

Impacting **I** YOU

"Impacting You" is a monthly report used to communicate University of Illinois Extension 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, Extension Director
Serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph & Williamson
Counties*

1023

**Total
Contacts**

18

**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

Food Security Summit addresses hunger in our region

The inaugural Southern Illinois Food Security Summit was held in Marion in mid-August. Vince Hall, VP for External Affairs at Feeding America, kicked off the day as the keynote speaker. The event increased communication and collaboration among southern Illinois organizations that work to address food insecurity in the lower 16 counties. The day before the summit, many food access community partners had the opportunity to tour the new Tri-State Food Pantry cold storage unit in Vienna. The 3,600 square-foot facility houses fresh fruits and vegetables for many local food pantries and soup kitchens. This additional storage facility in the heart of Southern Illinois will expand food access for the region.



Extension helps local youth gear up for the school year

Illinois Extension was one of the local partners that helped coordinate a back-to-school event for area youth. The program was held at The Oasis in Marion (formerly the Illinois Center Mall) with lots of FREE giveaways, including backpacks, school supplies, clothing vouchers, food truck vouchers, physicals, dental exams, haircuts and more! The event was well attended, with over 800 participants getting geared up for the school year.



Extension had a strong presence at this year's DuQuoin State Fair. Local 4-H members gave tours each evening at the Thank a Farmer exhibit. In the Expo Hall, our Master Gardener volunteers hosted pop-up programming and answered gardening-related questions during the duration of the fair.

Extension programming at the fair



Growing Together Illinois garden receives Bright Spot Award

The donation garden at Kids Korner received the Bright Spot Award awarded by Keep Carbondale Beautiful. The project is a partnership with University of Illinois Extension and Carbondale Park District's Kids Korner, and many local Master Gardeners help maintain the donation garden. Kids get to taste the rainbow of the garden produce and watch the plants grow while also sharing fresh vegetables and herbs with the Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

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College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois • U.S. Department of Agriculture • Local Extension Councils Cooperating

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.