ANDREW COUNTY EXTENSION PROVIDES LUNCH FOLLOWING ANDREW COUNTY FAIR PARADE

Each year the Andrew County Extension Council has an Annual BBQ to thank county residents for their support. This is usually held in May; however, the Andrew County Fair Board asked us if we would be willing to serve food following the Andrew County Fair Parade. The Council accepted. We served hotdogs, chips, cookies, and lemonade to over 200 people on the courthouse lawn. We are planning to do the same thing in 2010.
December 2009

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:

As we approach the end of another year and the beginning of a new year, I want to thank you for the support you have given to your local University of Missouri Extension Center during these difficult economic times. Your partnership with federal and state government and many other entities through MU Extension has made it possible for:

- Young people to learn life skills that make them contributing, caring members of the community, prepare them with science-based education for higher education and careers of the future, and help them avoid risky behaviors.
- Aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses to be more efficient and profitable, thereby helping to strengthen the local economy.
- Farmers and agribusinesses to incorporate new, research-based production techniques and best practices into their operations to improve their bottom line while protecting the environment.
- Families to learn and engage in healthy nutrition, fitness and lifestyle behaviors, which also help them reduce medical costs.
- Firefighters, nurses, law enforcement officers, teachers and others maintain and upgrade their professional skills and certifications.
- Communities to develop local leaders and deal with critical issues in a non-biased, neutral way for the public good.

The funds invested in MU Extension are well-managed. $11 million in county council funds, combined with other public and private funds, allow us to deliver $99 million worth of educational programs statewide. While the methods for delivering educational programs continue to evolve—including the Web, videos, social networking media, print materials and face-to-face meetings—the core of MU Extension’s mission remains:

“...to improve people’s lives, communities and the economy by providing Relevant, Responsive and Reliable Research-based education.”

If you have suggestions for how MU Extension can better serve your needs, please contact me or your local extension center.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vice Provost and Director

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local Extension Councils Co-operating

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution
ANDREW COUNTY RESIDENTS GO TO SCHOOL

MU Direct: Continuing and Distance Education meets the needs of adult learners by offering high-quality credit and noncredit University of Missouri programs in flexible formats. In FY2008, MU Direct worked with 10 schools and colleges to offer 41 degree options, several certificate programs and many individual courses to adults in 49 states and international locations, totaling 8,704 enrollments in 666 courses. Except for an evening bachelor’s degree program, three online bachelor’s degree completion programs, and one online Ph.D. program, the degree options offered are at the master’s level and are either completely or partially online. In addition, many of the programs have noncredit options. In Andrew County, 225 learners participated in MU Direct credit and noncredit courses. For more information, see: http://mudirect.missouri.edu/

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE HELD TO ELECT COUNCIL-PERSONS

“Each year in January, the Andrew County Extension Council meet over lunch for their regular monthly meeting and stay to visit with residents of the county as they come to the Andrew County Extension Center to cast their ballot for the council member that has been nominated for their own township. This event enables council members to meet people from around the county and share what MU Extension can provide,” Gary Cole, Council President.

Citizens from across the county are invited via the Savannah Reporter, to come by the office for refreshments, visit with council members, office staff, and subject matter specialists. Tours of the offices were given to those who were new to the extension office.

HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Each year the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce holds a city-wide winter holiday activity with Santa Claus in the courthouse. The local extension council hosted Holiday Cookie Decorating in the basement of the courthouse tying into the overall theme. Since parents were required to be with the children, it offered an additional opportunity to give some handouts to them and certainly a new audience for extension. There were approximately 130 cookies decorated.
GRAZING WEDGE AND DIGITAL PASTURE PLATE METER
By Jim Humphrey, Livestock Specialist

In 2009 Bob Kelly and Jim Humphrey continued their work with the Digital Pasture Plate Meter they purchased from New Zealand. With the help of several area producers we continued measuring the density and quantity of forages on locations throughout Northwest Missouri. In addition to the forage measurements we were obtaining we kept track of management practices producers were performing on their individual operations. This information is being kept for future comparisons. Once forage measurements were taken they were entered in a web based program developed by the University of Missouri Extension Plant Sciences Division called the “Grazing Wedge”. Additionally, the grazing wedge creates charts that allow producers to monitor and track forage growth and yield over multiple months and years.

MEAT GOAT POCKET GUIDE
The Andrew County Extension Council, University of Missouri Extension and Kaeco Group, have continued their efforts on the Meat Goat Pocket Guides, with over 6,900 guides distributed throughout Missouri as well as several other states. These guides are designed to help meat goat and sheep producers keep better records on their operations. Additionally, we have been receiving very positive comments on the pocket guides and continue to get requests on a regular basis.
2006-2009 North Central/Northwest Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sales
By Jim Humphrey, Livestock Specialist

We believe we have had some very high quality heifers being offered during this time. Below are some notes and comparisons that might be of interest to you and your operation.

- Over the last 4 years we have had 123 registered buyers with 56 (46%) of them being actual buyers.
- Our average lot size has been just under 4 head (3.99 head/lot).
- As a general rule larger, heavier heifers that went through our sales, received more dollars per head.
- When looking at the starting calving date, heifers that were expected to start calving in February commanded a higher average price compared to the heifers calving later or earlier in the year. This is a trend that has held true for most sale years.
- Registered heifers as a general rule brought more money than non-registered heifers. The non-registered heifers sold between $885 and $1,750 per head.
- Artificial Insemination vs. Natural Service Bred Heifers. We sold 80 lots of AI bred heifers, 11 lots of AI & NS bred heifers and 32 lots of NS bred heifers. Heifers bred AI make up the majority of heifers in our sales and with good reason they have commanded on average an additional $138 dollars per head versus natural service bred heifers.
- As a general rule bigger heifers brought more dollars per head.
- Per Head selling price. For the upper 1/3 of the heifers, each lot was $1,300 or higher (top price was ($1,750). All heifers weighing greater than 1,200 lbs. sold for $1,250/head or more. Only 2 lots (7 head) of heifers weighing less than 1,000 lbs. sold in the Upper 1/3 regarding $/head.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th># Lots</th>
<th>Head Sold</th>
<th>Average Price</th>
<th>Average Weight</th>
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<td>&gt;$1700</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$1750</td>
<td>1143 lbs</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>$956</td>
<td>1021 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our winter meetings and education efforts during the winter were focused on providing research that helps growers manage crop inputs and new technologies. The Winter Crop Conference, Corn and Soybean Grower Association Meeting, County Ag updates were used to deliver this information. The County Ag Updates were taught by Regional Specialists and were used to localize research information for each county. More than 300 growers and Ag businesses attended those meetings.

The Graves Chapple Field Experiment Station provides local crop demonstrations for area growers. Many of my plots focused on nitrogen management. Nitrogen demonstrations included anhydrous ammonia application timing, urea nitrogen application rates, and nitrogen rates with different corn populations and supplemental nitrogen applications. Plots were highlighted during the Graves Chapple field day and student field day.

Also, other plots at Graves Chapple demonstrated insecticide seed treatments, new herbicide products to control glyphosate resistant waterhemp, and high yield corn and soybeans. More than 275 individual plots were planted, maintained and harvested for local demonstration data.

The nitrogen timing and legume plots were established at Hundley-Whaley in 2008 and continued in 2009. The team of Amie Schleicher, Jim Humphrey, Shawn Deering, Randa Doty, Heather Benedict and I received a teamwork award from Extension for programming for local livestock producers. The team was recognized for its value of moving nitrogen application timing from spring to August and adding legumes into tall fescue to reduce the need to purchase nitrogen fertilizer by the University of Missouri. Several events and a guide discussing legumes and nitrogen management have been distributed to area producers.

The growing season was complicated with wet weather. This slowed planting of crops which resulted in nitrogen fertilizer losses, weed control failures and replanting of crops. Large number of individual and group consultations resulted from these circumstances. Formal crop clinics were held in June and late season July.

Another result from late season planting was delayed maturity of crops resulting in high moisture grain. Growers were calling the office for advice on how to handle wet grain in the field. Once grain was harvested, then the next problem was how to dry binned grain. This continues into the winter of being a problem.

A new course was offered as a pilot in December called “Using On-farm tests to Evaluate New Products and Technology.” Seven growers attended this school to obtain feedback so this course will be offered in the future. One grower commented during the school, “This helps me evaluate information that I hear, I will be better prepared to make my own decisions.”

We continue to improve and deliver programs to area crop and forage producers.

SHOW-ME-SELECT REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROGRAM
By Jim Humphrey, Livestock Specialist

Several beef producers from the area continue to participate in the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program in NW Missouri. We held a sale in December, with heifers averaging $1207/head. Additionally several of the heifers enrolled in the program do not go through our sales, they are either sold at the farm or the producers retain these heifers as their own replacements. Our group has already scheduled the spring calving heifer sale for December 2010 and looking to hold an additional Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sale on the western side of our region in the fall of 2010. This program is open to any beef producer in Missouri.
Andrew County 4-H got off to a great start in 2009. In January, the County won the Kemper Community Service Grant Award. This was awarded to our county to create a Heritage Garden at the local county museum. A proposal was written to the Andrew County Museum concerning the Heritage Garden. This proposal had to be rewritten twice to be finally approved by the museum board. Museum director, Harold Johnson; Steve Houston, grounds chairman and Jeff Powelson, MDC, together we worked out a landscape plan for the garden. In March, Andrew County hosted a garden seminar and several attended to be ready to plant the Heritage Garden. We had to wait several weeks for the weather to cooperate for planting.

February the county 4-H hosted a county wide dance. Mark Schildknecht was the DJ. It was well attended with about 45 youth plus parents. This dance was a highlight after the kids worked one whole day at the St. Joseph Kennel Club cleaning up after the dogs. We were remembered for this job.

I, Carol, traveled to all the clubs in February and March, reporting on report forms, demonstrations, personal appearance and talking about getting ready for county fair. I tried to get the kids interested to expand their horizons beyond just taking a project to fair.

March was focused on the yearly Chili Supper held at the Savannah High School. This year we added two new elements of a pie auction and talent show. I think both of these events should be continued.

April we began to get ready for the fair, contacting judges, getting facilities reserved, and besides ordering ribbons. The new and improved fair grounds continued to see change. County commissioners put in new drainage tubes, and the land was then leveled out. Youth Foundation members marked out the arena area to the size of 125 x 225 with a 50 foot buffer for bleachers. Lights and poles were purchased for the arena by the county commissioners. Also in May we began to see progress on the Heritage Garden. Back in January our county was awarded the Kemper Community Grant and now we are beginning to put it to use. Carl Duncan, former 4-Her, made up a landscape map. Jeff Lance, 4-H father, removed the sod from the appointed area. Ron Walker, Buchanan County 4-H Specialist tilled up the ground. Plants were purchased from Betty Grace of Grace Natural Seeds in Albany, Missouri. The actual planting day was May 30 and we had 9 youth and 8 adults come and help plant all 120 plants. We finished in record time of an hour and a half. The plants are taking root and look good. One youth is making a sign telling the garden was planted in 2009 by Andrew County 4-H youth. I was excited to see 4 of our six clubs represented at the planting.

"4-H offers such a diversity of experiences-Ag, life skills, social groups, community service and business protocol along with a true mix of rural and town youth rubbing elbows," says Carol Williams, Youth Program Associate.
Active 4-H’ers excel

A ground-breaking national study has confirmed what we already knew: Kids who are active 4-H members excel in leadership and volunteer service. Equally important, active 4-H’ers report fewer unhealthy behaviors such as drinking, smoking, and other drug use. That’s good news for parents, community leaders, and citizens. The 4-H Study began at the national level in 2002. Since then, nearly 5,000 adolescents from 34 states have been surveyed. In 2007, 338 Missouri youth at 21 sites around the state were surveyed. The Missouri students were evenly divided between 4-H and non-4-H participants. Most were in the 8th or 9th grades. Significant differences were found between active 4-H participants and non-4-H’ers. Active 4-H participation is defined as participating in a 4-H activity at least twice a month. Active 4-H’ers had higher scores on service, more leadership experiences and more adult mentors. Plus, they had lower scores on unhealthy behaviors. Clearly, 4-H is a good investment for kids, parents and civic leaders.

Missouri Sample – Risk Behaviors and Leadership Experiences

4-H Story (Continued)

June began with 4-H camp held at Crowder State park. Andrew County was well represented with 4 counselors and 14 youth attending the one week camps. I attended the first week of camp and did arts and crafts with the youth. Many of us hurried back from camp to participate on the square with the Savannah High School 100 year reunion. 4-H of Andrew County offered Savage Sundaes for sale. We made about $90 which we donated to the Andrew County youth foundation. Then we were off to fair. We had 18 judges judging 160 projects on Thursday, June 18. We used the new judging sheets and had to break in a few new judges. We also used a new system to arrange traffic control for our youth. It worked pretty well. Next year we need to have more of a judging workshop before we begin the youth. On Friday, June 19 we had public speaking, demonstration and personal appearance and dress review. This was not so well attended. This will have to be encouraged over the next year. Our county wide clubs ran a food booth on the square for Friday Fun Night. This was well received and we made the bulk of our money at this adventure. We had a walking troop of about 35 members participate in the parade on Saturday, June 20. Dog show was also held on the 20th. The next week was livestock shows and I, attended all of them.

We had 11 youth turn in their project report forms. Of those 11, six were able to attend a trip we had planned. We spent the morning at the Remington Nature Center and had a sack lunch there. Next we went bowling and had a great afternoon. We talked about what we could do to get more involved in 4-H.
Several leaders plus myself went to as many back to school nights as possible to get the word out about 4-H. We would like to see a 10% increase in our club and overall enrollment. Several people gave names and numbers and as interested in 4-H. We shall see how this pans out.

August 23rd was our annual Recognition Night. We had about 40 youth and adults participate. Katie Bowe won the Virginia Pyle Public speaking Award, Blaire Todd the Kathleen Hoffelmeyer Demonstration, and Garth Duncan the I Dare You Award and Interstate Boy Award. Best Club Award was given to the Kodiak Kadettes. We celebrated with all the yearly pin winners and recognized our volunteers who only make the best better.

Fourteen youth took part in the 4-H State Shooting contest. One group took the team championship of .22 at 50ft. They included: Cole Houston, Zachary Pittman, Jacob Powelson, and Austin Barnhart.

Three youth from Andrew County competed in the 4-H State Speech contest in Columbia. All three came home first place winners in one division or another. Those who participated were: Katie Bowe, Garth Duncan and Drew Williams.

September 28 I held an officer and parliamentary workshop for all the officers in the county. These were youth that had been voted as officers for their respective clubs. We went over parliamentary procedure and what the obligations for their offices. I had a total of 25 youth.

October 3 at Zack Ford Farm 4-H held a skill-a-thon demonstrating skills of several projects and included a lunch cooked over an open camp fire. Since people could come and go at the height of the day we had 40 participants. This year many of the demonstrators were youth that had been in the projects several years. This was good and gave them a chance to show some leadership and demonstrate what they have learned.

Interstate was scheduled October 8-10. We had several people participate including Drew Williams and Kate Bowe in prepared speech, Blaire Todd in demonstrations and Shania Cole in dress review. Garth Duncan was our Interstate Boy candidate. Drew and Katie both won their divisions.

October 12 was a working council meeting where leaders worked on writing BOAC grants, with the help of Ron Walker, for the Andrew County Youth Grounds. Grants were written for a wash rack and a flag pole.

November 27, 4-H offered crafts for young children as they attended Hometown in Savannah. Posts for the arena were cemented into the ground. Arena should be finished by fair 2010.

Enrollment in 4-H for the 2009-2010 year remained flat in comparison to 2008-2009.

I am happy to report at the end of December Andrew County 4-H received another grant from Pioneer Hybrid International. I was approached by the governing board of Shady lawn Nursing home and ask to assist them in building raised garden beds and gardens and trees for their resident to help defray the cost of their food. The grant has been given and Andrew County 4-H will help with this project.
University of Missouri Extension (UME) Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 629 low-income participants with nutrition education in Andrew County during 2008-2009. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness.

Nutrition education for youths provides information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. Education for adults includes nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and food resource management.

This school year a new 3rd grade curriculum was piloted, revised and implemented. The revisions were made to make it better fall in line with what schools want their students to know, based on the Grade Level Expectations.

Evaluation data collected across the entire state reflects the positive impacts that occur in every county with FNEP. For youths who participated in FNEP, results summarized for the state revealed the following positive impacts:

Three thousand four hundred eleven (3,411) teachers gave us feedback.

- 65% have participated in FNP for 3 or more years, and
- 99% (3,375 teachers) reported one or more changes in students after FNP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Changes Reported by Teachers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student changes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More aware of nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make healthier meal and/or snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat breakfast more often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More willing to try new foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved hand washing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved food safety other than hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased physical activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Andrew County, during 2009, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Environmental Program, Missouri Career Options Project, and the Missouri Market Development program served 26 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance.

In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners in Andrew County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

- New jobs: 3
- Sales increases: $213,300
- New businesses: 1
- Loans and investments in business: $25,000
- Acquired assets: $25,000
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 26
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 8

As entrepreneurs and innovators, Missouri's small businesses are becoming a more diverse group that continues to make the state's economy productive. There are approximately 500,000 small businesses in Missouri. Nearly 98 percent of all businesses with employees are categorized as small businesses. In assisting the owners and managers of those businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county's economic development through growth in jobs, sales, innovation, technology development and commercialization.
YOUTH LEARN ABOUT MONEY

Carol Williams and Dr. Rebecca J. Travnichek started “Money Club” in January 2009 at John Glenn Elementary School, meeting two Monday afternoons over four months of the school semester. Forty-five students in K-6th grades participated. The same program was held during the fall semester at Helena Elementary School with 25 students. Youth learned about personal finance and economics. Topics included earning, saving, spending, credit, opportunity cost, and sharing.

FREE TAX PREPARATION BENEFITS ANDREW COUNTY RESIDENTS

In partnership with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Savannah, MU Extension Family Financial Education Specialist, Dr. Rebecca J. Travnichek assisted in free tax preparation for 637 families in 2009 (2008 tax year’s information). There individuals and families’ returns were filed electronically with the IRS. Tax refunds for these individuals amounted to $420,996.

HOME OWNERSHIP MADE EASIER

As a requirement of USDA Rural Development Home Loans, individuals and families are required to have a certificate of participation for a class on financial issues related to purchasing and owning a home; as well as how to maintain a home. MU Extension designed a two-hour class to meet this requirement.

Over 20 individuals have completed the program across NW Missouri in 2009.
Extension Mission

The mission of University of Missouri Extension is to improve the economics and social well-being of Andrew County citizens with improved knowledge through educational information. The staff works to inform as well as encourage and stimulate citizens to strive toward more competitiveness, self improvement, improved economics, and life enrichment. Much of the staff efforts are expanded by working with and through other associations, organizations, and agencies.

Live. And Learn.