University of Illinois Extension
East Central Regional Advisory Council
November 1, 2004
Champaign, IL

Attending: David Schug, Champaign Unit; Bob Jurgens, Coles Unit; Kami Miller, Edgar Unit; Mary Rogers, Effingham Unit; Karen Hawthorne, Piatt Unit; Sheila Greuel, Moultrie/Douglas Unit; Mariellen Griffith, McLean Unit; Alice Kirby, Vermilion Unit; Curt Sinclair, Extension Educator, Natural Resource Management and Director 4-H Memorial Camp; Mary Ann Fugate, Associate Regional Director and Extension Educator, Consumer & Family Economics; and Ellen Burton, Regional Director, East Central Region.

In the absence of a Chairman Ellen Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each person to introduce himself or herself.

Dinner was served and following dinner the meeting continued.

Ellen reviewed the Regional Advisory Council’s purpose and directed attention to the Regional Advisory Council document in the packet provided to each member. She noted the purpose of the Regional Advisory Council is to provide advice to the Regional Director and it is a forum through which the members can:

- Exchange information and discuss issues of regional concern.
- Identify, promote and support multi-county planning and programming as appropriate.
- Foster a partnership between University of Illinois Extension, University of Illinois East-Central Regional Advisory Council and unit Extension Councils.
- Support the policies and procedures of University of Illinois Extension.
- Assist with enhancing local, state, and federal funding.

Ellen also reported the following:

- Fiscal Matters: County Board Match is projected to be 100% for this year.
- University of Illinois Extension experienced an additional cut in State funding for Youth Development Educator positions. Five additional positions were lost Statewide. East Central did not experience any loss of positions in these cuts. Statewide we have dropped from 55 State-funded Youth Development positions to 29.
- Staffing: Jennifer Schulz was hired as Unit Educator, Horticulture in the Macon Unit; Ginger Boas was hired as Unit Leader, for the Clay/Fayette Unit.
- Interviews have been held for the Visiting Extension Educator and Director, Small Business Development Center, Decatur. Offer will be made soon.
- Resignation received from Mildred Warren, Extension Educator, EFNEP/FNP, Macon Unit. Position will be advertised.
- Resignation of Tom Monahan, Extension Educator, SBDC, Champaign. This part-time position will be advertised once the Visiting Extension Educator and Director, SBDC is in place.
Rick Atterberry has joined the East Central Region on a 30% appointment to work in the area of marketing and media. Rick also has a statewide appointment with Extension in this area.

Mary Ann Fugate accepted the appointment as Associate Regional Director on a 30% basis. She will be working primarily with program planning and development, and with civil service staff. Mary Ann is Extension Educator, Consumer and Family Economics, Champaign Center, 70% of her time.

Units are in the process of finalizing Plans-of-Work and In/Out Account Audits.

The East Central Region has focused on teamwork and communications during this past year.

Election of officers was held. By consensus David Schug of Champaign County was elected Chairman; and Mary Rogers of Effingham County was elected secretary.

Council Members were asked to report on youth-related programs and projects within their Units:

**Bob Jurgens, Coles Unit: Get Up and Move!** Part of the 2004-2005 Health Initiative for youth is being stressed in the Coles Unit. Bob shared the Coles County 4-H Leader News which featured information about the initiative, the importance of this initiative in helping youth to develop life long healthy habits; healthy recipes, and Get Up and Move! activities that can be used at club meetings.

**Karen Hawthorne, Piatt Unit:** The county has established primary goals for the 4-H Program:

1. Expand 4-H traditional club outreach.
2. Provide opportunities for teens to enhance both leadership and organizational skills through club involvement with young adults. Expand linkage with Collegiate 4-H on University of Illinois campus.
3. Provide more project mini-workshop opportunities for 4-Hers.
4. Enhance educational support of 4-H leaders and parents through onsite workshops, Internet, newsletters and fact sheets.

The county is targeting hard to reach teens that are interesting in joining a teen club. This club will focus on both community service and educational activities. College-age teens or a young adult will lead the club. The emphasis will be focused on the teens planning, organizing and doing activities that are important to them and may have a somewhat less traditional emphasis. The teen leader/young adult will work closely with both the 4-H community worker and the unit leader.
Karen also reported on a special project she is working on with the youth of Piatt County—a 4-H Choral Group. She hopes to have a group that will provide music for all ages.

**Alice Kirby, Vermilion Unit:** One of the most successful events in the Unit was the annual 4-H Horse Camp. The event was held in May prior to the county fair. 4-H members were given the opportunity to ride in the show arena, become familiar with the facilities, and learn new riding and grooming techniques. This year a new sport was introduced at the 4-H Camp called Dressage. Participants also learn to make rope halters, and received a lesson on trailering or pest control. 4-H members from surrounding counties are invited to participate in this event. Hard working volunteers work to make this camp possible.

**Sheila Greuel, Moultrie/Douglas Unit:** Camp Clover provided an excellent learning experience for youth during the summer of 2004. 137 youth participated in the summer day-camp experience targeted at youth 8 – 12 years of age with special emphasis placed on reaching youth from limited resource communities. Many of the youth were Hispanic and/or were being raised by their grandparents.

To stretch the allotted funds the unit combined efforts with an existing summer camp in the two communities where the camp was held. The communities worked with the University of Illinois Rural Recreation Program to hire and train a camp director as well as several youth counselors.

Each camp included two topics: Food Science You Can Eat and Adventures With Plants and Soils. Youth developed healthy choice making skills while participating in Food Science You Can Eat. The youth who participated in Adventures with Plants and Soils completed hands-on experiences with various aspects of plant growth.

**David Schug, Champaign Unit:** “Munchin’ Maniacs” was a six session cooking school for kids held after school. The program provided experiences for the children through which they learned proper cooking techniques, healthy nutrition and diet, and tasty and cool recipes. The six lessons were: Snack Attacks, On the Road, Go Wild, On the “Moo’ve, Blast Off, and Wet Their Whistle. Over 750 youth participated during the summer of 2004. “Munchin Maniacs” was piloted in the Champaign Unit. The curriculum was then provided to each unit in the East Central Region.

The Champaign Unit Annual Report titled—*What Matters* was distributed. The full color brochure provides an overview of the breadth of programming being conducted in the Unit.
Mary Rogers, Effingham Unit: 4-H Mystery Camp was a 4-day event held over the summer. The camp featured hands-on opportunities for youth to explore biotechnology and science. Topics included cells and their functions; Biotechnology’s role in medicine and health, science you can eat—products made from corn, wheat, and soybeans and chromatography. Each day the youth prepared their own lunch where they learned a variety of skills such as measuring dry and liquids, chopping, cutting, peeling, kneading, timing, boiling, pouring liquids, reading a recipe, and delegating job assignments. A follow-up one-day camp is being planned for November 11, 2004.

A Basic Sewing For Kids workshop was held for youth in October. A number of youth participated in the workshop, which was made up of mini-classes teaching basic sewing skills. 4-H Presents Holiday Crafts for Kids is scheduled for early December.

Kami Miller, Edgar Unit: The 4-H program was very active throughout the summer culminating in the 4-Hers showing their project work at the 4-H Show. The Edgar Unit has added a new employee who works with the Family Nutrition Program. She is working to start new programs for and with limited resource youth. Extension is partnering with other agencies to expand programming and the potential to reach new and expanded audiences.

Mariellen Griffith, McLean Unit: Youth Development staff worked in many different venues to reach under served and limited resource youth. A community center grew out of these dedicated efforts. The Unity Community Center, located in Normal, provides programming for limited resource youth, ages 5 – 18 years, who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a positive, structured learning environment outside of school. This has been a very successful project.

Mary Ann Fugate spoke about her role as Associate Regional Director in working with program planning and development; and in working with civil service staff. She also spoke about her role as Extension Educator, Consumer and Family Economics. She indicated that one of the most successful youth programs developed by the CFE Team is Welcome to the Real World. This program provides high school age youth with an opportunity to experience receiving an income, then paying taxes and the bills associated with living in the real world. For most youth it is a very enlightening experience.
**Curt Sinclair** Extension Educator Natural Resources and Director of 4-H Memorial Camp presented an update on the growth of the camp over the last ten years. Participation of 4-Hers at 4-H Memorial Camp has grown from 400+ campers in 1993 to almost 1500 4-H campers in 2004. He also pointed out that the total number of people who participated in a camp activity during 2004 was 7760, with almost 41,000 meals served.

Curt spoke of the program additions that have been made to the camp—a challenge course and a climbing tower. He stressed that as times change, programs must also change to meet the desires of the clientele. But one thing does not change—and that is the concern for the health and safety of those participating in activities at the camp. All activities are instructed and supervised by staff trained and certified in the new equipment.

Curt showed the Council the architect’s rendering of the new winterized multi-purpose dining hall that will be built on the grounds of 4-H Memorial Camp. The new dining hall will also include offices for the staff. This new facility is being paid for primarily by one generous donor who remember very fondly the wonderful times he had at camp as a child.

Curt reminded the Council that 4-H Memorial Camp belongs to each of us. He also asked each Council members to encourage older youth and college age students to apply for a summer job at 4-H Memorial Camp. It is a 24 hour a day job—but it is a great opportunity to learn about one’s self and to help others.

The next meeting of the East Central Regional Advisory Council will be a teleconference meeting to be held on April 11, 2005 at 7:30 PM. Ellen will send out the phone number and instructions for the teleconference closer to the date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen I. Burton
Regional Director