



Boone, DeKalb, Ogle Extension Unit 2

Extension Council Meeting

Health & Local Foods Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

205 Cadillac Ct. Suite 3, Belvidere

Boone: Mark Schuth Stephanie Meyers

DeKalb: Abigail Hesslau

Ogle: Candie Fore Sarah Hackbarth

Staff: Bruce Black Kara Schweitzer Mike Swedberg Connie Handel
 Judy Hodge Jan Saglier Heather Coyle

Public Comment:

Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions 6:00 p.m.

Ice Breaker Question:

What would your superpower be?

Everyone shared what their superpower would be if they had one.

2. Description & Vision of the Committee

The Health and Local Foods Committee has been formed to address the issues in our communities with a more informed scope from our partner council members. Our partners will help in informing us of the current and future needs in our communities relating to health and local foods. This will allow us to provide program opportunities to address these needs as they arise.

3. Minutes

Review minutes from November meeting. Any questions?

There were no questions regarding the November meeting minutes.

4. Committee Survey and Discussion

We went over the survey results. Two out of five committee members completed the survey. We had a great discussion using the survey questions. Below is the link to the results.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:6b5088fb-217b-4734-8f7b-72e923fb6a9b>

Topics we discussed included:

- With federal funding changing, we may see more gaps in the system and in our work within the next few months.
- SNAP – Adult programming – nutrition
- Farmers markets
- Nutrition and cooking classes - how to use what is grown in the garden
- Water quality
- Share tables
- Cost of food

1. Project Ideas:

Walkability survey for DeKalb, Ogle – Boone to commence via Hunger Coalition

Expanding share tables at community gardens

Seniors' farmers market nutrition program for seniors/nutrition partnership with Department of Aging

Container gardening (apartment housing, high rises)

Intergenerational education between children & seniors education series

2. Improve upon:

Marketing of Farmer's Markets + expansion of Farmer's Markets

Disconnect between "healthy food" and lack of desire to prepare at home rather than rely on processed foods

Marketing of share coolers and share tables

Marketing resource guides:

DeKalb: <https://fsadekalbcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/8.7.2024-Resource-Directory.pdf>

Boone: <https://www.boonecountyil.gov/Departments/health/COVID-19/02-11-22%20FINAL%20BCHD%20Resource%20Guide%20Feb%202022.pdf>

Ogle: <https://www.cityofrochelle.net/~documents/community-documents/ogle-county-resources-directory/?layout=file>

Extension staff will take a look at the list of ideas and choose one to focus on this year and let you know how we can all work together to achieve the goal of the project.

Water Programming

Boone County Mapping Demonstration – March 8

Boone County is working with the Illinois State Geological Survey as part of a major study to better understand where its drinking water comes from. Starting this March, residents will see this historical aerial study taking place as a helicopter collects vital geologic data for the county.

You're Invited – Boone County Airborne Mapping Demonstration

Water Webinar – March 13 (1 p.m.) Follow the Drop: Illinois Water From Source to Tap

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2025-03-13-follow-drop-illinois-water-source-tap>

Watershed 101 – April 30 at 6 p.m.

Boone County Extension Meeting Room, \$5 per person

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:4e1dc945-7662-46db-b660-5f78b79845d7>

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2025-04-30-watershed-101-belvidere>

Water Webinar – May 8 (1 p.m.) Actions to Reduce Water Pollution

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2025-05-08-actions-reduce-water-pollution>

Next Meeting? May 27 at 6 p.m. – Meeting in our local garden sites

Keep watch for more information about the gardens that we will be meeting at for each county.

Adjourn: 7:00 p.m.

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.