

Impacting **I** 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*

2,735

**Total
Contacts**

84

**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

Master Gardeners help plant arboretum at DuQuoin State Fairgrounds

Soil & Water Conservations Districts from Jackson, Franklin, Perry, Randolph, Washington, and Williamson counties came together to start an Arboretum at DuQuoin State Fairgrounds. Each district donated money to purchase trees, and with the help of local Master Gardeners and the grounds crew from the fair, 30 new trees were planted! The groups plan to continue to grow the Arboretum by planting additional trees each year.



Local 4-H members celebrate national 4-H week

4-H members in Illinois joined the 6 million youth across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week the first week of October. Clubs throughout the state celebrate this week by highlighting the remarkable 4-H youth in their communities and showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people. While the program has its roots in agriculture, 4-H has expanded to cover many more program interests including STEM, environmental science, shooting sports, and much more!

Locally, many 4-H programs celebrate through achievement night where they honor and recognize the outstanding work that 4-H members put in over the past year.



Blessing boxes offer personal supplies for those in need

Newly created blessing boxes will help address food access in our community. The Southern Illinoisan donated several newspaper displays to 4-H programs to repurpose into blessing boxes. The blessing box will follow the philosophy “take what you need, leave what you can,” as boxes are filled with donated non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and household items that are in need throughout the community.

The most needed items included canned proteins, vegetables, soups, shelf-stable meals, boxed pasta, and cereals. Hygiene items of greatest need are shampoos and conditioners, dental care products, deodorants, and feminine hygiene items. Household items that can be donated include toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, wipes, and garbage bags.

The Randolph County blessing box is located in the Sparta Police Department, and the Perry County blessing box is at the Pinckneyville Community Center. Boxes will also be available in the coming weeks in Whittington, Ewing, and Marion.



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

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.