

Summer 2022



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



03. Master Naturalist Training

Hybrid format reaches new audiences and gets positive feed back from participants.

04. Illinois Junior Chefs

Youth put healthy eating lessons into practice through popular annual cooking program.

06. Superior Young Producer

Clinton County 4-H member is one of three recipients of the Superior Young Producer-Dairy Contest.

Summer 2022

Summer was a season of innovation for us here at Extension – we reimagined and redesigned the decades-old Master Naturalist certification program to cultivate and engage the next generation of environmental and land stewards. Our refreshed approach offered participants a whole-family, flexible, affordable and accessible model. This new model has inspired other Extension offices throughout the state to do the same.

I cannot recognize and thank our local team enough for their efforts and unstoppable commitment to unearthing new and unique ways to live our mission of providing solutions to the challenges our communities face, food access being a primary concern. Our new and expanded partnerships with United Way of South Central Illinois and SSM Health, respectively, have led to yet another community garden, this time in Mt. Vernon. Master Gardeners in both Marion County and Washington County planted, maintained and have been harvesting this garden in addition to one in Salem, and another in Nashville. We cannot wait to total the food in pounds we will donate to pantries by harvest’s end!

This highlight only scratches the surface of our innovation and impact. Keep reading and be sure to reach out! Our ability to problem solve in our community is greater with every volunteer and partner who comes alongside us. Thank you for helping us help others through education, resources and services!

Best,

Jordee Koehler

County Extension Director

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ILLINOIS JUNIOR CHEFS SITES



140

ILLINOIS JUNIOR CHEF PARTICIPANTS

134

4-H VOLUNTEERS

813

4-H MEMBERS

2916

YOUTH REACHED THROUGH 4-H ACTIVITIES

51

4-H SHOWS

1,900+

4-H SHOW ENTRIES

our leadership



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JAMIE MAHLANDT
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Marketing & Communication Coordinator

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4-H Show of Champions

Youth Development staff worked together to offer a Show of Champions for top placing 4-H exhibitors from Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington counties the last weekend in August at the Marion County Fairgrounds.

The show was a chance for members to exhibit with youth from neighboring counties to exchange ideas and make new friends. General Projects and Small Animals were shown on Friday evening with Livestock Shows on Saturday.



More than 100 4-H members from Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington counties attended the Show of Champions on August 25-26 in Marion County.



Master Naturalist Training Branches out in New Direction

Master Naturalist certification has been on a slow decline across the state for many years. With Christina Lueking, Horticulture Educator, leading the charge, we were able to engage ten new families with our Master Naturalist curriculum throughout the summer. The effort was made possible in large part to the work our 4-H team contributed as well. Kara Boozer, Youth Development Educator, came alongside the Ag and Natural Resources team to develop and offer age-appropriate, interactive and fun projects that coordinated with the curriculum all summer.

Participant survey results indicate that the hybrid format was well received by busy families. The newly trained Master Naturalists are looking forward to the ways they can use what they have learned. One of the trainees stated, "I became a Master Naturalist to learn more about the natural world around me and how to work within it to protect it for the future. I am looking forward to sharing this acquired knowledge, putting some of the lessons into practice, and assisting with native plant programs."

New Educator Joins the Team

Consumer Economics programs and support now offered locally

Financial decisions can be stressful and life altering, they can also set you up for success in the future. Illinois Extension has a commitment to providing solid, research-based education in local communities. Look for future opportunities to participate in online and in person financial education programs.

Consumer Economics Educator Jamie Mahlandt joined the staff over the summer and is based out of the Clinton County office in Breese. She holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a Bachelor of Science in Finance and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Jamie earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and is certified by The University of Chicago Graham School in Project Management Strategy.



Welcome, Jamie!

You can reach her at 618-526-4551 or knuf@illinois.edu.

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Illinois Junior Chefs

Safe and healthy kitchen habits for youth

The Illinois Junior Chefs (IJC) program is a big hit every summer. Sessions fill within days of registration opening. IJC is a

week-long cooking day camp for youth ages 8-13. Participants learn cooking basics to prepare healthy meals for their family, along with



feature

Bat Walk

Ag. and Natural Resources staff hosted a Bat Walk for the first time on August 30 in Centralia. The program created a buzz among local residents. More than 40 people registered in advance, most of whom are new to Illinois Extension programs. The program focused on the ways to co-exist with bats in human-altered landscapes. Attendees learned about roosting, bat behavior, and foraging along with how to observe and study bats in nature.

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kitchen and food preparation safety practices.

IJC is offered by SNAP-ed staff members in communities where a significant number of youth are eligible for free and reduced lunches. Approximately 140 youth attended the 10 sessions in Marion and Jefferson counties.

The IJC program is offered to youth free of charge and they receive their own cookbook full of the recipes they made in class, along with additional healthy recipes for beginning cooks. SNAP-ed programs are multi-layered to reach both youth and adults in eligible areas.



shout outs

Thank You Marion County Fair

for allowing 4-H members to use the fairgrounds for the Show of Champions.

Thank You Nashville Community Center

for your partnership on the community raised garden beds and the Little Free Pantry.

Thank You Bond County Fair

for making room for the 4-H General Projects Show to be on the fairgrounds during the fair this year.

Staffing Update

Recent retirements, promotions and new positions lead to openings

Over the summer we celebrated the retirement of both Dan Spangler and Joan Tate from our Jefferson County office. We wish them well in their retirement! This has led to openings for an Office Support Assistant and a SNAP-Ed Community Worker in Jefferson County. We are proud to share that Ashley Hoffman was recently promoted. This has created a vacancy in her previous position as a SNAP-Ed Educator for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington counties. Additionally we have an opening for a SNAP-Ed Community Worker in Marion County, a 4-H Program Coordinator in Bond County, and a Youth Development Educator that will be based out of the Washington County office. The posting for the new Marketing Coordinator position has closed, and we will be moving to the interview phase soon. A full list of current openings can be found at <https://jobs.illinois.edu/>.

We welcomed Kelsey Alli last month to the Marion County office. Kelsey is a Marion County 4-H alum, and we are happy to have her on board as the Office Support Assistant there.

Over the summer we were fortunate to have three local college students pitching in to keep things running smooth. Sara, Abby and Andrew have all headed back to school and we wish them the best as they start the new semester. Sara and Abby both worked as Extra Help for 4-H activities, and Andrew served as Extra Help for marketing.

4-H Shows Display Project Mastery

4-H members from our area took the State Fair by storm. Ninety-two members competed in General Projects, earning 13 Grand Champions, 12 reserves, and 11 Inspire Awards. In addition more than 45 of our members entered their respective show rings with beef, sheep, swine, dairy, goats, rabbits, and horses.

4-H exhibits are the culmination of year long project work. General Project shows involve conference judging, where members sit down and talk about their project with experts. Animal shows highlight the member's work to care for their livestock or companion animals. They all give members insight into goals to set for the coming 4-H year.



Superior Young Producer-Dairy

Drew Lueking (left), a Clinton County 4-H member, recently received one of the Superior Young Producer Award-Dairy scholarships awarded at the Illinois State Fair. The scholarship recipients are selected through

a three-phase competition. The top three competitors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. Phases included a Management Test, a Skillathon, and Dairy Judging. The contest is open to youth ages 14 and over.

The start of the new 4-H year on September 1 highlights the need for 4-H volunteers. Our counties are fortunate to have more than 130 dedicated volunteers spread across five counties, but there is always room for more. We are seeking volunteers to start new community clubs, lead spin clubs, teach workshops, and be shooting sports volunteers. Time commitments vary. Call Kara for more details at 618-548-1446.



at a glance here's what's next

September

- 1** New 4-H Year Begins
- 5** Labor Day, Illinois Extension Offices Closed
- 6** Grass Identification Workshop, Salem
- 8** Mobile Market, Centralia
- 8** Southern Illinois Food Security Summit, Marion
- 8** State Master Gardener Conference Starts
- 9** 4-H Family Camp
- 17** 4-H Poultry Judging Contest, Urbana
- 17** 4-H State Archery Shoot
- 20** Mobile Market, Nashville
- 24** 4-H State Shotgun Shoot

October

- 2** National 4-H Week Begins
- 9** 4-H Open House, Nashville
- 9** 4-H State Pistol Shoot
- 10** 4-H Week Service Day
- 13** 4-H Open House, Breese
- 13** Mobile Market, Centralia
- 15** Junior Leadership Conference
- 18** Mobile Market, Nashville
- 20** 4-H Open House, Mt. Vernon

See our full calendar online

Find details on these programs, plus new events being added and online opportunities at extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw/events.

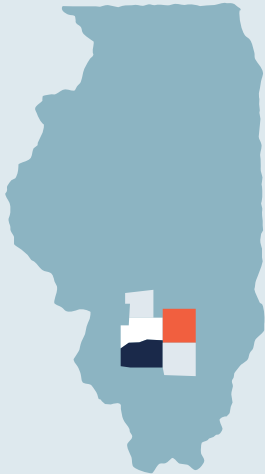
You can also call 618-327-8881 for information or registration.

BUSINESS HOURS

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



Illinois Extension
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