

Effingham County Extension 2007 Annual Report



Master Gardeners and Youth Are Growing In Effingham County

The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners were asked to help landscape the Cross. Sunrise Rotary club offered their assistance in June to help mulch the area planted last year. The east side of the visitor's center continues to present a warm welcome to all who stop by. In November, Master Gardeners planted an additional 110 trees around the perimeter of the Cross grounds. The Master Gardeners received a \$2000 grant from Trees Forever to fund the project. The gardeners continue the task of landscape design for the 10 acre plot. In addition, Master Gardeners passed on their expertise to Junior Master Gardener youth as they planted tomatoes and flowers for Lake Land Nursing Center Alzheimer's wing.



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Youth donned the lab coats of crime scene investigators during the summer programs offered at the University of Illinois Extension. Participants with pen and paper in hand recorded the results of the forensic lab tests. Fingerprints, mysterious powders and liquids, fiber and hair samples, synthetic blood types and tool marks were just a few of the sample evidence tested by the youth. Effingham County Sheriff John Monnet instructed youth in fingerprint lifting and proper investigation techniques of the crime scene. The Mystery Camp series allows youth to use scientific investigative methods and

procedures to solve crimes.

Dear Friends,

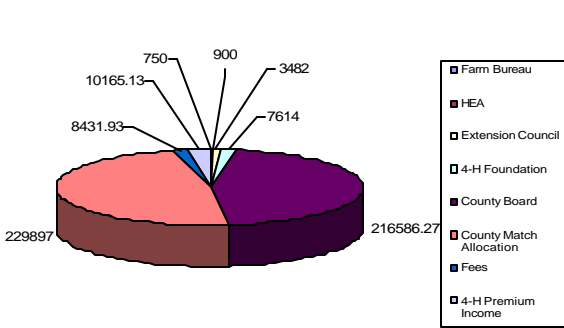
No matter what your age, occupation, or where you live in Effingham County, University of Illinois Extension provides research-based information and educational programs for Effingham County residents to improve their quality of life in diverse and ever-changing communities.

This report highlights some of the educational programs, but not all, conducted by the University of Illinois Extension – Effingham County Extension Unit in the past year. Please call our office at 217/347-7773 if you would like more information about our programs, or if you would like additional copies of this report.

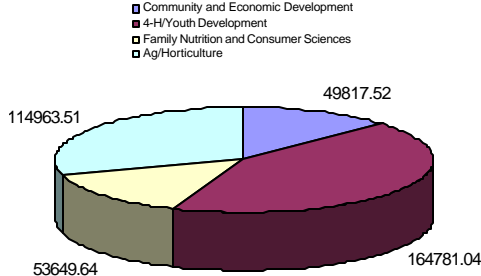
Sincerely,

Rosemary Gibbons

Rosemary Gibbons
Effingham County Extension Director



Income Breakdown by Category



Expense Breakdown by Category

University of Illinois Extension - Effingham County Council Members

President - Carol Perkins	Leslie Niebrugge	Chad Baker	Bob Westendorf
Vice President - Kent Mellendorf	Jeremy Pruemer	Solomon Dzakuma	Anne Hudson
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Patricia Hernandez			
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Effingham County Governing Board Representative	Carolyn Willenburg		

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Effingham County Extension Staff

Rosemary Gibbons , Effingham County Extension Director	Patti Logan , 4-H Community Worker
Elizabeth Weaver , Family Nutrition Program Coordinator	Jackie Hahn , Secretary III
Brenda Roedl , Natural Resource Educator	Anne Wend , Youth Development Educator

The School Resource Officer Program



- + An effective and cutting-edge educational partnership with the Effingham County Sheriff Department and the University of Illinois Extension-Effingham County.
- + Continues a strong SRO program history of effective law enforcement, crisis intervention and prevention within the Effingham County Schools.
- + Provides the local school districts, teachers, and families with a committed team of officers who are attentive and sensitive to the needs of the community.
- + Offers a wide variety of researched-based prevention and intervention education programs, materials and resources.
- + Allows direct access to Extension which has demonstrated its capacity to translate academic efforts and campus-based research into practical application and long served as the primary outreach arm of the University of Illinois.
- + Provides an only one of its kind collaboration between a School Resource Officer Program and U of I Extension.
- + The School Resource Officer program had 11,375 educational contacts for the 2006-2007 year.



National 4-H Congress

Over the past eight years I have devoted much of my time and hard work to my 4-H career. This dedication has changed me into the person I am today as well as provided me with some opportunities I never would have imagined. 4-H, through my projects and activities, has helped me to become a better leader and to develop life skills such as public speaking, time management, and organization. My visual arts and woodworking projects have given me the chance to express myself and are also my favorite projects to work on. In addition, my 4-H experience with animals has helped me to realize the career I want to pursue in the future, veterinary medicine. 4-H has driven me to work toward my goals and strive on the county and state level as well as meeting many of my toughest goals. I was selected to attend the State Legislative Connection, became a member of the East Central Region Youth Leadership Team, selected to attend Citizenship Washington

Focus, and National 4-H Congress. When my older sister was selected to attend Congress, I knew I also wanted that honor. That was the goal I have been working on for many years, and it was that goal that pushed me to succeed. This past November, I attended National 4-H Congress and it was a very exciting and rewarding experience for me.

My favorite part of National 4-H Congress was meeting so many people. The mixers we had were fun and gave me great ideas to take back to my club and leadership team. Another one of my favorite activities was the International Dinner and Dance. There were booths from many different countries set up all around the room with food and props from that country. We were able to go around and taste the food and learn about each of the countries. After eating, we watched 4-H members from Hawaii and Puerto Rico perform their native dances. The day I spent at the Festival of Trees was also very enjoyable. I spent the morning putting together artificial trees to be decorated and auctioned off to benefit the local hospital. While in Atlanta, I was also able to see some of the city's sites such as the Atlanta History Museum and the Georgia Aquarium. This year was also a very special year for 4-H and Habitat for Humanity. For several years, 4-H members attending National 4-H Congress have been donating money to fund a house for Habitat for Humanity. This year the house was completed and sold to a lady in need. One evening she came to speak to us and told us her heartwarming story. All of these events as Congress make up one of the most memorable weeks of my life. This experience at Congress and many others throughout my 4-H career stand out in my memory. 4-H is a huge part of my life and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Nicole Haarmann.

Update on South Central LEAM and Community Matters project

The South Central Illinois LEAM & Community Matters Project is a regional planning process for a five county region that includes Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, and Marion Counties. The process provided valuable assistance for more than 150 community stakeholders in creating a dialogue, vision and plan for the future of the South Central Region.

Land Use Evolution and impact Assessment Model brings together expertise in substantive issues, modeling, high-performance computing, and visualization from the departments of Urban Planning, Geography, Economics, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), ERDC Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, and private industry. Locally, this project was developed with leadership from the South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission and sponsorship from each of the County Boards and the Illinois Department of Transportation. University of Illinois Department of Urban & Regional Planning and University of Illinois Extension faculty, staff and students facilitated regional and county-wide discussions over the past six weeks. This public engagement process is the first step in developing LEAM models specifically for the South Central Region. Utilizing information gained through the regional and local discussions, LEAM Lab researchers will further localize the information and create scenarios based on areas of greatest concern as expressed by participants. The final results of the LEAM simulations and impact analysis will be presented in fall 2007. For a summary of the issues presented during the regional or county discussions, please contact the University of Illinois Extension – Effingham County office.



Effingham Family Nutrition Program Changes Lives

I would like to applaud the University of Illinois Extension Office for their outstanding Family Nutrition Program. Effingham Unit #40 Schools and the Family Nutrition consultant, Liz Weaver, work very closely together to meet the needs of families who will benefit. The past several years have been successful as the Nutrition Program provided family nutrition activities to over 200 (per event) families, children and mentors for our Holiday Celebration Mentoring Party. Literacy, nutrition, and fun have been combined as the families cook and work together. The events have been terrifically organized and it is so wonderful that all materials and ingredients are provided through the nutrition program. The children love and look forward to the cooking and nutrition activities each year.



Another partnership involves the Summer Food Program. This partnership between Catholic Charities, Effingham Unit #40 Schools and U of I Extension Family Nutrition Program began in the summer of 2006. This daily free summer food program is funded through the Illinois State Board of Education and is an open site for all children to receive a free lunch. The Family Nutrition Program provided help, games, support and most importantly, cooking classes for children and families attending the lunch program. The children participated in the classes after they ate lunch. These were fantastic for all concerned. Learning about nutrition information and healthy choices were stressed. The ideas were very creative and the children loved being involved. One day a little three year old boy left the room to go home and then came running back in because he forgot his recipe and he wanted his mom to read the recipe to learn how to make fruit smoothies at home. I was so impressed that he understood the recipe at 3 years of age and was happy that he and his young mother would be able to make this together at home. This summer the Family Nutrition will once again partner with the Summer Food Program to provide cooking classes and nutrition instruction for children and families. We are so excited to have Liz back and so enjoy her creativity, energy and passion.

Thanks to the University of Illinois Extension Family Nutrition Program for being such an involved and committed partner!!!

Kim Varner, M.S.W.
School Social Worker
Central Grade School
Effingham Unit 40

Agriculture and Natural Resources

More than 150 area farm producers and businessmen attended the 2007 Central Illinois Tillage Seminar, themed "Tillage Management: Economics & Environmental Stewardship", which focused on the critical role which tillage plays in making corn and soybean enterprises profitable. The event was co-sponsored by the multi-county conservation agencies of University of Illinois Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, AISWCD, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Collaborating with the Illinois Department of Agriculture 49 producers were certified in the **Certified Livestock Managers Training** program and trained another 72 producers in the **Pesticide Safety Education Program**. The **Dairy Roundtable** provided current dairy nutrient and management strategies to a combined audience of 20 local dairy producers.

Strong demand continues for **Diagnostic Services and Information** pertaining to home horticulture. More than 900 individual client requests were processed, with 135 of those utilizing the statewide online Distance Diagnostics Digital Imaging (DDDI) system.