

December 2019

Impacting YOU

"Impacting You" is a monthly report used to communicate University of Illinois Extension programming impacts to stakeholders.

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

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 Director

181

**Total Direct
Contacts**

(Excluding SNAP-Ed)

9

**Total Number
of Programs
& Events**

SNAP-Ed

1,369

**Total Direct
Contacts**

Federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is provided for SNAP participants and other low-income individuals.

77

**Total Number of
Programs & Events**

Food Pantry Network Gives Mini-Grants to Local Pantries

Thanks to a donation from Ameren Illinois, more funding will be available to local food pantries that are working to reduce hunger and improve the health and well-being of our communities.

In cooperation with Ameren Corporation and Southern Illinois Healthcare, the Southern Illinois Food Pantry Network recently awarded four mini-grants.



The Southern Illinois Food Pantry Network is made up of 95 food pantries located throughout the lower 16 counties of Illinois. University of Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed Educator Toni Kay Wright is a key member of this group. She and others within this organization are coming together to identify ways to reduce hunger and improve the health and well-being of our communities through access to healthy and nutritious food, education, resources and advocacy.

Winter Identification of Invasive Species

Even during the dormant winter season, invasive plant species are significant threats to the forests and grasslands of southern Illinois. They can outcompete native species, decrease wildlife habitats, increase management costs, and limit tree growth and regeneration. During a recent workshop, Extension Forester Chris Evans discussed what characteristics to look for during winter identification of invasive plants.

Nick Seaton, project coordinator for River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, was also on hand to discuss a program in partnership with the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA) that assists landowners with the invasive species management. The program provides herbicide, equipment, and training necessary to empower landowners to remove invasive plants. In order to participate, individuals must document their hours to verify how much time was spent on invasive species management.



In December, Jackson County 4-H members came together to make homemade treats and toys for the animals at the Humane Society of Southern Illinois. In addition to the homemade goodies, they donated blankets to add a little warmth during the cold winter months.

Participants dropped off the donations in person and gave the animals some extra attention as they took them out of their cages and kennels to play with them.



4-H Humane Society Workshop



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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 access needs.