

ILLINOIS EXTENSION



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission

Through its Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) programs, University of Illinois Extension supports the economic viability and environmental sustainability of natural and managed landscapes and productive lands in Illinois.

Engagement

ANR works with producers, Illinois residents, and other stakeholders, including commercial field crop producers and livestock producers, Certified Crop Advisors and other agriculture professionals, specialty growers, local and urban food system participants, natural resource stakeholders, gardeners, youth, special populations, and other community members.

Team

ANR works throughout Illinois, with 43 educators, 45 program coordinators, and campus-based specialists and other faculty. ANR Educators work on teams for Commercial Agriculture, Local Foods Systems/Small Farms, Horticulture, and Energy and Environmental Stewardship. For more information, contact Dennis Bowman, Interim Assistant Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources. ndbowman@illinois.edu

Strategies

Our strategies include applied research, situation and outlook analysis, education, continuing education, training for compliance, volunteer training and coordination, partnerships with state agencies, services and assessments, and convening stakeholder networks.

Our work on food and agricultural production and a safe and accessible food supply focuses on field crop systems, livestock production, specialty crops, small farms, urban food systems, safe food production and handling, food access, and forestry. In the areas of natural resources and home and community landscapes, our areas of focus include water quality, climate change prevention and resilience, invasive species, native plants, home gardens, community landscapes, and green industry.

Programs and topics

ANR supports the economic viability and environmental sustainability of *food and agricultural production* while assuring a *safe and accessible food supply*.

Field crop systems research. Research, demonstration, and education on management and production practices including nutrient application, cover crops, technology use, and pest management.

Field crop critical issues response. Monitoring, research, and education addressing emerging and critical issues affecting field crops.

Certified Crop Advisor CEUs. Education on effective production practices.

Pesticide Safety Education Program. Training on the safe application of pesticides for commercial and private applicators.

Plant Clinic. Diagnoses, management recommendations, and certifications.

AgrAbility. Assistive resources for farmers.

Annie's Project. Training women in farm management, marketing, and legal issues.

Farmdoc/Farmdoc daily. Analysis and information on cornbelt production economics. Led by the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics.

Field days and local programs. Demonstration and outreach on locally relevant production topics.

Farm Safety Days. Family-oriented demonstrations on safe use of equipment.

Master Urban Farmer training. Series to support expansion of local food systems in Chicago.

Beef Quality Assurance. Certificate program covering production strategies and animal care and performance, provided with support from the Beef Check-off program.

Performance livestock sales. Program to increase herd quality through standard-based sales and education.

Livestock production systems research and outreach. Research, demonstration, and education focusing on reproductive health, feeding strategies, and other strategies to improve animal health and cost effectiveness.

Specialty livestock programs. Research and education for commercial and private production of sheep, goats, and chickens.

Specialty crop programs. Research and education on variety selection, pest management, and market development for fruit and vegetable crops.

Small Farms Webinar Series. Practical presentations on small farm enterprises and strategies to support profitability and sustainability.

Food Safety Modernization Act training. Training for compliance with the new Produce Safety Rule.

SNAP-Ed donation garden program. Master Gardener and SNAP-Ed partnership to improve food access through produce donation and food pantry education and environment changes.

Urban agriculture and local foods systems research and outreach. Research, demonstration, and education about local food production.

ANR supports a sustained and healthy natural environment by *enhancing natural resources* and helping residents expand the benefits of *home and community landscapes*.

Illinois Master Gardener Program. Training and managing volunteers to expand community natural assets and promote well-being through education and services focused on plant management, people-plant interactions, and safe food production.

Illinois Master Naturalist program. Training volunteers for environmental stewardship and education, expanding capacity for enhancement of natural resources in Illinois.

Nutrient Loss Reduction programs. Research and education on strategies to promote effective nutrient use and reduce runoff.

Certified Livestock Manager training. Workshop for large livestock facility producers to manage manure in compliance with water quality regulations.

Energy efficiency programs. Education on residential and community strategies to save money and energy.

Invasive species. Monitoring, research, education, and services to contain invasive species.

Horticulture education. Saturday Gardening Days, other in-person sessions, and webinars on gardening, sustainability, and plant management topics.

Native plants programs. Data collection and education on native plant identification and cultivation.

Soil fertility and management programs. Research and education focused on maintaining long-term soil productivity and health.

Sustainable home landscape programs. Education on landscape practices with beneficial environmental effects.

Pollinator programs. Research and education on supporting pollinator populations in home and community landscapes.

Horticultural answer services. Walk-up, phone and online support for home gardeners and producers.

Green industry programs. Effective use of landscape plants, including integrated pest management (IPM) strategies.

Forestry programs. Research and education on forest maintenance for production and natural resource goals.

Community gardens. Development and support of gardens for pollinators and other environmental stewardship, food donation, therapy, community use, demonstration, education, and training of targeted populations.