for the Paddle and Learn program for teachers.

**4-H & Youth:** Kathy Dombek and Amy Hildebrandt sought new ways to bring youth into the 4-H program. How do we reach youth other than farm kids? Each 4-H family received a needs assessment survey about the program. The top five results from the survey showed that individuals felt Extension programs that could benefit youth were: 14%- Career Exploration, 12%- In-school Programs, 12%- Community Leadership, 11%- Community Clubs, and 10%- Animal Science. Hildebrandt mentioned that with the results of this survey, 4-H staff along with CED Educator Mike Delany created the program, "Real World-Life in Action" which was held in May. There were 36 participants, from 7th through 12th grade (with 21 being Hispanic/Latino). Over 20 adult volunteers assisted presenters. During the sessions, participants had an opportunity to learn about the career, skills needed, educational background, perks of the career, and to ask questions. With the success of this program, another session will take place on October 21 in DeKalb. Kathy and Mike will do a Seniors Seminar at the Kishwaukee Education Consortium and have 16 students registered. Kathy spoke about her work with adults with developmental disabilities and forming 4-H clubs in all three counties at Opportunity House, DeKalb; NASR, Belvidere; and Village of Progress, Ogle.

Coyle asked for feedback from everyone regarding strategic planning. What is Extension's mission? Extension is a trusted agent helping communities. Coyle discussed how State Matching funds can increase the value of local contributions. Each year the University of Illinois Director of Extension submits a request to the Illinois General Assembly for State Matching Funds based upon local county board and partner agreement contributions.

Historically 65% of local dollars are matched. The group participated in an exercise called, "Start, Stop, Continue." Participants were asked for feedback on what Extension should look like in the future.

**Rules:** 1. Forward thinking. 2. Program/organization focused. 3. Not Personal. 4. Positive-growth focus.

**Start:** 1. Needs- demand exists. 2. Improves reach (new audience). 3. Aligns mission and resources.

**Stop:** 1. Other resources exist. 2. Doesn't align with missions. 3. Outdated- doesn't meet audience needs or hasn't "kept up" with the times.

**Continue:** 1. What Extension does best. 2. What benefits the community the most.

**See attachment B.**

Chair, Jane Zein, continued the meeting with the election of the 2023-2024 officers, asking for volunteers with a willingness to serve. Motion to elect the new officers, there was a seconded motion. Motion carried.

CHAIR - Represents Council, conducts annual meeting:	Barb Wych, Boone Co.
VICE-CHAIR - Chair duties if chairperson absent:	Amy Hildebrandt, Boone Co.
SECRETARY - Takes annual meeting notes, reviews minutes:	Luis Gonzalez, Boone Co.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, there was a seconded motion. The Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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**Council Roles Summarized:** \* Linking University of Illinois Extension with local leadership, communities, agencies, and organizations.

\* Supporting and advocating for Extension programs. Identifying needs and potential resources (human, financial, physical).

\* Advise the program planning and implementation processes. \* Assuring council membership represents all segments in counties served. \* Assuring program outreach meets equal opportunity and program access guidelines.



**Health and Local Foods Advisory Committee 2023 Update**

**Programming suggestions and how Extension responded.**

**Committee Suggestion:** Attract participants in the 25–40-year-old age group.

**Extension Response:** Lori Brown, DeKalb County Master Gardener, created a family program entitled *Helping Others Learn to Grow: Gardening Basics* which was open to families of all ages at the DeKalb Farm Bureau on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am.

**Public Response:** We had 9 adults, and 10 children attend. Comments from participants were very positive.

Still working on this. Finding more people in this age group are starting to attend gardening programs.

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**Committee Suggestion:** Extra SNAP funding that was being offered due to COVID is ending. How do we educate people on how to prolong their benefits?

**Extension Response:** Jan Saglier, SNAP Community Worker offered classes at Ida Public Library to teach SNAP recipients how to stretch their dollar and make what they already have in their cupboards last longer.

**Public Response:** Both sessions were cancelled due to no registrations and the limited ability to advertise SNAP programs.

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**Committee Suggestion:** Jamie Nobis from Rock River Center suggested putting together an Ogle Farm Stroll similar to the one the Oregon Chamber of Commerce hosted the year before.

**Extension Response:** Ogle County Farm Stroll is in the process and planned for Sunday, October 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Public Response:** There are six farms participating. We will have to report at another time on how the event went.

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**Committee Suggestion:** Nutrition program including diabetic health and support groups.

**Extension Response:** At this moment we do not have a nutrition educator to provide this type of programming.

## **Programming Ideas for NEW Family Life Educator – Kara Schweitzer**

### **Mental Health**

- Hoarding (Buried in Treasures)

### **Continued work in our counties**

#### **Local Foods**

##### **Boone County (Judy Hodge)**

##### **Community Gardens**

Buchanan Street Garden – *this garden is a partnership with the Juntos 4-H Club and MGs.*

NASR Community Garden – *This garden is with the MGs and individuals with a disability-related special need.*

##### **Speakers Bureau**

Grow Your Own Food Garden Series – *Nine educational programs offered to the community this year from March through August. Included MGs and three educators.*

**Boone County Farm Stroll** – Sunday, October 1, 2023 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

##### **Library Programs**

Seed Library and presentations including Container Gardening and Tree Fruits

##### **DeKalb County (Connie Handel)**

##### **Food Donation Gardens**

Dekalb County History Center (Engl Farm) Garden – *OSCAR program (Out of School Care) at Sycamore Community School District brings elementary aged children to the garden for weekly programs during the summer. Produce is donated to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in DeKalb.*

St. Paul's Garden – *is now a joint effort between St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Master Gardeners and Northern Illinois University. This year, the garden joined the NIU Communiversit Garden Program sponsored by the NIU Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability, and Energy (ESE).*

##### **Community Gardens**

Malta Community Garden – *Tom Plote, DeKalb County Master Gardener, answers gardening questions for local residents growing food for their families at this garden.*

##### **Germination Demonstration and Seed Giveaway**

*Master Gardeners did demonstrations on how to test seeds for viability and how to germinate vegetable seeds indoors at the DeKalb Public Library in January. They also gave away seeds to participants.*

### Gardener's Pathway

*Annual gardening workshop with a keynote speaker and several breakout sessions, hosted by DeKalb County Master Gardeners.*

### Speaker's Bureau

*Lori Brown presented a program on April 17 to Delta Kappa Gamma (Women's Teaching Organization) in April.*

*Kay Robinson, DeKalb County Master Gardener, presented a program on "The Meaning of Flowers" to the DeKalb County Homemakers Education Association in May.*

### Garden Walk

*July 15, 2023 – Annual garden walk hosted by DeKalb County Master Gardeners. Includes homes with not only beautiful flower gardens, but also interesting or innovative vegetable gardens.*

### **Ogle County (Cindy Jankiewicz)**

#### The Kitchen Table Garden

- This is the third and final year of the "Growing Together Illinois" grant responsibilities
- A new garden coordinator will plan and recruit volunteers
- Possible opportunities for MGs to assist in training the new volunteer group

#### Seed Library – Rochelle Public Library

- Donations from seed companies and local stores
- A team of volunteers will be sorting and packaging seeds this autumn/winter
- Two events this fall will introduce and promote the seed library which will start in the Spring

#### Florissa summer camp – Food chain

- Food chain activity - focus on owls which prey on mice and help protect our crops

#### Ready, Set, Grow!

- Annual half-day event; presentations on garden topics; cooperative event between Carrol, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties

#### Farm Stroll

- October 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SNAP Education  
Boone County (Jan Saglier)**

**Youth Programing:**

Illinois Junior Chef – Washington Academy  
OrganWise Guys – Lincoln Elementary, Capron Elementary  
Great Garden Detective and Eat Fit; Serving Up My Plate – Perry Elementary  
YMCA youth programing  
Community School - Healthy Kids Out of School and Teen Cuisine

**Adult Programing:**

WIC Clinics at the Health Department  
UW Swedish American Hospital – Healthy Cents Nutrition Classes  
Belvidere Park District  
Keen Age Center  
Participating with a local church to use their space to reach adults.  
Community School at Washington School – Healthy Cents  
Ida Public Library – Healthy Cents  
Compassion Closet

**DeKalb/Ogle Counties (Brianne Gugerty)**

**Youth Programing:**

Cooking Schools – HUB program at Lincoln Elementary School in Rochelle and Trinity Lutheran in Mt. Morris.  
Summer lunch sites  
OrganWise Guys – Ogle County schools  
Eat, Play, Grow – Oregon Elementary – Family Fun Day  
Head Start program in DeKalb  
Illinois Junior Chef

**Adult Programing:**

Mobile Food Pantry



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS | URBANA | CHAMPAIGN

**College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences**

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating.  
*University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.*



**9/26/2023 Extension Advisory Council exercise at the annual meeting. Start, Stop, Continue responses.**

**STOP:**

- The perception that 4-H is only for/about agriculture.
- Have heard that some programs are “charged” for, does this hurt anyone, does it hurt Extension?
- Demographic surveys, it is more important to reach people by things they are interested in.
- Stop assuming everyone knows what Illinois Extension is.
- Stop the current way of communicating events to the community. Most have zero idea what Extension offers.
- Stop old methods, think outside the box.

**START:**

- Cloverbuds for each club.
- Start homeschooling.
- New ways to gather new people.
- Introducing more people to the purpose of Extension.
- Create awareness for U of I Extension resources.
- Meeting our population in their neighborhoods.
- Promoting in places where people don’t know what Extension can offer.
- Marketing on Facebook, like Farm Strolls and Community Gardens.
- Find a better connection to make the community make a connection and care.
- Extension YouTube channel with 4-H and Master Gardener programming.
- Find a “mainstream” way to advertise opportunities.
- Online, interactive leadership training. “How to be a professional in a virtual setting”.
- Virtual teaching.
- More training, Master Gardener, watershed information.
- Programs for young families focusing on growing, canning, preserving, striving to be self-sufficient with food, etc. Making eco-friendly choices.
- Include importance of credit building for future finance goals, home buying, car buying, savings, budgeting, etc.
- Job shadowing for teens. Lots of members of the community/committees love diverse backgrounds to leverage.
- Sounds like a lot has already been started! Good job!

**CONTINUE:**

- Reaching to a different population, not just white population, let’s make what we do with inclusion and include all.
- Partnering with community (businesses, organizations, and clubs).
- Doing projects with the community.
- Working with Workforce Development agencies to promote trades/skilled labor.

**ATTACHMENT B.**

- Outreach to locations that serve seniors, disabled- those less mobile to go places for services.
- SNAP-Ed, Healthy school lunches.
- Education classes in the community. Adult and youth programs- good variety of topics.
- Real Life programming.
- Ways to get youth involved.
- Increased youth involvement.
- Reaching out to underrepresented communities.
- Evaluating young adult programs and needs of 4-H youth programs.
- Why is the old way of recruiting not working- define audience.
- Agriculture mentoring.
- Farm Strolls- quarterly in each county.
- 4-H is awesome! As an alum, I learned a lot and it helped build my confidence in my career.
- 4-H
- 4-H
- Wonderful work on website resources and video programming.
- Teaching 4-H members about local government.

ATTACHMENT B.