

# 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, Unit 26 County Extension Director



Total  
Contacts



Total Number  
of Programs &  
Events

## Local Master Gardeners Receive State Award

Don and Beverly Harsy are both recipients of the 2020 Outstanding Master Gardener Award. Fellow Master Gardeners nominated the Du Quoin residents for this recognition.

"We appreciate the great impact Don and Beverly continue to have in our community through their service to the Master Gardener program. This award is just one small way to recognize the great work that they do," stated Horticulture Educator Austin Little.

The State Outstanding Master Gardener Award was established to honor the best of Illinois Master Gardeners, those whose breadth and depth of involvement in the program is exemplary. Only the top two percent of active Master gardeners in the state are recognized with this award. In lieu of an in-person program, this year's awardees were recognized in October through a virtual ceremony. Extension uses trained Master Gardener volunteers to meet the constant demand for horticultural consumer information by citizens of our state and region. The mission of the program is "Helping Others Learn to Grow." To learn more or to become a Master Gardener, visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg>.



# New Community Map Locates Food Assistance Sites



Over two million Illinois residents rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for food assistance according to May totals from Illinois Department of Human Services. That number increased 14.4% from January as the effects of COVID-19 impacted the financial stability and food security of individuals and households across the state.

To help Illinois residents and families meet their basic food needs, University of Illinois Extension launched a new Illinois community food map that allows individuals to search by Illinois zip code for all food resources in that area. Powered by FoodFinder, Inc., the Illinois food resource map combines input from Illinois Extension, Feeding Illinois and the food

bank network, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department on Aging, Illinois Office of Emergency Management, and other state and private agencies who collaborated to create this inclusive list of food resources. One can find options in their local area online at: <https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/>.

## Franklin County 4-H receives donation to support youth initiatives

Local farmer Diann Browning recently directed a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities donation, sponsored by Bayer Fund, to Franklin County 4-H. "The Franklin County 4-H program will use these funds to help defer enrollment fees for those in need and 4-H programs within the county. Without the benefit of this donation, the local 4-H program would not be able to grow and provide up-to-date programming to fill the needs of our local youth," said Franklin County 4-H Extension Program Coordinator Cindy Bauman.

Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded more than \$57 million to nonprofits, aspiring ag students and public schools across rural America. Farmers know the needs of their communities best, so the America's Farmers programs rely on them to help identify the most worthy causes.



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

## Local Youth Celebrate 4-H Week During the Month of October



Every year, National 4-H Week sees millions of youth, parents, volunteers and alumni come together to celebrate the many positive youth development opportunities offered by 4-H. The theme for 2020 National 4-H Week, Opportunity4All, is a campaign created by National 4-H Council to rally support for Cooperative Extension's 4-H program and identify solutions to eliminate the opportunity gap that affects 55 million kids across America. To learn how to get involved with 4-H in your community, visit: [extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/4-h-youth-development](https://extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/4-h-youth-development)