



# Livingston, McLean & Woodford Extension Quarterly Impact Report



## April, May & June 2018

### Gov. Rauner announces release of additional \$5 million to Extension

URBANA, Ill. – Gov. Bruce Rauner announced the release of \$16 million in agriculture grants on Friday, including \$5 million for University of Illinois Extension services. The announcement was made at Stremsterfer Farms in Pleasant Plains, Ill., with Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Raymond Poe, County Extension Director Aaron Dufelmeier, local officials, and the Stremsterfer family in attendance. The funds being released from the fiscal year 2018 budget will also fund soil and water districts and county fairs and agriculture societies.



"These three entities provide services that are vital for the future of Illinois agriculture," Rauner said. "From protecting our farmland for future generations to fostering agriculture careers and educating consumers, these organizations support Illinois agriculture, the backbone of our state's economy."

Ag Director Raymond Poe said funding for these organizations comes at a critical time. "We must continue to fund these organizations in order to sustain their key programs," he said. "I want to thank our agricultural partners for commitment to Illinois agriculture and for their cooperation in these fiscally challenging times."

More than 1.5 million Illinois residents take part in programs offered by the University of Illinois Extension in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Extension provides information and education that helps Illinois residents improve agricultural practices; protect the environment; access better food; improve nutrition; develop their communities; build strong economics; provide learning opportunities for youth, adults, and elders; and prepare a more effective workforce. The Department of Agriculture will disperse \$5 million to assist the organization with its core mission.

"Thank you to our Extension Partners, thank you to our local advocates, and all those who support University of Illinois Extension and what we do," said County Extension Director Aaron N. Dufelmeier at the event. "We have the opportunity each and every day to impact the lives of our community members to help solve those problems they may have. Most importantly, we bring the practical education from the University of Illinois to the citizens in our communities that is so important to each and everyone one of us on personal level."

Kim Kidwell, dean of the College of ACES, said, "For the thousands of youth, citizens, and volunteers across the state that are impacted by University of Illinois Extension and 4-H in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, I say thank you. We are truly grateful for the support that the governor and our state legislators have provided to help us continue to do great work to help people in every county in Illinois improve the quality of their lives." *Written by: Shelly Nickols-Richardson*

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## Expansion of Unity Community Center Begins

The Unity Community Center's time for growth is NOW. With the new leasing of the Normal Police Department's Substation, renovations will soon begin to expand the center itself, along with programming available to area youth. Unity is funded and supported through a combination of the State Farm Foundation grant, the Town of Normal, and county, state and federal dollars.

Recently, Extension County Director, Bobbie Lewis-Sibley sat down with WGLT to discuss the expansion project in a stream available online at [wgl.org/term/unity-community-center#stream/o](http://wgl.org/term/unity-community-center#stream/o).

The additional space will free up more room for teen programs, with four big staff cubicles relocating to the old police substation, said Bobbie Lewis-Sibley, who oversees Unity as county director for University of Illinois Extension serving Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties. The teens themselves will help choose what programs are added, she said.

Unity will also add a much-needed commercial kitchen with a stove, range, and dishwasher, Lewis-Sibley said. Unity serves five after-school meals a week to 50 kids for nine months a year, and their two longtime cooks have been restricted to using microwaves and paper plates.

Not anymore. The new kitchen will also make it easier to prepare food grown in Unity's large production garden, located just outside its doors. Extension's registered dietitian could also use the kitchen as a teaching space for the community, Lewis-Sibley said.

Unity's impact is being felt in many ways, including a lower teen crime rate in the Orlando Avenue area, said Lewis-Sibley.

"It's just not what we think, but there's research and numbers behind it (from Normal Police)," she said. "Unity plays a very important role in that." *By: Ryan Denham, WGLT (Excerpt from WGLT interview)*

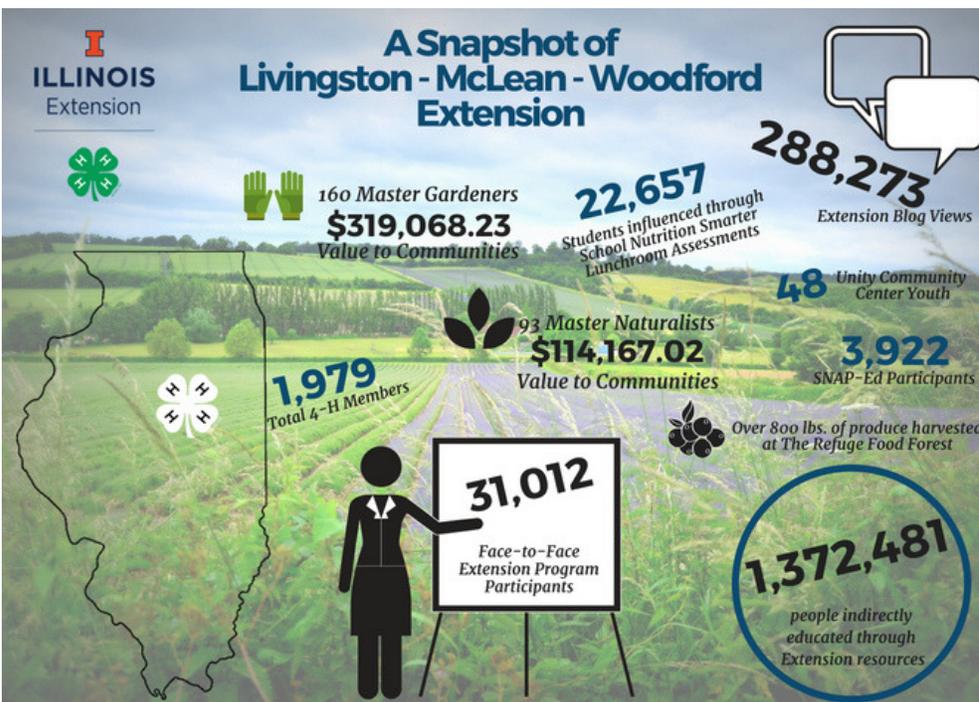
## Over 20,000 servings packaged by Livingston, McLean & Woodford 4-H

4-H clubs, members, families, and volunteers grabbed a scoop and helped Livingston, McLean and Woodford 4-H package and donate over 20,000 servings of food to continue the efforts of feeding our communities.



Across the state, one event at a time, Illinois 4-H members and volunteers are dedicating energy, time, and money to creating more food-secure communities where they live. On April 4, Illinois 4-H passed a major milestone, providing more than one million meals to families as part of the 4-H Feeding & Growing Our Communities initiative.

Food access is a major initiative of Illinois 4-H. "In Illinois, one in five children face hunger weekly," Million said. "Children struggle to learn if they are hungry." To continue reading, visit online at [web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/news/news36633.html](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/news/news36633.html).



*These numbers could not be achieved without the support of our volunteers, partners, committees and communities!*

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