

Impacting YOU

"Impacting You"
is a monthly report
used to communicate

University of Illinois Extension - Unit 26
programming impacts to stakeholders.

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

As the University of Illinois continues to address the impacts of COVID-19, the safety and well-being of our staff and communities remain our top priorities. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, campus leadership has implemented social-distancing protocols that include most faculty and staff working remotely. As a result of this directive, all face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension previously scheduled through July 31, 2020 have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery.

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. 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, Unit 26 County Extension Director

1,468

Total Direct
Contacts

(Excluding SNAP-ED)

15

Total Number
of Programs &
Events

Community and Economic Development Team At Work

Our Community and Economic Development team has been working to help individuals and organizations access the planning tools and training they need to strengthen and improve their businesses and communities during the current crisis. Webinars and training opportunities to address issues like expanding broadband connection, accessing economic injury disaster loans, safely reopening businesses and other timely resources are available to assist the local community.

The CED team is also encouraging all residents to participate in the 2020 census. The responses will shape important services and resources across Illinois for the next decade. Getting an accurate count of Illinois residents will impact representation in Congress and guide the allocation of federal funds for essential programs like Medicaid, the National School Lunch Program, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, and grants to local education agencies.

"Taking part in the Census is your civic duty and for the first time in 2020, you can respond three ways - by mail, by phone, or online using your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Responding should take less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee. Please help shape the future of Illinois by responding at 2020Census.gov."

- Susan Odum, Extension Specialist, Community Economic Development, U of I Extension



Composting Keeps Waste Out of Landfills

Food scraps and yard waste currently make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away. Creating compost keeps these materials out of landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

During the month of May, Horticulture Educator Austin Little hosted two webinars for a closer look at the processes and practices of thermal composting and vermicomposting.

Unlike traditional composting, which can take months, thermal composting is an accelerated process that creates a finished compost in as little as three weeks. Vermicompost is the nutrient rich by-product of worm digestion and is a super food for our soils. Vermicomposting is an easy hobby and a good way to recycle waste into high quality compost. For a full list of upcoming webinars, visit: extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/events



4-H Continues to Offer Virtual Opportunities for Youth

4-H Extension Program Coordinators continue to keep local youth engaged through virtual activities. Earlier this month, participants went on a virtual zoo trip. They visited a cat reserve in Australia, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and viewed the animals of zoos in Houston, Tampa, San Diego, Memphis, Cincinnati, through their webcams.

Staff made learning fun as they shared animal facts and led interactive vet science activities to discover how animals receive medicine as well as vet house call rounds with Dr. Erika Crook at the San Diego Zoo.



Our local 4-H members continue to interact virtually as all general project and livestock shows and exhibitions scheduled through July 31 will move online to a virtual exhibition platform called FairEntry.

Youth received project-specific guidelines about how to properly display each project to most effectively demonstrate mastery of project skill. While the fair looks different this year, our 4-H members are still very excited to showcase the projects that they have worked hard on throughout the year.

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