The Meat We Eat

Have you ever wondered where the meat you eat comes from? Join us to learn more about where your meat products come from, what makes a good steak or chop, and how to best prepare them.

Be Your Own Guide

In this class, you will learn how to read a compass using both bearings and azimuth codes. Then you’ll use your new compass skills to direct you on a journey and solve a riddle about the University of Illinois College of ACES!

Unlocking Agriculture Innovation

The world of agriculture is full of cool things and it gets cooler every day! Learn about how innovation will help the future of agriculture and participate in an escape room, solving puzzles and discovering codes, to help unlock the next step of innovation.

Let’s Play!

Did you know playing can be a form of therapy? It reduces fear, anxiety, and pain in kids. Create your own play therapy project to take home as you learn about how counselors, therapists, and child life specialists use arts and crafts to help children.

What’s Poppin’?

Pop over to the Department of Crop Sciences to learn about the official snack food of Illinois: popcorn! Learn where popcorn comes from, why it pops, and enjoy a little bit for yourself.

Make Sense of the World of Plants

Use your senses to learn more about plants and how they interact with their environment. Not only will you leave this class with a new appreciation for plants, but you’ll get to go home with your very own sensory plant.
A-Maize-ing Possibilities

You see corn all the time in Illinois, but do you know what all it’s used for? You might be surprised by some of our favorite products that are made from processed corn: bioplastic toys, corn-based foods, biodiesel, ooblek, and more!

Campus Tree Hunt

Have you ever wondered how many tree species there are in Illinois? Or maybe you’ve heard that you shouldn’t rip the bark off a tree? Maybe you’ve wanted to know how to identify different tree species? In this session, we will go on a hunt to answer these questions and peer into the life of trees around campus!

The Secret (Microbial) Life of Yogurt

Greek yogurt, yogurt with fruit, cream-line yogurt – there’s so many different kinds! If you’re curious about what their differences are and how to make these products at home, come learn, taste the products, and watch demonstrations from the food microbiology group.

It’s a Bird’s World: Exploring Avian Ecology and Conservation

Get up close and personal looks at wild birds with mist-netting and banding demonstrations. Learn about the natural history of birds and research techniques used to protect wild bird populations in this outdoor session.

Dare to Dream

You’ve probably been told to dream big and never stop following your dreams, but what are your dreams? After a larger session for all participants, this session will dive deeper to help you connect (or reconnect) to your personal, family and life dreams! We’ll try out different tools to help you take steps to be a successful dreamer.

Let the Good Times Roll

Few things taste or smell as good as bread fresh from the oven. Join us as we explore the science of bread and make some to enjoy!

Create Your Draft: Blogging for Search Engine Optimization

Have you ever wanted to start a blog? Get the tips and tools to start or continue a blog for the best traction on Google. Learn about connecting with your audience, tags, links, word counts, frequency, and best practices. We'll discuss topic ideas, using photos in posts, calls to action, and how to utilize analytics.

4-H Project Possibilities

ACES is home to Illinois Extension and the 4-H program! From creating a pillow to a hydroponics project, community service and cooking, too! 4-H has endless project possibilities! This session will explore 4-H and include multiple hands-on, make and take projects! #thats4H
Electric Fruit

Join us as we experiment with the power of citrus fruit! These powerful fruits hold natural electrolytes, which can conduct electricity. In this session, participants will create a battery out of fruit and power a lightbulb the same way. Come join this “shocking” session!

“Peel” back the layers

Let’s think futuristic about one of the oldest resources on our Earth...soil! Participants will recognize the opportunities and challenges leading to food production in the year 2050. This session is for future producers, critical thinkers, everyday consumers, and everyone in between!

The Journey of our Food

We love fast food hamburgers, cheese curds, and ice cream, but where do they come from? In this workshop we will note the crazy journey our food takes to become a product. From animal or plant, to truck, to kitchen, join us as we explore the journey of our food.

Building Up Our Goals

While using their imaginations and creativity, participants will be “reaching new heights” to build towers and work within their groups. This high-energy and hands-on experience will allow participants to learn about the importance of goal setting and SMART goals!

Airplanes, Pictionary, and Perspectives... Oh My!

Whether you grew up on the farm, live in the middle of town, or grew up with the hustle and bustle of the city, we each have experienced different things in life. Using a paper airplane and a family favorite game of Pictionary, participants will dive deeper into the different perspectives that each one of us has. Join us for an action packed and high-energy session!

A World in Our Hands

Hold the world in your hands when you make a living terrarium in a jar. Participants in this session will create a self-sustaining ecosystem that will support life and learn about the importance of water quality.

*Subject to change based on registrations and instructor availability.*