Agriculture & Natural Resources program area

AT A GLANCE for Campus Collaborators

About Extension

For more than 100 years, University of Illinois Extension has been translating university-generated research into information for individuals, businesses and communities across the state. Based in the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Extension provides information and education that helps Illinois residents improve agricultural practices, protect the environment, access better food, improve nutrition, develop their communities, build stronger economies, provide learning opportunities for youth, and prepare a more effective workforce.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) is one of four program areas within Extension. Teams within ANR include Commercial Agriculture, Local Foods and Small Farms, Horticulture, and Energy and Environmental Stewardship.

Ways an Extension partnership can help

- Educators can work with you to identify audiences that can use your research, as well as identifying effective channels for the target audience.
- Educators can keep you informed of the issues of critical interest to targeted stakeholder groups, and any research needs identified by stakeholders.
- Want to work an outreach component into a grant? Extension educators can partner on developing relevant material and dissemination.
- Educators can help facilitate collaboration with stakeholders in priority areas.
- Extension can help coordinate citizen science collaborations through its Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs.

What is an Extension Educator and what do they do?

- An Extension Educator has a Ph.D. or Master’s degree and uses their specialized expertise to develop educational and research programming in a targeted content area. Most Educators are based in field units and work on state and local priority programs and goals.
- Educators are experienced in translating research through a variety of effective channels to provide evidence-based education relevant to stakeholder/audience needs.
- Educators stay in touch with audience needs through needs assessments; collaboration with state and local councils and stakeholder groups; individual consultations; and other outreach activities.
- Educators may conduct applied research to provide evidence of effective approaches for stakeholders.

Not sure where to start?

Contact Dennis Bowman, Interim Assistant Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources and ANR Program Leader, for more information on working with Extension in ANR topic areas and with ANR stakeholders.
ndbowman@illinois.edu  ph:  217 244 0851
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At a Glance

**ANR mission**
Through its Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) programs, University of Illinois Extension supports the economic viability and environmental sustainability of natural and managed landscapes and productive lands in Illinois.

**Current audiences and stakeholders**
row crop producers, landowners, and agriculture professionals
specialty crop producers
small scale farmers
urban food systems stakeholders
livestock producers
natural resource stakeholders
community residents
gardeners
youth
special populations
consumers

**Statewide initiative areas**

**FOOD PRODUCTION, SAFETY, AND ACCESS**
Field crop production
Livestock sector
Pest management
Specialty crops
Producer support systems
Pesticide safety
Safe food production handling
Urban food systems

**NATURAL RESOURCES**
Indigenous ecosystems
Managing forest resources
Environmental effects of agricultural production
Water quality
Green infrastructure
Pollinators
Soil health
Energy strategies

**ENGAGEMENT WITH HOME & COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES**
Food donation and community gardens
Therapeutic gardens
Life skills through gardening
Green industry
Home gardening for wellness and green infrastructure

**Connection channels and strategies**

**DIRECT EDUCATION**
Online training, conferences, seminar series, presentations, field days, demonstrations, volunteer service activities

**EXPERT ASSISTANCE**
Analytic reports, certifications, phone, email, and in-person consultations; answer desks; hotlines; web-based answer services

**RESOURCES AND SERVICES**
Webpages; videos; fact sheets; manuals; calculators and apps; community gardens

**OUTREACH**
Blog posts; social media; television and radio appearances; newspaper columns; newsletters

**PARTNERSHIPS**
State and local agencies; community organizations; industry groups; not-for-profits; convening stakeholder networks

**APPLIED RESEARCH**
Formal research; trials; scouting