



# Illinois Extension

OCTOBER 2022

## Connections Newsletter

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

**Rock Island County**  
321 W 2nd Ave. Milan, IL  
(309) 756-9978  
Mon-Fri 8am - 4 pm  
(closed 12 -12:30 pm)

**Henry/Stark Counties**  
358 Front St. Galva, IL  
(309) 932-3447  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8 am - 4 pm  
(closed 12 -12:30 pm)

**Mercer County**  
910 13th St. Viola, IL  
309-513-3100  
Tues, Wed, Thur. 8 am - 4 pm  
(closed 12 -12:30 pm)

Visit our website: [extension.illinois.edu/hmrs](http://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs)



### National 4-H Week is October 2-8, 2022

Join us in celebrating 4-H, the remarkable youth members, volunteers, and incredible experiences 4-H offers young people.

### 4-H offers a place where kids can belong, lead, learn.

4-H programs challenge youth to “learn by doing” with fun, hands-on activities. Kids can learn, practice, and demonstrate new skills while exploring the interests that are important to them. In 4-H, youth are brought together in clubs led by caring adults who welcome them as a part of the larger 4-H family.

In 4-H, members learn about topics that interest them through projects. That could be anything from learning how to cook, build a robot, or care for the environment. Members can explore these topics through 4-H experiences such as community clubs, special interest clubs, workshops, and more.

4-H members range in age from 8 to 18. Youth who are 5 to 7 years of age may join 4-H as a Cloverbud. The cost to join 4-H for the year is \$20.

New members can get more information by contacting our 4-H staff in our offices in Milan, Galva and Viola, IL at:

[go.illinois.edu/4-HLearnByDoing](http://go.illinois.edu/4-HLearnByDoing)

or fill out our new member interest form:

[@go.illinois.edu/4-HNewMemberInterest](http://@go.illinois.edu/4-HNewMemberInterest)



## Outdoor Fall Family Activities

Judy Schmidt, 4-H Educator

Fall is here, the weather is turning cooler, and it is a perfect time to head outside with your family to explore nature. However, it can sometimes be hard to think of activities that will encourage everyone to head outside. Not to worry - IL 4-H staff have created some amazing outdoor challenges as part of their Adventures in Nature Challenge, which was designed to help kids spend more time outdoors. These are things your family can enjoy without going far from home.

### Adventures in Nature Challenge Resources

The activities focus on five areas: water, plants, animals, art in nature, and stewardship. Some of the activity areas have additional handouts which can be found at [go.illinois.edu/NatureAdventures](http://go.illinois.edu/NatureAdventures). They are designed to be easy to do with minimal supplies.

### Scavenger Hunts

Scavenger hunts are another favorite activity for families. Use the nature scavenger hunt list below, which includes some great ways to incorporate technology! And if you are still looking for some additional outdoor activities or perhaps some you can do inside on a rainy day, check out this great fall bucket list of activities at [go.illinois.edu/FallFunList](http://go.illinois.edu/FallFunList)

Hope these activities help get you and your family outdoors and exploring!



### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT LIST:

- Find three different colors of leaves
- Find a simple leaf
- Find a compound leaf
- Find a pine cone
- Find an acorn
- Take a picture of a spider web
- Find a seed head from a flower
- Find a fallen branch
- Take a picture of a cloud
- Find a round rock
- Look for a bird
- Take a picture of a hole in a tree
- Spy on a squirrel or rabbit
- Find a blooming flower
- Look for a pill bug
- Take a picture of something that smells good
- Take a picture of something that is soft



## What's the difference between a weather forecast and a climate scenario?

*Duane Friend, IL Master Naturalist Coordinator and Climate Specialist*

Forecasting day-to-day weather and predicting what climate will be five years or 50 years from now have very different outcomes. Both processes use most of the same land, water, and sea parameters, but the range for climate forecasts can also vary due to human activity. For climate forecasts, scientists may use the word "scenario" instead.

In today's world, predicting temperature and precipitation for a local area is pretty accurate for at least a few days out. However, with any forecast, the farther out the prediction, the more variation that comes into play. Meteorologists now can take variability into account in longer-term forecasts, helping to provide more accuracy than was possible 40 years ago.

### Short-term weather forecasting

Short-term forecasts typically use only one forecast model that can be very accurate, even on a relatively small geographic scale. Forecast models take a lot of computer capacity to run. Even though these are very accurate, there is always some uncertainty in weather conditions since there is no way to know exactly what is going on in the atmosphere, on land, and at sea every minute of every day. These slight inaccuracies can be amplified as the forecast reaches out multiple days.

Using several forecast models together can help to alleviate uncertainty. Each model starts out with slightly different weather conditions to produce a range of forecasts that include multiple possibilities. This also reduces calculation imperfections in the models that approximate physical conditions on earth.

When all the models are examined, the average of all models is used as a starting point. This is called an ensemble forecast. Using the ensemble forecast has increased the accuracy of longer-range forecasts compared to several decades ago.

### Predicting climate scenarios

With climate prediction, ensemble forecasting is used extensively. Climate models also must consider how future human activity may change over time. For example, will carbon dioxide emissions increase, stay the same, or decrease? These differences can make a big difference in what the prediction becomes for decades out.

For that reason, instead of using one average forecast, a range of scenarios is used. For example, multiple scenarios may predict both high and low emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases throughout the forecast period. Scenarios can provide information that allows governments, businesses, and others a chance to make decisions now that can influence future conditions.

Illinois Extension has a series of webinars to help you with Disaster Preparedness. Watch them @[go.illinois.edu/DisasterPrepVideos](https://go.illinois.edu/DisasterPrepVideos)

## POVERTY SIMULATION & SOCIO ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES WORKSHOP

### Oct 18, 8 am - Noon | Poverty Simulation & Socio Economic Differences Workshop

Experience what it's like to live in poverty. Take part in this life-changing experience.

The Moline Foundation, Moline Public Library, University of Illinois Extension, St. Paul Lutheran Church, For EveryChild, and River Bend Food Bank are joining forces to offer an in-person simulation about living in poverty and workshop on SocioEconomic Differences on October 18, 2022 from 8 am to 12:30 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport.

COVID pushed more people towards poverty, although when describing themselves, most say they are middle class. Unfortunately, numbers tell a different story. The River Bend Food Bank showed an increase need of 50,000 people in the QCA, and now with the recession, need has only increased. If you work with clients that come from a different background or just want to understand the choices others make, these sessions will help you.

The simulation illustrates the difficulties of trying to pay for everything each month when enough money isn't coming in but is still must be going out to pay the bills. You have the chance to make the difficult decisions that face people in poverty every day. If you have participated in the virtual one in the past, it is recommended you also attend the in-person as they are different experiences.

**Register at: [go.illinois.edu/PovertySimulationOct18](https://go.illinois.edu/PovertySimulationOct18)** or call IL Extension (309) 756-9978.

## UTILIZING RAINWATER IN THE HOME LANDSCAPE

FOUR-PART SERIES  
OCT 20, 27 & NOV 3 & 10  
9 AM - NOON  
UNIVERSITY OF IL EXTENSION  
321 W 2ND AVE. MILAN, IL



Stormwater runoff is water that is not absorbed into the soil and can come from homes, roads, commercial areas, industrial areas and more. Traditional water management methods include curb and gutter, catch basins, and storm drains. These systems quickly move water away from the site on which it fell, transporting pollutants including oils, chemicals, and soils with it.

Join Illinois Extension educators Emily Swihart, Horticulture, and Rachel Curry, Watershed Outreach, to learn how to keep this precious resource on site, helping to lower the impact on community systems while replenishing ground water and the role of storm water in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Stormwater management methods, plant selection, project design, and landscape maintenance will be discussed. At the conclusion of the course, participants will be invited to participate in the construction of a rain garden in the spring of 2023.

This is a series that builds on knowledge gained at previous sessions. Attendance at each of the four sessions is strongly recommended. Dates are Oct 20, 27, Nov 3 and 10 from 9 am - noon at Illinois Extension offices in Milan, IL.

The cost is \$40 person.

**Register at [go.illinois.edu/RainwaterSeries](https://go.illinois.edu/RainwaterSeries)**  
or call our office at (309) 756-9978.



### Oct 13 at 1 PM | Prescribed Burning Basics | Everyday Environment Webinar

Prescribed fire can be complex and difficult in many respects, but also results in numerous benefits. This presentation will provide an overview of prescribed fire, including reasons to burn, burn plans, preparations, weather considerations, permits, training options, tools, risks, hazards, and effects on vegetation and wildlife. This will be a broad introduction so resources will be provided for additional information, training opportunities, and volunteering for those who are interested in learning more.

*Presenter: Kevin Rohling, IL Extension Horticulture Educator*  
**Register at [go.illinois.edu/everydayenvironment22](https://go.illinois.edu/everydayenvironment22)**

## autumn HEALTH PICKS

make changes that matter



### Autumn Health Picks

Join the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute and University of Illinois Extension for a series on a variety of health topics. Pick and choose programs based on interest. All sessions are offered via Zoom on Wednesdays at noon (CT) from Oct 5 - Nov 16, 2022.

Register at [go.illinois.edu/HealthPicksAutumn](https://go.illinois.edu/HealthPicksAutumn)

### Oct 5 | Pharmaceutical Drugs: From Development to the Medicine Cabinet

Learn the basic science behind the drug development process.

### Oct 12 | Coffee and Chocolate: Consumer Preferences, Sensory Properties, and Health Impacts

Learn emerging research about the potential health benefits of these products, including their impact on obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

### Oct 19 | Aromatherapy in Brain Health: Facts vs. Fiction

How do we distinguish fact from fiction when it comes to the health benefits of aromatherapy? Learn about the latest studies on aromatherapy and brain health.

### Oct 26 | Debunking Some Common Myths in Psychology & Neuroscience

Learn about common brain myths with the latest evidence from neuroscience and psychology.

## FOUR SEASONS GARDENING

Webinar Series

### Oct 17 @ 1:30 PM | Using Fresh Produce

You have grown fresh produce all summer long, now what do you do with the excess produce like onions, cucumbers, tomatoes and more? Explore simple ways of storing produce for longer shelf life and sharing resources for get easy recipes like refrigerator pickles to make your produce go further.

Presenter: Bruce Black, Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator

Register at [go.illinois.edu/4SeasonsFreshProduce](https://go.illinois.edu/4SeasonsFreshProduce)

### Nov 1 @ 1:30 PM | Deep Bark Secrets of Tree Selection

Are you looking to plant more trees in your yard? Confused about what species might be best? Have something in mind and want to ensure its success? Branch out to find methods for selecting the right tree for your site. Make informed decisions when selecting your next tree!

Presenter: Sarah Vogel, Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator

Register at [go.illinois.edu/TreeSelectionFourSeasons](https://go.illinois.edu/TreeSelectionFourSeasons)

## GARDENING IN THE AIR



### Gardening in the Air

## Fall Gardening Online Symposium

Sat. Oct 8 | 9 am - 12:30 pm

Grow your gardening knowledge with timely fall topics in a one-day, multi-track webinar led by horticulture experts from across the Midwest and co-hosted by University of Illinois Extension and Iowa State University Extension. This year's fall edition features three tracks: water, lawns, and nature. You can select one workshop from each of the three time sessions.

The fall series will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 and concludes at 12:30 p.m. Register at [go.illinois.edu/GIA2022Fall](https://go.illinois.edu/GIA2022Fall).

There is no fee, and donations are accepted at the time of registration.

Topics Include:

- Make Every Drop Count – Xeriscaping
- Water Features For Your Garden
- Drought Tolerant Annuals and Perennials
- Troubleshooting Turfgrass Problems
- Reimagining the Lawn
- Get into the Weeds of Natural Lawn Care
- Trees for Fall Leaf Color
- Owls of Iowa and Illinois
- Gardening with Grasses: Native Grasses for the Home Landscape



## EAT.MOVE.SAVE.

Find Your Healthy  
Eating Style Today!  
Free tips and resources for  
you and your family



Monthly e-newsletter  
[go.illinois.edu/EatMoveSave](https://go.illinois.edu/EatMoveSave)

Healthy Text Program  
[go.illinois.edu/HealthyText](https://go.illinois.edu/HealthyText)

