

Impacting 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*



**Total
Contacts**



**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

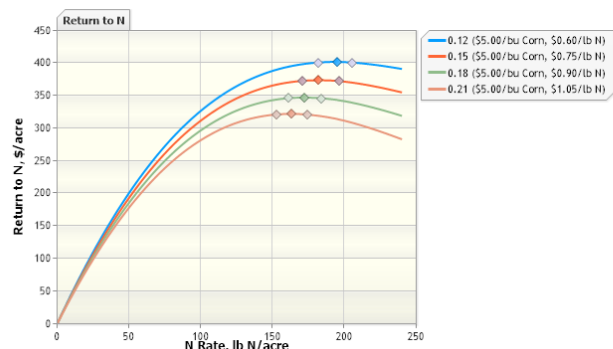
Ewing Demonstration Center hosts annual nitrogen rate trials

The Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator (cnrc.agron.iastate.edu) is a multi-state collaborative effort that uses data from nitrogen rate trials conducted across the collaborating states each year to give farmers data-driven recommendations for nitrogen rates that will maximize their profit. The method used follows a regional approach for determining corn nitrogen rate guidelines that is implemented in several Corn Belt states. Recent sharp increases in the cost of nitrogen fertilizer have many farmers rethinking their planned nitrogen rate for the coming season. The Ewing Demonstration Center has hosted one of the annual nitrogen rate trials that feeds into the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator for the past three years.

Depending on a farmer's normal nitrogen rate, the opportunity may exist to cut nitrogen rates rather significantly without sacrificing too much in yield, thereby maximizing profitability. It is suggested that farmers utilize the online tool with several corn and nitrogen price scenarios to estimate the optimal nitrogen rate for their farming operation.

State: Illinois
Region: South
Number of sites: 126
Rotation: Corn Following Soybean

	N Price (\$/lb N):	\$0.60	\$0.75	\$0.90	\$1.05
Corn Price (\$/bu):	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Price Ratio:	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.21	
MRTN Rate (lb N/acre):	195	182	172	163	
Profitable N Rate Range (lb N/acre):	181 - 204	170 - 195	160 - 183	152 - 173	
Net Return to N at MRTN Rate (\$/acre):	\$402.10	\$373.83	\$347.30	\$322.22	
Percent of Maximum Yield at MRTN Rate:	98%	97%	96%	95%	
Anhydrous Ammonia (82% N) at MRTN Rate (lb product/acre):	238	222	210	199	
Anhydrous Ammonia (82% N) Cost at MRTN Rate (\$/acre):	\$117.00	\$136.50	\$154.80	\$171.15	



Students learn about STEM through junk drawer robotics

Over forty students from Sesser-Valier School accepted the challenge of creating marshmallow catapults for a junk drawer robotics program hosted by Franklin County 4-H Program Coordinator Cindy Bauman and 4-H Educator Carrie Eldridge. The students were to think like scientists, design like engineers, and build like technicians as they created a swinging arm trebuchet catapult to launch marshmallows. This was a great time to listen to the students plan and communicate as they built and tested their designs. The object was to shoot the marshmallow six feet. Some failed, so they went back and talked over what they needed to fix and redesign before attempting the challenge again. This activity was a great start to learning about 4-H STEM projects. Explore fun, hands-on science, technology, engineering and math programs at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/stem-robotics



4-H partnership provides lesson kits to local substitute teachers

Williamson County 4-H has partnered with Williamson County Ag in the Classroom to offer “sub kits” to local schools. The goal of the kit is to support local schools and substitute teachers by providing easy and accessible Ag, STEM, and Creative Arts lessons. Each kit includes self-care items for the substitute teacher, educational resources, ag literacy materials and 4-H activities with supplies. Through our partnership, 75 kits, that can serve 25 students per kit, will be shared this spring. The kits are designed to serve grades K-3 and 4-6.

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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.