2017 Impact Report
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
SERVING ADAMS, BROWN, HANCOCK, PIKE, & SCHUYLER COUNTIES

ILLINOIS Extension
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
A Note from the Director

It is my pleasure to represent a staff of outstanding professionals who work daily to positively impact the lives of the citizens of Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties.

Our Extension Unit experienced an outstanding 2017. We have entered 2018 with optimism about moving forward in our continuing efforts to make people and communities better in the counties we serve.

Why this optimism?
1) Growing support from campus leadership;
2) Great replacements for the steady trickle of staff retirements; and
3) Energy and enthusiasm within the ranks of our important volunteers.

The increase in campus support has been particularly beneficial and expressed itself in two ways:
- Illinois Extension Director George Czapar developed temporary revenue streams for Units to partially offset state shortfalls. These funds buy more time for the state to stabilize support for Extension.
- Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Kim Kidwell and Dr. Czapar toured our Unit in December. They observed some programs in action and learned from staff, volunteers, and partners about the positive local impacts we are having through our work.

Receiving positive feedback and concrete support from campus for the good work in the field inspires us to serve the needs of our local clientele even more. One purpose of this annual report is to make you aware of how we are meeting some of these needs.

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of Unit 14 serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler counties, I hope you enjoy learning more about our programs and their impact – but my greater hope is that you will come and participate in some of our programs in 2018 and encourage others to do the same.

Thank you for your continued support,
Earl Bricker, County Extension Director
dbricker@illinois.edu
Our Goal
To provide meaningful and impactful programming to the people throughout our communities.

What We Do
U of I Extension is the flagship outreach effort of the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. We provide answers based on scientific research in areas like nutrition, the environment, gardening, family, youth leadership, business, and community. Extension works to strengthen our local food production, distribution, and use to enhance our fresh food supply.

Mission
Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.

Our staff is committed to developing and delivering programs that impact the lives of our community members. The programs we offer are derived through local needs assessment processes.

University of Illinois offers research-based programs to local communities through our county Extension offices. Educators work with volunteers to expand services in youth leadership development and 4-H, home gardeners, community economic strategies, consumer awareness, and trends in agricultural practices. I am proud to be a volunteer.

SUSAN KISSICK, ADAMS COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Total Direct Contacts Reached by Unit 14 Staff
43,838
Real Colors

This workshop is ideal for staff development and team building. Participants gain an understanding of the four colors (personality types), discover where they fall on the Real Colors spectrum, gain insight into each of the colors and learn communication styles of each of the colors. The following organizations or workshops benefitted from Real Colors training.

- Annie’s Project
- Western Illinois Leadership Academy
- Tracy Family Foundation staff
- Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Adams County staff

Poverty Simulation

The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) is a unique tool to educate everyone from policy makers, educators and local community leaders about the day-to-day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. CAPS gives participants a unique perspective and insight into understanding poverty. This program is ideal for teachers and administrators working with students living in poverty.

More than 500 people in our region participated in Poverty Simulations

- Western Illinois Leadership Academy
- Adams County Works sponsored by Workforce Investment Board and GREDF
- Blessing–Rieman College of Nursing
- Youth Leadership Academy
- Liberty School District
- Quincy Conference
- Washington & Dewey Elementary Schools

County Leadership Academy

Each year, county, township, and municipal elected and appointed officials and administrators from across the state learn through the Local Government Education webinar series. In 2017, 1400 local government officials learned through the live webinars and program recordings on a variety of topics, including State and Federal legislative updates, Infrastructure for Economic Development, Disaster Recovery, Rural Youth Retention Strategies, and the Opioid Crisis in Illinois.

For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/lge

Chris Billingsley, Schuyler County board member, and Paul Petty, Pike County sheriff, participated in the 2017 Leadership Academy. It was developed by U of I Extension in partnership with United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) to provide leadership training on issues important to elected and appointed county officials.
Youth Leadership Academy
Youth Leadership Academies are a core Unit program with three offered every year – one for Adams County youth, one for Hancock County, and one for Brown, Pike and Schuyler county schools. All high school juniors are invited to apply with around thirty accepted in each.

An important component of these programs, one which the youth begin working on in the first session, is a group project that deals with either an issue or provides a community service.

Adams County YLA

Central High School – students collected money to purchase toys for children at Christmas.

Liberty High School – students worked to reinstate a recycling program in the high school.

QHS Girls – students collected money and purchased toys for the Good News of Christmas.

QHS Boys – planted a tree for suicide awareness at the high school.

Unity High School – organized a clothing drive and distributed winter clothing to needy families.

QND – students raised money for the Honor Flight.

Hancock County YLA

Hamilton High School – students held Penny Wars to collect money for the Hamilton Library.

Illini West – students volunteered at Hickory Grove nursing home.

Warsaw High School – students held a coat/winter clothes drive and distributed coats, hats, and gloves to needy children in their school district.

Pike/Brown/Schuyler YLA

Brown County High School – students held Penny Wars to support Adopt-A-Family for Christmas.

Pikeland High School – students worked to increase attendance at school activities and events.

Rushville/Industry High School – students collected food and hygiene items to be made available to those in need.

Western High School – students worked to increase student representation in developing policy in the school district; their first project was working towards an open campus lunch.
Eight men and women from Unit 14 completed Master Gardener training in 2017 and joined the ranks of others who provide education and guidance to their communities about gardening and plants. If it weren’t for Master Gardeners and other volunteers, we would not have the outreach and impact we enjoy in our local communities.

The John Shastid House is a historic site in Pittsfield. Shastid, a settler from New Salem, built the house in 1838. The site has undergone quite a transformation since the involvement by the Master Gardeners. They added a well and outhouse, both period-specific, and then both a rock garden and a raised bed containing plants similar to what you would have seen during the time the house was built. This is an ongoing project for Pike County Master Gardeners. They do the planting, weeding, and maintenance for this tourist stop.

After working for more than a year to meet the necessary requirements and assisted by Unit 14 Horticulture Educator Kari Houle, the City of Carthage was recognized as the latest Tree City USA. This is now an annual commitment. Houle is working with other Unit 14 communities to join Carthage and Quincy in the Tree City ranks.

The Schuyler County Junior Master Gardeners maintained their momentum in 2017. In addition to planting and maintaining a small garden, they met monthly to work on nature-related projects like planting bulbs, making centerpieces, developing crystal gardens and bird feeders.

This group of young people planted a pollinator garden on the north side of Rushville to promote pollinator health, working with Prairieland FS and GROWMARK’s Endure Sustainability Initiative.
Annie’s Project is a national program designed to strengthen women’s roles in the modern farm enterprise. In 2017 we offered this program in Pike County with fourteen women participating in the six sessions covering topics including Interpretation of Financial Documents, Leasing, Recordkeeping, Marketing, Estate Planning, and Insurance. In addition to University of Illinois Extension, local resources provided content expertise: FBFM, First Banker’s Trust Services, Country Companies, Compeer Financial, Advance Trading, FSA, NRCS, and AgriLogic.

The Four Seasons Gardening webinar series in 2017 offered 12 different gardening and horticulture related topics. Each topic was offered twice – afternoon and evening – and over 2,000 people attended the live webinar offerings. All sessions are recorded and then uploaded to the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture YouTube channel, so that interested individuals can listen to the presentation later. In 2017, Four Seasons Gardening webinar recordings received over 12,000 views and the channel gained 322 subscribers.

Gardener’s Palette
The 22nd Annual Gardener’s Palette attracted more than 100 participants held at John Wood Community College. Those attending chose from an array of workshops on various topics including: Bats; Larval Food Sources; Edible Flowers; Vermicomposting; Native Illinois Plants; Container Gardening; Insect Hotels; Xeriscaping; and Aggressive Perennials. A popular addition was a cooking demonstration by a local chef that used local grains to make sourdough bread.

Nature Day
Nature Day occurs annually with the 2017 event held at Gardner Camp near Hull. Youth participated in archery and chose from other activities including learning how wood ducks are banded and where they migrate, taking a hike around the preserve, dissecting a flower to learn its parts, using a compass in a treasure hunt, and seeing how river behavior affects sediment transport.

No Till Crop Management Conference
More than 130 people attended the 22nd Annual No Till Crop Management Conference held at John Wood Community College. Dr. Aaron Hager of the University of Illinois delivered the keynote presentation on weeds resistant to multiple herbicides. Other presentation topics included nutrient management, grain marketing outlook, bee bio-diversity, precision farming, and measuring soil health.
Ag in the Classroom
Agricultural literacy takes many forms. In addition to students and teachers, many consumers are impacted by AITC efforts at the county level. Showcasing basic agriculture leads to greater student understanding, as well as continued local support. County programs use a variety of public relations devices including local print, radio, and an increasing amount of social media to further spread the message of agriculture to teachers, parents, and students.

- **376** Teachers utilized free classroom resources and trainings
- **973** Presentations to classrooms
- **10,698** Students grew in knowledge about food & farms through classroom and outreach activities
- **250** Community volunteers support local agriculture education programs.
- That is a value of more than **$17,620** worth of volunteer hours
- **$50,552** Local funds supported by Ag in the Classroom efforts

Ten Hancock County teachers learned more about how technology plays an important role in modern agriculture, earning professional development credits in the process.

Tours of Monsanto Learning Center in Monmouth, Fusion Technologies in Roseville, and Udder Hill Dairy’s robotic milkers were the focus of the first day.

Day two included Speckhart Shrimp in Payson, Lewis Hybrids in Ursa, Brent Clair, member of the Adams County Farm Bureau Board, enlightened participants on using drones, and Laura Vollmer from Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom shared activities and materials with the teachers.

Each teacher left with ideas and resources for immediate use in their classrooms.
Junior Chef classes were held in all unit counties. Youth learned about kitchen safety and handwashing skills. They also learned to cut fruits, vegetables, and raw meat; grate vegetables; and cracking and cooking eggs. The youth were able to sample the finished product and take home samples of their efforts, as well as a cookbook with the recipes of all the dishes they made. Over the course of the class, they made pumpkin pudding, coleslaw, fruit salsa, fruit pizza, chicken vegetable chowder, and veggie stuffed pitas.

Smarter Lunch Room Movement
University of Illinois Extension staff have been teaching school foodservice managers and staff members techniques for promoting healthy eating – and reducing food waste – among their students. The program promotes the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement, which supports healthy eating at the nation’s schools by applying the behavioral economics principles that grocery stores and restaurants use to boost food sales among their customers. In Unit 14 this training and support is being provided by Leah Erke, Extension Outreach Associate.
Livestock Judging Club
Youth participating in the Livestock Judging Club led by volunteer Matt Perry learn how to evaluate livestock with an emphasis on identifying the various parts of the animals. There were twelve youth involved in the club who also competed in several regional contests with great success.

Food Challenge
The 4-H Food Challenge lets youth be the authors of their own cookbooks. Once they learn the basics, they experiment creating their own recipes from a sack of mystery ingredients. This program helps take learning to a new level in friendly competition with other teams of chefs who have the same ingredients.

4-H Electricity School
This annual partnering with the Adams Electric Cooperative consisted of an Electricity School sailboat/wind challenge, a Safe City demonstration, and five workshops.

Shooting Sports
4-H Shooting Sports Clubs are founded on the principles of Positive Youth Development, and that means our goal is on the youth first to ensure they feel welcome in our program, they grow in leadership independence, they are inspired to be generous in service to others, as they master skills. The shooting sports program instills a love of outdoor sportsmanship while it teaches safe and responsible handling and use of firearms. Shooting sports is the fastest growing special interest (SPIN) club and is offered in all of our counties offering some or all of these disciplines: archery, shotgun, rifle, and pistol.

Beginners learned the basics of electricity and made an extension cord to take home. Second-year students used a soda can to make their own lamp. Third-year students were taught the basics of house wiring. Fourth-year students toured the Brown County Wind Turbine. The final class allowed students to see how the Cooperative uses its mapping system to locate members, maintain equipment, and restore power during outages.
Rhonda Armstrong has served on the Schuyler County 4-H Committee and the Schuyler-Brown 4-H Auction Committee. She is the current livestock superintendent for the 4-H Fair and has judged county and state 4-H records for many years.

‘Cheri IS 4-H’ was quoted by several local 4-H leaders who knew her best, and this is a great description of her passion for 4-H throughout her life. Cheri Myers was a member of the Pittsfield Lucky Clovers and the Pittsfield Producers, also serving as a leader of the latter club for 12 years.

Karen Bisby shows great passion for 4-H and continues to prove it each and every day. Karen has been a 4-H leader for over 30 years with the Burnside Rising Stars where she is a great role model for youth. She always goes above and beyond in her support of 4-H and always strives to ‘make the best better’.

Stan and Jeanne Krutmeier were nominated for their dedication, enthusiasm, and drive to support youth in the beef cattle industry. Stan and Jeanne have served as Adams County beef superintendents for 21 years at the Adams County 4-H Fair. In this role they worked to set up the Market Sale to financially support 4-H youth.
Youth from Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties took projects to the State Fair.

- **3197** County 4-H Fair Projects
- **592** County 4-H Fair Exhibitors
- **211** Youth from Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Counties took projects to the State Fair
- **41** Superior Awards at State Fair
Partners

Our Extension Unit is very fortunate to have relationships with other organizations that provide space, expertise, and/or assistance in accomplishing our work. While not a direct financial relationship, the end result is such that the impact on our budget is positive – and the good will generated in both directions makes it all worthwhile.

Retired Senior Volunteer Corps (RSVP) provides assistance in getting together large mailings and assists the Ag in the Classroom program on a weekly basis preparing materials for classroom and outreach programs.

Members of FFA programs assist at 4-H Fairs and other youth programs. In both Adams and Hancock counties, FFA members assist the Ag in the Classroom coordinators in classroom and outreach programs.

Gardner Camp is our newest community partner but has already made major contributions by allowing 4-H shooting sports clubs to access their facilities for archery and trap shoots. The GC staff also make sure to invite 4-H youth to participate in the growing number of programs they offer themselves.

As noted in an earlier page, Adams Electric Cooperative has been a partner for many years in hosting an annual Electricity School at Bailey Park in Camp Point. Coop staff provide many of the volunteers working with the participating youth to develop projects related to electricity and energy.

John Wood Community College (JWCC) allows our use of their Quincy campus, a wonderful site for two of our longstanding annual events, Gardener’s Palette and the No Till Crop Management Conference. That partnership saves us a lot of money in rental fees and is a perfect example of a mutually beneficial relationship.

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) collaborated with our Unit and colleagues in Champaign to develop an online map of local food systems, replacing a printed directory that became very expensive and difficult to maintain. What started to be something just for our five counties quickly grew to a regional project and then statewide.

Check it out at go.illinois.edu/extensionlocalfoodsmap

Compeer Financial has been a key supporter of the rejuvenated Annie’s Project, helping in both planning sessions and presenting at them. In addition, representatives serve on the Adams Ag in the Classroom Advisory Committee and assist with putting on the annual No Till Conference.

The partnership U of I Extension and the Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) share is unique. HCE was originally started through the land-grant system but later became its own organization separate from Extension. HCE has been a supporting partner in our Unit for 100 years.

HCE supports Extension through financial donations and donations of time and talent. HCE members regularly serve as 4-H volunteers, Extension Council members, foundation board members, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists.
When it comes to Extension programs, having knowledgeable and committed staff is critical. The staff serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike and Schuyler counties are all that and much, much more. A lot of information is generated by the University of Illinois and other research institutions, but without good people to communicate it to folks in our area, the value is minimal. I am proud to work with the Extension staff serving our communities.

TIM LUTHY, CHAIR
UNIT 14 EXTENSION COUNCIL 2017-2018

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Council Members
U of I Extension staff in Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike & Schuyler Counties work very closely with our local council made up of citizens that reside in all 5 of our counties. Our council members help our staff to ensure that the programs we are delivering are relevant and meet the needs of our communities. Members of our council include:

• Theresa Bockhold, Payson
• Angela Caldwell, Quincy
• Cathy Carpenter, Quincy*
• Chandler Drahn, Quincy*
• Daron Duke, Ursa
• Sara Michaels Fernandez, Quincy**
• Barb Dietrich Holthaus, Quincy**
• Carolyn Roberts, Liberty**
• Pam Shaffer, Ursa
• Steven Stoll, Quincy
• Mike Boylen, Mt. Sterling*
• A.J. Kassing, Mt. Sterling*
• Vicki Phillips, Mt. Sterling/Rushville
• Tammy Underwood, Mt. Sterling**
• Barb Casady, Warsaw
• Mark Hanson, Hamilton
• Debra Miller, Bowen
• Mary Barnes, Nebo
• Lynn Curry, Griggsville*
• Amy Lefringhouse, Hull/Quincy
• Brock Willard, Pittsfield**
• Holly Acheson, Rushville
• John Robert Kirkham, Rushville**
• Tim Luthy, Rushville
• Carrie Skiles, Rushville*

* Term ended in 2017
** Term began in 2017

Donors
With the current state of fiscal uncertainty, the donations from local sources are all the more important and all the more appreciated. Many thanks to the groups below for being consistent supporters of the work of University of Illinois Extension.

• Adams County Board
• Hancock County Board
• Pike County Board
• Schuyler County Board
• Brown County Board
• Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation
• Two Rivers Farm Bureau Foundation
• Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation
• Adams County Home & Community Education
• Hancock County Home & Community Education
• Pike County Home & Community Education
• Hancock County Soil & Water District
• United Way of the Great River Region
• Brown County United Way
• Schuyler County United Way
• Pike County 4-H Extension Foundation
• Hancock County Extension Foundation
• Adams County 4-H Federation
• Brown–Schuyler 4-H Federation
• Hancock County 4-H Federation
• Pike County 4-H Federation
• Tracy Family Foundation

In addition, many businesses and individuals contribute to sponsor 4-H achievement and fair trophies, Ag in the Classroom, and other programs.
### OFFICE INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams County</td>
<td>330 South 36th Street</td>
<td>(217) 223-8380</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quincy, IL 62301</td>
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<td>Hancock County</td>
<td>550 North Madison</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carthage, IL 62321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown County</td>
<td>108 North Capitol</td>
<td>(217) 773-3013</td>
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<td>Mt. Sterling, IL 62353</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pike County</td>
<td>1301 East Washington</td>
<td>(217) 285-5543</td>
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<td>Pittsfield, IL 62363</td>
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<td>Schuyler County</td>
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<td>Rushville, IL 62681</td>
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### ONLINE

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