



Illinois 4-H Signature Program Overview

Let's Get Growing

Extension Grand Challenge: Food - Food Production

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The perfect beginning for any gardening or agricultural education program. Engage youth in planning, designing, and implementing their own garden. Help foster a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, build science skills, and cultivate the mind through diverse learning experiences. An example of materials required for a gardening toolkit is provided below.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Youth between the ages of 8 – 18 such as 4-H clubs, 4-H Federations, in-school and after-school programs and other positive youth development settings.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Plan, design, and implement their own garden or food education project
- Gain practical skills with a variety of growing methods and technologies
- Identify opportunities for community service
- Strengthen their understanding of where their food comes from through hands-on learning

TOOLKIT

Supported Curricular Resources

- **Purdue Gardening:** [Leader's Guide PDF](#)
 - The Purdue Gardening Curriculum is for grades 5-12 and is broken down into four different skill levels. This link will provide you an overview of the content offered in the curriculum so you can assess how/where to utilize it before you register to receive the curriculum.

Gardening Tools

As part of your registration for the Let's Get Growing Signature Program, you can receive curricular resources as well as material resources to support your gardening / agriculture-related education program. Below is a list of materials that could be useful for your garden program. Materials purchased for this program can be reimbursed by the State 4-H Office as funds last through the Signature Program process.

- 72 Cell Seed Starting Tray
- Monarch Sanctuary Seed Kit
- 35 Pack Garden Vegetable Seed Kit
- Gardening Tool Tote Bag
- 30 Gallon Canvas Gardening Grow Bag
- Organic All Purpose Gardening Soil
- Gardening Gloves (Youth)
- 2 Gallon Watering Can
- Mini Shovel D - Handle X 10
- 3 pc Garden Hand Tools X5





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CROSS-EXTENSION, CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Horticulture, Small Farms/Local Foods Educators and SNAP-Ed Educators.
- Food banks, food pantries
- Community and civic organizations
- In-School and After-School programs

OPTIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/EXPERIENCES

Clubs wanting to focus on food access and food security are encouraged to consider utilizing our Food Action Academy curriculum as a resource. More information can be found at the links below. Additionally, working with the local SNAP-Ed Educator in your area can be a helpful food access resource.

Additional food access resources can be found at:

- [Food Action Academy Page](#) – A link to our curriculum homepage.
- <https://map.feedingamerica.org/> - A searchable online database for finding data regarding food insecurity in your county.
- <https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/> - The Illinois SNAP-Ed program website, includes the Find Food IL resource map designed to educate communities about the food resources available in their area.
- <https://www.feedingillinois.org/> - A resource to find information about food banks and food pantries in your area.

REGISTRATION

Please register at the signature program intent to participate form distributed from the State 4-H Office.

FUNDING SUPPORT

The primary funding source made available through the State 4-H Office is to support the purchase of the curricular and material resources needed to achieve your programming goals. Groups should coordinate program expenses with their Unit Extension Office. Collaborations with local donors are also recommended where possible.

Additional funding to support programmatic costs is also available from the Food Advocacy Grants which are available several times a year through the State 4-H Office. See the following link for more information: [Gardening, Agriculture and Food Access Page](#)

Funding available in partnership with U of I Extension Master Gardener program through the Know More, Grow More grant. Details on how to apply are available from Candice Hart, State Master Gardener Specialist at mille116@illinois.edu

Youth Participants:

A Qualtrics based evaluation tool will be shared with you after registering through the Signature Programs process.

If you need a paper copy, please contact Mark Becker: mbbecker@illinois.edu

