PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

• Young people know 4-H Camp is fun. Youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communication and leadership, cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. One hundred twenty-nine youth, ages 9 to 13, participated in Marion County 4-H Camp. This four-night, five-day camp gave the youth an opportunity to learn valuable life skills. They also learned about and participated in educational sessions, recreation, team-building activities and other educational opportunities. Forty-four teen counselors and 19 adult staff were involved in the successful completion of this camp.

• Marion County supported 45 4-H Clubs. These clubs involved nearly 675 youth, ages 5 to 19, and 122 adult volunteers. Volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of time to teach youth life skills such as leadership, decision-making and communication. Members completed educational projects, completed community service projects and practiced public speaking through demonstrations and presentations to their clubs.

• Nearly 850 youth participated in project-related clinics, Skillathons and Quality Assurance Training. These educational programs were offered for sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, beef, dairy, horses and goats. The programs covered a variety of topics including showmanship, proper animal care, nutrition, equipment and grooming. Following the programs, many participants indicated they felt more prepared to care for and exhibit their animal project.

• Fifty-three teens participated in at least 16 hours of leadership and event management training taught by the Extension educator. Through their participation on the Marion County Junior Fair Board, the teens contributed an average of 20 hours of leadership service each.

• Forty-four teens completed approximately 30 hours of 4-H Camp Counselor Training. They learned the responsibility of caring for children, as well as how to plan and coordinate camp activities and education sessions.

• Forty-two 5- to 8-year-olds were active participants in countywide 4-H Cloverbud meetings, and 37 attended a two-day Cloverbud Camp. Participants indicated they made new friends, learned new skills and had fun.

Marion County receives $51,667 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.