

# The Quarterly Update

Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash & Wayne Counties

October 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 3

## COUNTY DIRECTOR UPDATE



Fall has arrived and harvest is in full swing in our five county area. Last quarter was very busy for Extension with 4-H Shows/Fairs, SNAP-Ed in-person and virtual programming, and Master Gardener projects.

4-H staff put on several shows throughout the summer and are now working with 4-H families and club leaders on enrollments for the new year. We are also busy planning programming in our local school systems. New SNAP-Ed staff have come on board this last quarter and have been going through weekly trainings. Master Gardeners took a bit of a break during the summer show season but are gearing back up for volunteer opportunities this coming year.

As you read this issue of the quarterly report, I invite you to reach out to me with any questions on programming or to see how Extension can help you.

Thank you for your continued support of University of Illinois Extension!

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County Director  
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## CONNECT WITH US!



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\*Edwards County 4-H  
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\*4-H Wabash County, Illinois  
\*University of Illinois Extension -  
Wayne County 4-H



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# Youth Development



Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne Counties

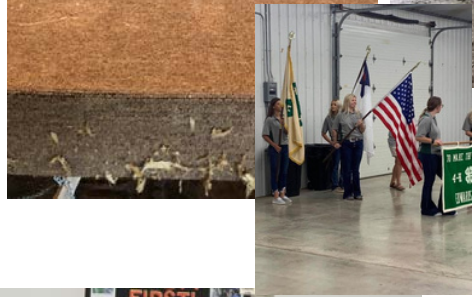
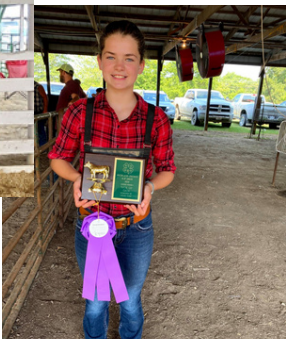


The month of July was very busy with Fairs and 4-H Shows in our 5-County Unit. 4-H members across our Unit showed their projects and had a great time. We appreciate everyone who helped make our events successful for our members!



# Youth Development

Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne Counties





## Poison Safety at Farm Safety Day

In September, the Wayne County Extension office lent a helping hand to the Wayne County Farm Bureau for their Farm Safety Day. Yvette Anderson took her poison kit and discussed the similarities between food and beverages that also look like household cleaners and over the counter medications. Every fourth grade student in Wayne County had a chance to participate in this activity. The object of this lesson was to see if they could compare the two items and determine which item was safe to ingest or if the item was a poison. A few examples they had to compare: water versus rubbing alcohol; blue Gatorade versus windshield washer fluid; gummy bears versus gummy vitamins, and they (the 4th graders) determined, this activity was harder than it looked and they were not able to determine which item was safe and which items were poison.



## 4-H Members Lending a Helping Hand

Edwards County 4-H received a \$1,000 food security grant on behalf of the IL 4-H Food Advocacy Team. 4-H members, Ava and Addison Anderson, were instrumental in

helping secure the grant. Edwards County 4-H decided to use the grant to purchase food to stock the Albion Ministerial Alliance Summer Lunch Program. Various 4-H Clubs delivered the non-perishable food items to area churches.





## Wabash County Achievement Night

Wabash County started up their Achievement Night program again, this year, and plan for the tradition to continue. On Thursday, August 26th 4-H families joined Extension staff at the Mable Youth Center to celebrate achievements of Wabash County 4-H members over the past year. This year Hayden Sweppy-Walker was awarded for exhibiting the most projects at the 2021 Fair. Addison Tennis was voted the Outstanding 4-H'er of the Year, and the Tennis Family was voted as the 4-H Family of the Year. The Swanson's were voted as the Outstanding Leaders of the Year, and Mike Wilson was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. All 4-H Leaders were recognized for their work to help Wabash County 4-H be a success. Following the awards part of the program families enjoyed cupcakes and punch.

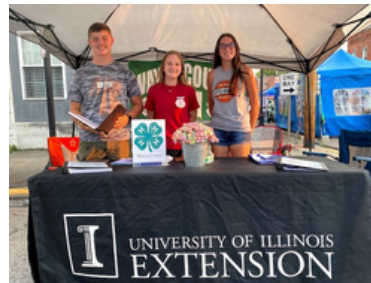


## Find Your Spark Program at Olney Library

Youth Educator, Susan Sloop, assisted by 4-H Program Coordinators, Jessica Ochs and Debra Collier along with Teen Teachers, Victoria Zwilling and Karlee Piercefield, conducted a Find Your Spark program at the Olney Library. The program allowed youth to explore different educational areas of 4-H. Areas presented during the 4 week series included: food, fitness, and mindfulness; visual arts; robotics; and electricity.

## Bean Days & Fairfield Fall Fun Fest

We love the fall season when all of our communities have their festivals. We love it even more when we are included in those celebrations. We were asked to participate in two festivals this year, the Fall Fun Fest in Fairfield and Wayne City Bean Days.





## Wayne County Tech Fest 2021

September 16th and 17th the Wayne County Extension Office held their annual Tech Fest, but instead of the schools coming to us, we decided to take Tech Fest to them. 4-H Program Coordinators, Yvette Anderson and Jessica Ochs, took the program to all 5th grade students in Wayne County.

This year's theme was Roller Coasters and the Science Behind Them. Each session began with a discussion about kinetic energy, force, gravity, and friction. Then students were given a challenge to complete. Their challenge was to build a roller coaster with two hills. While students thought this sounded easy, they quickly realized you have to think about the type of energy used, along with force, gravity, and friction elements. Most of the classes had not started this curriculum yet, but Extension staff gave them something to build on this year.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

- October 3-9 - National 4-H Week
- October 7 - Fall Fun Fest - Wabash County
- October 8- Tech Fest - AGS - Edwards County
- October 11 - 4-H Foundation Meeting - Wayne County
- October 11 - Tag-A-Long Workshop - Edwards County
- October 12 - Federation Kickoff Meeting - Wabash County
- October 15 - Tech Fest - WSGS - Edwards County
- October 15 - Homecoming Parade Participation - Wayne County
- October 22 - Autumn AgVenture with EC Farm Bureau - Edwards County
- October 25 - International Night - Wayne County
- October 25 - Achievement Night - Edwards County
- October 27 - Conservation Day with EC Soil & Water - Edwards County
- October 28 - SPARK: Paper Circuits - Richland County
- November - Nursing Home Ornament Project - Wabash County
- November - Health Habits Workshops (weekly) - Edwards County
- November 5 - Achievement Night - Wayne County
- November 8 - STEM Activity with Pine Haven Home School - Edwards County
- November 18 - 4-H In a Bag: What is DNA? - all counties
- November 18 - SPARK: Pine Cone Bird Feeder - Richland County
- December - 4-H In a Bag: Window Clings - all counties
- December 16 - SPARK: Light up Holiday Cards - Richland County
- December 24 - January 3 - Offices Closed for Winter Break

## 4-H Enrollment Going on Now!

The new 4-H year started September 1 and with that, enrollments have begun for the 2021-2022 4-H Year. We are seeing new faces joining 4-H, members returning that we lost during COVID, and current members re-enrolling. Parents or kids may contact the Extension Office in their county for more information about clubs in their county and joining 4-H!



## Whole Grains Class

In September, SNAP Community Worker Carol VanMatre taught a lesson in Wayne County on Whole Grains. The workshop focused on tips for eating whole grains and making half of your grains, whole grains. Those in attendance learned the difference between whole and refined grains, how to read a food label, tips to purchase affordable whole grains, and ideas of ways to



incorporate whole grains in their diet. They also watched a food demonstration on Good Raisins and Peanuts snack mix and left with the recipe, handouts, a set of measuring spoons, and a sample of the snack mix.

## Nutrition Presentation at Fairfield Summer Reading Program

SNAP Community Workers Carol VanMatre and Savannah Summerfield provided information at the Fairfield Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Pictured below is their table at the July event. Carol and Savannah provided information on nutrition and physical activity to parents, caregivers and children in attendance.



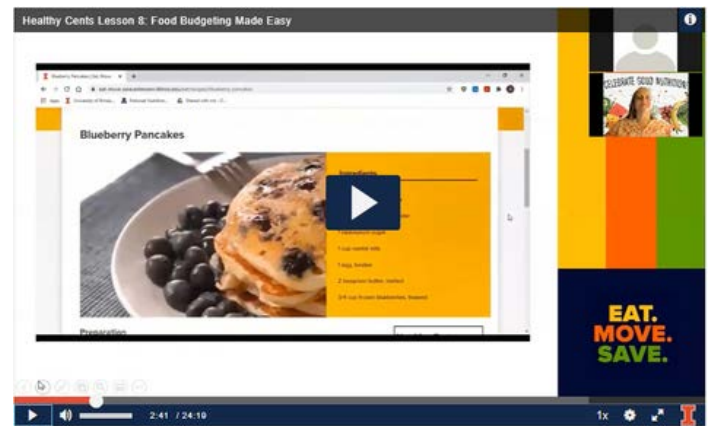
## Canner Lid Testing

For the second year, our Unit has provided Canner Lid Testing. The Edwards and Wayne County offices had testing available all summer for drop-off and specific testing dates were held in our other counties,

as needed. A total of 16 canner lids were tested for our community members. We will offer this service again next summer. It is recommended that canner lids be tested once a year.



## Virtual Nutrition Classes



The SNAP-Education team has been busy throughout the year conducting virtual lessons each month. In August the Lesson was on Healthy Cents: Food Budgeting Made Easy. We have seen good attendance numbers for our virtual programming and the team was recently praised by our Regional Educator for the numbers they have been able to reach in programming.





## Master Gardener Debbie Fearn Serving on Advisory Committee for State Master Gardener Program

Earlier this summer Edwards County resident, Debbie Fearn completed her initial volunteer hours to become an official Master Gardener with Illinois Extension. She was recently asked to serve on the Master Gardener Advisory Committee for the University of Illinois, representing the Southern region of the state. Mrs. Fearn's term will run through April 30, 2024 and we are honored she was chosen to represent our region.

## Master Gardener Program Growing



In January of 2021 our Unit had two individuals sign up to take Master Gardener training. As of October 2021, we now have 1 Master Gardener, 1 Master Gardener Intern, 2 individuals finishing up late summer training, and two more individuals registered to take the fall training session. We also have a list of individuals interested in taking the winter training session. We are very excited to watch this program continue to grow and offer their assistance within our communities.

## Pesticide Testing this Winter

Again this winter we will be partnering with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to offer in-person pesticide applicator/operator testing. Currently five testing options will be available throughout Edwards, Richland and Wayne Counties, December through February. All tests will be available in-person and there is no charge.





## Kirby Hunt joins Illinois Extension as Community Worker for SNAP-Education Program



Kirby Hunt joined Extension on July 14th as a Community Worker for the Supplemental Nutrition and Education program. She joins Extension after working in the childcare field for over twenty years. Kirby resides in West Salem, Il with her son, Jalen. Her daughter Alecis and son-in-law live in Kansas with her first grandson. She enjoys road tripping with family, reading, watching movies, and attending craft fairs and auctions. She is looking forward to learning new things, reaching out to schools and getting to know people in the community. Kirby will primarily cover Richland County.

## Dana Hart joins Illinois Extension as Office Support Assistant

Dana Hart joined Extension on July 20th as an Office Support Assistant and she works out of the Wabash and Edwards County offices. Dana grew up in Jasper County in a 4-H family and her father worked and retired from Extension. She is excited to return to her roots with 4-H and Extension. Dana comes to Extension after several years of experience working in the local community college system. Her favorite part of working for Extension is interacting with the community members and youth involved in the programs we provide. Dana lives in Albion with her husband Bryan and sons, Caden and Eli.



## Current Openings in Unit



Currently we have two openings in our Unit. We are in the process of looking for a full-time 4-H Youth Development Educator to cover all five counties. This position works closely with the 4-H Program Coordinators under the direction of the County Director. Applications for the Educator position will be accepted through October 15th. Our full-time SNAP-Ed Community Worker position search has concluded and we are hopeful to have a new Community Worker soon.



## Edwards-Lawrence-Richland-Wabash-Wayne-Counties

### County Director



**Tara Buerster**  
County Director  
Unit 25

### Office Support



**Theresa Reid**  
Office Support Associate  
(Fiscal) Edwards County



**Debbie Buchanan**  
Office Support Assistant  
Lawrence County



**Dana Hart**  
Office Support Assistant  
Wabash / Edwards County



**Sheri Pitts**  
Office Support Assistant  
Richland County



**Jessica Simpson**  
Office Support Assistant  
Wayne County

### 4-H Youth Development

**VACANT**  
4-H Youth Development  
Educator



**Yvette Anderson**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Wayne



**Debra Collier**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Edwards



**Sam Gaither**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Lawrence



**Jessica Ochs**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Richland



**Megan Pierson**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Wabash

### SNAP-Ed



**Kirby Hunt**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Richland County



**Carol VanMatre**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Wabash/Lawrence Counties

**VACANT**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Wayne/Edwards Counties

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