



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

SOUTHERN UPDATE



Students in Randolph County were among many in the region who conducted the Biofuel Blast Experiment.

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Issue 4
December 2009

Youth Learn Science in a Whole New Way

Young people throughout the region participated in the Biofuel Blast 4-H National Youth Science Day Experiment in October and November. The students participated in a live demonstration of how organic materials can be converted to fuel to supply energy.

More than 450 students in five Randolph County schools were involved. The experiment was conducted in 25 classrooms, grades 4 through 8, reports Yvonne Eater, 4-H and youth community worker. More than 50 percent of the participating students reported that they wanted to learn more about biofuels and other science topics.

The Biofuel Blast experiment was also featured at a biotechnology teacher

training at Southwestern Illinois College in Red Bud. The training was funded by a grant obtained by the Monroe-Randolph Regional Office of Education. Twenty-five teachers in elementary through high school were in attendance.

In Pope County, 39 students conducted the experiment, Hardin County had 42 participants, and Monroe County had more than 300 students.

In Franklin County, the experiment was conducted at a rural elementary school. Cindy Bauman, 4-H and youth community worker, says that about 150 students in grades K - 4 participated. The experiment was also conducted at the local Youth Conservation Fair, which involved about 300 participants.

Southern Regional Meeting Dates

Academic Extension staff should hold the following dates for regional meetings:

2010

February 23
May 25 - 26
September 28
November 23

2011

February 22
May 24 - 25

In addition, beginning September 2010 and continuing through May 2011, academic staff should hold the 4th Tuesday of each month, excluding December, for possible training for all or various groups of staff, committee meetings, or other region-wide meetings.



Calendar Items

Regional Advisory Committee
December 8
Southern Regional Office

Telenet with State Director
January 7

*Academic staff members encouraged to participate.
See 12/3/09 email from Dale Law

State Director to Meet with Southern Region Academic Staff
January 22
Jefferson County Office

Regional Meeting
February 23
Jefferson County Office

Your Regional Advisory Committee

Members of our Regional Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Jody Johnson, Chairman
- Teresa Steckler, Secretary
- Susan Hayden
- Larry Paszkiewicz
- Mike Plumer
- Pam Jacobs
- Carol Schlitt

Feel free to contact any of these committee members with your concerns. The next Regional Advisory Committee meeting is December 8.

Personnel Update

Martha Winter will be retiring effective December 31. Her Extension career started in 1972 as a summer assistant in Perry County, upon her graduation from SIU. Later that year, she became the home economics assistant adviser in Montgomery County. In 1973, Martha accepted the Franklin County home economics adviser position. Martha left Extension in 1975 to teach at Rend Lake College. She also worked as a home economist for the St. Louis District Dairy Council.



She returned to Extension in 1985 as the Randolph County home economics adviser, and then accepted the same position in Perry County in 1989. In 1992, Martha became the nutrition and wellness educator at the Mt. Vernon Center.

Martha's many awards include the CES Outstanding Program Award, NEAFCS Distinguished Service and Continued Excellence Awards, Award of Excellence for Outstanding or Innovative Team Programming (twice), and a Dannon Institute Excellence in Community Nutrition Award. Best wishes to Martha!

Myrtle DeLoach will be retiring effective December 31. Myrtle joined the organization in 2003 as the Jefferson County Extension director. Before coming to Extension, she was an Assistant Nurse Manager with the U.S. Navy Medical Corps. She also served as a Project Coordinator with the White Crane Wellness Center in Chicago and led a Stress Management Education and Training program.



Myrtle developed many new partnerships between Extension and community organizations, broadening the impact of Extension to new audiences. She successfully authored several grants which provided seed money to various new programs in Jefferson County. Best wishes to Myrtle in her future endeavors!

★ Put aside differences . . . forgive and forget . . .
brought to you by thoughts we generated at the FISH Market Place.