

Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

2021 Addressing Local Needs,
Solving Global Challenges
Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties

A Message from the County Director

2021 was a year of adaptation and transition. While the world still faced the pandemic, Extension found innovative ways to carry on outreach efforts while keeping participants, volunteers, and staff safe. Extension continued to hone our virtual program delivery skills and found creative ways to offer in-person programs and 4-H shows.

Returning to in-person 4-H shows gave us a reason for hope and cause for celebration. The shows were a bit different than usual to accommodate safety and safety protocols, and a lot of planning went into navigating the ever-evolving pandemic conditions in our communities.

2021 also marked the retirement of three long-time Extension staff members: Sandy Duncheon (Menard/Sangamon Office Support), Patty Huffer (Logan 4-H Program Coordinator), and Sharon Lounsberry (Menard/Sangamon 4-H

Program Coordinator). This represented a loss of one-third of our unit 4-H and office support staff and added further demands onto an already demanding year.

I am very proud of our staff who came together and got it done. They made no excuses, nor did they give up even when it felt overwhelming and deflating at times. We are passionate about what we do and committed to the public we serve. Such dedication is rare these days and is worthy of praise and appreciation. I am also very grateful to our many volunteers who were willing to adapt and help us execute safe events.

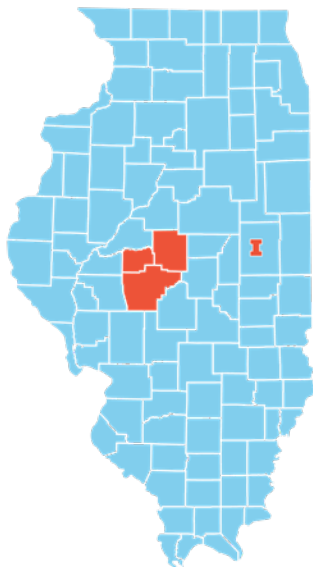
In 2022, we look forward to moving beyond the pandemic; however, we have learned so much in the past two years and are stronger and better prepared to help meet the challenges of our world.

Terri Miller Casey
County Extension Director



Terri Miller Casey
County Director

Staff Serving Logan, Menard, & Sangamon Counties



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Amy Zepp
Program Coordinator,
4-H Youth Development

Think Global, Act Local

Illinois Extension embodies the land grant mission of University of Illinois, providing applied research and education to address societal grand challenges and local issues.

Community Support Strong and Resilient Youth, Families, and Communities

 Connectedness and Inclusion


 Involvement and Leadership

 Thriving Youth

Economy Grow a Prosperous Economy


 Economic Vitality

 Financial Wellbeing

 Workforce Preparedness/Advancement

Environment Sustain Natural Resources in Home and Public Spaces

 Enhancing and Preserving Natural Resources

 Engagement with Home and Community Landscape

Food Maintain a Safe and Accessible Food Supply

 Food Access

 Food Production

 Food Safety

Health Maximize Physical and Emotional Health for All

 Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

 Social and Emotional Health

 Healthy and Safe Environments

Look for these icons throughout this report to see how Illinois Extension is meeting these grand challenges at a local level.

Illinois Extension 2021 Statewide Highlights

Outreach Provided

565	335	84
Illinois Communities Served	Educational Sessions Per Week	Online Courses

Partnerships Supported

6,445	278	1,000
Adult Volunteers	Community Gardens	School Partnerships

Learners Engaged

8,000,000	14,450	500,000
Website Users	Online Course Users	Educational Program Attendees

Resources Generated

\$14,000,000	\$242,000
Value of Volunteer Contributions	Value of Donated Garden Produce

Extension leaders meet with local stakeholders to define annual priorities that allow us to respond to evolving and emerging needs and make meaningful progress toward important long-term outcomes. This blend of long-range focus and local accountability is a powerful strategy that ensures we stay true to our mission as we serve communities across the state.



Thriving Youth

Thriving youth are at the core of healthy, robust communities. Our mentorship-based youth development model applies a holistic development framework, focusing on social competence, academic success, career development, and community connection. The 4-H club experience creates opportunities and environments for all youth to thrive, today and into the future.

Our 4-H clubs and programs remained resilient in 2021 with:



450
Club Memberships



74
Adult Volunteers



41
Clubs



235
Programs



Learn more about local 4-H activities at extension.illinois.edu/LMS/4-h-youth-development

Illinois 4-H Scholarship Recipients

In 2021, three local 4-H members were honored for their career achievements in the 4-H program. The Illinois 4-H Foundation awards scholarships to five Illinois 4-H members in each of nine focus categories. Awards are based on merit and a demonstrated standard of 4-H excellence. Each winner received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Local Illinois 4-H Scholarship recipients:

- Caroline Ahrends: Civic Engagement/Global Living, Logan County
- Ruthie Ruhl: Personal Growth, Logan County
- Cavit Schempp: Natural Resources & Environmental Science, Logan County

Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team

The Youth Leadership Team offers 4-H members and recent alumni an opportunity to give back to the 4-H program while enhancing their leadership skills. The team is actively involved in assisting the state 4-H office in planning, implementing, and evaluating various 4-H events and activities; representing Illinois at National 4-H Conference; and serving as a youth voice of the Illinois 4-H youth development program.

Local members of the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team:

- Caroline Ahrends, Logan County
- Amareon Naudain, Sangamon County



4-H builds stronger communities through service

4-H members pledge to offer their hands to larger service, and each year, 4-H members across our counties work to improve the lives of people in their communities. Examples of 2021 community service projects include:

- Middletown 4-H Club received a Farm Credit Community Improvement Grant to make and install benches made of repurposed plastic at Middletown School and Community Park.
- Members of Town & Country 4-H Club tied blankets to donate to St. John's Hospital.
- Families in Atlanta Ag 4-H Club each picked a local business to recognize for supporting their community during the pandemic. Members made large boxes filled with popcorn, candy, mug cakes, and gift cards. Some families also surprised the recipients with donuts and special thank you cards made by club members.
- Tri-City 4-H Club cleaned up sticks, flower beds, and old decorations at Mechanicsburg Cemetery.
- Cloverdale 4-H Club made thank you posters for sanitation workers, lab technicians, and volunteers at the Logan Food Pantry. Members also spent an afternoon working at the food pantry.
- The 4 Corner Clovers and 4 Corner Buddies made baskets for essential workers at the Springfield Clinic and for the teachers lounges at their schools.
- Greenview Boosters 4-H Club helped prepare for the Menard County Fair by painting at the fairgrounds.
- Town & County 4-H Club members wrote thank you notes and assembled gift baskets that they delivered to local front-line workers.



Sugar Creek Pioneers 4-H Club assembled blessing bags for local organizations that help children.



2021 4-H workshops included a Family Cooking Night in which families logged in from their home kitchens and learned cooking skills and nutrition facts while cooking a meal together with live instruction from a local dietitian.



Educational programs build skill, leadership in youth

Whether virtually or in-person, 4-H staff connected with members, families, and our communities through fun and engaging education programs. Highlights from 2021 include:

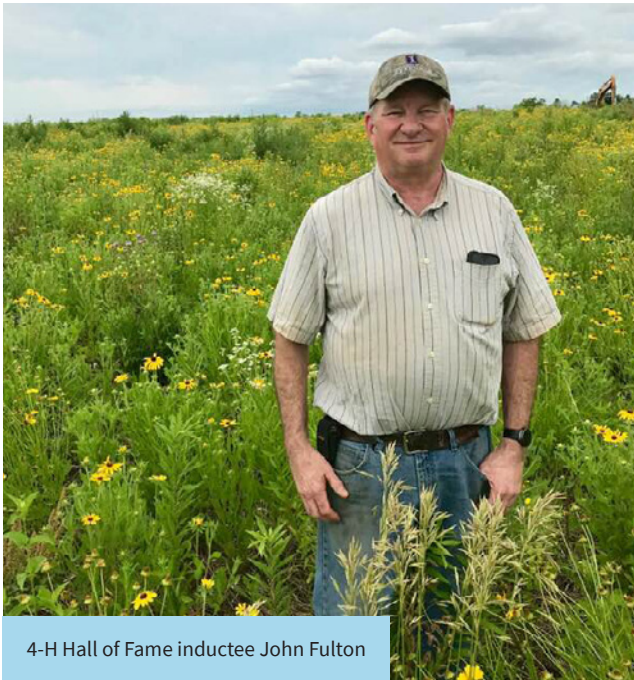
- Around 140 Springfield youth gained critical thinking skills by participating in hands-on science activities during five STEAM in Literature sessions in the summer.
- Annual officer leadership training sparked 4-H members to develop leadership skills, practice problem solving abilities, and learn about their officer responsibilities.
- 4-H Ambassadors (members in grades 8 to 12) learned stress management strategies during sessions about music, nutrition, artistic expression, and service.
- 4-H Cloverbud Camp participants (ages 5 to 7) had a fantastic time in June and July learning from adult and teen volunteers about STEM, health, art, and animals.
- Through Walmart Healthy Habits Cooking Camps at Hope Grows Community Center and Lincoln YMCA, 75 kindergarten through sixth graders experienced hands-on cooking activities, and five Teen Teachers gained leadership skills.
- The inaugural Logan County Fall Festival which promoted 4-H to new families and strengthened relationships with current 4-H families was organized by teen and adult volunteers and reached 100 people.
- Ten youth learned computer coding using Ozobot robots during a workshop at the Sherman Library.
- Sixty New Berlin 8th graders virtually experienced the Real Colors Youth Personality Program, a tool for understanding human behavior and uncovering motivators to improve communication skills.
- A series of STEM activities at Athens Christian Church after school program reached 44 participants in kindergarten through sixth grade.
- At the end of their six week sessions in archery, shotgun, and .22 pistol, Abe Lincoln Shooters 4-H Spin Club conducted exhibitions with 17 participants.



Volunteer inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame

The Illinois 4-H Foundation annually recognizes 4-H alumni, volunteers, and former staff who demonstrate a record of extraordinary career achievements or exemplary service to the Illinois 4-H program with the Hall of Fame Award. In 2021, John Fulton was recognized for his contributions to the 4-H program in Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties.

John Fulton's remarkable 36-year career with Extension began as an agriculture advisor and then a county director serving Logan, Menard, and Sangamon counties. John served on multiple regional, state, and national committees and was an active member of many professional associations. He said that in all his years with Extension, the highlight of his work was the people he met along the way. John is a proud father of three grown children who went through the 4-H program, and he attributes their success to the knowledge gained in 4-H. Extension appreciates John's dedication to 4-H over the years and for the years to come!



4-H Hall of Fame inductee John Fulton



2021 4-H shows were in person

After a year of virtual exhibitions, 4-H members were excited to show their project work during in-person exhibitions that were planned with adaptations to meet Illinois Extension's health safety guidelines.



857

General Project & Livestock Exhibits at Logan/Menard/Sangamon 4-H Shows

Many local 4-H members also earned special honors while exhibiting during the Illinois State Fair.



A student at Mt. Pulaski Grade School makes a mini pumpkin catapult in a lesson integrating agriculture and STEM learning.

Ag in the Classroom builds ag knowledge

Ag in the Classroom is a statewide agriculture literacy program that provides educators and students resources to help them understand the vital role of agriculture in their lives and in society.



In 2021, Ag in the Classroom staff were excited to be back in classrooms providing fun educational experiences. Logan County students in kindergarten through fifth grade learned about pumpkins in October and cranberries in November. Six Logan County 4-H members were trained as Teen Teachers to assist in teaching lessons at Lincoln Elementary School.



700+

Number of Students Reached Monthly Through Ag in the Classroom Activities

Agriculture Education Partnership

The Ag in the Classroom program is part of the Agriculture Education Partnership which works to educate students, teachers, and the public about agriculture in fun and creative ways. Partners include:

- Logan, Menard, and Sangamon County Farm Bureaus
- Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- University of Illinois Extension in Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties
- Commodity groups throughout the state

Ag in the Classroom is also made possible thanks to the support of local businesses and individuals who value sharing agriculture knowledge with youth.



Food Access

Research has drawn a strong connection between food insecurity and poor health and even poor academic outcomes of children. Food insecurity is not just about hunger. It's also about lacking access to the food options that provide adequate nutrition, particularly important for limited resourced individuals and families. Extension's network of volunteers and community partners create opportunities to address food insecurity in locally relevant ways.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education provides vital service

By providing easy solutions through in-person lessons and online resources, SNAP-Ed makes the healthy choice an easy choice where families eat, learn, live, shop, and play. Programs are based on current research and engage learners in practical, hands-on classes and activities. Program staff also partner with local organizations as part of the overall effort to promote healthier settings and food choices. By focusing on improving food access, increasing the likelihood of healthy choices, and helping families save more money, we are making a difference in the lives of Illinois families and their communities.



6
K-12 School Partnerships



3
Emergency Food Site Partnerships

New Partnership with Table of Life Ministries

During summer months when children were not in school, Table of Life Ministries in Springfield stepped up with a children's backpack program to help lessen the nutritional burden on families. Extension nutrition staff members provided educational materials, recipes, and nutrition and physical activity information to participating families. Throughout the summer, backpacks were filled with a week's worth of non-perishable food items. Families were also provided hot meals twice per week during backpack drop-off and pick-up. Table of Life Ministries also offers a monthly food pantry where Illinois Nutrition Education Program materials are available to participants.

OrganWise Guys Nutrition Programming

The OrganWise Guys curriculum is a comprehensive introduction to the human body and its amazing capabilities. The program uses a plush doll with removable organs to teach about the body and staying healthy and active. Paired with Wisercise which incorporates math, language arts, and health information into fun classroom exercises, OrganWise Guys is an engaging program for schools with high populations of food-insecure students. Through this program, students in kindergarten through second grade embrace the connection between the kinds and amounts of food they put into their bodies and how these foods help them stay free of illness and long-term disease.



Learn about Illinois Nutrition Education Programs at inep.extension.illinois.edu



Engagement with Home and Community Landscapes

There is growing evidence that exposure to plants and green space provides many benefits, including improved health, quality of life, ability to concentrate, and relationships with others. Sustainable home landscapes can net economic benefits to communities through increased property value and can create environmental benefits for all through supporting pollinators and other important contributors to ecosystems.



135
Master Gardener Volunteers



39
Master Naturalist Volunteers



9,469
Volunteer Hours Donated



205
Expert Consultations



475
Pounds of Produce Donated

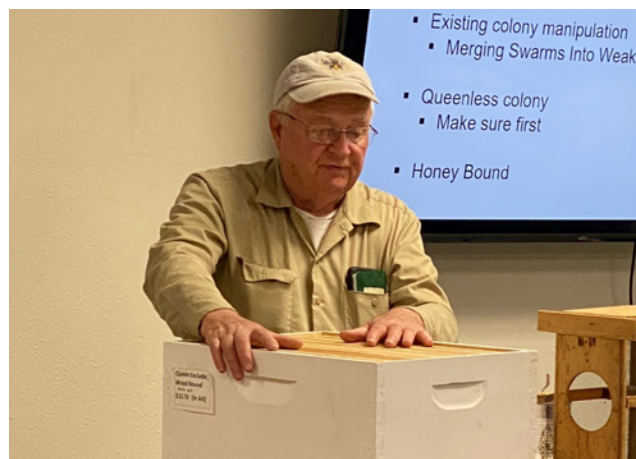


Learn more about our horticulture programs at extension.illinois.edu/LMS/horticulture

Introduction to Beekeeping

During the Introduction to Beekeeping program, attendees explore the fascinating world of honey bees and the steps to becoming a beekeeper. Topics include life of the bee, common pests and diseases, bee equipment, new package installation, how to inspect a hive, and care of the colony. In 2021 the program was adapted to a hybrid format with weekly sessions, pre-recorded videos, and reading materials. This program is sponsored by:

- Illinois Extension in Logan/Menard/Sangamon
- Sangamon County Farm Bureau
- Prairie State Beekeepers.



Rich Ramsey from Prairie State Beekeepers shares knowledge during the Introduction to Beekeeping class.



Master Gardeners volunteer and serve

Master Gardeners are adult volunteers of all ages who love gardening and have completed the extensive program training. In 2021, eight new volunteers completed the Master Gardener training course. Training sessions were offered in a hybrid format (both virtually and in-person) to better accommodate participants' health and safety needs.



Plant sales benefit local gardeners

Sangamon/Menard Master Gardener volunteers held an Herb and Pollinator Plant Sale in May, offering a variety of herbs including basil, thyme, scented geranium, rosemary, lavender, sage, lemon grass, and oregano. Pollinator plants included lantana, pentas, angelonia, and salvia.

Logan Master Gardener volunteers also held their Annual Plant Sale in May offering perennials, prairie plants, succulents, hosta, and a small selection of annual flowers and shrubs, as well as 45 different native plants, including milkweed, cone flower, rattlesnake master, black-eyed Susan, little blue stem, and more.



Master Gardener volunteers Ken Hage, Don Wisniewski, and David Oehmke prepared the Dean Home garden for spring planting.



Dean Home Heirloom Garden

The Dean Home garden is an 1860s period garden located at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. After a two-year leave of absence, in October 2021 Master Gardener volunteers prepared the garden for spring planting by removing weed debris, spreading three pick up loads of horse manure, and cleaning the storage shed.

Master Naturalists volunteer to improve environment

Master Naturalist volunteers make a difference in our environment through education and data collection. They actively educate the public about native plant selections and identification of invasive species. Typical projects include a native plant demonstration garden at Lincoln Memorial Garden, trail hikes to educate youth and adults about the process of making maple syrup, tree identification, feeder watch and bird surveys, and environmental stewardship practices.



Program Partners

- Adams Wildlife Sanctuary
- Lincoln Memorial Garden
- Friends of Sangamon Valley
- Logan County Park and Trails Foundation - Kickapoo Creek Park
- Illinois Extension

Native Plant Program - What's in a Name?

How did the rattlesnake master get that name? What native grass smells like buttered popcorn? These and other garden facts were shared with curious learners in September during a public program taught by members of the Prairie to Perennial Committee. The Prairie to Perennial garden is located in front of the Sangamon County Extension Office in Springfield.



Participants learned about native plants during a program held outside the Sangamon County Extension Office.



Economic Vitality

Rural and urban communities alike must be built on a solid foundation with plans for growth, plans for emergency preparedness and response, and shared responsibility for continually seeking ways to promote economic vitality. Agricultural operations, both large and small, represent a critically important contributor to the economic vitality of Illinois' local and state economy.

Local Government Education

As COVID-19 continued to impact governments, businesses, and communities, Illinois Extension's Local Government Education program increased its outreach aimed at economic investment and community vitality, workforce development, leadership, policy, equity, and resiliency. By partnering with state leadership and organizations in Illinois, Illinois Extension has provided outreach aimed to help local governments and residents build capacity to strengthen their communities and organizations and improve public services. Extension's community and economic development team helps communities build capacity for creative and informed decision-making to enhance their quality of life.



Access past and future programs at go.illinois.edu/LGE

Statewide Webinar Reach



60
Webinars in 2021



2,003
Individuals Learned about Leadership, Public Service, and Community Involvement



1,094
Individuals Learned about Meeting Needs of Diverse or Vulnerable Populations



3,955
Individuals Reached in Economic and Financial Stability Webinars



1,043
Individuals Reached in Economic Vitality and Community Resiliency Webinars

Community-Driven Broadband Reach



1,228
Community Leaders Educated on Broadband Expansion Opportunities



714
Participants Educated on Obtaining Funding and Needs Assessment



416
Individuals Reached on Broadband Project Management



FY2021 Financial Report



● County Board	\$297,406	34%
● State Funding Sources	\$212,231	25%
● Federal Funding Sources	\$324,336	38%
● Local Support/Program Fees	\$29,104	3%



● Personnel	\$567,798	66%
● Rent/Utilities	\$141,689	17%
● Program Materials/Supplies	\$57,500	7%
● Travel	\$22,700	3%
● Other/Equipment/Misc.	\$64,915	8%

Extension Council

The Extension Council is authorized by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, in accordance with state law, to be actively involved in the operation of University of Illinois Extension. Extension Councils cooperate with Extension staff in planning, promoting, developing, implementing, evaluating, and financing an Extension program designed to meet the needs, interests, and resources of the local communities served.

Council members generously sacrifice their time to help Extension remain vibrant, relevant, and in touch with the needs of the communities we serve. Their dedication is very appreciated.

TERRI MILLER CASEY



Find Extension Council information at extension.illinois.edu/LMS/extension-council

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bill Bree Logan County	Clay Irwin Logan County	Elise Ransdell Sangamon County	Vera Small Sangamon County
Nancy Dixon Menard County	Dave Opperman Logan County	Phil Sidles Sangamon County	

COUNTY EXTENSION BOARD

Janet Extill Logan County	Craig Hall Sangamon County	Keenan Leesman Logan County	David Mendenhall Sangamon County	Ed Whitcomb, Jr. Menard County
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YOUTH MEMBERS

Jacob Hartman Sangamon County	Sophia Schneider Logan County	Kaitlyn Smith Sangamon County	Emma Wankel Menard County
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Sangamon County 4-H Beef Show

OFFICE INFORMATION

Logan County Extension

980 N. Postville Dr.
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-8289
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
closed noon - 1PM

Menard County Extension

420 S. 7th St.
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7491
Monday & Wednesday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
closed noon - 1PM

Sangamon County Extension

700 S. Airport Dr.
Springfield, IL 62707
(217) 782-4617
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
closed noon - 1PM

ONLINE



/ExtensionLMS



@ExtensionUnit16



/UIExtension

Cover photos: (top left) Master Gardener volunteer Steve Petrilli prunes grape vines in the garden at the Sangamon County Extension Office. (top right) Cloverbud 4-H member Angel Gomez-Deilo explains her project to a judge during the Logan County 4-H Show. (bottom left) 4-H member Lauryn McAnally proudly shows her rabbit at the Menard County 4-H Rabbit Show. (bottom right) 4-H member Henry Farmer happily poses with his award-winning goat after the Logan County 4-H Goat Show.



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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