

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:

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. An array of relevant digital content (webinars, fact sheets, websites, resources) have been developed and placed on the Extension homepage. This collection of resources can assist families and community leaders preparing for and coping with COVID-19.

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*

340

Total
Contacts

20

Total Number
of Programs &
Events

Extension hosts tropical plant care webinar

Webinar participants learned to add a pop of color to the gray winter months through a tropical plant care webinar. In this webinar, Horticulture Educator Austin Little discussed the basics of tropical plants, maintenance and care and tips to keep tropical plants happy. Those in attendance were also able to take a virtual tour of the Plant Biology Greenhouse at Southern Illinois University, which houses one of the most extensive collections of tropical plants in Illinois. Guest speaker SIUC Plant Biology Greenhouse Gardener Clint Chamness joined Little for the question and answer portion of the program.



Report values the annual economic and functional benefits of Illinois Extension as 10x its budget

A new report finds that Extension provides more than \$600 million of value to Illinois annually, 10 times its budget. Prepared by TECnomy Partners, LLC, a firm specializing in impact assessments, the report values the annual economic and functional benefits of Illinois Extension at more than \$603 million, about 10 times the \$60.9 million budget of the University unit in FY 2019. The report measures Extension's economic impact in two ways: expenditure-based impacts, and functional or programmatic impacts.



Local youth participate in virtual clubs



Our 4-H team is finding new and creative ways to engage our local 4-H members. Over 100 youth participants joined our newly created 4-H virtual clubs to learn about STEM, creative arts, animal science, environmental science, and healthy living and nutrition. There is also a special cloverbud club for younger participants. Each month, participants receive activity boxes that include supplies for a unique project. Participants work on their projects throughout the month and then meet virtually once per month to discuss what they have learned and collaborate and interact with other youth participants. Learn more about 4-H programming opportunities in our region.

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University of Illinois Extension
Franklin|Jackson|Perry|Randolph|Williamson
402 Ava Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1727 | extension.illinois.edu/fjprw

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