

Putting Small Acres to Work 2015-2016 Workshop Series Announced

The University of Illinois Extension local foods and small farms team is sponsoring a series of workshops on a variety of topics to help people who have a few acres learn ways that they can put them to use. Dates and locations for the 2015-2016 workshop series, "Putting Small Acres to Work," were recently announced. The workshops will be offered between Dec. 5, 2015, and April 2, 2016, at four locations throughout Illinois. Topics and presenters will vary at each location. Topics at some locations may include: social media; small flock poultry; asparagus; pumpkins; brambles and chain saw safety; managing wildlife; how to grow a hobby into a farm business; hops; small orchards; organic/low-input vegetable gardening; sheep; ducks; and composting for livestock producers. "Putting a few extra acres to work can bring in additional income, provide an opportunity to experiment with a new enterprise, or develop an interest or hobby for its educational or entertainment value," said University of Illinois Extension local foods and small farms educator Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant. "How to get started is the question," she added.

Workshops will be held on the following dates:

- Dec. 5, NIU Rockford Conference Center, Rockford
- Dec. 5, 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello
- March 12, Greenville College, Greenville
- April 2, Kankakee Community College, Kankakee

"You don't have to own hundreds of acres to create a profitable business," Cavanaugh-Grant said. "We developed these workshops to help people realize the possibilities that a few acres can provide." Visit the workshop website, go.illinois.edu/SmallAcres, for more information on speakers and topics and to register. For more information about the series, contact Cavanaugh-Grant at 217-782-4617 or cvnqhgrn@illinois.edu.