

# PURDUE EXTENSION



## Making a Difference in Boone County

### Master Gardeners Serving Their Community

Boone County Master Gardeners assist Purdue Extension in fulfilling gardening and horticultural educational needs of a growing suburban population.

Some examples of Boone County Master Gardener volunteer activities with Purdue Extension coordination:

- Fifty two trained and certified individuals volunteered over 2600 hours in the county during the past year.
- Community gardens in Lebanon increased local pride and provided food for the needy
- Over 600 participated in Gardenfest, a yearly community educational event
- Educational programs to schools, libraries, service groups reached over 300 people
- Horticulture therapy provided exercise and enjoyment for the elderly & at-risk youth

### What to Do When Income Drops

The current economic downturn has created uncertainty. Many families have experienced job loss or lowering of income. A workshop was offered to help residents seek solutions. As a result of workshop participation:

- 72% of participants indicated that they will think differently about "surviving" when income drops
- 55% of participants said they would identify all sources of income and their monthly expenses
- 77% plan to create a spending plan
- One participant said, "I will not wait, but deal with it head on." Another said that, "listing income and expenses will help us see what our finances look like"

### Purdue Extension in Boone County Delivers:

- Timely agricultural, horticultural and natural resource problem-solving advice through weekly local newspaper columns, e-mail groups, internet, and a local, accessible personal contact.
- 4-H Youth Development – youth develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills through the 4-H club and project program as well as community outreach programs such as afterschool, youth leadership, and ATV safety.

### 4-H Operation Military Kids

A local family was granted legal guardianship of their grandson when his parents were deployed to Iraq. The child had to move to a new state and new community with his grandparents.

- The family was connected to Purdue Extension and the child was enrolled in the 4-H program.
- The child was able to lease a dairy heifer from a local dairy farmer for his 4-H project
- Purdue Extension provided bio-security information to the farmer and family so the child's parents could visit the dairy farm
- As a result of 4-H participation, the child developed a more positive attitude, higher self-esteem, and coped better with his situation, according to his grandparents
- Purdue Extension connected the family with the Cooperative Extension Service in Alaska so they can continue their 4-H experience at home

### Learn More About Purdue Extension in Boone County

Purdue Extension  
**Knowledge to Go**  
1-888-EXT-INFO

- 12,500 Boone County residents used Purdue Extension
- Hundreds of local volunteers assist with educational programming
- Visit our website: [www.ibccn.org/ces](http://www.ibccn.org/ces)

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