

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*

1,671

**Total
Contacts**

44

**Total Number
of Programs &
Events**

Extension hosts President and Chancellor to share vision of food access



With more than 45,000 southern Illinoisans relying on local food pantries for nourishment, Illinois Extension is addressing food insecurity within our region. The Cultivating Care Donation Garden in Marion is just one example of how Extension is working with area partners to reduce hunger and provide residents with access to fresh, healthy produce. Our unit was honored to host President Killeen and Chancellor Jones during their visit to southern Illinois. Educators and community partners shared their experience on this multi-disciplined approach to address a core mission of Extension by growing and sharing locally produced food with area food pantries.



Art club is in full swing for Perry County 4-H members

Perry County 4-H members have the opportunity to get creative through a newly created art club. Youth can work on a variety of project areas that can also be entered into the 4-H fair in the summer. Fun projects include:

- Clay
- Fiber
- Paper
- Metal
- Painting
- Glass/Plastics



Ewing Demonstration Centers hosts students for career day



Over 80 local high school and community college students had the opportunity to learn more about the field of agriculture during the annual Career and Technology Field Day recently held at the Ewing Demonstration Center. Since its inception six years ago, University of Illinois Extension has hosted over 700 students at this annual event.

Each year, industry leaders attend the event to answer questions and talk to students about what they look for in potential employees. This year, Corteva and Southern FS representatives shared information about the many job opportunities in the agriculture industry. Students also toured a John Deere R4044 sprayer tractor from Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners. The event provided recruiting opportunities for Southern Illinois University as student ambassadors and recruiters from the College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences were on hand to answer questions and share their experience as students in agriculture studies.

Students had the chance to view the 80 acres of research plots as they traveled to each presentation station through “people movers” pulled by tractors. Illinois Extension was excited to welcome students back for this event to expose them to the agriculture industry and prepare them for employment opportunities in the field.

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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.