



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

SOUTHERN UPDATE



Extension is tackling a wide range of caregiving issues in Southern Illinois.

Southern Regional Office

4202 Williamson Pl, Suite 2
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Phone: 618-242-9474
Fax: 618-242-9386

Dale A. Law
Regional Director

Pam Jacobs
Carol Schlitt
Interim Assoc. Reg. Director

Becky McMurray
Administrative Aide

Denise Banas
Office Support Specialist

Peter Piacenza
Computer Tech Support

Annette Campbell
Communications & Marketing

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Grant Funds Caregiving Initiatives

For the past six years, U of I Extension and The H Group (formerly Franklin-Williamson Human Services) have received a grant from the Illinois Department on Aging, through the Egyptian Area Agency on Aging in Carterville. This grant has provided funding for caregiving seminars in 12 of our southernmost counties. The seminars are designed for caregivers who are caring for an aging spouse or parent, grandparents and other adults who are raising relatives, and for professionals who work with caregivers and their care-receivers.

Extension focuses on grandparenting issues because we know that today, more than ever, grandparents and other older adults are parenting for a

second time! They have unique challenges and concerns—from legal issues to child care to parenting.

Last year, the grandparenting seminar was at maximum attendance—evidence of the needs of this audience. One of the networking outcomes of this seminar was the formation of the *Southern Illinois Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coalition*.

The coalition has now obtained a Brookdale Foundation Grant, which will be used to set up and manage a website for grandparents. The grant is also providing funding for Extension to conduct grandparent support group trainings. A new curriculum and training will be introduced this fall.

Welcome Dale!

Dr. Dale A. Law, our new Regional Director as of June 1, is no stranger to Illinois Extension. Dale, as he prefers to be called, has previously served as an assistant agriculture and 4-H adviser in Madison County, working alongside Dave Fischer. From there, he was promoted to agriculture and 4-H adviser in Scott County.

He then returned to UIUC to work on his doctorate in agriculture education. He was the first recipient of the Laura M. Weber Doctoral Fellowship in Extension Education. Upon receiving his doctorate degree, he became a full-time faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Communications and

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Calendar Items

Regional Meeting
August 25

Secretary In-Service
September 9

Regional Advisory
Committee
September 9

Ewing Field Day
September 10

FNP Training
September 10

Jackson County to
Host Miss America
September 12

County Director Meeting
September 22

Regional Advisory
Council
September 24

Discover Chicago
October 10 – 12

Southern Illinois
Leadership Convention
October 10 – 12

Ewing Demonstration Center Gets New Building

This year marks the centennial observance for the University of Illinois Ewing Demonstration Center. The University started research and demonstration work at Ewing in March of 1909.

At the fall field day on September 10, the center's new multi-purpose storage/educational building will be showcased, along with recognition of donors who contributed to the construction of the building.

The new building was made possible by a unique collaboration that involved the Ewing Field Advisory Committee, the Franklin County Unit, the Extension team members who work at the center, and generous donors who understand the value of the plot studies conducted at Ewing Field.



Plan to attend the September 10 field day to see the new facility!

Dale Law Continued

Education, and succeeded Dr. Violet Malone in directing the Master's in Extension Education degree program. From this position, he moved into higher education administration in Nebraska and Missouri before returning home to Illinois.

Dale's top priority is helping Southern Region staff members adapt to the new model for Extension in Illinois and helping make this the number one region in the state. Dale said, "With changing societal expectations, current economic realities, state and university budget issues, new legislative mandates on accountability, and other issues having an immediate impact on our staffing and program delivery, we have a lot of challenges ahead. But, we also have a lot of opportunities in our 27 counties as we continue the Extension mission of helping people put knowledge to work."

Dale is seeking input from all staff in the Southern Region through several committees that are being appointed to

address pressing issues such as program delivery, organizational structure, and budget uncertainties. He said, "I encourage everyone to get involved and make a commitment to the future of Extension in this region. All of us are talented, experienced, creative individuals, and we are being given an opportunity to chart a new course for our future."

He went on to say, "Sometimes, decisions we don't like are made, and sometimes they complicate our lives. But even if we can't control what others do, we can control our own attitudes and reactions to what others do. Now is the time for us to be proactive and give a positive response to this window of opportunity to create a new Extension that will be sustainable, nimble, and responsive to community needs."

Dale encourages staff to contact him through email or phone when the need arises. He has visited many of the units and all of the centers and looks forward to visiting the rest.