

Impacting **I** YOU

"Impacting You" is a monthly report used to communicate

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

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

Extension plays a vital role in building a strong community by providing services that help solve problems, develop skills, and create a better future for local residents and youth. From reliable information to help businesses weather the economic effect of COVID-19 to activities to help families stay healthy in body and spirit, Illinois Extension remains a trusted source to address the most pressing issues in the state of Illinois relating to food, health, environment, community, and economy.

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, County Extension Director
Serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph & Williamson Counties*

3,134

Total
Contacts

65

Total Number
of Programs &
Events

Positive youth development continues with the addition of a new 4-H youth development educator

Our 4-H community is led by a dedicated group of educators, staff members, and volunteers that empower young people to set goals and achieve big dreams. Carrie Eldridge is the newest member of the 4-H youth development team serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph, and Williamson Counties as the 4-H youth development educator. Eldridge comes to Illinois 4-H with 19 years of education experience serving at Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health as a health educator and most recently as director of health education. Over the past five years, Eldridge has served as the co-chair of the positive youth development action team. In her role, she helped promote positive youth development through prevention programs and services, networking and collaboration, and raising public awareness of resources devoted to the well-being of young people. A native of West Frankfort, Illinois, Eldridge received a bachelor's degree in health education from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree in business administration from Southern Indiana University. Eldridge is excited to continue to provide opportunities to the youth of southern Illinois.



"We're excited to have Carrie added to our team! As a 4-H youth development educator, she will provide program leadership to the entire 4-H youth development program, focusing on 4-H clubs and groups and youth education initiatives. She brings a wealth of knowledge, community connections, and experience to this position that will create a positive impact for our communities."

-Lynn Heins, County Director

Donation garden provides local produce to area food pantry

University of Illinois Extension, The Salvation Army, First Presbyterian Church, City of Marion, and numerous other partners are coming together to grow a garden to provide fresh produce to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. The garden is made possible through Growing Together Illinois, a multi-disciplinary special project focused on increasing access to fruits and vegetables in identified Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education) networks to help food insecure families. Volunteer opportunities are available for those that wish to help care for the garden. To volunteer for a week, call the Williamson County Extension office at (618) 993-3304.



Local youth share their 4-H story

We love to see local youth sharing their 4-H story! Randolph County 4-H is teaming up with the WHCO Radio in Sparta to interview one 4-H member each month. Nickole Weber, from the Randolph County 4-H Country Crusaders, kicked off the program as she shared her favorite things about 4-H! If you want to learn more about 4-H in your community, visit: extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/4-h-youth-development.



Perry County 4-H members "traveled" to Canada and Massachusetts as part of the 4-H Passport Party. The international event was an opportunity to promote cultural enrichment. There was a virtual guest presentation from Canada, and 4-H clubs and HCE groups hosted table displays as they share cultural facts and other information learned about this year's country and state during an open-house style event.

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4-H members "travel" to Canada and Massachusetts in Passport Party



College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

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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.