Kendall County—Presented by Wayne Mundsinger
Program review performed April 14. Extension Staff reviewed each of the program areas of support provided to the community by our county office. During the presentation a few of the facts that were presented about Kendall County were:

- Population: 103,460
- Households: 18,798
- Median Household Income: $77,938
- Below Poverty Level: 3.7%

Though the poverty level is one of the lowest in Illinois, Kendall is seeing an increase in need for health and human services.

Many of our volunteers gave interviews on how Extension programs have provided skills and knowledge in their areas of interest. The volunteers also discussed their community support projects.

School Enrichment—Social/Emotional Learning training given to teachers and social workers for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. This has been given to over 50 teachers and is scheduled for another 35 to 40 social workers. Parenting classes given to high school students expecting child birth. Life skills were presented along with fundamentals of living expenses. Embryology training given to over 20 teachers. We have expanded our air and space program to two additional schools and also added a summer program. A Science Excited camp is being given to generate interest in science and engineering and 4-H programs.

Family Nutrition—Family Health and Nutrition programs being given in Senior Centers and Low Income health clinic. A walking program for seniors is being restarted. We are working with the food pantries to provide recipes for available foods.

Master Gardener and Naturalist—23 new interns have just completed the Master Gardener class. 17 people have signed up for the 2nd training class for Master Naturalist. A Living on the Land program will be given this fall jointly between Kane and Kendall Counties. Sun shine and warm rains allow these programs to get to work.

4-H—Members have met with local legislators to gain support of the program. They have been spending time with representatives more so than with senators. The expansion review committee has put together a presentation which will be used to explain the value of the 4-H program to the youth of our community. It was recently previewed to the Extension Council. The presentation will now be given to area organizations which can provide either funding or volunteers.

Lastly, I praise all of the efforts by our staff and council in the reorganization process. Many hours have been spent in meetings, discussion and information gathering.
**Kankakee County—Presented by Alex Panozzo**

CED/Agritourism--20 barns adorned with barn quilts across the county. Volunteers have designed posters with donations going to offset Extension’s marketing expenses. They are recruiting new barns for 2010. There has been a lot of PR in local and national publications.

Agriculture and Natural Resources--*Living on the Land* graduated 16 participants following 12 weekly sessions. Curriculum adapted for Illinois was then presented to 17 educators from across the state. A number teams are now offering the program. GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) was offered in November to specialty growers and educators. Food safety plan for each farm is needed for producers to market to large retailers. Only a matter of time before all producers will need to have a plan in place and approved by USDA. Approximately 35 in attendance. Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) provided for 150 private applicators. Annual sheep and goat workshop (32); annual commercial vegetable growers school (35); horse workshop (75); annual beekeeping workshop (40). Master Gardener training completed in March with 22 new interns. Total MG now 72. Participated in the telenet series, *Four Seasons Gardening*.

4-H/Youth Development--4-H Club program busy preparing for exhibit opportunities. Special interest groups to be formed with robotics and maybe dog/cat care. Natural Resource Days at Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see coming up in May for 4th-8th grades serving over 400 youth.

Adult Life and Aging--*Share your Lifestory* writing workshops (three groups of 12); Grandparents Raising Grandkids; Caregiver Education series; Finding the Funny Side; Building a Better Memory. Small Changes Big Impact: Advocating for Person Centered Care-Health Care Professional workshops to encourage nursing administration and healthcare workers to promote a home-like environment rather than institutional. Co-Presenter with Molly Hofer in Chicago at National Council on Aging/American Society on Aging Annual Conference on *Parenting Again*. Co-presenter with Dr. Laura Payne, UIUC in Melbourne, Australia at *Healthy Parks Healthy People Global Conference on Live Well Be Well*.

FNP/Nutrition--Fruit and Veggie Day at Kankakee School District #111 – Edison Elementary School (300), also Farm Days is done annually for over 1200 4th graders. Master Food Preservers – eight individuals in training (five full days).

**McHenry County—Presented by Ed Schuckert**

4-H Youth Development--4-H Ambassadors involved in programs with Woodstock Mayor; Dr. Brian Sager; Author Tim Stewart; Positive Force; Mr. Dave Cook; What to Expect During an Interview. Monthly community service project; preparing and serving dinner at local soup kitchen serving 45-60 meals each time.

Dog programs included orientation; teeth care; first aid for dogs; and Retirement for Working Animals. In total, 145 youth participated in these programs.

Horse enthusiasts attended orientation; county hippology regional Horse Bowl--three teams; two senior and one junior; one senior team competed at state; along with five members in hippology and four in public speaking. At total of 113 members participated in these programs.
Livestock project work included youth from McHenry County participating in the State Dairy Bowl with one youth being High Point Individual and another being invited to compete for a place on the state team.

102 youth attended the required Pork Quality Assurance training. Poultry enthusiasts participated in a county clinic on breeds, showmanship and judging.

Eight workshops were held for clothing project youth, focusing on parts, care and use of the sewing machine; differences in denim; weaves of fabric; grains; body styles; personal color and teaching youth how to alter patterns.

Six workshops were held for home furnishings projects and focused on interior design; differences and uses of four different types of paint, all the same color; simple window treatments; a tour of an interior design store and construction of window treatments.

Youth attended the Ukrainian egg workshops and learned new skills in creating Ukrainian eggs and the meaning behind the designs. Youth in Creative Quilters attended monthly workshops to learn new skills in quilting. Workshops for electricity projects were held for Electricity 1 and 2 project areas with youth completing a simple switch and a three-way switch.

New 4-H parents received orientation to 4-H and the importance of 4-H to their child; how to best assist their 4-Her in setting goals; club meetings and how to assist with the club. New 4-H leaders learned how to read club summaries/print outs; how to determine the correct project manuals and what is expected through the month of April.

County Wide Project Day was held with youth attending workshops on geology; framing of art; electric lamps; beekeeping; finding your way; history and art dreamcatchers; wood burning; stenciling; sand art; beaded jewelry; clay flowers; how to measure ingredients; glass etching and wool braided rugs.

Twenty-one 4-H clubs participated in International Night. Open to the public and attended by several international high school clubs, the donations enabled the purchase of a pig; a flock of chickens and a share of a lamb through Heifer International.

SPIN Club--Special Interest youth groups operating under the SPIN Club program in McHenry County include: McHenry County Tech Team; Herpetology; Leadership (in collaboration with Leadership McHenry County; McHenry County College; and McHenry County Board); Alpaca, Toastmasters, and journalism groups in the planning process for next fall. The Village of Algonquin has expressed interest in SPIN Clubs.

Horticultural Program hosted the Annual Garden fest in collaboration with the local college; attended by over 300 participants and included educational workshops on horticultural related topics. Planting is currently underway at three sites to produce food for local food pantries. Four school garden programs, including a Junior Master Gardener Program or handicapped students at Huntley High School.
The first class of McHenry County Master Composters successfully completed in class training and is working on composting projects throughout the county.

And still more on the planning calendar are the McHenry County Garden Walk; the Four Seasons Gardening Series; Question and Answer sessions at local libraries; farmers markets and other settings; educational displays and garden displays at the McHenry County Fairgrounds; and 13 Master Gardener speakers scheduled for various garden clubs and church groups. A recent Master Gardener workshop on basic pruning was attended by 141 people.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren--The McHenry County Grandparents Raising Grandchildren meets monthly throughout the year to address the needs and resources of families raising a second or third generation. Invited speakers include representatives from the McHenry County Mental Health Board; the Family Health Center in Woodstock and other guests as identified. This program is made possible through a Grant from the Illinois Department on Aging.

Family Nutrition Program--Staff in the Family Nutrition Program provide educational programs to limited resources audiences throughout McHenry County on proper food and nutrition; Saving Money when Shopping; Preparing Food Safely; Eating more Fruits; Eating more Vegetables; Making use of the Food Pyramid; Healthy Snacks; Fats in Foods; Cooking and Shopping for 1 or 2; Making Your Meal Stretch and the Importance of Eating Breakfast. These educational programs reach across all ages from the Head Start /pre-school programs to seniors. Numbers of program participants in the last three months total over 3,550. Program sites are McHenry County Food Pantries; Head Start sites; senior resident Sites; and WIC sites. Educational information is also made available through newsletters available through the McHenry County Department of Health. Beyond providing educational information, FNP participants also get hands on experience in food preparation, food sanitation, and taste samples to help bring home the message.

MORE SPIN!! (Katie Wagner)
SPIN related to Kane County: Quilting and Visual Arts to begin in fall 2010. Working with South Elgin Parks and Recreation to partner and additional programming through their marketing and facilities that reaches 10,000 people.

SPIN related to Lake County: Collaborating with Volunteer in Wauconda...U of I Grad in Engineering; Met with “I Have a Dream” in North Chicago and Lake County 4-H Leaders to develop contacts.

SPIN related to Kendall County: Met with Kendall County 4-H Leaders to develop contacts and networks; worked with two Extension staff.

SPIN electronically: Have created a presence on each county’s website...Lake, McHenry, Kane and Kendall. Each SPIN page has received double hits in the month of March from the month of February. Lake 39; McHenry 53; Kane 54 and Kendall 69. SPIN has a presence on Facebook Statewide. Received nearly 500 views in the last week, along with 63 fans.
Agricultural Production and Sustainability—McHenry County Extension hosted the 2010 Dairy Days conference in January with presentations on dairy production; proper nutrient management; marketing and trends in dairy production.

February saw 82 fruit and vegetable producers from McHenry and surrounding counties attending the Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Producers attended workshops on marketing; insect control; disease control and proposed legislation impacting small producers and markets.

The Art of Wine, the first of a two part educational program was held in March and focused on variety selection, soil and fertility needs, pruning, and growing the grape. Part two will be held in July and focuses on turning the grapes produced into wine.

Lake County—Presented by Pam Garland
Lake County’s local budget financials remain the same as 2009 with a slight increase in county funds from local townships, villages and foundations. New foundation and council board consist of members from Fortune 500 companies and local banks vice presidents from Lake County. Lake has developed some great partnerships and is working to build even more. Local partnerships (Barat Foundation, Baxter) were formed as a result of networking in which they contributed to the local Extension County budget $12,500 in revenue. A new director’s advisory board has also been implemented to assist the director with generating revenue locally for Extension, which will soon start planning for the first Annual Lake County University of Illinois Extension BBQ RIB FEST to be held August 13, 2011, at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Lake County Extension Foundation’s second annual golf outing will be August 12th, 2010, and the Extension Hall of Fame Program will be held October 9, 2010. Local partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters led to a grant submission in March to Motorola Foundation, which will provide 300 youth enrolled in 4-H to take advantage of the 4-H SET program. The Director continues to make efforts to partner with companies like Walgreen, Abbott, Grainger and others in Lake County to support their mission and goals as well as to support Extension’s mission and goals. Lake County is currently planning for its County Program Review scheduled for May 26, 2010, and Extension re-organization Phase 1 proposed unit configuration is due May 10, 2010.

Family Nutrition Program—From October 1, 2009 until March 31, 2010 the Family Nutrition Program provided programs to 5,579 participants. The following townships and pantries have been visited in the past few months to explain the Family Nutrition Program and provide handouts and commodities books: Avon, Grant, Fremont, Libertyville and Lake Villa and the following food pantries: St. Joe’s Libertyville, Mt Morai and Mt. Sinai North Chicago, Catholic Charities and Cool East in Waukegan, Abiding Love and Our Lady Humility in Zion and Cool West in Ingleside. The whole FNP team took turns supporting two of the local WIC offices with hands on nutrition demonstrations during the month of March. The FNP team is working with the Fleet and Family Support Center at the Great Lakes Naval Base on April 13, 2010, to provide a class that will meet the needs of both adults and children. At the conclusion of the class the parent and child will do hands on activity by making a healthy snack. Two nominations were submitted for the Robin Orr Award and one of them was selected to receive the award. Jan McBee from Clearview Elementary School received this award on March 19, 2010, in Springfield and two of our FNP Staff, Dale Kehr and Lee Kouski, were in attendance.
Community and Economic Development--Received a personal invite to the Freedom Shrine Event that was held on Feb. 17, 2010, by Round Lake Middle School Principal Sharon Giless. The Freedom Shrine is a display of 19 documents that the students will see on a daily basis as they go to and from class. Some of the documents on display are “Nineteenth Amendment,” “Benjamin Franklin’s Epitaph,” “The Declaration of Independence- Jefferson’s First Draft.” The event was attended by many prominent people of the community, The Commanding Officer of the Naval Station delivered one of the speeches and a few of the local mayors, community officials the Round Lake Area Exchange Club members and over 950 students as well as teachers from the middle school were on hand for the day’s events. It was a great networking opportunity to show how we partner with the local community.

Program Impact

• Two Teen Mom programs at the Village Church of Gurnee impacted seven youth and eight adults on preparing to enter the workforce with one class on resume writing and one class on interviewing skills.
• The four-week Small Business Workshop with an average of eight to ten Latino adults has been well received. The coordinator was worried at first about the discussion of working legally in the US and what the clients should be declaring for tax purposes. She felt the clients might stop coming, and we found that was not the case. The clients stated at the last class that the workshops were very helpful. They either felt like they had a plan on how to proceed or that they were not ready to start a business. The answers varied according to their legal and financial status. One class is scheduled and then we will assess where we go from there. Last piece of information was to find out whether not speaking Spanish was a deterrent. The clients said, “No.” They felt they still got a lot of information and felt it was well worth their time.

Continue to provide a monthly radio show on the second Thursday of every month and continually receive positive feedback on each show.

4-H SHARING FACTS--The 4-H Recognition of Excellence program was held in November at the Lake County Fairgrounds. This event is the end-of-the-year recognition celebration for 4-H volunteer leaders, junior 4-H leaders, 4-H state fair winners, 4-H record winners, 4-H club officer awards, and other outstanding 4-H recognitions. Dinner was served and provided by the Extension office. International Night was held at the Lake County Fairgrounds in February. This event consisted of the Lake County 4-H clubs choosing a country to showcase their knowledge gained in researching the country’s geography, people, and culture. The clubs dressed their part, prepared food, varieties of breads, and donated a gift basket representing their country for a raffle item. Over 300 residents attended the event which included fun, fashion and facts about 15 different countries from around the world exhibited by the 4-H clubs. Also in the month of February was the kick off of the military 4-H after-school club at the Great Lakes Youth and Family Center. This facility is the site of the military Boys and Girls Club and 4-H is happy to have “True Blue Troopers” become a part of Lake County 4-Hers. There are 39 youth participating in the club and focusing on project areas such as; science, engineering and technology, visual arts, and cooking, health, and nutrition. Volunteers are being recruited from the Navy base to assist with two other teen programs geared for junior high and high school boys and girls. Jefferson Middle School in Waukegan has received financial support from 21st
STARS program to continue their after-school 4-H club “4-H STARS Initiative.” The 4-H after-school program meets daily from 2-4 p.m. and has volunteers who visit weekly to offer tips on a variety of topics such as entrepreneurship, fashion, guitar lessons and horticulture. The 4-Hers also participate in community service work while serving at the PADS shelters. There are currently 40 participants who are actively involved and are looking forward to a field trip next year to attend WOW (Wonders of Washington.) Passport to the World judging took place in March for clubs who were interested in showcasing their countries displayed during International Night and being judged to receive ribbons for their time, energy and efforts. Public presentation judging took place in March, with 12 youth from different 4-H clubs preparing speeches in areas such as formal, demonstration, illustrated, original works, and oral interpretation. The event took place at Grace Lutheran Church in Libertyville.

Horticulture--Programming in therapeutic horticulture has been planned for 2010. We will be working with five nursing homes, making three visits at each. Activities will be garden-themed and indoors. In 2010 we will also start working with an assisted living facility that has some active seniors who would like to garden outdoors. Master Gardeners continue to work with individuals with disabilities at NorthPointe Resources in Zion. This is a year round activity. During the summer the Master Gardeners work with the participants in raised gardens and containers. We are renewing our partnership with Gardening Together and Habitat for Humanity to work with new homeowners and teach them to garden. Master Gardeners serve as mentors to the new homeowners and consult on spring and fall work days. 29 new MGs were trained in early 2010. This brings the overall number of MG volunteers up to 91 in Lake County. Gardening slide and PowerPoint presentations have been offered to the public at the Extension office and several other venues. This is done by the horticulturist and Master Gardener volunteers. We partnered with the adult education department of Mundelein High School to offer basic landscaping classes to individuals who had completed English as Second Language (ESL) classes. One-day plant clinics have been scheduled with 10 local libraries. These plant clinics will be held in summer 2010. The Master Gardener Information Service continues to answer questions for gardeners year round.

Kane County—Presented by Dave Klussendorf
Last things first – Fundraiser 4/10
864 pre-sold tickets, 120 at door, totaling 984 for a total of $10,104. This represents an increase by about 200 people.
Sponsors $5370
Auction $11,540
Total $27, 014 before expenses

4-H community club efforts--Lots of activities. International night, Ag days at Mooseheart, Project day, embryology (200 dozen), Beef and Pork days. Approximately 25 youth shadowed government officials on Government Day. They had a great discussion at a mock county board meeting according to several board members. Several county board members complimented Klussendorf on the outcome of government day.
School enrichment--Six schools utilizing our program, embryology training, and teacher institute (Fostering Social Emotional Learning in You and Your Students). Exposed 6,057 students to 4-H led by 189 teachers

Horticulture program--Activities at two residential care facilities and one elementary school, rain garden class on April 24, speakers bureau booked (seven events), Ag Days, getting ready for Sheriff’s Department Inmate Garden again. (Donated 890 pounds of produce to Northern Illinois Food Bank.) During 2009, 74 Master Gardeners spent 4,184 volunteer hours with more than 11,800 residents. Coordination of Kane Couty Fit for Kids initiative. $360K grant.

FNP--28,828 Kane County family members received education in English and Spanish, mainly in Elgin and Aurora.

Two very exciting things that we are starting:

- South Elgin Park District is interested in starting 4-H SPIN groups (Special Interest) in the fall of 2010. Have explored possible 4-H projects/topics to form groups around and recruiting volunteers to lead groups. Our staff would organize youth classes for the park district. Those youth would be special interest group members. The Park District would market the program to the approximately 10,000 residents. Classes would be open to 4-H community club members in Kane County, who would only pay the cost of class supplies. This would be a partnership effort, and they are very excited about this opportunity and working with us.

- Partnering with Sherman Hospital in Elgin. Development of home food production and preservation skills. Fifty garden plots in 2011 open to hospital employees first year to get everything ironed out. The following year open to others. This will help people to plan menus to lead a healthier life style, and to know where their food originates. Other benefits will be exercise, rehabilitation of those that need help with their diabetes, overweight condition or gaining strength and mobility from a surgery. Some of the hospital staff will be in charge of supplying the info about menus, nutrition and rehabilitation.

**Du Page County—Presented by Pat Kosmach**

Horticulture--We are very busy. We have several Hort therapy programs that are going well. They are offered at several locations. The help desks and help line are busy. Speaker’s Bureau will be asking for a fee of $100 for each engagement beginning in July. Previously donations had been suggested to clients. There are 17 engagements booked for April. The Convalescent Center project is going well. The Detention Center project is at a standstill until the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management completes its move into the building.

Youth--Currently there are 20 4-H Clubs in DuPage County. The International Night event was again a success. We have approximately seven SPIN (Special Interest) Clubs, such as robotics and sewing. We are currently awaiting word on a grant from the United Way to be used for an obesity prevention program at three neighborhood resource centers. We should know whether it has been awarded by the end of the month.

FNP- Visiting schools, food pantries, and senior centers.
Other-- Extension is sponsoring seven seminars in DuPage County during Money Smart Week which begins tomorrow. The DuPage County Board is continuing their support at the same amount that we have been receiving since FY2007.

Fundraising--Flea Market/Plant Sale on May 1. The 4-H Foundation will hold their annual luncheon on June 25 at Cantigny. Funds from this event go to scholarships for 4-H members. The MGs are holding a Garden Walk on June 26. The DuPage County Friends of Extension (our fundraising arm) will hold “An Evening in The Garden” at the Ball Horticulture Demonstration Garden on June 25.

**Will County—Presented by Doug Tweeten**
County Board Funds - County Board approved $25,000 for FY 2010. Extension Fundraiser – Over $30,000 was raised at the spaghetti dinner. 600 tickets were sold. County Board members were invited to be servers, and 2/3 participated. State Review – We just completed a state review this week and it went very, very well. A total of eight agencies and individual clients came in to share their experience working with Extension in Will County.

Family Nutrition Program--Working with Teen Reach, ESA, Hartman Field, HAJ Des Plaines Center, Evergreen, Boys & Girls Club, 21st Century programs. AO Marshall program going on two-days a week at Laraway School, Hufford & Washington. 4-H pilot program is going on at Harvey Brooks & Warren Sharp Centers. At Hufford Jr. High school, life skills, food pyramid and hand washing programs are going on. Starting spring programs at Joliet Central, Premier Academy and Joliet Park District. The camp fitness program is starting at Parks, Forest Park IE, Thigpen and Culbertson Elementary schools. Organ Wise Guys curriculum is new and is going to two schools in Will County. Scheduling Parent meetings at Head Start has kicked off. Senior Service congregate lunch sites scheduled to begin this spring.

Master Gardener and Natural Resources programs--Embryology has started and training for 28 teachers this week. Kinds-N-Nature program is exploding with over 150 youth attending this year. This is the largest group we have had since the program started three years ago. Master Gardening Continuing Ed classes going well. 52 people registered for Winter Tree ID. Master Naturalist is scheduled to kick off in a couple of months. This is a new program this year. Master Gardening Composting is coming up in May. Mid level volunteers are doing well. They are scheduled at the office answering phones. Ag Expo was Tuesday, March 23, 2010, and 1800 kids participated. Plant propagation telnets are going very well. They are held two days a week.

Youth Development--Leaders meeting went well this month and 15 people attended representing seven clubs. Registration for spring show Saturday, April 24 at Francis Field from 9-3 is going very well. Public presentation was held March 13th. Over 20 youth participated.

**Cook County—Presented by Tanesha Pittman**
Cook County programs are doing well. The Mobile Science Lab has been very successful. Nutrition education is going well, as is 4-H and youth activities. A wellness program focus has been male fitness. Unfortunately, there will be a reduction of space and staff in Cook County.