



ILLINOIS
Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

October 2018

Impacting YOU

"Impacting You"
is a monthly report
used to communicate

University of Illinois Extension - Unit 26
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, Unit 26 County Extension Director

1,715

**Total Direct
Contacts**

(Excluding SNAP-Ed)

22

**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

SNAP-Ed

2,359

**Total Direct
Contacts**

This federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) is nutrition education provided for SNAP participants and other low-income individuals.

159

**Total Number of
Programs & Events**



**Food Pantry
Network
of Southern
Illinois**

In collaboration with the Jackson County Health Department, Southern Illinois Healthcare and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Illinois Extension's SNAP-Education Educator, Toni Kay Wright has worked to create the Food Pantry Network of Southern Illinois. Food pantries play a critical role in helping many families throughout the region meet basic nutrition needs. This program is designed to help food pantries address hunger throughout southern Illinois and improve their nutrition environment. During the pilot meeting, food pantry managers and volunteers discussed their capacity to meet the needs of the individuals and families that they serve, the challenges they face and gaps that exist within their pantry. While many of the participating pantries fare well with their workforce, volunteer support and their distribution site, they

struggle with financial support, collaboration with other agencies for referrals and services and insufficient technology and office equipment. In addition, it was reported that personal safety for pantry staff and volunteers are a top priority as many of our local pantries are staffed with only one or two people during a distribution time. The Food Pantry Network of Southern Illinois will continue to meet quarterly to help foster networking among area food pantry managers and provide assistance to help address the challenges that they face.



Jackson County 4-H STEAM Night

Over 200 participants attended this fun, free event and explored hands-on activities such as 3-D printing, learning about bees, photography, creating edible dirt cups, arts and crafts, robotics and dissecting owl pellets. These science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) activities are designed to instill curiosity, critical thinking and help kids develop the skills needed to be successful in life. The event was made possible through the University of Illinois Extension's partnership with local sponsors and representatives such as the Murphysboro Park District, Murphysboro Youth & Rec Center, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Home Community Education, Carbondale Community High School, SIU, Jackson County Farm Bureau, Sallie Logan Public Library, Southern Illinois Beekeeping Association and Oak Street Art.



Harvesting History!

The trial field at the Ewing Demonstration Center has been in continuous no-till production for 50 years! With no-till, the land is left undisturbed from harvest through planting, preserving a canopy of crop residue on the surface to protect the soil from the battering impact of erosion. Yielding 186 bushels/Acre of corn this season, this the highest yield we have recorded in the last 50 years.

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University of Illinois • U.S. Department of Agriculture • Local Extension Councils Cooperating with 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.