A Note from Ginger Boas

Although 2016 fiscal year provided many challenges to organizations throughout the state, University of Illinois Extension Serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties continued to provide exceptional educational services and programming through our four-county district. Our unit has directly impacted and improved the lives of 75,000 people from various backgrounds, serving a diverse crowd of ages, genders, and races. We have engaged with countless volunteers who have provided over 50,000 hours of service in youth development, financial literacy, environmental and horticultural outreach, and nutritional education. It is my pleasure to present to you the areas in which our reach extends and a sampling on how our unit embraces, extends, and exemplifies the statewide Extension motto “Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives.”

Ginger Boas

County Extension Director
University of Illinois Extension
Serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties
Financial Report
Despite financial difficulties placed on our organization in 2016, we were lucky to receive significant funding from grants and our county boards, guaranteeing another year of success for our unit.

Education Outreach

- **850** Programs led by educators, programming coordinators, and volunteers in 2016
- **75,000** People were served throughout Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties in 2016
- **18,500** Page views on horticulture, finance, and family blogs written by our staff in 2016
- **50,000** Hours of work contributed by volunteers in programs hosted through our unit.
- **160** TV/radio appearances in 2016
- **2,570,000** Pageviews in 2016

BUDGET: **$2,671,069**

- **23%** State
- **1%** Federal
- **45%** Grants/Gifts
- **2%** Fees
- **29%** Local
Horticulture
U of I Extension’s horticulture programming helps create more beautiful communities while saving natural resources and preserving natural areas. Our programs ensure that everyone can enjoy nature and access to nutritious vegetation.

2,000 pounds of produce were grown at Prosperity Gardens by 19 at-risk youth. These efforts fed 200 families in Champaign-Urbana in 2016.

450 people are involved in Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners, volunteering around 34,650 hours yearly.

700 homeowner questions were addressed by the Horticulture Hotlines by over 60 volunteers in 2016.

34,650 hours of work contributed by volunteers.

$750,000 estimated value of volunteer hours.

HIGHLIGHTS
After 8 years of fundraising, the Idea Garden Accessibility Project broke ground in 2016, finally making the Champaign Idea Garden accessible to all.

East Central Illinois Master Naturalist celebrated their 10-year anniversary. Through the decade they’ve spent 57,000 hours saving Illinois’ prairies.

Prosperity Gardens received grants to expand their space by building a wash and pack, create a ‘living’ plant border, and begin urban bee farming.

Local Foods, Small Farms
University of Illinois Extension helps farmers learn efficient business practices and protect our environment, bettering the lives of families and communities. This education leads to the best use of time, money, and human capital while securing jobs in agriculture.

200 Ag Breakfasts
161 Crops Conference
117 Garden Conference
77 Ford–Iroquois Ag Day
60 Take Action on Weeds
55 Succession Planning
31 Pond Management Workshop
29 Annies Project:
Empowering Farm Women
20 2016 Small Farms
Winter Webinar Series
7 Soil and Water
Management Workshop
750+ People educated in our community

500 people attend the University of Illinois and Purdue Extension Bi-State Group small farm conferences each August-February.

200 farmers and community members attend the monthly Ford-Iroquois Ag Breakfasts in Onarga, learning about topics ranging from utilizing cover crops to insurance.
Family Life

Adults who participate in family life programming are able to develop and practice life skills related to managing their health concerns, strengthening their communication, and self-advocacy. These skills contribute to overall health, helping participants remain socially engaged, independent, and viable contributors to their communities longer. This increases the generational and economic vitality of communities and may delay the need and reduce the costs of publicly-funded, long-term care.

- **37** sessions held focusing on aging and family life, including three four-part series on brain health.
- **113,160** hits to the Family Files blog throughout 2016.
- **21,000** people reached through Family Life programs in 2016. This number includes 287 youth.

HIGHLIGHTS

We helped launch the AARP Age-Friendly Community initiative in late 2016 to help make the Champaign-Urbana community a better place for the aging population.

“We Improve Your Wellness” series spanned the areas of brain and financial health to help attendees learn how to be their healthiest.

Real Colors sessions helped people in the community, U of I Extension staff, and 4-H youth discover what kind of leader and person they were.

Consumer Economics

U of I Extension’s consumer economics programs help youth and adults learn the skills they need to increase savings, manage spending, reduce debt, and avoid predatory lending. This education leads to stability through our communities.

- **79** Volunteer Money Mentors contributed 495 hours in 2016. These mentors help 135 people with personal finances.
- **2,054** college students were taught by 20 peer educators on financial topics such as spending, saving money, checking credit reports, and student loan repayment.
- **21,000** views were recorded on the Plan Well, Retire Well blog in 2016. Since the blog launched in 2008, it has had 200,000 hits.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Plan Well, Retire Well blog received the Internet Education Communications National Award from the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences.

Last fall, the All My Money curriculum for limited-resource audiences was rolled out at AFCPE’s national symposium. Over 70% of the content is new.

The massive open online course (MOOC) “Financial Planning for Young Adults” was released in January 2017. This is the first MOOC from the College of ACES.
Youth Development

University of Illinois Extension 4–H programs teach youth life skills. Leadership and decision-making skills gained through the programs increase the likelihood of youth becoming civically active. 4–H members demonstrate reduced high–risk behavior, succeed in school, and contribute to communities, resulting in a greater future for the youth and our communities.

- 6,700 youth impacted by youth development programs in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties.
- 1,754 4-H members are served through our four counties. This number is made of 1,219 Community Club Members and 535 SPIN Club members.
- 33 4-H Teen Teachers taught 315 youth on topics such as agriculture, healthy living, and art in 2016.
- 97 middle and high school 4-H members participated in the 4-H Food Challenge where they learned food safety, nutrition information, and cooking skills.
- 15,000 volunteer hours were contributed to youth in our four counties by 365 club volunteers.

Illinois Nutrition Education Program (INEP)

The Illinois Nutrition Education Program is made up of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and SNAP–Ed. The INEP program helps those who are in need make healthier choices. By reaching people where they are in their communities, INEP is able to teach families the skills necessary for making healthier meals, spending a food budget more effectively, and making healthier living a natural part of the day.

- 4,000+ people benefited from INEP programming in 2016.
- 86% of teachers statewide have noted their students were more aware of the importance of healthy eating after SNAP–Ed programming.
- 761 new families enrolled in EFNEP programming throughout 2016.
- 36,605 people were reached through SNAP–Ed programming in 2015. This number includes 12,863 adults and 23,742 youth.