Kendall County—Presented by Wayne Mundsinger
The big activity in Kendall was the county fair. 4-H activity and the head count increased.

Sandra Davis and he gave a presentation to the county board asking for a 3.8% increase that amounts to $6000.

The building rental has a five year hold. Expect rental to go up. He’s sure they’ll get an increase.

Nutrition and Health programs conducted in May, June and July made contact with 1,100 people.

Financial Health help forum was created.

Council discussed how to handle requests for help for those who may need financial assistance to attend or participate in a program. The applicant should state the reason in their request. Friends of Extension fundraiser focused on creating a pool to provide funds to those in need.

Will County—Presented by Doug Tweeten
One of the new things developed by Master Gardeners is the legacy garden at a Burr Ridge school called The Prairie Classroom Project. A prairie project of a garden surrounding a slab of blacktop that was once the school’s basketball court has created a living classroom of prairie plants that classroom teacher can incorporate into their daily lesson plans in all curriculum areas. The school embraced the idea completely, providing funding for the project as well as funding for perpetual maintenance. Master Gardeners assisted the children with the planting of the garden. The goal is to pass the garden along to different grades as they themselves advance.

The Lincoln Way East High School’s Community Gardens in New Lenox, assisted by Will County Master Gardeners, have given programs on horticultural topics as well as providing on-site biweekly assistance. About 600 pounds of produce have been distributed to shelters and pantries about Will County. They have also had Master Gardeners bring their own extra vegetables to be donated.

A one-year program of Benedictine University will assist in the teaching of the FNP programs in public schools and other not-for-profit organizations. The Family Nutrition Program worked with 12 graduate student interns this last summer. This effort increased our outreach efforts to a larger audience. Dealing with less money and more programs requires building more partnerships.

In the 4-H program, 1,222 projects were exhibited with only 5% being livestock (goats, swine, sheep, dairy, beef, poultry, and pigeons) and 95% were non-livestock such as visual arts and public speaking. 4-H Records judging is taking place this week. November 7, 2009, will be the awards night.
In Youth Development, over 100 kids attended summer camps over a period of five weeks. Programs were hands on and very comprehensive. They included nutrition, healthy living, science, robotics, technology, and volunteer training. 23 volunteers (youth and adults) assisted at these camps.

Natural Resources Days (September 28 to October 1) sprang from there being a refinery nearby. Fifth graders from Troy and Channahon school districts participated in this four day event. it is a partnership between Flint Hills Resources and U of I Extension. Over 800 youth participated in seven educations workshops that taught botany, geology, and other environmental subjects.

Financial status of Will County is shaky because the County Board is also in a financial crunch. For FY09, it was holding back on promised funds to all outside organizations, Extension included. However, Dr. Oliver and the Director got involved to try to restore the funds. Emma received a call yesterday saying the County Board will come up with some money. The finance committee is meeting next week Tuesday.

McHenry County—Presented by Ed Schuckert

The Master Gardeners program saw 25 interns go through training January through March, while 81 "perennial" gardeners returned to the program. They have a Junior MG program, and the Harvard Junior Garden Club participated in the District 200 apple program, the Barrington summer program, and at the Huntley Park District. Other MG activities were the Gardenfest that was attended by 238 people, 268 people attended the Gardenwalk, and 260 people attended the 10 plant clinics. Master Gardener office hotline runs from May to September and after that it is only part-time.

Food Pantry Gardens produced over 4000 pounds of food that went to pantries and organizations such as Grafton, Rotary, Harvard, and Sheppard of the Hills. Woodstock Farmers Markets (13) ran from June to September and 555 attended. It is a great opportunity to meet people and inform them of what Extension does. In total there were 44 events attended by 1266 people.

The support group conducted by Norman Henson, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, reached approximately 25 children and the 21 grandparents/relatives who are raising them.

FNP staff members Pam Patterson and Mary Flores on a monthly basis are reaching approximately 600-700 adults (18-60 years of age), 100-150 seniors (60+ years), and 400-800 youth and preschoolers. Many contacts are made through their work at the local food pantries and WIC offices.

Ag programs included Dairy Days 2009, which was attended by 38 dairy producers; and the fruit and vegetable conference attended by 85 people.

4-H/Youth Development conducted embryology for 68 classrooms for a total of 1578 students. For program year 2008-2009, there were

- 25 4-H Clubs (1 bi-lingual)
- 9 Clover bud Groups
- 3 Special Interest
Creative Quilters
MCYTT (McHenry County Youth Tech Team)
Master Cook
- 4 Independent Study Groups
- Ambassador Group
Total number of members: 564 (4-H)
Total number of volunteers: 275
Total number of fair exhibits: 3,980

For local leadership, McHenry has two youth serving on Expansion and Review, two on Executive Council, and two on McHenry County 4-H Foundation. Additionally, we have youth serving on the following committees for which they plan and assist in the implantation: Clover Bud Project Day, Junior Leadership Training, officer training, Holiday Workshop, Project Day, Cloverbud Day Camp, Recognition for Excellence Appreciation, program subject clinics, 4-H Information Night, and 4-H International Night.

National, State and Regional Events include the following:
- NILC-Leadership Conference--9 youth on planning committee, 13 youth attended
- Illini Summer Academies--1 served as chairman of committee, 6 youth attended
- YLT (State Youth Leadership Team), 1 youth serves on this committee
- National 4-H Congress, 2 youth attended

For 2009/10:
- Started 1 new Cloverbud Group (an area which is hard to get into)
- Started 2 new 4-H clubs (1 group in an area which is hard to get into)
- Started 1 Special Interest group in school during lunch (alternative school)
- Starting an afterschool program in Harvard (bi-lingual)
- Llama project in the works

Kankakee County—Presented by Alex Panozzo
Alex introduced himself. He had served previously on Kankakee’s Council, and has recently returned. Despite the budgetary problems, he feels fortunate that Kankakee has a referendum.

Alex is a Master Gardener and the program has a lot of opportunities. Farmers’ Markets are big and area garden clubs look to them for speakers and volunteers.

The Master Naturalists program was well attended.

Living on the Land, led by James Theuri, meets weekly with 16 to 18 individuals who are trying to develop small farms.

Would like to see more emphasis on Master Food Preservers. Holly did testing of pressure cookers.

The CED chairperson spun off agri-tourism barn quilt tour. Barn owners sponsor having a large 8’ x 8’ quilt block created on the sides of their barns.
Science Siesta, conducted by Donna Nuger, consists of an all-girl sleepover at the Peggy Notebaert Museum.

Some other things happening in Kankakee County are writers’ workshops that are very popular led by Chelsey Byers; handwashing techniques are being taught; GAP (Good Ag Practices) is scheduled for November, for which they are partnering with the Kankakee Community College, and the Bee Keeper Association is a new organization with about 80 members. They meet every other month.

**Kane County—Presented by Dave Klussendorf**

Master Gardeners are working with retail store, Planter’s Pallette, to answer questions of customers.

A highlight is the inmate garden with the county jail. Sold produce split three ways—research farm, inmates, and Extension. Several items were exhibited at the fair and they took one red and two blue ribbons.

October 24 is volunteer day for maintenance of gardens.

They are putting together programs for schools districts that overlap with Kendall, like a family budget management, composting, embryology, talk to teachers, and how to do science fairs.

Elgin schools are trying to continue a Family Nutrition Program for post elementary school students. Ideas include doing a garden, making healthy meals, and food preserving.

They received a $1000 grant from National 4-H Council and JC Penney for robotics.

Their second annual pork chop dinner is scheduled for April 10.

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

Du Page participated in a Family Bridges marriage conference last month in Waukegan. Daycare was provided, and 85% classes were offered in Spanish. There were about 2000 people in attendance.

Fair went well. The number of exhibits decreased, but attendance was up.

They received a grant for Getting Buggy day camp.

As of September 29, Master Gardeners logged 6,921 hours. Speakers Bureau provided 2,150 various presentations.

80 people attend the Big Read at the library to learn about vegetable gardening.

They participated in Ball Seed Company’s Conservancy tour, who donated day lilies.
The Du Page Juvenile Detention Center has a garden, and food donated amounted to about 400 pounds. The youth get credit for community service hours.

Hort Therapy is offered for all ages. They had a class at College of Du Page with 16 students.

Fundraising they conducted included a plant garage sale, ice cream social, garden walk, and Harvest Roast is next weekend at the county fairgrounds.

County Board support continues to be a struggle for Du Page. They have held three budget hearings, and Extension has had representatives there for each one asking for support.

Lake County—Presented by Tameka Wilson
Their first council meeting brought on five new council members. They formed committees, and James is trying to get council more active. Of concern in Lake County is their lease, and they are looking for a new location. Additionally, Lake County fairgrounds moved and there have been challenges, like parking.

The Hall of Fame dinner was held two weeks ago and they heard good things about it. At the golf outing fundraising they had about 36 golfers. Upcoming is Edible Harvest. Also in the works is Youth in Leadership/Government. It’s a program to help students understand how government works. The curriculum is being developed and they are working on getting students involved.

Cook County—Presented by Tanesha Pittman
Tanesha reported that 500,000 people were served by Extension programs this year. She broke it down further as follow:

- 250 African American men participated in prostate awareness seminars.
- 327 women participated in the On the Road to Breast Cancer program.
- 4,300+ students and 1100 adults utilized the Science on the Go mobile lab for workshops on science topics.
- 24,701 volunteer hours were contributed by Master Gardeners—a program value estimated at $554,989.
- 15,976 food stamp recipients participated in Extension’s Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) program.
- 149 schools, 95 community clubs, and 14 after-school programs worked with 4-H partners.

For marketing purposes, “Hello, my name is…” is a piece developed to direct people to Extension’s website. Another marketing piece is Knowledge 24/7, a direct mail piece that includes a tear-off postcard to request information about programs. Social media is another tool being expanded to reach communities and gain exposure at no cost.

Tanesha shared brochures about a domestic violence conference for social service professionals that deal with victims of domestic violence, and one on Educational Technology—a program for increasing digital literacy.