

# Impacting YOU

"Impacting You"  
is a monthly report  
used to communicate

University of Illinois Extension - Unit 26  
programming impacts to stakeholders.

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

As the University of Illinois continues to address the impacts of COVID-19, the safety and well-being of our staff and communities remain our top priorities. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, campus leadership has implemented social-distancing protocols that include most faculty and staff working remotely. As a result of this directive, all face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension previously scheduled through July 31, 2020 have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery.

Our programs and stories reflect our transition to online delivery methods. Webinars, virtual 4-H clubs, youth challenges and other alternate methods of engagement allow us to continue to serve the community during this time. It is my pleasure to present this brief impact report of the programs and events offered to the residents of Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Williamson Counties during this past month.

- Lynn Heins, Unit 26 County Extension Director

656

Total Direct  
Contacts  
(Excluding SNAP-ED)

15

Total Number  
of Programs &  
Events

## Educators offer Webinar Series for Beginning Gardeners

During our time of quarantine, there is still one thing we can all do – garden! During the month of April, Horticulture Educator Austin Little and Local Foods and Small Farms Educator Katie Bell teamed up to teach a program for beginning gardeners.

The six-part webinar series offered tips and provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions on a variety of gardening topics. Little and Bell discussed site selection and preparation, soils, plant selection, plant nutrition, companion planting, succession planting, and harvesting.

Transitioning the in-person series to a webinar allowed the program to be delivered to a state-wide audience with some participants even joining in from neighboring states.

The recorded webinars are available through the unit's YouTube channel.



**The Beginning  
Gardener  
Webinar Series**

# Illinois 4-H Foundation Honors Local Youth

Illinois 4-H challenges youth to try new things, experiment in project areas that interest them and explore opportunities around the state and country. The 4-H Experience Award, sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Foundation, recognizes youth who excel in that challenge.

Alaina Smith, Chase Smith, and Riley Smith, all members of Randolph County 4-H, received the Emerald Level Project Learning Award. Shealee Swisher, a member of Jackson County 4-H, received the Emerald Level Leadership Award.

Illinois 4-H Foundation also presented the Legacy of Leadership Scholarship to 4-H members who demonstrated and maintained a high standard of 4-H excellence and mastery during their membership tenure. Franklin County 4-H member, Andrea Miller, was named one of the Legacy of Leadership Scholarship winners.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 awardees!



**Riley Smith**



**Alaina Smith**



**Chase Smith**



**Shealee Swisher**



**Andrea Miller**

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4-H Extension Program Coordinators are keeping local youth busy during the stay-at-home order through virtual challenges and activities. Traditional in-person meetings and events have been hosted through various social media and video communication platforms to keep 4-H members engaged and connected.

Staff have made learning fun as they led activities like virtual movie night, virtual bingo, photo contests, art lessons, science experiments and more. Many activities have also been youth-lead allowing them to implement leadership skills that are an important component of 4-H.

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in programming, contact your registration office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.