



March 2022

IMPACTING YOU

Serving Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

Spring? It's coming sooner than you think!



Gather with friends, enjoy delicious refreshments and increase your gardening knowledge at the Spring into Gardening Conference. Wonderful items will be available to buy and a great selection of items are available to bid on in our silent auction. Cost is \$30. Registration has been extended and same-day registration is possible, however, resources and goodie bags are not guaranteed. Hope to see you there! Register at go.illinois.edu/SPRIG22.

Expanding Food Access to Illinois Residents

One in 10 people in Illinois struggle with hunger every day, including one in eight children. The Illinois Deer Donation Program provides a pathway to expand community access to lean protein throughout East-Central Illinois and reduce barriers to healthier lifestyles.

This pilot program will connect meat processors, hunters, and food pantries in twelve central Illinois Counties: Clay, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby. By engaging hunters to donate their deer and meat processors to produce ground venison, a local source of lean protein will be available to food pantry clients. Clients will also receive recipes and resources from Illinois Extension to help them prepare venison at home, which might be unfamiliar to some individuals and families.



Become a partner

Hunters, meat processors, and food pantries can connect with the project to make a local impact. Fill out our partner form at go.illinois.edu/ContactDeerDonation to indicate your interest and start the process. For more information about the program or becoming a partner, contact Meredith Probst at maepley@illinois.edu.

4-H Officer Training

To Make
the
Best
Better...



Twenty-two Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie and Shelby County 4-H members came together at the Mattoon Public Library for an Officer Training workshop on Saturday, January 29. The training was led by Youth Educator, Kim Morrison, and 4-H program coordinators Jessica Hays (Coles), Yolanda Nation (Shelby), Jaylynn Schober (Cumberland), and Angie Welker (Moultrie-Douglas).

Members discussed what qualities make a good leader, then broke out into officer training sessions. President/Vice-presidents learned by doing a Parliamentary Procedure activity which involved making trail mix. Secretaries learned how to write a thank you cards and how to take good meeting minutes. Treasurers learned how to write checks and keep a check register. The recreation group learned about ways to bring fun to 4-H meetings.

The highlight of the morning was working as a team to open an Escape Box which had many other boxes that had to be unlocked. Members completed a variety of activities which included writing a thank you card, assembling meeting minutes, writing a check, and creating a check register, which led to other clues to unlock each of the boxes.

Members then made handmade Valentine's Day cards which were delivered to area nursing homes. It was a great morning of learning and meeting 4-H'ers from other counties.

Unlock Ag Innovators Training

Shelby County 4-H Federation members, Lilah Bonny, Kristin Partlow and Delaney Nation joined other 4-H members from around the state to attend the Ag Innovators training at the Illinois State 4-H Office on February 19. The Unlock Ag Innovators training is designed to explore how different technologies have transformed agriculture and how farmers must continue to innovate, learn and adopt new technologies to grow more food in a sustainable manner.



The 4-H Unlock Ag Innovations Challenge is designed to be an engaging 60-minute activity for 3rd to 8th grade youth, providing teaching opportunities for older youth. Lilah, Kristin and Delaney are excited to offer this hands-on opportunity to youth via 4-H club meetings, school visits or summer camps. Their goal it to share with 100+ youth over the next four months. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Yolanda Nation, Shelby County 4-H Program Coordinator, at 217-774-9546 or email her at nation2@illinois.edu.

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Cumberland Office
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**Moultrie and Douglas County
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Shelbyville Office
217-774-9546



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please contact your registration office. Early requests are strongly encouraged.