

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

2163

**Total
Contacts**

22

**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

Extension provides best management practices at field day

The Ewing Demonstration Center, which has been around for over 100 years, continued the tradition of in-person field days for area growers and agriculture professionals. Through their recent Agronomy Field Day, various educators and campus faculty were on site at the research grounds to answer questions and provide best management practices for local growers. Over 60 participants were in attendance to learn more from experts in soil health, cover crops, phosphorus management, and field crop insects.



Ewing Demonstration Center has served the agricultural community of southern Illinois since 1910. Research at the center includes various trials for corn, soybeans, sorghum/milo, wheat, and cover crops. The center has featured no-till research and demonstration plots for more than 50 years as it offers representative growing conditions for southern Illinois. In the fall, the Demonstration Center will host another in-person event for local students interested in the field of agriculture.

Franklin County Youth Place in 4-H Shows

Hard work, quality care, and dedication paid off as our 4-H members showcased their animals and displayed projects at this year's Franklin County Fair. Following the 2020 summer of virtual livestock exhibits, participants were anxious for the return of in-person shows. The events provided an opportunity for youth to display sportsmanship and exude confidence as they showed the "best of the best" during the annual livestock and animal shows.

4-H youth who raise beef, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry for their annual projects had the opportunity to participate in the livestock auction. Participants receive the full proceeds from the sale of their livestock, and this was a record-breaking year. Local businesses, families, and other individuals made this year's auction a success, proceeds going directly to local youth.



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Educators team up for growing and cooking with herbs program

Through a recent program, two Extension Educators shared their expertise on growing and cooking with herbs. Local Foods and Small Farms Educator Katie Bell discussed growing, propagating, and caring for various herbs as well as how to recognize and treat common plant diseases. Nutritional and Wellness Educator Mary Liz Wright took participants on a culinary journey as she shared tips to incorporate herbs into recipes and preserve them for use this winter. Individuals were able to sample treats like herb-infused teas, fresh salsa, and lavender cookies.

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.