



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Woodford County Extension in Action

An Extension Newsletter for Woodford County Officials

Summer 2009

Comments from the Director:

It's Fair time! Please join University of Illinois Extension, 4-H members, families, neighbors, and friends at the 2009 Woodford County 4-H Fair. If you've never had the chance to visit the Fair or were not involved in 4-H in your youth, this is a perfect opportunity to see firsthand what University of Illinois Extension's 4-H Program is all about.

On July 21, 22 and 23, about 455 youth from all over the county will exhibit items that they've taken care of or created during the past year. The youth are judged on what they've learned in their project area, as well as on their finished project. We are continually amazed at the talent of Woodford County's youth. Each year the projects are more creative, technical, and artistic. Plus there is no better setting in which to enjoy the exhibits than the Farm Bureau Park. Home of the 4H Fair since 1946, the beautiful park filled with trees, livestock barns, food stands, and exhibit halls is a great place to spend a morning, afternoon, or evening visiting with neighbors, friends, and family and admiring the hard work of our county youth.

We would especially like to invite you to be Extension's guest at the annual Eureka Rotary lunch at the Fair on Tuesday, July 21 at noon. Lunch will include a barbeque sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, pie, and lemonade, tea, or water. Following lunch, there will be a special program highlighting several of our 4H members and their projects. After the program, you'll get a special preview of youth exhibits in the General Projects Building and 4Hers will be available to give tours of the livestock exhibits. If you would like to attend lunch, please RSVP to the Extension Office by July 13.

Below are highlights from our Schedule of Events. I hope you'll join us!

Exhibits – over 200 different 4-H Projects will be on display:

Visual Arts, Clothing, Vegetables, Rockets, Woodworking, Robotics, Fishing, Food, Welding & Many More!

Tuesday, July 21 (8:00 am – 10:00 pm):

Swine Show – 8:00
Goat Show – 1:00
Kid's Tractor Pull – 2:30
4-H Horse Show – 5:00
Rabbit Petting Zoo and Rabbit Olympics – 5:30
Entertainment – Dan Barth Old Time Medicine Show – 6:00 & 7:00
Teen Dance – 8:00 – 10:00

Wednesday, July 22 (8:00 am – 10:00 pm):

Sheep Lead Show – 8:00
Sheep Show – 9:00
Dairy Show – 2:00
Rabbit Costume Judging – 2:00
Dog Costume Judging – 4:00
Dog Obedience Judging – 6:00
Fashion Revue & Trophy Presentations – 7:00 pm

Thursday, July 23 (8:00 am – 2:00 pm):

Rabbit Show – 8:30
Small Pets & Cat Care Judging – 10:00
Beef Show – 10:00

Cynthia Baer, County Extension Director



Programming Highlights

Community and Economic Development

Your Needs + Our Staff = Programs That Help You!

University of Illinois Extension staff is always open to suggestions. Your suggestions are taken seriously and often result in programs tailored to fit your needs. What we often find is – if you have a need for education/training in a certain area – chances are very good others in our county could benefit from it as well. This occurred earlier this year when we were approached by the Village of Roanoke about providing some training for their elected officials. The result was an afternoon program on Friday, April 17 titled “**A Primer for Elected Officials.**” Fourteen elected officials from around the county attended the program. The first speaker, Mr. Bob Sampson of University of Illinois Extension, presented tips on how to respond to the media effectively. Mr. Sampson’s personal background as both a reporter and a former Macon County Board member and chairperson allowed him to use his own experiences to illustrate points. The second speaker, Pete Fandel, focused on the basics of Robert’s Rules of Order. He reviewed all of the commonly used actions and the rules for their use. Each participant received a simple handout that can be used as a reference during meetings and participated in a strategy activity to test their understanding of the actions.



Cynthia Baer
County Extension
Director

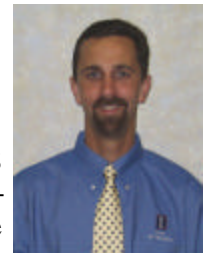


Feedback from the program was overwhelmingly positive. If you, your committee, or organization could benefit from this program or if there are other topics you need information or training on, please contact us to discuss program options and set a program date. As this example shows, Extension is here to meet your educational needs and help you work more productively!

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

This year farmers were given a choice under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), between the usual price-based safety net provided by direct and counter-cyclical payments and the new revenue-based safety net know as ACRE. Most farmers were comfortable with the older price-based USDA program that provided the direct and counter-cyclical payments as this program has been around for many years. However, the new ACRE program is based on a revenue safety net and this changes how/when a farmer might receive a government payment.



Pete Fandel
County Extension
Agriculture
Educator

Every farmer in the US must decide which of these two programs they wish to use on their farms for the 2009 crop year before August 15, 2009, and the decision is irrevocable once it is made. This decision is not an easy one for most farmers as it has the potential to drastically affect their profitability. Many farmers were very uncomfortable being asked to choose between a program they were familiar with and one that was new with incomplete information available.



To address this issue, Pete presented six informational meetings about the ACRE program in several Woodford County communities during a two week period in late March. These programs reached over 220 Woodford County producers and provided them with as much detail and examples as possible so that they could make an educated decision about these two programs and estimate their affects on the profitability of their farming operation. Since those meetings, Pete has been asked to present at a few more meetings in June after the busy planting season comes to an end.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Soon to Offer Shooting Sports Project

University of Illinois Extension's 4-H program has received approval to become involved in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program has been in existence since the mid 1970s, but some individual states offered a 4-H shooting sports program as early as the 1930s.

Illinois sent five participants (including Pete Fandel) to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Training Program in Westin, West Virginia, in May. The training offers instruction in disciplines that include: shotgun, air rifle, small bore rifle, archery, program coordinator and others. Now, the Illinois "team" will work to develop and schedule volunteer adult trainings for the Illinois 4H program. The trained volunteer adult leaders will form the foundation for Illinois' program. It is anticipated that the first volunteer adult leader training for Illinois will be held in the fall of 2009.



Cathy Blunier
County Youth
Development
Educator



As the program evolves, 4H members will have opportunities to test their shooting, hunting, and sportsmanship skills in county, regional, state, and national competitions. 4Hers in the national program have demonstrated high achievement in the field, in the classroom, and on the target range—but personal development for young people and adult leaders is the real objective.

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences

If you are out and about in Woodford County and happen to see a child wearing a white or blue t-shirt emblazoned with "Woodford County 4-H School Enrichment," chances are good that this child has been involved in one of U of I Extension's enrichment programs in their school. These programs bring 4-H projects to the schools, and each classroom essentially becomes its own 4H club for the duration of the project.

Each spring, county third graders participate in a horticulture project which teaches them the basics about seeds, germination, plant growth, and what parts of the plant many common foods come from. With the help of Gwen and the Woodford County Master Gardener's, every student plants both cucumber and marigold seeds. For two weeks, the students keep records of the progress of their plants, involving many aspects of education as they measure, share watering chores, and write about their plant observations. At the end of the two weeks, our team returns to "judge" the project. If the students kept records (even if their plants don't make it!), they receive a white t-shirt as a reward (or a "Project Green Thumb" ribbon in Germantown Hills). They also take their plants, and a new appreciation for them, home for transplanting and enjoying all summer long.



Gwen Buchanan
County Family
Nutrition
Program
Coordinator

In both fall and spring, county fourth graders (and Germantown Hills third graders) participate in an entomology project studying the lifecycle of Painted Lady butterflies. Extension provides an overview of the lifecycle, as well as the butterfly larvae for each classroom. The county's teachers do a wonderful job of incorporating this project into their classroom activities as the larvae progress to the pupa stage and then into adults. It's very exciting for those students who happen to be in the room when the adults emerge! Each student researches one butterfly and makes an accurately colored poster with facts specific to that butterfly. All students who participate in the project by making a poster receive a blue t-shirt as a reward. Releasing the adult butterflies is always a highlight of the project.

In 2009 the Extension School Enrichment Program was supported by the following businesses: Hometown Community Banks, Goodfield State Bank, Pfister Hybrids, Woodford IGA Stores, Heartland Bank & Trust, Early-bird Feed & Fertilizer, Robert A. Bally, Eureka Ace Hardware, and Eureka Printing Company. Their contributions helped cover a portion of the program expenses and allowed Extension to continue this valuable program. By bringing 4-H projects to the classroom, we hope to share the knowledge passed on from the University, as well as peaking the interest of students and parents who may think that 4-H is only for "farm kids." It's not!



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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Pete Fandel, Educator
Cathy Blunier, Educator
Gwen Buchanan, Coordinator

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Dawn Maloney
Ryan McHenry
Debbie Miller
Emily Miller
Jack Pfaffmann
Bill Royer
Bill Schulz
Dana White

Mark Your Calendars!

Woodford County 4H Rotary Lunch – Tuesday, July 21, 12:00 pm at the Farm Bureau Park, Eureka. All county elected officials are welcome to join Eureka Rotary for their annual lunch at the 4H Park. Enjoy lunch prepared by the Woodford County Homemakers Extension Association and a program presented by 4-H youth. A tour of the exhibit areas is available afterward. To register for lunch, call the Extension office at 467-3789 or e-mail Cynthia Baer at crbaer@illinois.edu by July 13.

Woodford County 4-H Fair – July 21 – 23 at Farm Bureau Park, Eureka. View over 200 exhibits from cows to robotics cared for or created by over 400 Woodford 4-H youth. The Fair is open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on July 21 and 22, and from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on July 23. Call the Extension office (467-3789) for more information.

Illinois Conference on Agricultural Land Use Planning – August 6, 8:30 – 3:30 at Oak Ridge Golf Club, LaSalle, Illinois. “Tools, Planning, and Preservation in a Transitioning Economy” is designed to assist local officials, farmers, landowners, and agency staff to look at planning issues that impact farmland, agriculture, and neighboring communities. Advance reservations are required by July 30. Certified County Officials credits are available for certain sessions. To register or for more information, visit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/rockfordcenter> or call 815-395-5710.

Learn-from-Home Farm Leasing Course – August 24 – November 20. Landowners have many issues to deal with – from how much to charge for rent, to what kind of lease agreement is best, to what they should expect from the farmer who is leasing the land. To help landowners sort through these decisions, University of Illinois Extension is offering the course *Farm Management 120: Leasing for Farmland Owners*. This is an e-mail based class; participants will download materials from their e-mail and study at their own pace. Cost for the class is \$65, and the registration deadline is September 9. To register, log on to <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaigncenter> or contact Kevin Brooks, kwbrooks@illinois.edu, 217-333-4901.

From Field to Furnace: Using Miscanthus as an Alternative Energy Source – August 31, 6:30 pm. Farm Bureau Building, Eureka. University of Illinois Extension Educator Gary Letterly will discuss via telenet the use of Miscanthus as a potential alternative crop for producers and energy source for power plants and individuals. The fee is \$5. To register for this teleconference, call the Extension office at 467-3789.

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in any of our programs, please contact the Woodford County Extension Office at (309) 467-3789.



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