Sharing Session:

DuPage County—Pat

- The DuPage County Board has yet to budget any money to Extension. We have been actively lobbying County Board members individually and have made presentations during several Board meetings. We have received positive publicity in local newspapers as well as the Daily Herald and Chicago Tribune. We have looked into other sources of funding such as Townships and the Forest Preserve District. We are also pursuing various grant opportunities. Our “How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk or Jerkette” program was featured during a news segment in February on WLS-TV. We have been well-received and have been told that there may be action on our behalf at the next County Board meeting May 8.
- Question was asked about how much funding each county receives from their county board. Most counties were at just over $100,000. McHenry and Will are around $50,000 (with not much change over the years). Cook receives about $450,000. Kankakee has passed a referendum so they are in good shape and receive between $350,000—400,000.

Kane County—Ana

- Kane recently hired 3 new Spanish speaking FNP staff members. They are working in 107 classrooms teaching nutrition. One is trained especially for diabetes.
- Presenting the Going Solo program (for entrepreneurs—starting a home business) including instruction on investing and budgeting.

Kankakee County—Larry

Beth LaPlante:

- Adult Life & Aging Educator (Chelsey Byers) has been offered the position as an educator for the U of I Extension Office (Kankakee). She will start June 1, 2007.
- The Satellite office has been chosen for the Pembroke community. It will be housed in the Riverside Hospital facility in Pembroke. We will host an Outreach event to serve as an open house celebration for the new facility. The local farmers will supply various food items for the event. The event will be promoted throughout the community.
- Bus Wrap – Yeah! It has gotten lots of people talking in the community. This promotion continues to spotlight the organization in a positive light.

Donna Nuger:
• Kids Day at the Farm for 4th graders. They will be introduced to Agriculture and Agri-business. They will learn where their food comes from and how the business of agriculture supports the community.
• Who lives here? This will be a comprehensive study and examination of birds, spring plants that have been previously studied in various locations.
• 7 kids were selected to study Wind Energy, developed by the college of engineering. The curriculum includes both Social Studies and Science components.

James Theuri:
• Introduced new technology for vegetable growers
• Soybean Workshop – 1 field crop introduced each year
• March 1st we had a pruning workshop – 26 attended
• Conducted a Pesticide Safety Program – 66 people attended (Everyone passed)
• Kankakee Naturalist Program – concentration on natural resources. Taking care of Forest, soil and water as well as fertilizers.
• Soybean workshop.
• Pesticide Safety Education.

Upcoming Events:
• Teen Conference on May 8 will include a workshop on science careers. Topics/activities included are forensics, cryptograms, and engineering.
• Natural Resources Career Expo at Goose Lake Prairie is being offered in conjunction with 4 other counties on May 10
• Outdoor education for Bonfield School – includes 4 topics, birds, wild flowers, insects, and food chains.

State and Local Committees:
• State Curriculum committee – developed Explore, Extend & Engage concept for youth programs.
• New Explore on-line are coming this fall
• Potential for new 4-H Clubs in Latino communities
• Volunteer forums for East Central and Northeast Regions included a new training titled Make Meetings Fun which I developed for the Valued Volunteer Program.

Professional Development:
• Technology Training in digital imaging and power point.
• Doing presentations with impact offered in Peoria
• GPS/GIS An area of concentration for this year.

Kendall County—Wayne
• We have been working hard on marketing efforts. Recently, we have had displays and representatives at YMCA fun days, The Oswego Family Fund and Fitness Fair, Women’s Health Fair, and the Kendall County Special Education Resource Fair. In May we are presenting at the Kendall County Community Resource Network meeting. Many efforts are being made to make the current and new county residents aware of the Extension programs and offerings.
• We are also reaching out to individual companies to present programs. One of which is a new start-up in the county called Investor-tools, Inc. Besides the local office they
have other branches which have teleconferenced during our presentations. These presentations are geared to help the employees. So far we have held sessions on Investment, Health, Estate Planning, and protecting your Credit History. The company is giving us a donation for these presentations.

- At our last meeting I mentioned that we were joining with the County Health and Human Services Agency to hire someone to do health education. Dedra Cody has been hired at a sixty percent time position. She is a registered dietitian and is working to obtain her Master’s degree at Northern Illinois. She has already presented many programs on diet, the food pyramid, Woman’s health, and performs monthly seminars on nutrition ad wellness.
- The friends of Extension are again hosting a pork dinner in July as a fund raiser. Last year 591 meals were sold with 625 tickets purchased providing a profit of $3,200.

**Lake County—Laurel**

- Lake County held their annual recognition dinner. They honored HEA for their 75 years of service in Lake County. 175 people attended including some local representatives.
- Lake is working on marketing Extension. They held candidates forums—debates/discussions held at the Extension office. An amazing number of people that were attending did not know about Extension.
- Master Gardener annual plant sale—fund-raiser—very popular, people stand in line for 2 hours just to purchase plants.

**McHenry County—Mike**

- McHenry recently had their program review. There were some interesting comments…a small vegetable farmer was outspoken about all the help Extension has given him over the years and recommended continuing Extension programs.
- Holding leadership forums to try to decrease the 4-H drop out rate among junior high and high school youth.
- McHenry has developed a technology group…need more people from the business community to help teach.
- Parenting series…funds from outside (Kiwanis in Wisconsin; Mental Health Board)...sending monthly newsletters.
- Currently have 12 community gardens located at churches, senior citizen sites, domestic shelters, etc.

**Will County—Sandy**

- 4th Annual Hispanic Latino Summer Camp for Youth 8 - 12
- Global Positioning System Hands on Training with Students at Fairmont District 89.
- Going Solo Entrepreneurship Program celebrates opening of first family run business. *(I was informed this business is an ice cream parlor.)*
- Family Nutrition Program will do programs on healthy eating, healthy lifestyle at summer camps.
- Master Gardeners develop new community garden in Bolingbrook.
- New "Civic Engagement" Program to help families and community get involved in their children's education.
- New Continuing Education Opportunities for Professionals including Government Officials, Nutrition Professional & Social Workers.
- I recently joined Dr. Theuri, Nancy Kuhajda and John Zalenka in meeting with local United Way committee regarding funding request for next year.

**Cook County—Tanesha**

- Extension has established The Male Health Forum on Chicago’s Southwest side, where men discuss uncomfortable topics in a relaxed an open environment. The forums occur on a monthly basis. Whereby, each month an expert, most often a medical doctor, covers a health issue such as nutrition, cardiovascular disease, and cataracts. Each month more than 100 men attend. Many of the participants are retired professionals who have held positions in education, government, and healthcare.
- Extension created Peer Health Education in Western Cook. Extension has been working with the Boys and Girls Club of West Cook County (BGC) to identify and address issues affecting youth. Some the issues identified by the BGC youth include, accurate sexual information, puberty, hygiene, diabetes, smoking, nutrition, teen pregnancy, marijuana, and asthma. A peer to peer education curriculum will be facilitated by seven trained youth educators at the BGC.
- The EFNEP Program in the past year on the North Side of Chicago has reached 6,355 mostly Latino and African American Families through the enrollment of 1,547 adult participants. Of which 70% completed the program. On Chicago’s South side there were 814 African Americans, Latinos, Asian and Caucasian families participated in the program.