SHARING REPORTS

AJMPU Unit
Programming in the schools was completed in April and May; incubation of eggs was a big hit. Five classrooms in Union County utilized materials from our offices to incubate chicken, turkey, and duck eggs and Tammie Obermark supplied numerous classrooms in Massac and P/A counties.

Two Camp Clover programs were held this year in the unit; one in Pulaski/Alexander County office and one in Johnson County office. The Southern Illinois Miners gave the unit free tickets twice during the summer. A group from Massac County went once and the participants of the Pulaski/Alexander County camp clover went the other time.

Fish Tales program received the 2007 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) Natural Resources/Environmental Stewardship-team North Central Regional award & the National award as top award in the country.

I, too am America program received the 2007 NAE4-HA Innovator North Central Regional Award

Work continues with Connect SI in the southernmost counties; milestone meetings will be concluding in October and Industrial Clusters will be identified. Several communities have been identified and a work plan is being put together to meet the broadband needs in those communities. In AJMPU, Alto Pass in Union County and New Burnside in Johnson County.

Bond County
One of the issues being addressed by our county is the conservation of natural resources. This summer, with the increasing prices of gasoline and oil, we focused on developing some programming for our youth audiences in and out of school.

An educational display depicting several renewable and non renewable resources was developed for the local county fair. Along with the display, working prototypes of renewable resource powering everyday items were exhibited. The display included items such as a miniature solar car, a hydro-powered calculator and a clock that runs on citrus fruit. It was well received by youth and adults alike.

In conjunction with the display, we developed several activities that we are teaching high school science and agriculture students to present to 5th graders during our Conservation Days next spring. This train-the-trainer method is two-fold, both high school and middle school students learn the principles of producing power with renewable resources.

Clinton County
Farm Fun was a new activity brought to the county fair this year to attract school age children. Activities were designed to give youth who are not from an agricultural background a chance to experience a taste of life on the farm. Approximately 85 youngsters took turns tossing straw bales, mashing grains of wheat to see what was inside; shellong corn, spitting sunflower seeds, answering Ag trivia questions and visiting the petting zoo. Youth were eager to take part and experience many new things as a result of their participation.

Franklin County
Franklin is one of three counties in the Southern Region that has received a grant for working with Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR). Staff members are providing parenting education to help build more stable families. Fifty new moms are currently enrolled in the program.

Master Gardeners and staff members have provided informational displays at the Benton and West Frankfort Farmers’ Markets. Approximately $30,000 worth of food coupons for senior citizens and WIC Clients provided a boost to the local economy. This money is important to the clients and the Farmers’ Market vendors. Master Gardeners are also working on landscaping plans for a habitat for humanity house, and a safe house for children in West Frankfort. They re-did the landscaping at the Extension office in the spring as well.
The fourth annual Equine Seminar was well attended. Assistance was provided with spring and fall field days at Ewing. After the late season freeze in April a meeting was held to assess damage to the wheat crop which was attended by 130 farmers from all over the area. The Cowboy Club beef group continues to meet quarterly.

A five-year Program Review was completed in May, and many program strengths were noted.

**Edwards-Wabash**

Our Community Economic Development committee along with the Albion Chamber of Commerce and Greater Wabash Planning Commission is still looking into co-sponsoring and organizing a Lincoln celebration to mark the historical date in 2009 in Albion. Also, working in conjunction with the City of Mt. Carmel and Greater Wabash Planning Commission, the unit is in the process of setting up a series of Community Leadership workshops.

*Progressive Safety Day Camp* was held again this year. This was the fifth year for this event. Approximately 400 fourth grade students from Wabash, Edwards, and Lawrence counties attended sessions on electricity, large farm equipment, fire, animal and poison safety, as well as sessions on farm accident/disability awareness and methamphetamine awareness. Several individuals from the fire department, electric cooperative, vet clinic, FSA, 4-H, and FNP volunteered their time for two days to present the programs and make the camp a successful learning experience for the students.

**Jackson County**

Jackson County was the recent host for a youth horse judging event which had 75 youth participating.

Our webpage usage had a 58% increase from last year for total contacts of 96,983.

Jackson County is getting ready to host our third Safety Day for 3rd Graders on September 20th with 514 children pre-registered.

We had 238 published news releases sent to area papers last year.

**Jefferson County**

The Discover Chicago program which 4-H Community Worker, Dan Spangler was instrumental in starting more than 10 years ago is being recognized this fall as an Extension Innovative Program of Excellence.

The Family Nutrition Program provided Summer Cooking School for more than 80 youth. One of our cooking school classes was conducted at the Jefferson County Housing Authority.

The CYFAR Program is in the process of recruiting pregnant mothers to participate in the Birth to Three parenting program. CYFAR is working with the WIC program and Rend Lake Teen Parenting program to provide newsletters and parenting education to new mothers.

Extension provided workforce training for Jefferson County Housing Authority employees.

Jefferson County has participated in various community projects and events, such as Family Night Out, Sweet Corn and Water Mellon, Cedarhurst Craft Fair

**Madison-St. Clair**

As part of the Operation: Military Kids’ state initiative, Dawn Waller, Southern Region OMK Coordinator, and local Air National Guard staff partnered to provide leadership training for local youth. Thirteen youth participated in a four day training titled *Speak Out for Military Youth* in July. This day camp allowed military, as well as non-military youth, a chance to unite while exploring issues affecting military kids. The goal of the Speak Out for Military Youth is to form a Speakers’ Bureau whereby youth “speak out” to various community agencies, organizations, schools, etc. to: (1) Increase community awareness of issues and stressors faced by National Guard and Army Reserve families during times of mobilization and deployment (2) Mobilize
community support and activism for creating solutions to support National Guard and Army Reserve youth and families.

In partnership with Fairview Heights Parks and Recreation staff, a 4-H GPS camp was held for youth this summer. Sixteen participants gathered for this three day experience in August. A guest speaker informed participants on how the global positioning system works in conjunction with the hand-held GPS receivers. Youth participated in finding, as well as hiding geocaches, which are treasures that one locates using a hand-held GPS receiver and longitude and latitude coordinates. Other activities included developing a nature trail, performing a search and rescue mission of Buddy, a lost hiker, and learning about various types of maps available, the information they contain, as well as their particular purposes.

Marion County
Ag and Natural Resources continues to be a strong program area. Recent events have included: Corn/Soybean Plot Tour, Development of Master Gardener program, Horticulture Telenet Series

Community Worker and FNP staff members do an 8 lesson series at the Dept of Human Svc (Food Stamp) office. The class reaches young, mostly single Moms, who are taught how to save money as well as shop for nutritious foods at the grocery store. These moms are required through DHS to attend classes or their benefits are reduced.

3 FNP staff reaches over 53 classrooms in 10 schools, several Headstart Pre-K classes, 4 senior sites and 10-12 programs at state or federally funded support agencies each month during the school year.

Monroe County
Monroe County’s involvement with GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Geographic Information System) grew out of interest in incorporating the technology into the county’s Conservation Day Outdoor Education Field Trip which is part of a larger Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Program for fifth grade students in Monroe County.

A grant application to the Environmental Systems Research Institute to acquire GIS software was submitted and funded; another application for an intermediate level grant to continue to expand the GIS and GPS activities begun was submitted and also funded.

Perry County
The Perry County Extension Office had a very successful year with the 4-H Shows. There were 170 in attendance for the Small Pet Show, 123 in attendance for the Livestock Show, 82 at the Food and Fabric Show, and 98 at the General Show. This year we had record number of participants at both the Food and Fabric Show and General Show.

School programming continues to expand. Classrooms are currently scheduled to receive the following curriculums: Ants, Wildlife, Tadpoles, Leadership, Visual Arts, Butterflies, and Gardening. A total of 1,164 students will be reached.

Food and Nutrition is being promoted within our county. Monthly presentations are done at the Health Department and IDHS. Classrooms are scheduled to receive the following curriculums: Hand washing, Breakfast, Health, My Pyramid, Heart Healthy. Over 600 youth will be receiving the information scheduled for the upcoming Head Start and Pre-K programming.

Randolph County
This past year the 4-H Club Sparta Spectaculars were formed. It is the first all African American Club to be formed in Randolph County. The club has grown over the past year to 42 members. They have participated in National Volunteer week by assisting the Master Gardeners at the Randolph County Care Center. In addition, they planted and maintained a flower garden at the County Fairgrounds this summer.
Saline, Gallatin, Pope & Hardin Unit
When persons provide special care for another adult, the physical and emotional demands can take a toll on a caregiver's health, especially if it's a long-term situation.

A program entitled “When Caring for Others” was offered on Monday, August 27, at Southeastern Illinois College in the Private Dining Area from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch was also provided for the participants from a special grant.

Washington County
Community workers were instrumental in coordinating a county-wide community service project for the area youth to participate in. 4-H clubs were given a listing of school supply items that were high need classroom items. Some items that were sought were #10 lead pencils, facial tissues, loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, Elmer’s glue bottles, wet wipes, notebooks, crayons, etc. In turn, these school supplies were divided and delivered to all Washington County Primary and Middle Schools for the 2007 fall term. Each club was given a quota to attain based on their club membership. The program was very well received by the various schools.

Cooking schools were recently completed for the summer. All units were very well attended with some units having a waiting list for next year. Amanda is scheduled to visit every school in Washington County for various school programming throughout the year. She is also working with a planning committee for a new leadership convention for high school age children throughout the Southern Region. This event is known as SILC and is being planning for Columbus Day weekend in Carbondale, IL.

Williamson County
Williamson County Extension is proud to report that Extension is still viable in our county. Interim County Director, Ed Billingsley is the author of a weekly column in the Marion Daily from which we are receiving many compliments and questions weekly.

Our workshop attendance has been increasing. A De-cluttering program offered two weeks ago had 32 in attendance. The pond management workshop which took place this week had over 150 people in attendance. Tomorrow we have a Care Givers workshop scheduled and we have 40 people signed up to attend this program.

Our webpage usage for August has doubled from last August (3,087 hits for the past month.) We have a new 4-H club and clover bud group in the county which increases our youth programming. Our plan of work for the coming year has many exciting programs and we are looking forward to moving forward with these programs in the coming year.