

Agriculture & Natural Resources program area **AT A GLANCE for State and Community 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.



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

Ways an Extension partnership can help

- Educators can work with you to address priority public issues and needs in local communities and statewide through education, information, applied research, and expert assistance.
- Educators can translate new research, identify evidence-based best practices, and analyze critical current issues and conditions. Educators can deliver education and information services to target audiences through a variety of channels accessed by community members in each stakeholder group.
- Extension can partner on development and support for gardens and natural resources through the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteer 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 and statewide 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.
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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.

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

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

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