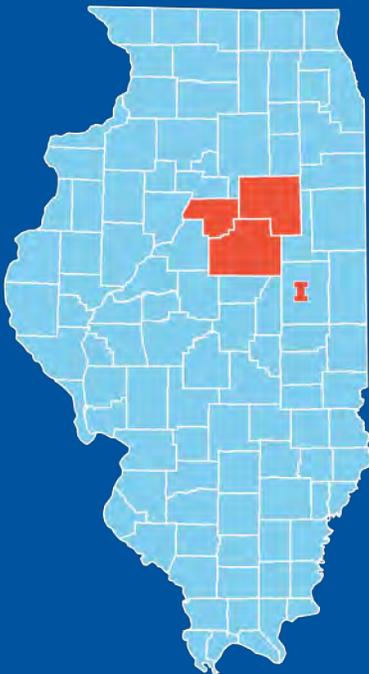


University of Illinois Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. Based in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Extension is the statewide outreach program of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.



Extension Overview	3
Extension's Grand Challenges	4
Horticulture	6
▸ Master Gardeners	8
▸ Master Naturalists	11
Nutrition and Wellness	13
▸ SNAP-Education	13
4-H & Youth Development	14
Consumer Economics	18
Staff Directory	19



## A Message from the Chancellor

The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is an economic engine and a driver of innovation, deeply rooted in the Illinois prairie and engaged statewide, from Cook County to Cairo. Illinois Extension brings the University to your doorstep. Extension educators live and work alongside you in every county, allowing the university to support local leaders, businesses, farmers, and residents to address grand challenges and everyday problems with practical, research-based solutions. As a youth, my own 4-H experience inspired a rewarding career in agricultural research and higher education. Today, it's an honor to lead this great public university and deepen its commitment to serve the people of Illinois.

Robert J. Jones  
 Chancellor, University of Illinois



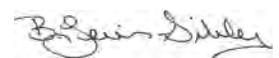
## A Note from the County Director

Welcome to University of Illinois Extension's Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties Impact Report. It is my privilege to lead a team of outstanding staff and volunteers, who provide innovative and diverse educational programming to individuals, businesses, and organizations in urban and rural settings. They serve youth, adults, and those with access to many, or few resources. Their work truly epitomizes Extension's motto: Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives.

We are humbled by the opportunity to provide positive change within our communities. Through Extension, individuals in Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties learn about managing personal finances, living healthy lives, protecting nature, sustaining productive farms, and enabling the best in their children. While this report lacks the space to describe each of the lives we have influenced over the past year, we hope that you find the information within valuable in capturing a snapshot of the work we do and why it matters.

The accomplishments detailed in this report were possible because of the contributions of local county boards, businesses, private organizations, personal donations, and generous volunteers. Thank you to everyone who makes Extension successful!

Bobbie Lewis-Sibley, MBA, SHRM-CP  
 County Extension Director





Each year elected and appointed local government officials and administrators from across the state improve their knowledge and skills through professional development webinars provided by U of I Extension. Community and Economic Development Educators work with their statewide colleagues to plan and market these monthly webinars. Over the past year, webinars have reached more than 1,589 participants through live and recorded sessions. The most popular topics included adapting to and understanding increases to the minimum wage in Illinois, economic diversification for communities dependent on coal revenue, developing energy from renewable sources for communities transitioning from coal, and more. These webinars are available for view at https://go.illinois.edu/LGEarchives.

### Statewide Webinar Reach

- 390** Reached in Community Involvement and Leadership Webinars
- 86** Reached in Food Access Webinars
- 191** Reached in Economic and Financial Well-being Webinars
- 922** Reached in Economic Vitality and Community Resiliency

*The mission of University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development is to help communities build capacity for creative and informed decision-making to enhance the quality of life.*

### Extension Education Reach

- 7,232** Page Likes on 10 Pages & 1 Group
- 900+** Plays on Family Financial Feuds Podcast (14 Sessions by Consumer Economics Team)
- 715+** Published Print & Online Articles
- 65+** Radio Interviews (Scheduled Programming)
- 95,819** Website Views (Including 3 Blogs)

### 2019 Extension Council Members

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Shirley Blackburn     | Ed McKibbin      |
| Tom Creswell          | Emily Schirer    |
| Jenny Larkin          | Julie Schumacher |
| Libby Larkin (Youth)  | Dustin Smith     |
| John Marshall (Youth) | Mike Sommer      |
| Pam Meiner            | Paul Wilkins     |



- 52 Local Sources
- 34 State Match
- 6 U of I General Revenue Fund
- 6 Self Supporting
- 2 Federal Smith Lever



- 62 Salaries
- 15 Program Educational Services & Supplies
- 13 Rent/Leases/Utilities
- 4 Travel
- 3 Equipment and Maintenance
- 2 Office Supplies/Postage/Printing, etc.
- 1 Separation Pool



## Extension's Grand Challenges

University of Illinois Extension provides practical translations of cutting-edge research to help people, businesses, and communities find answers to some of the most pressing issues of our modern world. Our work is guided by a desire to create meaningful progress toward addressing a select group of issues, which we call grand challenges. Livingston, McLean, and Woodford County Extension provides the following unique programs that address the grand challenges.



### COMMUNITY

Community involvement and leadership are core skills essential to thriving communities. Many of Extension's most popular and long-standing programs celebrate community connectedness and the benefits of living in a society that is enabled to facilitate group decision-making and implement effective plans.

#### Community Involvement and Leadership

- › Teen Teachers
- › After-School Clubs
- › PNC Makerspace Nights
- › ISU Partnerships (APP Development, 3-D Printing, and Internet of Things Technology)
- › 4-H Workshops (Teen-Led and Volunteer-Led)
  - Wizarding World
  - Learn and Fun Day
- › STEAM Programming at Boys and Girls Club
- › Teacher Workshops (Embryology, Weather, etc.)

#### Community Connectedness

- › Spring Break Workshops at Mt. Hope Funks Grove Park District
- › Poverty Simulation

### ECONOMY

Our programs and tools enhance local, state, and national efforts to create vibrant economic ecosystems that provide opportunity for businesses, communities, and the Illinois workforce. We are committed to enhancing community resilience because we believe it is the foundation of economic vitality.

#### Workforce Preparedness/Advancement

- › ABC's of School Nutrition (Prof. Development)
- › College and Career Conference
- › Circuit Breakers Electricity Special Interest Club
- › Electricity Workshop
- › Resume/Cover Letter Workshops and First Impressions Workshops
- › Embryology and Incubation Program

#### Financial Well-Being

- › Credit Scores and Reports
- › Identity Theft and Data Breach
- › Financial Exploitation of Older Adults
- › Senior Credit Scores
- › How to Save Money on Food Cost
- › Spending Plans/Budgets
- › Money in Relationships
- › How Credit Affects Our Lives
- › Paying Yourself First
- › Money as You Grow Book Club Series
- › Youth Money Habitudes
- › Paying for Your Education and Training
- › Money Mentors Voluntary Training
- › All My Money, Train-the-Trainer Workshop

#### Economic Vitality and Community Resiliency



Keep up with Extension's progress on the grand challenges at [go.illinois.edu/LMW](http://go.illinois.edu/LMW)



## Extension's Grand Challenges

### ENVIRONMENT

Extension programs facilitate decision-making and discourse that balances the needs of agricultural producers against public interest in sustainable food production and preservation of the natural environment. Our work connects those who are vested in protecting and preserving natural resources.

#### Enhancing and Preserving Natural Resources

- ▶ Master Naturalist Training
- ▶ Illinois Most Unwanted Invasive Pests
- ▶ Butterfly/Honeybee Challenge - Classroom Lessons

#### Engagement with Home and Community Landscapes and Environment

- ▶ Insects at Kite Fest, El Paso Library, Unity Community Center, Corn Belt Conference, Tri-Valley High School, Boys and Girls Club, Normal Community High School, and State Master Gardener Conference
- ▶ Top 10 Tree Insects
- ▶ Top 10 Tree Diseases
- ▶ Assessing Tree Health
- ▶ Entomology Training for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists
- ▶ Urban Forest Workshops
- ▶ Tree Walk at Illinois Central College
- ▶ Lawn Alternatives at Sunny Side Garden
- ▶ Master Gardener Help Desks
- ▶ I-Pollinate
- ▶ Four Seasons Landscape Invasive and Native Alternatives
- ▶ State Speaker's Bureau Bulb Basics, Truths & Myths
- ▶ Facebook Live with the Horticulturists Program
- ▶ Home Garden and Pest Newsletter
- ▶ The Pantagraph's Green Thumb Gardening Column
- ▶ Flowers, Fruits, and Frass Blog
- ▶ Mid-American Gardener Television Program
- ▶ Oakdale Garden Club
- ▶ 4-H Gardening Camps and Workshops
- ▶ Jr. Master Gardener Project Lessons
- ▶ District 87 Summer Feeding Site Activities
- ▶ Educational Garden Days
- ▶ Master Gardener Training
- ▶ Trinity Lutheran Garden Summer Camp
- ▶ Garden Activity Stations at Community Events
- ▶ Unity Community Center Summer Camp
- ▶ Four Season Webinar - Youth Gardening Activities
- ▶ Little Roots Cloverbud Program

### FOOD

With target audiences ranging from small farm producers to global food manufacturers, and those who shop for and prepare meals for their families, Illinois Extension maintains a portfolio of resources to address issues of safety, security, and access throughout the food production, preparation, and consumption cycle.

#### Food Access

- ▶ Garden in a Bucket Series
- ▶ Unity Community Center Garden
- ▶ Unity Community Center Food Distribution Site
- ▶ Woodford County Jail Garden Program
- ▶ The Refuge Food Forest & On Location Workshops
- ▶ Heartline/Heart House Programs and Garden
- ▶ Site for Unit 5 Summer Feeding Program
- ▶ Meal Packaging Event Hosted by 4-H Members

#### Food Safety

- ▶ Certified Food Protection Manager Training
- ▶ Yes! You CAN: Preserving Practice
- ▶ Feeding my Baby: From Cradle to Table

#### Food Production

- ▶ Unity Community Garden Backyard Gardening
- ▶ Tomato Trellising Project and Sunny Side Garden
- ▶ Master Gardner Training
- ▶ Facebook Live with the Horticulturists
- ▶ The Pantagraph's Green Thumb Gardening Column
- ▶ Companion Planting
- ▶ Flowers, Fruits, and Frass Blog
- ▶ Little Roots Cloverbud Program
- ▶ Holder School Grants

### HEALTH

We believe healthy families are an essential component of resilient communities, so our programs address critical issues like financial literacy, health management, and family wellness. University of Illinois Extension and our partners are committed to supporting Illinois at its most vulnerable level—individual families.

#### Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

- ▶ Meals for a Healthy Heart
- ▶ I on Diabetes
- ▶ Diabetes Clinic
- ▶ OSF St. James Diabetes Support Group

#### Social and Emotional Health

- ▶ Accommodation Station—providing equitable and inclusive programming for youth with special needs.

#### Healthy and Safe Community Environments



## Building "Little Roots" to Inspire Life-Long Gardeners

A study conducted by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Children's Garden found that when youth grow their own vegetables, it can improve their nutrition behavior. They increase vegetable consumption and improve recognition of, attitudes toward, preferences for, and willingness to taste vegetables. Gardening can also nurture skills in youth, including patience, responsibility, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

In an effort to inspire and teach local 4-H Cloverbuds (youth ages five to seven) to grow their own food and appreciate the world around them, Extension Horticulture Educator Brittnay Haag partnered with Illinois State University (ISU) Horticulture Center Director Jessica Chambers, and ISU graphic design student Audrey Glavas, to develop the Little Roots Gardening Calendar.

The goals of the program are to offer gardening curriculum to Cloverbud youth, increase interest in 4-H gardening project areas, and get youth excited about growing their own food and flowers.

**124 Cloverbuds from Livingston, McLean, and Woodford County 4-H Clubs participated in the "Little Roots" program in 2019.**



4-H Cloverbud participants brought their homegrown produce to various check-in points throughout the season to show-and-tell their gardening experiences.



Cloverbuds that participated in the program were offered three opportunities to showcase their vegetables and flowers at their local county 4-H show and ISU Horticulture Center events.

The Little Roots Calendar serves as a guide for the Cloverbuds (and an adult helper) to grow six different plants from seed through harvest. The calendar engages youth in weekly activities that encourage observing the world around them, researching basic horticulture terms, and caring for their plants. Youth learned about pollination and insects, weather, plant parts, life-cycle, and plant care.

Several Cloverbuds named watering their plants as their favorite thing to do in the garden. Cloverbud club leaders expressed appreciation for the program, as they are always looking for fun, highly-engaging activities to involve their youth. Many clubs participated in activities as a group and created posters for the 4-H showcase to highlight their enjoyment and success.

Cloverbud parents were equally appreciative of the program that increased their youth's knowledge in gardening, provided them a sense of pride and accomplishment for growing their own food, and encouraged healthy eating habits by eating the food they had grown.

This has been a wonderfully organized booklet, and great for the Cloverbuds! We had such a great experience with the program!  
4-H CLOVERBUD PARENT



## More than Just a Lecture with Backyard Gardening

The local food systems and horticulture programs teamed up to create an educational program for those with very little to no vegetable gardening experience. The Unity Community Center’s production garden was used as a classroom to provide hands-on training throughout the growing season.

The 14-week step-by-step series provided 18 gardeners, ranging from novice to semi-skilled, with a season-long experience in the garden. Participants were able to take produce home that they planted, maintained, and cared for in the production garden, as well as contribute to the food distribution at Unity Community Center.

Four of the biggest constraints for gardeners growing vegetables at home were addressed in the training:

- ▶ Lack of gardening skills
- ▶ Time commitment
- ▶ Garden space
- ▶ What to do with the bounty of harvested fruits, vegetables, and herbs



Planting the seeds of a great garden.



Weeding the garden area is necessary for plant growth.

The Backyard Gardening series was developed with a goal in mind: for adults to grow what they eat and eat what they grow. Participants received hands-on experience through programs presented by Extension educators with expertise in topic areas including:

- ▶ improving soil health,
- ▶ establishing a garden plan,
- ▶ growing in small spaces with raised beds or straw bales,
- ▶ choosing appropriate varieties,
- ▶ starting seeds,
- ▶ insect and disease management, and
- ▶ techniques for garden maintenance and composting.

The program also included a collaboration with Extension’s Nutrition & Wellness Educator Jenna Smith on storing, preserving, and using garden produce to help strengthen the overall program.

I really enjoyed this program and found it very useful for my own little garden. Being able to work in the community garden and share in its bounty was wonderful. I sampled many veggies I'd never eaten before, which has inspired me to grow them next season.

2019 BACKYARD GARDENING CLASS PARTICIPANT



Find more about our Horticulture programs on Facebook @MidIllinoisMasterGardener



## Livingston, McLean, & Woodford County Master Gardener Statistics



142  
Master Gardeners



10,418.50  
Volunteer Hours



\$264,942.46  
Value to Communities



3,377  
People Reached through  
Client Services (Farmers Markets, etc.)



2,306.00  
Continuing Education Hours



1,388  
Total Page Likes



## New Growth with Master Gardeners

The 2019 Master Gardener training generated twenty-two new volunteers to serve their community with an invigorated knowledge and passion for gardening. Master Gardener Interns completed 18 training sessions to learn skills rooted in horticulture, from soils to vegetables.



2019 Master Gardener Program Graduating Class.

Offering the training in the fall, instead of the typical winter time, allowed for the educators to develop and incorporate more hands-on activities into the training sessions, like dissecting a lima bean and planting a tree at the Extension office. Class attendees were also able to tour multiple community gardens for hands-on application and demonstrations.



Master Gardeners planting a tree at the Extension office.

The mission of the Illinois Master Gardener program is “Helping Others Learn to Grow.” After 60 hours of training, the volunteers serve their local counties with activities, such as answering calls or emails at garden help desks, establishing demonstration gardens that serve as educational tools, or giving presentations to local groups at libraries and schools. The Master Gardener program is aimed at developing connections—connecting people with gardeners, with their community, and with reliable resources for information.



### Learning Pollination Patterns with the Help of Citizen Scientists

In 2019, four Master Gardener project sites and seven gardeners in our local communities contributed to pollinator and monarch research at the University of Illinois through a citizen science program called I-Pollinate. The program combined three individual scientists' efforts under one project umbrella.

Citizen scientists were asked to plant a pocket garden with swamp milkweed and groupings of six kinds of annual, ornamental plants. Participants were able to choose from 12 plant species selected for their popularity in the industry. Once per month during the gardening season, citizens recorded monarch egg and/or larva presence on their milkweed and which groups of pollinators were visiting the plants. They were encouraged to take pictures of bees to upload to the BeeSpotter website.



Citizen scientists were asked to analyze, record, and share results from their own sites to help enhance pollinator and monarch research.

### Monarch Survey

Dr. David Zaya, plant ecologist for the Prairie Research Institute, wants to know where in the State of Illinois monarchs are laying their eggs. Are the larvae surviving? Do milkweed plants have to be surrounded by other nectar-producing plants?

- ▶ Dr. Zaya received data from 24 counties and will use it to make recommendations on where to plant 150 million milkweed stems that are part of a 20-year goal for the state of Illinois.

### Pollinator Survey

Dr. Alex Harmon-Threatt, entomology professor, wants to know if annual, ornamental plants contribute to the pollinator population and, if so, which ones are the most beneficial in order to make recommendations for homeowners. Initial results indicate:

- ▶ Spider flower, euphorbia, and fan flower had the highest number of visits from the pollinators;
- ▶ The more popular geranium, begonia, and marigold had the fewest visits from pollinators; and
- ▶ Pollinator groups (bees, flies, moths/butterflies, and other flies) were the most frequently recorded.

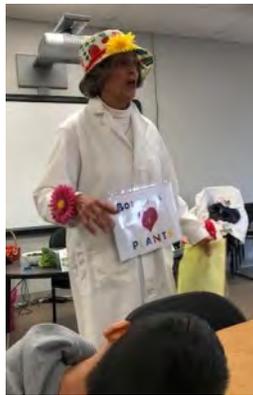
### BeeSpotter

Scientists working on bee decline developed the BeeSpotter website to understand bee populations in the state. They were interested in learning more about geographical information and the seasonal abundance of bumble bees.

- ▶ BeeSpotter received a 22% increase in activity throughout the state with the help of the I-Pollinate project.



Master Gardeners



Master Naturalists





### Livingston, McLean, & Woodford County Master Naturalist Statistics



69  
Master Naturalists



3,860  
Volunteer Hours



\$98,159,.80  
Value to Communities



947  
Continuing Education Hours



920  
Total Page Likes



Master Naturalist trainees learning about nature's local treasures, including tree identification.



Find out more about our Master Naturalists on Facebook @IGPMN

### Master Naturalist Training: In Session

In the fall of 2019, 22 new interns joined the Livingston, McLean, and Woodford County Master Naturalist program.



2019 Master Naturalist Program Graduating Class.

Participants learned about the wilds of Illinois during their 14-day training on topics ranging from birds to forest trees. Field trips allowed the trainees to explore Sugar Grove Nature Center, Fugate Woods, Kempton Prairie, Emiquon Nature Preserve, and Dickson Mounds Museum. Each trainee was paired with a mentor to learn more about the local efforts of the Master Naturalist program.



Master Naturalist training includes exploring the wonders of wildlife.

The mission of Extension's Master Naturalist program is to provide science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged, environmental stewards. Our newly trained volunteers receive access to opportunities, such as stewarding Sugar Grove Nature Center, contributing to citizen scientist efforts like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, or removing exotic invasives with the ParkLands Foundation.

Awesome experience. Met wonderful people and learned a lot. Can't wait to start volunteering.

MASTER NATURALIST (2019 GRADUATE)



From carrots to basil, it can all be grown in a bucket.

### Everyone Can Have Their Own Garden: Grab a Bucket

Gardening has been proven to benefit overall health. This benefit derives from being more physically active, eating more fresh fruits and vegetables, and reducing stress after exposure to nature. However, for many people, the biggest limitation to growing vegetables at home is space. An individual interested in gardening may lack access to land, resources, or the money needed to install a garden. These barriers may keep people from being exposed to the benefits of gardening and the experience of learning to grow their own food.

To address this issue, the horticulture team, in collaboration with the nutrition and wellness team, piloted a program called Garden in a Bucket. Its aim was to provide small, portable garden spaces in a 3-gallon bucket to individuals who may otherwise lack room to garden. The horticulture team provided the buckets, soil, seeds, plants, and the knowledge needed to grow vegetables and herbs.



The beauty of freshly grown produce on display.



Kale was one of seven options available to grow in buckets.

### Partnering with Nutrition and Wellness

Six weeks after participants planted their bucket gardens, the nutrition and wellness team provided cooking demonstrations and preservation information to help participants learn how to use all of the vegetables and herbs they grew.



Learning how to prepare freshly grown produce.

A bi-weekly newsletter with real-time growing and culinary tips was sent to participants after the initial program. Garden in a Bucket targeted audiences with low food access and limited gardening space, who were interested in the benefits of gardening and learning how to prepare homegrown foods.



Enjoying fresh, cooked garden produce, like zucchini.



## Nutrition & Wellness

Overall, Garden in a Bucket served 56 adults and 15 youth. This program gave participants access to healthy, affordable food, the knowledge and confidence in growing their own food, and creative culinary uses to enjoy the food they grew.

While participants were able to choose one of three vegetables, the educators noticed that very few people chose to grow kale. When asked why, many said that they didn't like it or didn't know how to prepare it. The Nutrition and Wellness Educator decided to include a food demonstration on how to use kale in a raw salad with a tasting. One participant said, "I hate kale. Just give me a little." However, once she tasted the salad, she said that she changed her mind about kale. With the recipe in hand, we hope that she will now include this dark, leafy green in her diet.

Garden in a Bucket has the potential to reach even more audiences, making a direct impact on the health of community members.



### Nutrition & Wellness: Another Bite Diabetes Clinic

- › 72 participants in 10 classes over one year (avg. class size = seven) with six participants attending three or more classes during the year

One consistent participant said, "This program is better than anything in the country." He reported that his Hemoglobin A1C went down from nine to seven in three months, and in one year, he lost 50 pounds. He contributes his success to what he has learned in Diabetes Clinic.

### Certified Food Protection Manager Training

- › 71 people in the food industry (93% passing rate)
- › 257 school foodservice staff within the ABC's of School Nutrition

### Illinois Cottage Food Law Training

- › 227 food entrepreneurs and local health department staff



Follow along for more at Simply Nutritious, Quick & Delicious: [go.illinois.edu/SimplyNQD](http://go.illinois.edu/SimplyNQD)



### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION (SNAP-EDUCATION)

SNAP-Education works with Illinois families in need to make the healthier choice an easier choice where they eat, shop, live, play and learn. Through classes and workshops, and by collaborating with community partners to adopt research-based solutions to encourage healthier nutrition and activity choices, SNAP-Education positively impacts the families and communities we serve.

### Serving Local Families



3,246

Total SNAP-Education Participants



19%  
Adults



81%  
Youth



11% Identified as Hispanic  
41% Identified as Non-Hispanic  
47% Unknown



75% White (2,383)  
22% Black (716)  
2% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (93)

### Our Community Partners



14  
K-12 Schools



3  
Youth Centers



1  
Store or Markets



20  
Early Childhood



8  
Community Centers



8  
Food Pantries and Food Banks



### Serving Youth in Livingston, McLean, and Woodford Counties

Wherever you live, 4-H is there. Whoever you are, 4-H is the place where you belong and are part of the club, where you serve in the world where you live, where you act on matters important to you, and where you learn to accomplish the dreams you strive to achieve. Illinois 4-H empowers and prepares youth for success — for today, tomorrow, and a lifetime.

### Program Reach



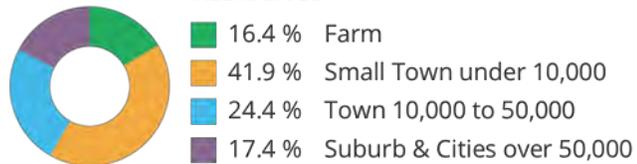
### RACE



### ETHNICITY



### RESIDENCE



## Unity Community Center

Unity Community Center concluded 2019 with 46 students (5-18 years old) enrolled in the after-school program. Students arrive after school and explore various programming from Extension and its community partners, including State Farm, the Town of Normal, and classes taught with help from Illinois State University and the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal.



Learning new skills and creating experiences are just a few of the goals at Unity Community Center in Normal.

### Youth programs offered at Unity Community Center:

- ▶ Tutoring
- ▶ Civic Engagement
- ▶ Future Leaders 4-H Club
- ▶ Children's Discovery Museum
- ▶ Master Gardeners
- ▶ Foreign Language Lessons
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Healthy Living
- ▶ Financial Literacy
- ▶ Summer Enrichment Camps

87% Black/African American

13% White

2% Hispanic

98% Non-Hispanic

37% Male

63% Female



46 Students!



Find out more about 4-H and Unity Community Center at [go.illinois.edu/LMW](http://go.illinois.edu/LMW)



Livingston,  
McLean, and  
Woodford  
County 4-H



105 4-H Community &  
Cloverbud Clubs  
18 SPIN Clubs



#Thats4H



## Community Service and 4-H Clubs Go Hand-in-Hand

It seems that 4-H Clubs and community service go hand-in-hand. In 2019, our counties worked to shine the spotlight on our local 4-H youth and their leaders, making a huge impact in our communities.



### Wide Awake Timberline 4-H Club, Livingston County

*Submitted by: Wide Awake Timberline 4-H Club Members & Leader*

Wide Awake Timberline 4-H Club gives to the community and the world with their participation in activities like Operation Christmas Child— a collection of shoe boxes that are filled and sent with supplies to third world countries. The club also participates in a book drive for a local area preschool, and item collections to be sent to local troops serving overseas. "We take our pledge to heart. Head is promoted by having the members think about what community service activities they would like to participate in. Heart is helping members to see the importance of our community and what the world of service is like. Hands are making, collecting , and walking through the activities. And, finally, our health and wellness is promoted through participation in community activities." — 4-H Club Leader

Community service is a chance for youth (us) to make a difference where we can and see the change we have created.  
WIDE AWAKE TIMBERLINE 4-H MEMBER



### Kids Who Serve 4-H Club, McLean County

*Submitted by: Kids Who Serve 4-H Club Members & Leader*

Kids Who Serve 4-H youth selected a service project where they made tie-blankets for mothers in the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. They worked on the blankets during their regular meeting time. It provided warm blankets for the elder mothers of the Mother's Board at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. The youth presented the blankets to the Mother's Board during a morning worship service. Even though the blankets were distributed to those on the Mother's Board, the entire congregation benefited from seeing the inspirational work of the 4-H members. One of the mothers noted, "Oh my goodness, I LOVE the gift from the 4-H children. It is so special and BEAUTIFUL."

The members of Kids Who Serve are not stopping this outreach and are already planning to make more blankets for a fundraiser with part of the proceeds donated to Family Community Resource Center, a non-profit organization in Bloomington.

### Roanoke Happy Hustlers 4-H Club, Woodford County 4-H



*Submitted by: Roanoke Happy Hustlers 4-H Club Members & Leader*

Our club's community highlight is when we make lemon shake-ups for our local nursing home's annual benefit, an outdoor auction with food and beverage booths. We have three shifts for 4-H members to sign up to work and have an assembly line process of making the drinks. We serve around 200 drinks and have been doing this for 10 years. It is really great to know that our efforts make around \$400 for the nursing home each year. It is also a great way to promote 4-H in this large, community event. The nursing home is a great asset to our community and a worthy cause for the club to support.

One member said, "Making the lemon shake-ups was a lot of fun. I felt good knowing that I was helping the residents of the nursing home, including my grandma."



## Fairbury Prairie Farmers 4-H Club, Livingston County

Written by: Fairbury Prairie Farmers  
4-H Club Members & Leader

Each year, the Fairbury Prairie Farmers 4-H Club volunteers at Harvest Call, an Apostolic Christian mission outreach that serves people in need in the U.S. and throughout the world. During our service, our members and families work together in assembly lines to package bags of rice pilaf, meals that will perhaps be the only meal that children have in a day. We label the bags, fill them with beans, rice, and spices, seal the bags, and



then fill buckets with the meals. In one night, we bagged 3,510 meals!

Club leader Angie Kratochvil said, "Our 4-H'ers LOVE this event! By giving a small amount of their time,

they help others in a big way. Together, we live out the 4-H pledge of "hands to larger service...for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

Ellaina Stadel, 17, said, "I definitely learned that even the small things can make a big difference for people. It helps not only those in need, but it helps young kids in groups like 4-H to learn more about other cultures, helping others, and how to volunteer in order to make a difference. We learned a lot about the process it takes to get those food bags to other countries and what it takes to make something like that happen. Most importantly, it was fun and a great way to help others with food shortages or hunger in a simple yet impactful way."



## Towanda 4-H Club, McLean County

Submitted by: Towanda 4-H Club Members & Leader

While Towanda 4-H Club participates in a variety of community service projects throughout the program year, a favorite was making school bags for Lutheran World Relief. This project started when material was donated by a local church. The club leader, Jeanie Wager, held a sewing workshop where several members new to sewing helped cut and sew 14 school tote bags. After the bags were complete, the rest of the club members donated school supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, crayons, and scissors to fill the bags. The filled bags were distributed to other countries through the Lutheran World Relief. Towanda 4-H Club member, Claire Malinowski, said, "I had a great time making school bags for kids in Africa, Haiti, and other countries. I love going to school and I'm glad I was able to help other kids have what they need for school. It felt really good to work toward helping other people." Club members enjoyed this project so much that they are already looking for new ways to collect school supplies for those in need.

## Eureka Teamsters 4-H Club, Woodford County

Written by: Eureka Teamsters 4-H Club Members & Leader

Our club joined with a local nursing home for Family Fun Day in July, providing a petting zoo for the event. This allowed our 4-H members to bring their animals to show to the residents and families who attended the event. We also handed out promotional items about 4-H and advertised our 4-H fair, which was just a couple weeks away. One of the 4-H members said, "I loved watching the kids and residents from the nursing home light up as they could hold and pet the animals."



"It was a great way to show 4-H to the community. I was proud of my club for being so polite at the event and sharing their animals so willingly," said Janel, 4-H leader for Eureka Teamsters.



## Money Mentor Volunteers Are Ready to Serve

The Money Mentors program completed spring and fall training in 2019. The program trains volunteers to provide research-based, unbiased, and timely financial information to participants from their communities.

- 37 volunteers completed more than 60 hours of training.



2019 Spring Money Mentors Class.



2019 Fall Money Mentors Class.

The charts to the right show two of the key questions on the adult, financial well-being survey taken by mentors during trainings. Findings from the survey indicated that, while most volunteers can handle unexpected expenses and do have money left over at the end of the month, there were some still concerned about their overall well-being. These evaluations play an important role in understanding the benefits of volunteer training and preparation for working with mentee participants.



Keep up with Consumer Economics on their blog at [go.illinois.edu/FearlessFinancialFuture](http://go.illinois.edu/FearlessFinancialFuture)



- 56% Completely
- 22% Very Well
- 17% Somewhat
- 5% Very Little



- 44% Always
- 17% Often
- 28% Sometimes
- 5% Rarely
- 6% Never

## Consumer Economics: Extra Change Youth Financial Literacy Programs (300+ youth served)

- Money as You Grow Book Club (Kindergarten to Fifth Grade Students – Multiple Youth Programs)
- 8 Youth Financial Literacy Books Covered
- Approximately 150 Copies of Financial Literacy Books Distributed to Younger Youth
- Teen Financial Literacy

### 11 Teen Financial Literacy Sessions



Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE) Symposium, November 2019, Portland, OR. Joint poster presentation: Effectiveness of Curriculum Training to Improve the Attitude towards Personal Financial Management among Non-Profit Agencies' Staff.



Staff Member	Extension Role
Bobbie Lewis-Sibley	County Director
Sara Halihan	Business Manager
Kelly Allsup	Educator, Horticulture
Camaya Wallace Bechard	Educator, Consumer Economics
Alcha Corban	Educator, 4-H Youth Development - Livingston & Woodford
Brittnay Haag	Educator, Horticulture
Emily Saddler	Educator, 4-H Youth Development - McLean
Jenna Smith	Educator, Nutrition and Wellness
Sara Attig	Program Coordinator, 4-H - Livingston
Rachel Benn	Program Coordinator, Nutrition and Wellness
Jenna Braasch	Publicity and Promotions Specialist
Laura Holland	Program Coordinator, 4-H - Unity Community Center
Meg Meeker	Program Coordinator, 4-H - McLean
Kaitlyn Prehoda	Program Coordinator, 4-H - McLean
Elizabeth Replinger	Program Coordinator, 4-H - Unity Community Center
Maggie Roberts	Program Coordinator, STEAM in the Classroom
Afiwa Tete	Program Coordinator, 4-H - Unity Community Center
Blaine Troyer	Program Coordinator, 4-H - Woodford
Reid Young	Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Beverly Branz	Community Worker, Illinois Nutrition Education - Livingston
Beth Kraft	Community Worker, Illinois Nutrition Education - McLean
Erin Estes	Office Support Specialist
Rosemarie Carter	Office Support Assistant - McLean
Cindy Kinate	Office Support Assistant - Livingston
Samantha Klumb	Office Support Assistant - Woodford
RaeJean Kuntz	Office Support Assistant



THANK YOU to everyone that supports University of Illinois Extension efforts in our communities!



## OFFICE LOCATIONS

McLean County Extension  
1615 Commerce Parkway  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(309) 663-8306  
Fax: (309) 663-8270

Livingston County Extension  
1412 South Locust Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
(815) 842-1776  
Fax: (815) 842-6547

Woodford County Extension  
109 East Eureka Avenue  
Eureka, IL 61530  
(309) 467-3789  
Fax: (309) 467-6034

Unity Community Center  
632 Orlando Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 862-4041

## ONLINE



[/UofIExtensionLMW](https://www.facebook.com/UofIExtensionLMW)



[go.illinois.edu/LMW](http://go.illinois.edu/LMW)



[/UIExtensionUnit12](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIExtensionUnit12)

### 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 any program, please contact the county Extension office. The Illinois Nutrition Education Program is funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture by the Director, Cooperative Extension Service, and University of Illinois.