

Winter 2021/2022



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

*Bond.
Clinton.
Jefferson.
Marion.
Washington.*



02. 4-H Club Contests

Club contests give youth the sweet taste of teamwork.

04. Fall Garden Events

Community gardens foster family time and raise food insecurity awareness.

06. Master Gardener Training

Refreshed for 2022! Master Gardener Training hybrid schedule now makes the program more accessible.

Winter 2021/2022

2021 was both full and fulfilling for us at Extension! In this report, you will learn the impact we've made through our Fall Community Garden and 4-H Achievement Programs, and be introduced to our new Youth Development Educators, whom we are so excited to welcome!

Even though 2021 has come to an end, our work never stops. This winter, our local 4-H youth are strategically placing "Little Free Pantries" across the five counties we serve and ensuring they stay stocked. We'll also be spending the winter building a raised garden bed near these pantries in order to plant and provide fresh produce for those in need in 2022. These are just a couple of ways our work is serving the community. We can't wait.

Best,

Jordee Koehler

County Extension Director



Photo by Luke Schobert on Unsplash

48
Mobile Markets

 **23** ADULT SNAP-ED CLASS SITES

145 4-H VOLUNTEERS | **1266** 4-H MEMBERS

7,500+

FAMILIES SERVED AT MOBILE MARKETS

9 LITTLE FREE PANTRIES | **21** SNAP-ED SCHOOL SITES



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4-H Volunteers needed in multiple areas

- *Do you like to garden?*
- *Do you enjoy cooking with fresh produce?*
- *Is fighting hunger important to you?*
- *Are you organized and enjoy event planning?*
- *Have a passion for animals, arts, or plants?*

Share your knowledge and be a role model for our youth at the same time; let's connect!

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618-327-8881



The Jefferson County Extension Office is now located at 3452 Broadway in Mt. Vernon. Call us to set up a visit: 618-242-0780.



4-H Clubs compete to fight hunger and collect winter gear + BACKPACK BATTLES!

Each month 4-H clubs participate in a timely community service challenge that is designed to meet local needs across the five counties we serve. Here's a look back, and a look ahead at some of their impactful work.

NOVEMBER: 650 food items donated to food pantries through the Scarecrow contest.

DECEMBER: 257 winter gear pieces donated in the Holiday Tree contest.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY: Backpack Battles! Youth will strive to stuff the most backpacks with kid-friendly, nonperishable foods their peers in need will love.

MARCH-MAY: Wheel into Spring-more to come!

Making holiday meals for local residents possible

Extension helps local Jefferson County food pantry find funding for Thanksgiving dinner food give-away

Park Ave. Baptist Church Food Pantry was able to purchase turkeys, but had no additional funds to complete the meal for their clients. Community Outreach Worker, Kristen Buttrum, used local connections and a partnership with Casey Ave. Baptist Church to find the funds needed. This support allowed the food pantry to purchase side items to make complete meals for 116 families on Thanksgiving Day.



Bulb Forcing Lesson

Our Ag & Natural Resources team is helping bring more color to your homes! Check out the YouTube video on how to force flower bulbs in the off season. go.illinois.edu/BulbForcingDemo

YouTube

You can find past educational webinars on our YouTube channel at go.illinois.edu/YouTubeBCJMW



OUR STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Grow Community Gardens, Decrease Food Insecurity

Local poverty levels are as high as 12% for adults and 25% for children, which means food access and food insecurity are critical concerns in our communities. Extension fights food insecurity year round by cultivating an ecosystem of complimentary programs and



feature

Feeding more individuals and families, together

Our joint partnership with United Way of South Central Illinois, local high schools, volunteers, and 4-H allows us to install Little Free Pantry sites to 12 high-need communities. When the pantries are completed, locations and contact information will be shared with local health departments.

>> *continued from page 4*

efforts – from youth to retired volunteers – whose work revolves around meeting this challenge throughout the five counties we serve.

Through the fall months, Extension staff and volunteers hosted garden-based events in Salem, Mt. Vernon and Pocahontas with a combined attendance of about 100. “The purpose behind Community Garden Events is to introduce our community to the real possibility of growing part of their own produce; help prolong their growing season; and

increase their harvest yield as well,” said Jordee Koehler, Extension Director for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington counties. “Our passionate and knowledgeable Ag and Natural Resources team does an incredible job of making these events fun, engaging, and incredibly valuable.”

While this was a first-year event in Salem and Pocahontas, Mt. Vernon has been hosting a Picker-Treat Garden Day in October for the past few years with great success.

shout outs

Thank You SSM Health

for your partnership and support of Mobile Markets.

Thank You United Way

for your partnership and support of program food access programs.

Thank You Ashley Library

for your partnership in hosting 4-H activities.

Thank You Germantown Library

for your partnership in hosting 4-H activities.

Mastering Your Garden Now Easier Than Ever Before

NEW Hybrid training format

Master Gardeners have a wide range of backgrounds – from the home gardener looking to keep more plants and flowers healthy and thriving, to the horticulturalist whose professional success is based on research-based solutions to support a larger community of gardens, beds and green spaces. Whichever you may be, we have made it more convenient than ever to achieve Master Gardener greatness in 2022!

Here's what the NEW, 12-week, hybrid training program looks like each week:

- One, two-hour class. Choose to join class in person, online or catch the session recording on your own.
- Corresponding, one-hour hands-on session to practice the concept taught in class that week.

The course costs \$175 and will run from mid-February through the end of April. Registration is open now at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw>

4-H Staffing Update

The recent search for Youth Development Educators was a success! We are happy to share that our new educators are Kara Boozer and Wyatt Miller.

For the past 5 years, Kara has been serving as the Marion County 4-H Program Coordinator. She has a background in agriculture education.

Wyatt joins us from the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens where he developed and delivered animal science and environmental programming for them. Welcome, Wyatt, and congrats, Kara!



Aromatherapy and Magnolias, courtesy of Ag. & Natural Resources

Aromatherapy is a relaxing way to kick the winter blues. On January 25, Horticulture Educator Chris Lueking led a workshop at Meyer's Greenhouse in Nashville on how to use your gardening hobby to grow your own plants for aromatherapy, then turn

them into a shower spa bundle.

Coming up on February 28 at 3 p.m., Educator Ryan Pankau will teach you how to add color to your home landscape with the popular and diverse ornamental magnolias. go.illinois.edu/MagnoliasAtHome



Find our full program and activity calendar online

Illinois Extension is adding programs every day, be sure to find a full list on our website of both local and online events at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw/events>

at a glance
here's what's next

FEBRUARY

- 10** Mobile Market, Centralia
- 11** Donuts with the Director, Pocahontas
- 15** Mobile Market, Nashville
- 15** Master Gardener Training begins
- 28** Magnolias for the Home Landscape

March

- 1** 4-H Club's Wheel into Spring Contest
- 3** Introduction to Vermicomposting
- 10** Mobile Market, Centralia
- 15** Mobile Market, Nashville
- 30** Financial Emergency Preparedness



NOW HIRING

U of I is an EEO Vet/Disabled Employer (<http://go.illinois.edu/EEO>) that participates in the federal e-Verify and background check programs focused on prior criminal or sexual misconduct.

COMING SOON: Program Coordinators, 4-H Youth Development

If you are passionate about youth development and looking for a career change, Extension might just have the job for you! Beginning in February, we'll launch our search for three new 4-H Program Coordinators. Serving Clinton, Jefferson, and Marion counties respectively, these coordinators will run the 4-H program in their counties on a day to day basis with the cooperation of the Unit 4-H team. Keep an eye online at go.illinois.edu/JobOpenings to apply.

TEMP. JOB OPENING: Office Support

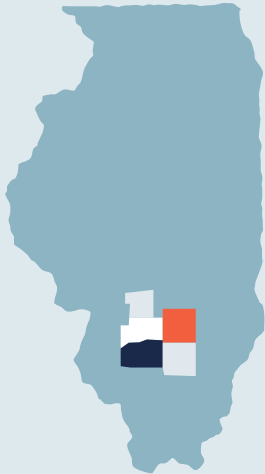
We are seeking a few people to fill in as clerical extra help in all counties. If you know someone who is good with office tasks and would be interested in filling in as a sub, please have them call us at 618-327-8881. Current volunteers are ineligible to apply.

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday through Friday
8 AM - 12 PM & 1 - 4:30 PM



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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call the Extension Office at 618-327-8881.