

# The Quarterly Update

Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash & Wayne Counties

July 2021 - Volume 1 - Issue 2

## COUNTY DIRECTOR UPDATE

Summer is here and with that, programming and planning is in full swing at Extension! We have been busy transitioning back to in-person workshops, and preparing for our 4-H shows and fairs this summer. Our staff continue to amaze me at their perseverance and dedication in learning new technology and skills and pushing forward as things return to a new normal.

4-H Staff are eagerly anticipating all the shows that the summer will bring and seeing all the hard work our 4-H members have been up to. SNAP-Education staff have continued to provide live, online instruction and have also been making visits to local sites and conducted a few programs, in-person. Our Master Gardener program continues to expand in our 5-county Unit. We currently have two Master Gardener Interns working their hours, two individuals going through training and have had more interest from others in taking the training this winter. One of our Master Gardener Interns, Debbie Fearn, has been selected to serve on the State Master Gardener Advisory Committee, to represent the southern region of the State.

In this issue of our Quarterly Report, I am happy to share the highlights of the last three months. I hope you enjoy reading about our recent offerings and we hope to see many of you at our shows this summer!

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

Tara Buerster  
County Director



## CONNECT WITH US!



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



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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## APRIL 4-H IN-A-BAG ACTIVITY

Since January, our 4-H youth have had the opportunity to register for monthly “4-H In-A-Bag” activities, and we have had several kids in our area participating. In April we had our final activity, "DIY Birdfeeder". A total of 146 4-H members participated in our April 4-H In-A-Bag project. 4-H In-A-Bag was a new activity for our 5-county unit necessitated by COVID, however it may be something we continue offering each winter, due to the popularity.



## ALPACA WORKSHOP

Wayne County 4-H Member, Sara McGehee, and her alpacas, Apollo and Winston, made a trip to the Wayne County fairgrounds in April to host an animal science workshop related to the basic care of an alpaca and what alpaca fiber is used for. Sara started the program with an informational presentation telling about where Apollo and Winston came from, what alpacas are used for, alpaca facts, and basic pet care. After the lesson, youth in attendance were able to feed and pet the alpacas and get their picture taken with them. It was a great event, enjoyed by all in attendance and because of Sara, we gained three new 4-H members. That is true leadership!





## Mindful Art Workshop

Susan Sloop, Youth Development Educator, provided a workshop to support the Olney Public Library's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme was "Reading Colors Your World" and in this workshop, participants learned how art can help reduce stress, improve focus and create a sense of well-being. Sloop was assisted by Illinois 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors, Victoria Zwilling and Karlee Piercefield. This workshop took place on June 16th and 27 youth were in attendance, along with a few parents and grandparents. Since the workshop, the library has reached out to find out how else we may be able to partner with them, to provide future programming.



## FOOD DECORATING FUN!



Lynn Hartzell of Copper Penny Cakes put on a Cake Decorating Workshop in April at the Edwards County Extension Office. Those attending learned the basics of preparing a cake for decorating along with several decorating techniques.

## COOKING WORKSHOP

In June, the Wabash County Extension office hosted a 4-H cooking workshop. Participants learned how to make omelets in a mug and red, white and blue pancakes. The kids were able to learn many different cooking skills while making their breakfast meal.

## POPSICLE PADDLE BOAT WORKSHOP

Lawrence County 4-H put critical thinking skills to work in April with a Popsicle Paddle Boat Workshop. Youth were encouraged to be creative in their designs to build the fastest popsicle paddle boat.

Five youth in attendance had a blast racing each other after designs were perfected.





## 4-H HORSE CLINIC

In May, Brooklyn Hazel and David Shain conducted a Horse Clinic in Edwards County for 4-H Members taking horse projects. Those who attended learned valuable information about training and showing their horse. Brooklyn is the current, reigning Miss Rodeo Illinois and 4-H Alumni.



## 4th Grade Safety Day

In May we were happy to partner with Edwards County and Wabash County Farm Bureaus and Ag in the Classroom for 4th Grade Safety Day. 4-H Program Coordinators, Debra Collier and Megan Pierson, facilitated a station on Poison Safety.



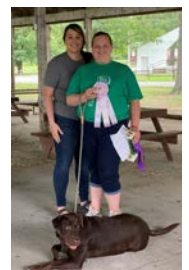
## 4-H Shows Starting Up!

While a majority of our 4-H shows happen in July, we've had a few shows this past spring and early summer. Various shows such as Public Speaking, Food and Clothing, Dog, and Cat shows were held throughout our Unit this past quarter.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

- July 3-11 - Richland County Fair & 4-H Shows
- July 9-17 - Wayne County Fair & 4-H Shows
- July 21-31 - Edwards County Fair & 4-H Shows
- July 24-30 - Lawrence County Fair & 4-H Shows
- July 24-30 - Wabash County Fair & 4-H Shows
- August 15 - Day at State Fair for 4-H Members in Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash & Wayne Counties
- September 1 - Start of new 4-H year!



## DARLA BRADHAM JOINS MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

The Master Gardener program for our 5-County Unit continues to grow. Darla Bradham has always loved flowers. Since her retirement, Darla has successfully completed the University of Illinois Master Gardener training program, and this has been on her bucket list for a long time. She has already worked on a few volunteer projects, as requests have come in, and is well on her way to completing her 60 hours of internship. Once her internship is complete she will be an active member of the Illinois Master Gardener Program.



## MASTER GARDENER INTERNS BUSY PLANTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Darla Bradham and Debbie Fearn were busy this spring planting containers around Edwards County and assisting 4-H members with planting a pollinator garden at the Edwards County Fairgrounds, through a program sponsored by Growmark.



## Program on Soil & Container Gardens for the Boy Scouts

Extension was asked to put on a program for a Boy Scout group in Olney on soil, plants, and planting containers. Master Gardener Interns, Debbie Fearn and Darla Bradham, answered the call and put on a program for the group. The boys learned about different soils and planted a container to take home with them at the completion of the workshop.



## FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM



During the Fairfield Public Library's Summer Reading Program, SNAP-Ed Community Workers provided nutrition education programming focusing on physical activity. Carol VanMatre spoke to parents and caregivers on ways to be more active with their children. Savannah Summerfield provided an activity for the youth at the event. The focus of their programming at this event was to encourage children and their families to exercise and be more physically active.

## Virtual Nutrition Classes



The SNAP-Education team has stepped up and has been able to adapt their programming to assure they continued to reach their audiences. From December of 2020 through May of 2021 Carol and Savannah conducted monthly MyPlate MyFamily virtual nutrition classes for adults. The average participant attendance over the six-month period for this series of lessons was fourteen.



## YES YOU CAN! CANNING WORKSHOP



University of Illinois Extension, Nutrition and Wellness Educator, Mary Liz Wright came to Edwards County on June 7th to lead a basic canning workshop. Participants learned basic food preservation; received the latest, up-to-date home food safety guidelines; learned the latest scientific methods for preserving food safely; and also had the opportunity to have their dial-gauge pressure lids tested. Individuals from Edwards, Richland, and Wayne counties were in attendance and seasoned canners came away with new information.





## LISA SIMPSON RETIRES FROM ILLINOIS EXTENSION

On May 31st, after over 35 years of dedicated service to Illinois Extension, Lisa Simpson retired. Lisa started with Extension in 1985 as a part-time secretary, but soon transitioned to the full-time office secretary. At that time, each county had a stand alone office. In the early 1990's the Wayne County office, in which she worked, joined other counties to form the Hamilton-Wayne-White Unit. At the time of the reorganization she was serving as the County Office Secretary for Wayne County. In 2010, under another reorganization, she became the Fiscal Secretary for the current unit that includes: Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne counties. Since 2010, Lisa has served as the Fiscal staff member for the 5-county Unit.

A retirement luncheon with Unit staff was held on May 27th, followed by a Retirement Open House at the Wayne County Extension Office. Several people attended and enjoyed cake, cookies, chex mix, and Lisa's favorite banana punch. A great afternoon of visiting was had by all and Lisa was sent off with several well wishes.

We will greatly miss Lisa and wish her well in her new adventures in retirement!

Extension Staff at the Open House Front Row:  
Tara Buerster, Lauren Russell, Megan Pierson,  
Debbie Buchanan, Jessica Simpson, Theresa Reid.  
Back Row: Yvette Anderson, Sheri Pitts, Lisa  
Simpson, Carol VanMatre, Debra Collier, Savannah  
Summerfield.





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

### County Director



**Tara Buerster**  
County Director  
Unit 25

### Office Support



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



**Debbie Buchanan**  
Office Support Assistant  
Lawrence County



**Sheri Pitts**  
Office Support Assistant  
Richland County



**Lauren Russell**  
Office Support Assistant  
Wabash 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

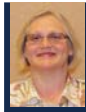


**Megan Pierson**  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator-Wabash

### SNAP-Ed



**Savannah Summerfield**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Richland Co.



**Carol VanMatre**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Wabash-Lawrence Co.

**VACANT**  
SNAP-Ed Community Worker  
Edwards-Wayne Co.

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