

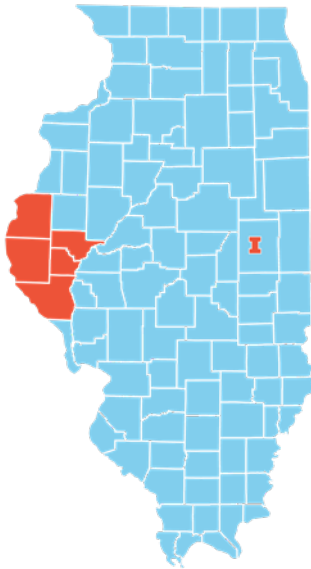
EXTENSION
IN ACTION 

Serving Adams, Brown, Hancock,
Pike, and Schuyler Counties



Shelby Crow
County Director

Message from the County Director



I am inspired daily by our staff, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders. It truly takes collective efforts to fulfill our mission for our residents in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler counties. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders for a successful 2022!

As you read through our highlight from 2022, I hope you are inspired as well. If you did not participate in one of our programs or volunteer with us in 2022, I hope you are inspired to connect with us in 2023! Our educational opportunities and programs reach people at all ages, creating a rich opportunity for lifelong learning. We also offer meaningful ways to volunteer and connect through programs such as 4-H, Master Gardeners, and many more.

The program and initiative highlights in our Impact Report reflect dedication from our staff. Our staff is deeply committed to the Illinois Extension mission and passionate about the work we do. We are committed to educating and growing the next generation of leaders through our youth programming. We are committed to preserving and cultivating meaningful partnership to best serve our five counties. We are committed to creating educational and volunteer opportunities for adults of all ages and stages for an enriched quality of life. We look forward to serving you in 2023!

Shelby Crow
County Extension Director



Illinois Extension Makes an Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's land grant mission thrives each day through Extension's programs, resources, knowledge, and dedicated staff that are responsive to five grand challenge themes:



Community:
Support Strong and Resilient Residents



Economy:
Grow a Prosperous Economy



Environment:
Sustain Natural Resources at Home and in Public Spaces



Food:
Maintain a Safe and Accessible Food Supply



Health:
Maximize Physical, Mental, and Emotional Health

2022 Engagement

Extension leaders, staff, and stakeholders define priorities that create meaningful, mission-centered outcomes throughout the state:

643 Communities Served	720K+ Program Attendees	14.5M+ Webpage Views	22.9M+ Social Media Impressions	900K+ YouTube Views
488 Educational Sessions/Week (25K+ Annually)	95 Online Courses Accessed by 12K+ People	7,062 Local Government Education Webinar Reach	1,807 4-H Clubs	178,341 4-H Affiliations

Partnerships

Resource Generation

5,941 Program Volunteers	269 Community Gardens	1,030 School Partners	\$15,732,391 Value of Volunteer Contributions	\$223,639 Value of Donated Garden Produce
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Investing in the future of farming

The world's agricultural needs are changing, and west central Illinois is meeting the challenge with a new agricultural education center that invests in the future of farming. John Wood Community College opened the doors to the Agricultural Sciences Complex and the Fred L. Bradshaw Learning Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony in Baylis.

The 24,000-square-foot multipurpose space will help build a strong rural economy through agricultural research, education, and development opportunities and is the result of a unique longtime partnership between the community, JWCC, and University of Illinois. The Orr Corporation continues to lead this privately funded project with \$2.1 million of the \$2.5 million target goal raised to date.

The facility at the JWCC Agricultural Education Center and the U of I Orr Agricultural Research & Demonstration Center was designed to meet a variety of agricultural education needs and enhance regional research projects. Students will have access to hands-on learning opportunities with an animal care unit, an exposition area, and on-site crop test plots. It will also serve as a resource for local 4-H clubs and FFA chapters and host events, such as livestock contests and demonstrations, for environmental organizations.

Plans for the new \$2.5 million facility began in 2016, and the college broke ground in August 2021. This collaborative project leverages the strength of a 45-year collaboration between U of I, JWCC, and the Orr Research Center Corporation. Since 1978, U of I animal and crop scientists in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences have helped area row crop and beef producers by sharing the results of research and development projects hosted at The Orr Center.

Photo by John Wood Community College.

Germán Bollero, dean of the U of I College of ACES, attended the center's opening, noting that the new facility will have an immediate positive impact on the region.

"This is something the community should be proud of," Bollero says. "We're here not only to celebrate a building, but to honor and be thankful for the partnership the College of ACES, John Wood Community College, and the Orr Corporation has had for many years – a unique partnership that has moved agriculture forward."

The new center will help meet both local and international agricultural needs. "The world faces significant food issues globally," said U of I President Emeritus Bob Easter. Easter was directly involved and partnered with Fred L. Bradshaw many times over the evolution of the shared site. "The facilities and educational programs that are operated here are critical to us being able to feed the world going forward."

"This new facility will increase and enhance educational opportunities for agriculture and natural resource students and community members," said Shelby Crow, Extension county director. "We look forward to many more years of this incredible partnership and the potential for Illinois Extension and 4-H programs that this new facility provides."

The 400-acre+ site features grassland and prairie plots, as well as a stocked fishpond, which will help provide students with in-the-field learning experiences. "This is a tremendous collaborative project and a tremendous educational opportunity for the area," says Amy Lefringhouse, Illinois Extension natural resources, environment, and energy educator.

Shelly Nickols-Richardson, associate dean and director of Extension; Shibu Kar, assistant dean, natural resources, environment, and energy program leader; and Janice McCoy, assistant director; also attended the center's opening.



Ribbon cutting event at the new John Wood Community College Agricultural Sciences Complex in Baylis. Photo: John Wood Community College



Expanding ag, natural resource education

University of Illinois Extension cemented a major partnership with John Wood Community College with the opening of a new Agricultural Sciences Complex and the launching of a new conservation management certificate program.

Illinois Extension has expanded the partnership with the College of ACES' animal and crop scientists and has added a natural resource, environment, and energy educator to assist in teaching certificate courses as well as coordinating natural resource programming for area residents at the facility. Courses taught in 2022 by Illinois Extension staff included natural resource management and wildlife management.

Illinois Extension and John Wood Community College Quincy campus also worked together in providing greenhouse and high tunnel space for specialty crop research trials and youth programming.

Illinois Extension researchers tested varieties of ginger, galangal, turmeric – tropical plants used in cooking. Adams County Master Gardeners assisted with cleaning, weighing, and harvesting of the specialty crops. The high tunnel and greenhouse were also used during Junior Master Gardener programming for Adams County youth during the summer. The program teaches youth the basics of gardening, including designing gardens, seed exploration, plant nutrition requirements, soil science, and planting techniques.



♥ New focus on energy, natural resources

Whether battling invasive species on property, starting to compost at home, or trying to reduce fertilizers on the farm, doing the right thing for the environment isn't always clear. The University of Illinois Extension natural resource experts connect communities with research-based resources and best practices because small changes at the local level can have a big impact on the environment.

In 2022, Illinois Extension welcomed Amy Lefringhouse as a natural resources, environment, and energy educator in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties in western Illinois, in partnership with John Wood Community College.

"We are proud to serve local residents with expertise and education in specialized areas to improve the overall health of our community," says Shelby Crow, county director. "Residents will now have a local professional to ask questions about their own natural resource issues, to provide environmental workshops, and to serve as a resource for communities to learn how to save money through water and energy conservation."

With community partnership an essential part of her role, Lefringhouse teaches natural resources, wildlife, and sustainable and renewable energy courses for John Wood Community College at the Orr Multipurpose Agriculture Facility.

Lefringhouse is passionate about revealing local natural wonders to communities and inspiring people to further their knowledge of the natural world by serving as volunteers with the Illinois Master Naturalist program.

"West Central Illinois offers so many natural gifts to explore, and Illinois Extension is positioned to bring environmental education to families and communities right to their back yard," Lefringhouse says. She helps residents discover new perspectives about their natural resources, save money at home through energy-saving actions, and discover that time spent in nature can be a path to healthier living. She plans to expand the Master Naturalist program, connect landowners with resources to manage their property sustainably, and engage college students to actively participate in the conservation management field.



"Having managed several different natural sites, I have witnessed the positive impact of conservation practices on land and water resources," Lefringhouse says. "I look forward to learning more about the local natural resources and environmental concerns."

Most of Lefringhouse's career has focused on youth environmental education. Lefringhouse was executive director at Gardner Camp, a youth outdoor education facility. Lefringhouse worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Minnesota.

A native of West Central Illinois, Lefringhouse studied environmental science at Illinois College and has a Master of Science degree in environmental planning and management from U of I at Springfield. She is a member of the Environmental Education Association of Illinois and a member of the Illinois 4-H Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Task Force. She is based in the Adams County office in Quincy and can be reached at (217) 223-8380.



Junior Master Gardeners and Junior Master Naturalists dig in

During the summer of 2022, Adams County youth participated in a six-session educational program on gardening and nature at John Wood Community College. Youth spent time outdoors which increased their physical movement and enhanced their learning through hands-on experience. Participants designed a vegetable garden on grid paper, planted vegetables and flowers in the high tunnel, used soil sieves to determine soil particle size, and watched worms work in the vermicomposting bin.

Youth explored the woods and waters following “Leave No Trace” principles, a program designed to minimize human impact on the outdoors. Aquatic activities included learning about our streams and rivers at the stream table, learning the importance of clean water, especially living next to the mighty Mississippi River, and learning about freshwater mussels and their importance in helping keep our waters clean. They explored the stream, searching for aquatic macroinvertebrates. Youth honed their observation skills looking for signs of wildlife and performed a trail hike BioBlitz, an exercise in identifying as many insect, plant, wildlife species as possible in an allotted time. They identified 68 different species.



Find out more about Illinois Master Naturalists
go.illinois.edu/WCILMasterNaturalist



Attendees of the Rainscaping Workshop Series put their skills into action constructing a rain garden in Nauvoo.

Community rain garden installed

What is a rain garden? Rain gardens are typically bowl-shaped landscape features that capture and absorb rainfall and snow melt. These gardens and other rainscaping features can help alleviate local flooding issues while improving downstream water quality and recharging groundwater.

Over 20 Hancock County residents were trained in rainscaping practices during a multi-session workshop series. The residents learned to site, design, construct, and maintain a rain garden. The class installed a demonstration rain garden in historic Nauvoo. This demonstration rain garden allows residents to see what a rain garden looks like and determine if one would fit into their home landscape.





Elementary schools take to nature with Illinois Extension

Third graders from Unity Elementary School in Adams County and first graders from Western Elementary School in Pike County took to the outdoors to experience hands-on learning during the spring of 2022. Illinois Extension staff coordinated field trip opportunities for over 130 students at Siloam Springs State Park. Research shows there are numerous wellness benefits for children when they spend time in nature. Being outside supports active, healthy lifestyles and reduces stress, muscle tension, and heart rates. Recent research from University of Illinois shows that lessons in nature leave students more able to engage in a subsequent lesson, and students who are diagnosed with ADHD exhibit fewer symptoms after outdoor activities. Students hiked through the forest, got their feet muddy in the stream, closely observed the animals and plants living within the woods and the stream, and studied decomposers working on the forest floor.



For more information, visit extension.illinois.edu/abhps/school-programs





SNAP-ED

OrganWise Guys is a school-based program that promotes healthy living and educates children on the importance of nutrition and physical activity for the optimal functioning of their vital organs. By using kid-friendly names for the different organs of the body and providing education on how nutrition affects them, children are empowered to make healthier choices for themselves.

The program has been found to improve children’s health and academic performance, making it an effective tool for schools and childcare facilities to promote health and nutrition awareness. The flexibility of the program allows it to fit the schedule preferred by classroom teachers, making it easy to integrate into existing curricula. By working with local Extension offices, schools and childcare facilities can bring this evidence-based program to their communities and support children in living healthier lives. This, in turn, can help reduce the prevalence of obesity and other health issues in the community.



ABCs OF SCHOOL NUTRITION

The ABCs of School Nutrition is a valuable resource for school food service staff, providing training that meets the USDA professional training standards. Extension educator Leah Erke taught several courses on important topics related to school nutrition, such as reducing sodium in school meals, food allergies in school children, food safety, and decreasing food waste.

Leah’s courses have been well attended by school food service staff, including at the Illinois School Nutrition Association’s annual meeting. She has also taught courses for schools in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties. Many of Leah’s online courses are open to school food service staff across the state, which makes it easier for them to obtain the required training standards. The high attendance in the food safety course that she co-taught shows the importance of these courses to school food service staff. Leah’s work is a crucial component of ensuring that children receive healthy and nutritious meals at school.



COMMUNITY ACTION POVERTY SIMULATIONS

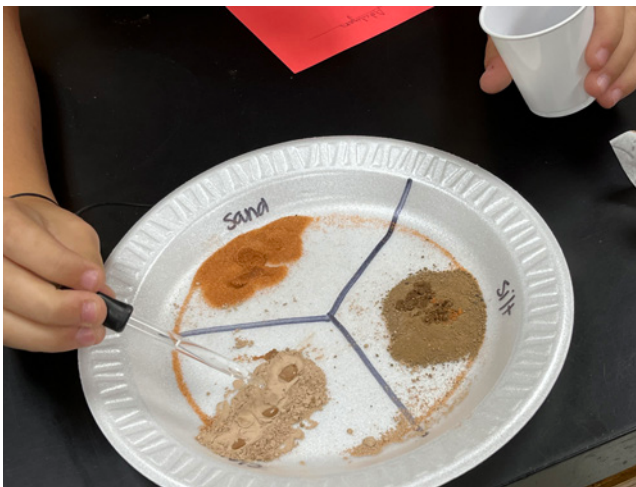
The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) is a unique tool to educate policy makers, educators, and local community leaders about the day-to-day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. CAPS gives participants a unique perspective and insight into understanding poverty. During the 60-minute simulation, participants role play the lives of low-income families from single parents trying to care for their children to senior citizens trying to maintain their self-sufficiency on Social Security. After the simulation, participants engage in a facilitated discussion to process the experience and brainstorm ways to apply what they have learned. This is a professional development opportunity ideal for schools and non-profits. Please call Shelby Crow at 217-223-8380 to schedule one in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, or Schuyler County.





New staff added for Ag in the Classroom

Kinsey Tiemann joined University of Illinois Extension as the Adams County Ag in the Classroom coordinator in December 2022. Kinsey will be conducting Ag in the Classroom activities throughout Adams County in 2023. This position is an example of the long, successful partnership between Illinois Extension and the Adams County Farm Bureau to ensure Adams County youth learn about agriculture. Kinsey is a recent graduate of Western Illinois University, where she earned a degree in agricultural education. Contact Kinsey by email (ktiemann@illinois.edu) or phone (217-223-8380).



Partnership Spotlight

Illinois Extension in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties is grateful to our many partners and stakeholders that share and help support our mission. Two examples of long-term and successful partnerships include the on-going support from the Adams County and Hancock County Farm Bureaus. In both counties, Farm Bureau financially supports the Ag in the Classroom position each year. The partnership is instrumental in the robust and successful Ag in the Classroom program for both counties.





Agricultural literacy program provides professional development for educators

The Summer Agriculture Academy for teachers in Hancock County is an annual program that provides professional development opportunities to teachers, combining field trips, discussions, resources, and hands-on activities. The program has a new theme every year to provide exposure to the diversity of the ag industry in our local area. In June, 12 teachers from different schools in Hancock, Adams, McDonough, and Macon counties learned more about the meat supply chain in the area and its vital role in modern agriculture.

Teachers visited Gemini Goats near West Point to learn about meat goats and their marketing options from Bryan and Julie Stevens. The teachers also interacted with the goats. They visited Green Cattle Company where Wyatt Green explained the process of raising beef cattle to market weight, including the technology he uses and the trials of direct marketing products. Later, the group went to Farmhouse Meat Company in Carthage where for a guided tour of the facility. They learned about

the steps in processing and cleaning and sampled some of Farmhouse's products.

On the second day, teachers learned about embryo transfer and surrogacy in the beef cattle industry from Wyatt Johnson at Timberview Cattle in the LaHarpe area. Wyatt explained the in-depth process the farm uses to ensure healthy calves for their clients and maintain healthy cattle for their operation. Stephanie Hospelhorn, education specialist with Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, shared new materials and activities. The program provides the teachers with professional development hours while exposing them to the practical aspects of the meat supply chain in the area.

For more information on the Summer Agricultural Academy for Teachers, contact Ag in the Classroom Program Coordinator Dawn Weinberg at dweinberg@illinois.edu or 217-357-2150.



For more information, visit extension.illinois.edu/abhps/ag-classroom



New 4-H educator strengthens youth development, career readiness

Illinois 4-H strives to unlock the potential in every young person, helping them dream, plan, design, build, and achieve. University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development staff guide the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

Kristin Huls returned to Illinois Extension as a 4-H youth development educator. She is a resource for youth in western Illinois and develops educational programs focused on youth development, leadership, college, and career readiness.

“Kristin is a very welcome addition to our youth development team,” says Shelby Crow, county director. “Her background and wide-ranging experience with Extension and 4-H will allow us to develop programs prioritizing the skills today’s youth need to be successful now and in the future.”

Huls first joined Extension in 1998 and served in many different roles and topic areas, including 4-H, agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, community and economic development, and county director until 2014.

She was a 4-H member and later participated in the program as a volunteer. Her children are also 4-H members. She says she looks forward to creating programs that help youth develop crucial life skills.

“I would not be where I am today without 4-H, and it is important to me to help youth find their pathway in life through the many opportunities 4-H has to offer,” Huls says. “I hope to provide opportunities for the youth in our area to develop these leadership and career readiness skills through hands-on programs that will help them be successful in life and give back to their communities.”

Huls graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture business and a master’s degree in education. She lives and farms with her husband, Sid, and their two daughters, McKenna and Maci, in rural Hancock County.

Huls is based in the Hancock County Extension office and can be reached at khuls@illinois.edu or (217) 357-2150.



4-H club plants trees in Coatsburg Park

Central Adams Firecracker 4-H Club's commitment to community service led to an effort to address the issue of a lack of shade trees in Lawless Park. By planting native trees, they are not only providing shade, but also contributing to the local ecosystem.

The club secured a grant from the Adams County 4-H Foundation. This demonstrates the importance of partnerships and collaboration in achieving community goals. Adult volunteers provided guidance to the 4-H members during the planting process, showing the value of intergenerational learning and mentorship within the 4-H program.

Additionally, the group planted two trees next to Village Hall, which is a great way to beautify and improve the surrounding area while demonstrating the importance of environmental stewardship to local officials and community members. The club's tree-planting project is a wonderful example of how 4-H members can make a positive impact in their communities through hands-on learning and service.



Learn more about Illinois 4-H in Adams County
go.illinois.edu/Adams4H



Western Illinois youth participates in 2022 Illinois State 4-H Archery Shoot

Asher Mock from the Adams County Shooters 4-H Archery Club participated in the Illinois State 4-H Archery Shoot in Pekin. The State 4-H Archery Shoot consisted of competitions within three archery disciplines: field, 3-D, and FITA target. Asher participated in the compound bow class as a 12-year-old in the junior division and placed third. Overall, competing against other youth ages 12 to 17, Asher finished 12th.





Adams County STEM Club teaches planning and design skills

The Adams County 4-H STEM Club began in the fall of 2021. Members participate in a variety of STEM activities including MAKEY MAKEY, Ozobots, free build challenges, and the Mentos/Soda experiment. The STEM Club offers opportunities to participate in hands-on STEM activities while they learn to design, test, and compete with build designs. The second year began in October 2022 and met through April. This club is open to anyone ages 8-12.



Youth compete in state poultry judging

Elaina and Gideon Smith demonstrated their skill in poultry judging by participating in the Illinois Poultry Judging Contest held at the University of Illinois Stock Pavilion in Champaign. They judged different types of poultry, such as egg production hens and ready-to-cook fryers, as well as poultry parts.

Elaina earned first place in the senior division, and Gideon finished second in the junior division. Elaina qualified for the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, Ky., where she competed against 78 participants from 19 states. Elaina's participation in the event was supported financially by the Department of Animal Sciences, the State 4-H Office, the Illinois 4-H Foundation, and the Adams County 4-H Foundation. We appreciate their support of young people's interests and achievements in agriculture and animal sciences.





The Vern and Leona Shaffer Family 4-H legacy honored by 4-H Foundation

As a 50-year active Ursa Indian Grave Home Extension Club member in Adams County, the late Leona Shaffer sparked a lasting love for Extension and 4-H. Over five generations, 42 Shaffer family members have contributed a combined 346 years of 4-H club membership. Their legacy is honored as the 2022 Illinois 4-H Foundation Family Spirit Award.

Leona spent many years as a host and officer for her Extension club, participating well into her 90s. Many family members fondly remember Leona helping with their 4-H projects throughout her lifetime. Generations gained fond memories and skills that benefit them in their careers today.

“I have used and continue to use communication and leadership skills that I learned through 4-H,” says Kalyn Kirlin, Leona’s great-granddaughter. “It has translated into my career as a registered nurse and an active volunteer in my church and my children’s schools.”

Many 4-H members from the Shaffer family went on to volunteer with the organization, serving a combined 238 years as 4-H volunteers, including 24 years of club leadership.

“Being a 4-H leader has been so rewarding,” says Leona’s granddaughter, Carol (Shaffer) Hull. “Watching these members go from being shy and timid about giving a talk or demonstration or even speaking up at a meeting to holding an office and leading our young members in community service activities has been a great joy.”

The Family Spirit Award recognizes Illinois families who have benefited from 4-H and continue to advocate for the Illinois 4-H program over multiple generations. In addition to length of 4-H membership, families advocate for the county and state 4-H programs through their community service and philanthropy.



Gifts can be accepted in honor of the Shaffer Family
4hfoundation.illinois.edu

Local volunteers inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame

Illinois 4-H relies on its more than 6,000 volunteers to empower and prepare youth for success. Longtime volunteers and former staff members were recently honored by the Illinois 4-H Foundation for their selfless dedication to the University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development program.

In 2022, 84 individuals were inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame, including Carolyn Roberts from Adams County and Natalie Lionberger from Hancock County.

The Illinois 4-H Foundation established the Hall of Fame in 2005 to honor and celebrate extraordinary 4-H alumni, volunteers, and former 4-H staff. Those inducted have a track record of exemplary service to 4-H or outstanding career and community achievement. Each inductee receives a commemorative Hall of Fame medallion.

Illinois 4-H programs reach nearly 130,000 youth each year through 4-H clubs, camps, educational programs, workshops, and conferences held in communities, schools, parks, and homes across Illinois. Volunteers fill key leadership and mentoring roles throughout the state.

“There is a place for everyone in 4-H, whether you have an hour or a lifetime to give,” says Angie Barnard, Illinois 4-H Foundation executive director. To volunteer in your community, one may request information from your local Extension office.



For more information, visit
go.illinois.edu/ABHPSVolunteer



4-H fairs inspire excellence

4-H members in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties wowed the community again with their impressive work and dedication. Their hard work, creativity, and knowledge speak to the value of 4-H programs and the positive impact they have on youth development. It's also important to acknowledge the contribution of the volunteers who give their time and effort to make these events possible. Their commitment to supporting and guiding young people through their 4-H experiences are invaluable to the growth and success of the program. Congratulations to all the 4-H members, volunteers, and organizers involved in these events! Your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring.



Pike County 4-H Visual Arts

Pike County 4-H offered several visual arts workshops, including one using polymer clay. Polymer clay is a popular medium for creating unique and colorful jewelry and beads. Local artist, Laura Bergman, shared her expertise demonstrating how to make polymer clay canes.

Visual arts workshops are a great example of how 4-H provides hands-on learning experiences that encourage creativity and skill-building in a fun and supportive environment. These activities have numerous benefits, such as promoting creativity, fostering teamwork, and building self-confidence. For example, the Pittsfield Producers 4-H Club made festive Easter bunny pots. It's amazing to see 4-H clubs providing these opportunities for their members!





LOCAL STAFF MEMBER HOSTS WEBINAR ON THE NIGHT SKY

Amy Lefringhouse, natural resources, energy, and environment educator, presented a free webinar where participants toured the winter night sky. The Everyday Environment webinar, “Orion & Beyond: Winter Night Sky Tour,” was presented to hundreds of participants who received resources and tools to sharpen your stargazing skills. Everyday Environment webinars share tips and topics that help residents make positive impacts on the environment. The free, monthly webinars cover a range of topics, from choosing plants for pollinators and how to make maple syrup, to weather and tornado trends, homeowner techniques to improve water quality, and how to control invasive plants. For upcoming Everyday Environment webinar information or to see the recording of the night sky webinar, visit: go.illinois.edu/EverydayEnvironment.



PRESSURE CANNER TESTING

Over time, pressure canner dial gauges can become inaccurate. If the pressure is lower than recommended, the internal temperature of the food will not be high enough to kill harmful bacteria. To ensure safety in the home canning process, it is recommended to have dial gauges tested once per year. University of Illinois Extension offices in Adams, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties offer free testing of dial pressure gauges. Lids can be dropped off during regular office hours. For more information, contact the Extension office in your county.



LEFRINGHOUSE ATTENDS ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Amy Lefringhouse attended the 2022 National Conference of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals in Kalamazoo, Mich. in June. Lefringhouse networked with hundreds of natural resource educators around the nation and attended sessions focused on forestry education, community water quality programs, and youth natural resource education.



HANCOCK COUNTY 4-H FEDERATION RAISES FUND FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

During Christmas Around the Square in Carthage, Hancock County 4-H Federation members hosted a cookout fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Members of the Hancock County Beef Association grilled burgers which were served by Federation members. Additional donations were collected from community members who stopped by their table inside Menn’s Firestone. Over \$1,100 was raised during the two-hour cookout. HCBA subsequently matched that amount, and along with a few more last-minute donations, the fundraiser netted over \$2,500.

“The response to our project was fantastic,” noted second-year Federation member Danielle Beeler. Federation members went shopping to purchase household and personal care items for RMH families. The remaining proceeds were used to purchase gas, grocery, and cafeteria gift cards that will be used by families during their stays at RMH. Items were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House campus at the University of Iowa Hospital.





TOM SHEPPARD RETIRES AFTER 45 YEARS AS LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENT

We would like to recognize Tom Sheppard’s long-standing commitment to the Pike County 4-H program as the fair’s sheep and goat superintendent for 45 years. Such dedication to the program and the youth it serves is truly commendable and inspiring. Tom’s contributions to the 4-H program in Pike County are immeasurable. His hard work, dedication, and expertise have shaped the program and ensured its success. The impact of his leadership and guidance will be felt for many years to come. It’s always difficult to say goodbye to someone who has been such an important part of an organization, and Tom will undoubtedly be missed by the program and its participants; however, his legacy and the example he set for others will continue to inspire and guide those who follow. On behalf of the Pike County 4-H community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Tom for his many years of service and dedication. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and hope that he will always remember the positive impact he has had on so many lives!



MASTER GARDENERS RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Adams County Master Gardeners received pins and certificates for their years of service in Adams County at its Annual Christmas Party in December. Receiving the 20 year pins were Cathy Shanks, Deborah Lee, and Janet Enroth. Fifteen-year recipients were Georgi Heidbreder, Alice Rakers, and Rolla Wike. Ten-year recipients were Nancy Boone, Shirley Daggett, Laurie DeMont, Terri Hanlin, and Beth Young. Five-year recipients were Leah Adams, Carol Coulter, Edward Holthaus, Jan Leimbach, and Dotty Niehoff.

There are 24 active Master Gardeners in Adams County. See their projects in several locations around Quincy, including the Illinois Veterans Home, John Wood Mansion, and Moorman Park. We are thankful for our Adams County Master Gardeners who volunteer their time and knowledge to serve the people in Adams County.



GARDENER’S PALETTE

The 26th Annual Gardener’s Palette was a success! The event was held at the Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center. This event focuses on various gardening topics, such as trees, water management, gardening with wildlife, vegetables, and weed management. Attendees participated in two make-and-take sessions where they learned how to make herbal vinegar and create a succulent/fairy garden. Eighty-eight percent indicated the information was useful and could apply it to their own landscapes and gardens. This annual event is held on the first Saturday in March and provides a great opportunity for garden enthusiasts to learn new techniques, exchange ideas, and start preparing for the upcoming gardening season.



Carrie Corrie, owner of Boehm’s Garden Center, delivers a lesson on tree root systems for landscaping enthusiasts at Gardener’s Palette.



Shelby Crow
County Director
Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties



Kristin Huls
Extension Educator
4-H/Youth Development



Amy Lefringhouse
Extension Educator
Natural Resources,
Environment and Energy



Leah Erke
Outreach Associate
ISBE



Stephani Hardy
Office Support Specialist
Hancock County



Jennifer Graham
Community Worker
Pike County



Dawn Weinberg
Program Coordinator
Hancock County



Jennifer Shelts
Program Coordinator
Brown, Pike, and
Schuyler Counties



Madeline Davis
Program Coordinator
Hancock County



Kinsey Tiemann
Program Coordinator
Adams County



Siera Duesterhaus
Program Coordinator
Adams County



Darlene Spurrier
Extra Help
Adams County



Jennie Castlebury
Extra Help
Hancock County



Holly Whitaker
Extra Help
Hancock County

EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS CREED

I believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love.

I believe that education, of which Extension is an essential part, is basic in stimulating individual initiative, self-determination, and leadership; that these are the keys to democracy and that people when given facts they understand, will act not only in their self-interest, but also in the interest of society.

I believe that education is a lifelong process and the greatest university is the home; that my success as a teacher is proportional to those qualities of mind and spirit that give me welcome entrance to the homes of the families I serve.

I believe in intellectual freedom to search for and present the truth without bias and with courteous tolerance toward the views of others.

I believe that Extension is a link between the people and the ever-changing discoveries in the laboratories.

I believe in the public institutions of which I am a part.

I believe in my own work and in the opportunity I have to make my life useful to humanity.

Because I believe these things, I am an Extension professional.

EXTENSION COUNCIL

The University of Illinois Extension Council serves in an advisory capacity to Extension staff. The council consists of community members from all sectors of the workforce, volunteers from various programs, as well as representatives from each of our five counties. Terms are two years with an option to renew for an additional two years. We are extremely grateful to our council members for their time and effort during their terms and want to especially highlight several members whose terms expired in August 2022. Those members are: Leah Adams, Bryan Stevens, and Jan Terry. Thank you to Jan Terry for serving as council chair. Several new members were added in September 2022. Those members are: Barb Casady, Amy Gates, and James Sheppard. Please contact Shelby Crow at sschoon@illinois.edu if you would like to learn more or to volunteer to serve on the Extension Council.

2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Laura Bergman	Mr. Javier Lofton
Ms. Barb Casady	Mr. Sean Park
Ms. Julia Cieslewicz	Ms. Annabelle Schaffnit
Ms. Patsy Davis	Ms. Nicole Schaffnit
Mr. Jake Foy	Mr. James Sheppard
Ms. Amy Gates	Mr. Dan Stupavsky
Dr. Andrea Hanson	Ms. Jeanne Yingling
Ms. Courtney Kirby	
Ms. Brandy Kirby	

OFFICE INFORMATION

Adams County Extension

330 South 36th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 223-8380
Monday - Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Brown County Extension

108 North Capitol Avenue
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353
(217) 322-3381
By Appointment

Hancock County Extension

550 North Madison Street
Carthage, IL 62321
(217) 357-2150
Monday - Friday: 8 AM - 4 PM

Pike County Extension

1301 East Washington Street
Pittsfield, IL 62363
(217) 285-5543
Monday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
By Appointment

Schuyler County Extension

710 Maple Avenue
Rushville, IL 62681
(217) 322-3381
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:
8 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday, Thursday: By Appointment

John Wood Ag Sciences Complex

37803 IL 104
Baylis, IL 62314
(217) 641-4558

ONLINE



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Cover photo: Youngsters explore nature during the Junior Master Naturalist program.



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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, please contact the event coordinator. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

The Illinois Nutrition Education Programs are funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

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