Macoupin County Program Report
2004-2005

Marketing Agriculture Products
A series of agriculture marketing workshops was held on January 4, February 1, March 7, June
7 and August 23. The hour-long evening teleconferences were taught by Kevin Brooks and
Ruth Hambleton, U of I Extension Educators, who covered putting a marketing plan together,
market and price analysis, marketing strategies, and crop insurance.

“Get Hooked on 4-H” Fishing Derby
More than 84 youth from around Macoupin County enjoyed the University of Illinois Extension
“Get Hooked on 4-H” fishing derby at Beaver Dam State Park in September 2004. For many,
the fishing derby was the kick-off to the 4-H year and introduction to the 4-H Sportfishing
projects while others got to learn more about 4-H.

This annual event is a time many kids look forward to meeting new friends and showing off
their fishing knowledge. One parent commented, “What I like about this derby is every child leaves
with a prize, whether it’s a fishing pole, bait, or more bobbers.” This annual event is sponsored
by University of Illinois Extension Macoupin County with support from the Department of
Natural Resources and Wal-Mart.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity in program and employment.
Blackburn and U of I Offers Horticulture Course

David Robson, U of I Extension Educator taught a one-hour credit course to fifteen students. The course was designed for the students who work on the campus grounds. Other students that are enrolled in the class are biology students and community people who are auditing the class. Each student has prepared a plan for a planting on campus. Officials from the college hope to raise money from alumni and student groups to incorporate the plans into the campus landscape.

Cow-Calf Producers

David James Patterson, Professor of Animal Science, University of Missouri taught “Estrus Synchronization and Use of Timed Artificial Insemination” - Breeding By Appointment. David Seibert, U of I Educator coordinated the telenet program at three sites in Illinois including Macoupin County.

Because of the extremely dry summer, producers met to discuss options for raising forages to feed cattle and sheep. The drought has made producers struggle with what possibilities exist that might help in handling the situation. Producers learned strategies that will assist them in making decisions for their operation. Daryl Strohbehn and Dan Morrical, Extension Specialists from Iowa presented the program.

Agriculture Literacy Program

The purpose of the agricultural literacy program is to educate people of all ages about agriculture – its importance and the role it plays in their lives. Thanks to the support of the program’s 35 sponsors, it has grown over the past 9½ years. This past school year the program reached more than 3,118 students (unduplicated) and 645 educators through 353 classroom programs, teacher in-services, hands-on learning kits, agricultural literacy materials and newsletters. In the picture, Northwestern 2nd graders show their pumpkin life cycle chains they made.
Herb and Heritage Garden at Anderson Mansion

At the Macoupin County Historical Society, Master Gardeners have a demonstration herb garden where they have planted more than 20 different species. This year, two Master Gardeners planted a heritage garden that contains plants of historic significance and interest to Macoupin County. Included in this garden are ornamentals such as annual and perennial plants native to Illinois. Each year, thousands of local residents attend the events at the grounds and visit the garden area.

Junior Leadership Academy

A joint effort by the University of Illinois Extension offices in Macoupin and Montgomery Counties helped local high school students learn leadership skills and raise awareness of career opportunities. In 2005, 25 youth, 16 from Macoupin County, made up the Academy that met six times throughout the school year and participated in leadership training, visited local businesses and met with local officials to learn about the opportunities available for youth in the two counties. Academy sessions this year included Karmak, where the students learned about delegation and project planning; the Cubby Hole which gave the students an idea of how small businesses can grow through the years; Schutt Manufacturing where the students learned about expanding a customer base; Wal-Mart which focused on customer service; and local government officials who talked about the many local leadership opportunities available to young adults. Funding for this project has been provided by a grant through the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Since its inception in 2003, over 35 youth from Macoupin County have participated in the program.

Teen Parenting Course

Teen parenting was identified as a Macoupin County issue both in 2001 and 2005. Since 2001, Macoupin County Extension has been providing parenting classes for teenagers and young adults. In 2004-5, the class was held in both Gillespie and Carlinville. The participants, including both mothers and fathers ranging in age from 15 to 30 years old, came to the course on Tuesday afternoons once a week for eight weeks. Topics taught included basic childcare, ages and stages, child nutrition, parenting styles, discipline, and time management. Sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension, the class works in cooperation with local school districts that allow students to attend the sessions as well as local businesses which provide in-kind incentives for attendees. University of Illinois Extension educators and county health department representatives taught the classes.
Agronomy Day Reaches Ag Producers


Horticulture Telenet Meets the Needs of Local Residents

Macoupin County has taken advantage of the Horticulture Telenets that have been offered throughout the state. Twelve sessions have been presented that cover a variety of gardening topics. Master Gardeners assist with the program. More than 100 people have participated in one of the programs.

Flowering Trees and Shrubs for the Home Landscape
Re-blooming Holiday Plants
Low Input Landscaping With Groundcovers
Spring Wildflowers
Ornamental Vines for the Home Landscape
Vegetable Garden Design: Beyond the Straight and Narrow
Pests of Woody Landscape Plants
The Good Guys and the Bad Guys
Common Weeds of the Home Lawn and Garden
Invasive Plants
Tree Fruits for the Home Garden
Easy Care Native Plants

R.I.S.K.: Consequences of Risky Behavior

With the endorsement of the Macoupin County Regional Office of Education, Macoupin County Extension has been providing R.I.S.K., a value-free, non-judgmental simulation activity that provides teens with a visual understanding of the costs associated with engaging in risky behavior. The simulation story is based on statistical research of actual risk-taking consequences among teens in Illinois and around the United States. Since enacting the program in 2001, over 600 Macoupin County youth have participated in the simulation.
Clean Hands In Macoupin County

All Macoupin County Head Start and Kindergarten children have learned about proper hand washing by using the Glow Germ program. The program uses a black light and special lotion to show students the many germs present on their hands, and to reinforce the proper technique necessary to clean hands to remove bacteria. All children in Head Start and kindergarten received a nailbrush and a sticky cling for the home bathroom mirror to remind them of the 20-second hand wash procedure.

Gardening Day Reaches Over 150

The University of Illinois Extension Gardener’s Day was held on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield. Keynote speaker was Virginia Horrell, Missouri Botanical Garden Master Gardener, who demonstrated container gardening. Local experts presented hour-long classes during the two breakout sessions. Topics included Native Plants in the Home Landscape, Ken Schall, Hillsboro; Shade Gardening, Pat Obertino, Staunton; Prairie Grasses, Dan McCandless, Carlinville; Daylilies, Rosemary Newman, Gillespie; Small Fruits in the Home Garden, Elizabeth Wahle, U of I Specialist; and Flowering Shrubs, Molly Karnes, Bunker Hill.

A Call to Order

Organizing meetings, using agendas and making motions were just a few of the topics covered at a “Managing the Meeting” training the University of Illinois Extension held for 4-H members on Saturday, January 15.

The training’s objective was to equip youth with the skills to properly organize and run a meeting during 4-H as well as later in life. The three-hour workshop included games teaching the 4-Hers different parts of a meeting, how to list an agenda as well as basic parliamentary procedure. Older 4-H members Ethan Eades, of Hettick; Rebecca Hurst of Dorsey; and Brooke Powell of Carlinville helped lead the training.
Landscaping Home Course

Landscaping is an art of developing an environment where the essential elements; the land, trees, plants, stones and water co-exist. Landscaping helps you improve your home in a practical and in an aesthetic way. Landscaping can give your house an inviting and interesting look as you approach the entrance from the street or driveway. The 16-unit home study course, “Landscaping Your Home” was mailed to 41 local residents. The course encouraged participants to complete their landscaping plan at their own speed. David Robson, Extension Educator met with each participants and critiqued their landscaping plan.

Live Line Sparks Some Awareness

On Thursday, May 5, over 250 students from four schools around Macoupin County gathered at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds to learn about the risks associated with electricity and power lines. The electrical safety program demonstrated everyday situations, including live contact with 7200 volts. Kyle Finley, electricity specialist with Live Line, Inc., presented the program. Many schools are hoping funding can be secured to host the demonstration again next year.

Illinois Valley Rehabilitation Center and Macoupin Center for the Developmentally Disabled

During the last 4-H year, Macoupin County Extension has met with IVRC and MCDD to do programming with their participants. Project areas such as Visual Arts, Health, Nutrition, and Safety have been discussed at monthly meetings. IVRC and MCDD have established 4-H Community Clubs within their facilities. Sixty IVRC members showed their projects during the Macoupin County fair this year.

USDA Introduces New Food Pyramid

You can do it! Check out steps to a healthier you at MyPyramid.gov for the latest information on the new pyramid. The 2005 summer programs promoted the balance between food and physical activity using the new food pyramid. Next year’s emphasis will be introducing the new food pyramid to all elementary students.
Aerospace Camp

Blast Off! Aerospace Camp was held in seven towns in Macoupin County this summer for youth ages 8 – 12. This day camp taught basic engineering and aerospace components as well as safety while providing youth the opportunity to make bubble and Estes model rockets. Blast Off! was offered at minimal cost to participants. Approximately 100 youth were reached through Blast Off!

Coordinator of the U of I Extension Family Nutrition Program, helped youth make their own lunches while educating them on hand washing and the food pyramid. The agriculture literacy program coordinator, talked with the youth about taking care of our current agriculture.

Head Start Students Learn Good Nutrition

Emphasis on healthy eating and the introduction to a variety of foods, especially fruits/vegetables are the keys to a healthy lifestyle. Monthly recipes and informational sheets that include foods the 125 children have taste tested are sent home. Recipes and dry soup mixes and cocoa mix are taken home by the children for the family to make at home. Physical activities include simple stretches that encourage the child to teach their family members. Macoupin Head Start locations are in Benld, Carlinville, Brighton, and Thayer.

Emphasis on Fruits and Vegetables

More than 1590 children throughout the county were encouraged to experience vegetables and fruits. Colorful pictures begin the enticement of taste testing vegetables and fruits with dips or in salads. The following are guidelines for one serving of fruits or vegetables: one cup of raw leafy vegetables (such as lettuce or spinach); one-half cup of other vegetables, cooked or chopped raw; three-fourths cup of vegetable juice; one medium sized fruit; one-half cup chopped, cooked, or canned fruit; three-fourths cup fruit juice; one-fourth cup dried fruit.
Royal Lakes 4-H

Twice a month the University of Illinois Extension- Macoupin County has met with 15 youth in Royal Lakes, a predominately African-American community. Extension has partnered with Lewis and Clark Community College. Project areas such as Food and Nutrition, Aerospace, Electricity, Visual Arts, Animal Care and Health have been discussed with these youth. The goal of this program is to increase learning and leadership.

Child Care Provider/Early Childhood Teachers Series

Starting in March, Macoupin County offered four workshops for day care providers. U of I Extension Educators taught the two-hour classes. More than 80 participants received up to eight hours of continuing education credit.

Colors – Patti Faughn
Food Allergies and Safety – Jananne Finck
Learning to Say Goodbye – Patti Faughn
Toilet Teaching – Patti Faughn

Financing Long-Term Care Seminar Series

Ten local residents learned about financing long-term care by participating in teleconference seminars. Long-term care insurance is one financing option that many consumers consider to help pay for long-term care services and to protect assets from the risk of long-term care expenses.

Department of Human Services

Recipes and nutritional information for healthy lifestyles along with dry soup mixes and instant cocoa mix (made with commodity foods such as dry milk), instant potatoes, noodles, Nutrigrain bars, juice, cheese/peanut butter crackers were given to 787 clients at visits to this agency.
Chicago Chinatown Trip

On Thursday, June 2, the University of Illinois Extension – Macoupin County sponsored an intergenerational bus trip to Chicago – Chinatown. Over 100 4-H members, parents, grandparents and friends attended this intergenerational visit to Chinatown. Chinatown was an ideal site for a unique cultural experience. Sites that we took in were: Nine Dragon Wall, a new Chinatown landmark beautifully decorated with nine dragon sculptures; the Chinatown mural, made of hand-painted tiles depicting the history of the Chinese coming to America; Chinatown Square, filled with sculptures of the animals of the Chinese Zodiac; and Wentworth Avenue, the historic commercial district filled with shops, restaurants, and historic landmarks including the Chinatown gate. During this trip 4-H offered youth an opportunity to explore new cultures and make new friends.

Recycling Programs Reach 672 Youth

Recycling education programs were presented to 3rd grade classes in eight Macoupin County schools. A total of 672 students and 37 adults participated in the hands-on program. The program coincides with the Illinois State Learning Standards. Lessons emphasized that the landfill is not the answer to the garbage mass. Biodegradable products were demonstrated. Students filled four mini-landfills with organic waste, shredded newspaper, plastic and aluminum. These mini-landfills were left in the classroom for the students to watch the changes as the materials did or did not decompose.
Commercial Cooks Learn Proper Handling Food

The University of Illinois Extension – Macoupin County office conducted the five-hour refresher course for the Public Health Food Safety Sanitation Managers Certificate. The program reviewed the proper way to handle food that is going to be served to the public. More than 100 participants learned the importance of hand washing, food temperature, storage and serving.

Agricultural Careers Exploration Day

Educators from Macoupin and Montgomery counties explored agricultural careers as they toured the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Monsanto’s Life Sciences Research Center on May 4. Participants had the opportunity to see firsthand and hear about the many careers available in the agricultural industry. In Illinois, one in four careers is a part of or related to agriculture. Educators received materials to assist them in their classroom as well as continuing professional development units for participating. The school districts received reimbursement for substitutes needed for the day. The exploration day was sponsored by the Macoupin and Montgomery County Agricultural Literacy Programs.

Ice Cream Eating Contest

During the Macoupin County Fair, the University of Illinois Extension hosted its first ever Celebrity Ice Cream Eating Contest. Nine area celebrities sat a table with spoons in hand and ready to give their all. Local celebrities that attended were Senator Deanna Demuzio; Judy Decker, Carlinville City Clerk; Linda Eades, 4-H Foundation president; Dave Ambrose, South County News; Kent Tarro, Macoupin County Public Health director; Tim Rhodus, Carlinville Southern Baptist Church; Richard Schien, owner of Karmak; Josh Poos, Acorn Medical; and Derek Stayton, WSMI. Josh Poos won this year’s contest. We are looking forward to planning next year’s event.

Ice cream eating celebrities wait for the fun to begin. Left to right—Richard Schien, Linda Eades, Senator Deanna Demuzio, Judy Decker, Derek Stayton and Kent Tarro.
Macoupin County Council

The Macoupin County Extension Council participates in identifying local needs, providing guidance in program planning and evaluating our programs. These Council volunteers along with 200 additional volunteers extend Extension’s work throughout the community and keep us accountable. The members during 2004-2005 were:

Ron Boehme, Mt. Olive
Brad Bowman, Chesterfield
Diane Bowman, Chesterfield
David Conrady, Palmyra
Judy Decker, Carlinville
Rita Frazier, Benld
Molly Karnes, Bunker Hill
Vivian Malham, Carlinville
Jeff McKenzie, Carlinville
Brook Powell, Carlinville
David Reiniesch, Jr., Gillespie
Olga Rives, Carlinville
Gloria Wiese, Carlinville
Kelly Williamson, Girard
Ann Woods, Carlinville

Macoupin County Staff

Shirley Emerson, Family Nutrition Program Coordinator, Recycling Education Coordinator
Tosha Cantrell-Bruce, 4-H Youth Development Educator
Amy Dewitt, 4-H Community Worker
Mary Lou Griffith, Extension Secretary
Paula Robinson, Unit Leader
Connie Niemann, Ag Literacy Coordinator
Annette Cole, Extension Secretary

University of Illinois Extension – Macoupin County working to make a difference in the lives of people and communities.

Income

50% 26% 9% 15%

Expenses

23% 4% 6% 67%

Federal County Private State

Salaries/Wages Rent/Utilities Travel Program Materials