2014 Audrain County Extension Business Awards

The Audrain County Extension Council presented its 18th annual Large Business Award to Moser's Grocery Store and its 18th annual Small Business Award to Mid Mo Signs.

Each year the Audrain County Extension Council recognizes two Audrain County businesses that have demonstrated a positive impact on Audrain County and have had a close working relationship with the University of Missouri Extension programs.

Top photo, Virgil Woolridge, County Program Director and Dennis Isgrig, Audrain County Extension Chairman present the 2014 Large Business Award to Roger Moser. At right is James Wilson, store manager.

Bottom photo, Woolridge and Isgrig present the 2014 Small Business Award to Pam and Pete Renner, owners of Mid Mo Signs.

Photos courtesy of The Mexico Ledger

Allen Fennewald photographer.
Audrain County Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

The Missouri Tax initiative program (MoTax) offers a gateway to financial education through taxpayer assistance. MoTax is supported by University of Missouri Extension along with local community agencies and federal and local partners. The MoTax initiative includes the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program which provides free tax preparation for low/moderate income families ($54,000 or less) and uses this opportunity to emphasize the importance of financial planning management, providing assistance to help families use their tax refund to the greatest benefit for themselves and their families.

Number of tax preparations in Mexico in 2014:

- 274 Total Federal Refunds
- 285 Total Missouri Refunds
- 47 Property Tax Credits

Collective dollars returned to clients:

- $426,192 returned to clients for federal refunds
- $170,215 returned to clients for earned income tax credits
- $15,027 returned to clients for property tax credits
- $42,399 returned to clients for state refunds

Benefits to participants:

- Participants saved an average of $200 in tax preparation fees per year.
- Avoided high-cost refund anticipation loans
- Learned basic financial management strategies.

How is Audrain County and Missouri better?

Audrain County Extension VITA program participants learn critical financial strategies to increase cash flow, which allows them to be able to purchase necessities, stay current on bills, reduce family debt, establish or increase emergency savings and make repairs or replace a vehicle. These strategies replace panic and worry with positive action solutions that will improve their financial situation. Income taxes prepared at a VITA site stimulates the local economy, beginning in the taxpayer’s community, through federal and state refund dollars and dollars from tax credits. Local communities benefit from the VITA sites because citizens keep more money in their pockets, which in turns reduces the demand for public assistance and stabilizes the county tax base.

(Submitted by Vivian Anderson, Family Financial Education Specialist)

2014 Extension in Review

University of Missouri Extension in Audrain County has offered many programs, activities and services to the citizens of Audrain County this past year. The programs offered included educational programs in the areas of Agriculture, 4-H and Youth, Nutrition, Personal Finance and variety of other educational opportunities. University of Missouri Extension is the University of Missouri’s classroom in communities across the state. It was created by federal land-grant and state statutes. University of Missouri Extension connects the citizens of Audrain County to research-based education that improves the county’s economy and quality of life. University of Missouri Extension prides itself in being relevant, reliable and responsive to the citizens of Audrain County. We would like to thank all our stakeholders for their support in 2014. We would especially like to thank the Audrain County Commission for its steadfast support of the Audrain County Extension office. Without the financial support that is provided by the Audrain County Commission, the local office would not be able to provide educational programming to the citizens of Audrain County. With this local financial support, the Audrain County Extension Council provides input and recommendations for what is best for the community in the area of educational programming and the expenditure of Extension funds. This vital partnership results in a buy-in from the community, adoption of policies, implementation of plans, and increased economic activity. As a result, the citizens of Audrain County benefit from this wise use of public and private resources.

Extension is frequently referred to as Cooperative Extension. The term Cooperative Extension comes from the fact that Extension is made up of three components – federal, state and local. The educational resources used in Extension teaching comes from all three areas federal, state and local (county), and the funding to support Extension educational efforts also come from all three – federal, state and local. Investing in University of Missouri Extension programs benefits not only the direct participants, but local communities and society as a whole. County, state and federal dollars invested in MU Extension enables local communities access to public services they would not have otherwise. MU Extension programs, using unbiased research-based information, focus on preventing problems, which is much less expensive to the citizens of Audrain County than trying to fix problems after they are created.

Extension on the national level is the educational branch with the U.S. Department of Agriculture which cooperates with land grant universities across the nation to develop educational programs needed within the states. In Missouri, Extension continues strong ties with all four campuses and Lincoln University. The county offices continue to be the local link between the four University of Missouri campuses and Lincoln University and the people throughout the state. University of Missouri Extension’s land grant mission is to “improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.” Extension is part of an educational system that is committed to enhancing human potential in changing social and economic environment, and improving people’s lives. County extension councils consist of elected and appointed citizens that plan and oversee local extension activities. The 2014 Council Members are listed on the back page. It is through their dedication and devotion to Audrain County that helps Audrain County maintain a high quality of life for our residents.

The Audrain office staff works very hard to provide and support programs for the residents of Audrain County. With dedicated staff, council members and many volunteers, valuable programs are available to all to Audrain County residents. The Audrain University of Missouri Extension Center is located in the Audrain County Courthouse, Room 304. The office is open Monday-Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

(Submitted by Virgil Woolridge, County Program Director)
2014 Annual Meeting and Dinner Banquet

The Audrain County Extension Council honored retiring members, recognized new members, swore in new officers, and recognized a leader at its annual meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

Tom Groves, Audrain County Western Commissioner, received the Leader’s Honor Roll Award. This program is intended to honor outstanding University of Missouri Extension community leaders who have excelled in supporting extension programs.

Selection criteria is based on community leadership efforts that support the University of Missouri Extension Strategic Direction and program in: enhanced economic viability; building strong individuals, families and communities; and creating and sustaining healthy environments.

In his introduction of Groves, Virgil Woolridge, Family Financial Education Specialist, had this to say. “Tonight I am very happy to recognize someone who has been a life-long supporter of University of Missouri Extension. He has served on the Extension Council for nearly 20 years.” Woolridge added that Groves has attended almost as many council meetings as he has and “I have attended a lot,” he said.

Recognition was given to the large and small Business Award winners. The Small Business Award went to Mexico Sewing Center; and the Large Business Award went to Ben’s Auto Body.

Retiring council members who received a certificate for their service include: Dan Swiney, Steve Curtis, Steve Goshorn, David Schmeling, Laura Pitts and JoAnn Roth. The newly elected officers installed include: Dennis Isgrig, chairman; Karen Potter, vice chairwoman; Sherry Sonwall, secretary; and Josh Hanley, treasurer. The newly elected members include: Scott Brooks, Shelly Hunt, Bobby Stone, Tina Schmeling, Betty Clark and Josh Hanley.

The guest speaker for the evening was Tim Reinbott, Superintendent of University of Missouri Bradford Research and Extension Center. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Agronomy. In 2000 he took the position he now has at the MU Bradford Research and Extension Center. His program consisted of many research projects taking place at BREC.

Prior to the program, David Schmeling, chairman, introduced the sponsors for the evening, the Extension Council members, and special guests. Members of the Extension Council not previously mentioned include: Dan Kilbourn, Janet Schackelford, Janis Deimeke, Julie Birt, Rowdy Cannon, Michele Aulbur (Farm Bureau). Staff members are Kathy Nichols, office manager/bookkeeper; Velma Jones, secretary; Daniel Nunnely, Youth Education Assistant; Stephanie Femrite, 4-H Youth Specialist; Woolridge; and Mary Sobba, Agriculture Business Specialist.

Retiring Audrain County Extension Council members receiving certificates were Laura Pitts, JoAnn Roth, David Schmeling, Dan Swiney, Steve Curtis, and Steve Goshorn.
MU Extension 4-H Youth Development

Audrain County 4-H creates environments in which young people are valued, contributing, members in their community. 4-H provides Audrain County youth with hands-on learning opportunities in a safe environment where they can experiment, innovate, and think independently with the help of caring volunteers.

Audrain County 4-H Community
240 Members 135 Volunteers

A Community of Youths Learning Leadership, Citizenship and Life Skills. One of every 5 Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2014. Communities reap long-term benefits by supporting programs like 4-H. Youth engage in the programs are 60% more likely to vote than their non-engaged peers. In addition, 4-H youth are more likely to volunteer and contribute to their communities than youth participating in other youth programs.

Topics (What they learned)
Audrain County 4-H serves youth through 8 organized clubs, camps, and more. The youth of Audrain County have demonstrated learning through the following activities:
- Demonstrations (local and state)
- Livestock Judging (local, state, and national)
- 4-H Camp
- Audrain County 4-H & Youth Fair
- 4-H Fashion Revue (local and state)
- Missouri State Fair
- State 4-H Teen Conference
- State 4-H Congress

How Did Audrain County Participants Benefit?

Learning by doing is the Audrain County 4-H way. Within Audrain County 4-H Clubs youth engage in long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from robotics and arts to veterinary science and woodworking. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H members supported by 135 youth and adult volunteers
4-H is a great return on investment. Volunteers create, support, and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at $21 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Audrain County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $283,500 in 2014! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into health adulthood, pricelessly.

4-H Connects Kids to College and a Higher Quality of Life

Missouri 4-H Members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. Being on campus is a predictor of a youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006). Audrain County young people ages 5-18 often participate in 4-H events on the MU Campus. These students are more likely to go to college and enjoy increased financial success for themselves and their family, and
- Be better consumers
- Improve quality of life through more opportunities for leisure and hobbies
- Improve health for themselves and children (Porter, 2003)
- More likely to vote as adults
- More likely to contribute to their community (Lerner, 2009; Zaff et al, 2003)

Youth, who earn their bachelor's degree, increase annual earnings by $2,01 million over their lifetime (Porter, 2003). If 70% of the Audrain members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go on to earning their Bachelors, 4-H would help young people earn $323,610,000!

4-H Camping Program

4-H Camp is one of the many highlights of the 4-H year for local youth. Camp is planned, conducted, and evaluated by 4-H Youth Development Specialists Stephanie Fernniti and Patty Fisher, with the involvement and assistance of about twenty teen-aged Camp Counselors. Over 140 youth and teens take part in one of two annual 4-H Camp programs, held at Camp Cedar Crest north of Mexico, MO.

4-H youth and parents identify 4-H camp as having a strong, positive impact on life skills development in youth. In both 2005 and 2006, 4-H members aged 10-13 across Missouri and their parents were surveyed to assess their perceptions of the Missouri 4-H Camping program's effectiveness in building life skills in youth. The results were overwhelmingly positive.

F&L Hustler Club Members: Aleigha Dollens, 2014 Audrain County 4-H & Youth Fair Princess, Jenna Hasekamp, Elly Crum, & Ashlyn Crum prepare their club float for the Centralia Homecoming Parade.

Hatching Chicks in the Classroom

4-H Embryology Program teaches students about science and respect for life. Students hatch chicks in the classroom and witness the exciting miracle of life. Through this program, pre-incubated eggs are delivered to the school where they hatch about four days later. During this time, students have the opportunity to learn the scientific process of embryology including: incubation, preparing a brooder, hatching, identifying parts of an egg, development of chicks in the egg, and once they have hatched, handling chicks, and careers in the poultry industry. While students care for the eggs and chicks, they learn leadership, responsibility, sharing, decision making, critical thinking, and teamwork.

Number of Audrain County learners:
- 323 pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students and 12 classroom teachers
- Total Hours of learning in 2014: 1,378 hours of classroom learning in 28 Audrain County classrooms

The 4-H Embryology Program gives children of all ages a hands-on experience in hatching chicks while developing personal confidence and leadership ability through embryology project activities. Children learn by listening, observing, experimenting and applying their knowledge to real-world situations. As students continue on their learning journey they have increased knowledge and skills in nutrition, food production, food safety, and food systems. Within this program Audrain County students have the opportunity to develop and practice life skills including working on a team, identifying one's own competencies, creative expression, and short term goal setting.
Cooking Matters® at the Store

Cooking Matters® at the Store is a program effort that is part of the No Kid Hungry national campaign to end childhood hunger in America. The 90-minute interactive grocery store tour provides low-income individuals with hands-on education as they shop for food, giving them skills to compare foods for cost and nutrition. Participants learn how to buy healthy and affordable foods. They practice skills like buying fruits and vegetables on a budget, comparing unit prices to find bargains, reading and comparing food labels and identifying whole grain foods.

During the fall of 2014, four Cooking Matters® at the Store tours (led by an MU extension specialist) were offered at a local Mexico grocery store. The tours reached 27 individuals (25 women and 2 men). Tour participants were recruited by local agencies in Audrain County: the Central Missouri Community Action Center, Audrain County Health Department, the Help Center, Inc., and Options Unlimited/The Arthur Center.

At the conclusion of the tour, participants completed a feedback form. They reported the following:
- 100% felt the session was helpful (87% indicated they “REALLY liked the tour” and 13% “liked the tour”).
- 91% indicated that as a result of attending the session, they planned to make changes when they shopped for food the next time (e.g., comparing unit prices to find the best deal, comparing food labels to make healthy choices, reading ingredient list on labels to find whole grains).
- Participant comments included:
  - “Excellent tour! Thought I was a good shopper but got some great new shopping tips!”
  - “Really like the info about the whole grains. Will start looking closer at the labels now.”
  - “Buying bulk is not always better and am going to check prices before I buy things.”
  - “Will try cooking some dry beans. Didn’t realize how much cheaper it was to cook my own.”

“Haven’t really compared prices much but see it can save me some money.”
“I will read the labels better to help with my diabetes.”
“A lot of the fresh vegetables I buy get spoiled before I can use them and liked the idea of chopping them up and freezing them so I can use later in soups.”
“Learned lots of ways to save money when buying food! Thanks!”

(Submitted by Vera Massey, Nutrition & Health Education Specialist)

Nutrition Training for Child Care Providers

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), in partnership with MU Extension, seek to reduce childhood obesity by providing research-based workshops on nutrition, wellness and physical activity for licensed child care providers. The trainings are approved through Missouri DHSS to count toward the requirement of licensed child care providers to acquire 12 hours of education per year. An added benefit of the trainings is that there is no charge due to a USDA Team Nutrition grant.

In 2014, 20 child care providers attended the Team Nutrition training “Moving and Learning” offered in Montgomery City with 10 participants from Montgomery County, 2 from Gasconade County and 2 from Audrain County.

“I Am Moving I Am Learning” is a 7-hour session to help increase the amount and quality of planned physical activity for children in child care settings. Participant evaluations completed following the trainings showed:
- 100 percent would recommend the training to someone else.
- 100 percent indicated their knowledge, skills or understanding of the training topic was “a lot” or “a great deal” after the session, up from 43 percent reporting “a little” or “some” before attending the session.
- 100 percent identified one action they planned to take as a result of what was learned, such as “move more,” “be more aware of variables and types of opportunities,” “more structures gross motor activities,” “thinking more in terms of goals for motor development,” and “assess my children’s actions and ensure they are on the right path.”

Our continued efforts to improve child care are vital to Missouri’s economic development; a well-prepared and educated child care workforce is essential for families’ workplace success and children’s healthy development.

(Submitted by Kathy Dothage, Human Development Specialist)

Training for Divorcing Parents

In 2014, eighteen parents participated in four Focus on Kids workshops provided in Montgomery County. The number of Audrain County parents was three.

Quotes from participants included: “Appreciate the Program knowledge and very useful to some parents.” “Overall it was worth my time.” At the end of session evaluation, the majority of participants found the class worthwhile and helpful.

In 1998, the state of Missouri passed a law that mandated all divorcing parents with children 18 years of age and under, must participate in a parenting class. Focus on Kids is a class that was developed by the Human Development and Family Studies Department at the University of Missouri to fulfill this need.

This program was developed not only to fulfill the mandate but also to reduce the number of parents that need to return to court for motions to modify their original decree. This saves money and time for the parents, the courts and therefore the community. With increased knowledge parents will also be more cooperative and therefore reduce the stress on their children and themselves. With reduced stress children and parents are more productive in school, work and home.

(Submitted by Kathy Dothage, Human Development Specialist)
Goodwater Field Day

These Goodwater Field Day participants were learning about herbicide programs and cover crops.

On September 5, Goodwater Field Day was held at the University of Missouri research site (Goodwater Creek Experimental Watershed) north of Centralia. The educational event featured research test plots, a variety of short talks and opportunities to visit with researchers. The field day focused on three areas: cover crops, bioenergy and sustainable production/water quality. The wagon and walking tours included long term cover crops, utilizing yield data, cover crop mixes, water quality research, Miscanthus, cover crop establishment, cover crop termination, soil health story (long term benefits), bioenergy crops, bioenergy rotation effects of cover crops. There was also information on the national policy on cover crops, long term agro-ecological research (LTAR), and alternative uses of Miscanthus. All participants were given a field day book with more details about the research for future use.

Agronomy and Agriculture

Over 1000 Audrain County residents participated in or were assisted by a University of Missouri Extension agronomy or horticulture program in 2014. Participants include farmers, Clark produce auction growers, Master Gardeners, people who learn gardening tips from Master Gardeners at the Mexico Farmer’s Market, people who learn from Master Gardeners at the Mexico Community Garden, soil test customers, plant diagnostic clinic customers, and private pesticide applicator training recipients. In 2014 agronomy and horticulture programs resulted in over 1200 hours of learning by Audrain County residents and over 600 hours of volunteer service by Audrain Master Gardeners. Evaluations showed that people learned basic gardening, pest control, how to apply fertilizer to crops and gardens, and safe use of pesticides. People used what they learned to grow more food, reduce pollution in streams and lakes, and stay safe as they work in their gardens and fields. By utilizing research proven best practices in their gardens and on their farms citizens of Audrain County improve their local economy. Regardless of whether research proven best practices are used to produce locally grown produce for the Clark Produce Auction, or corn and soybeans that are marketed globally, there are clear benefits to increasing efficiency, productivity, and safety. Current and future generations benefit when research proven best practices are used and result in improved productivity and reduced negative environmental impacts.

Audrain Master Gardeners play a key role in the Grow Well program which is a collaborative effort between several groups and individuals in Mexico to support the Community Garden in Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The contact summary of 2014 Mexico Grow Well activities shows how many individuals received seeds, plants, or gardening information at the Community Garden and Mexico Help Center in 2014.

(Submitted by Max Glover, agronomy specialist)
Beef Improvement Program

Extension regional livestock specialists assisted producers enrolled in the Northeast Missouri Beef Improvement Program with their performance record program, by taking weaning and yearling weights and frame scores on their calves. These producers then sell bulls in the annual NEMO Performance Tested bull sale held in Palmyra. This past year, Audrain County had both producers in the program and also buyers of the bulls.

The annual Performance Tested bull sale is a value added program, 49 bulls averaged $4,168 per head.

Participants of the beef improvement program use the data when they sell the bulls to other producers such as in the Performance Tested Bull sale. They also learn the importance of keeping performance records by taking weaning and yearling weights and heights on the farm.

Beef AI Breeding Program

The use of artificial insemination (AI) breeding in beef cattle has increased over the past eight years as a result of new technology in this area including fixed time AI demonstration done in the region.

As a result the NEMO BCIA owns three AI breeding boxes which are available to cattle producers. These boxes help improve the conception rates using AI.

This past year, area producers used the boxes for a total of 42 days with approximately 2,000 cows and heifers being AI bred in the boxes. The AI conception rate is increased by 5-15 percent due to the lower stress levels on heifers/cows as a result of the design of the breeding boxes, and increases the productivity of a producer’s herd affecting his profitability creating a positive impact on the economy of Audrain County.

Youth Livestock Education

Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) certification is for youth raising livestock to exhibit at fairs and shows. The education includes a one-hour workshop. Participants attend training three times during their showing career. They must attend twice under the age of 13 and once when they are 14 and older. This program meets the requirements for certification required to exhibit meat producing animals and allows livestock and poultry project members to meet this requirement to complete their project.

SMQA increases the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production, as well as increase quality of care and knowledge of livestock produced by youth in Audrain County.

(Submitted by Daniel Mallory, Livestock Specialist)

Ag Programs

This past year there was a variety of agriculture related extension programs offered in the county, region and state. Agriculture reaches many people including producers, business owners, ag retailers and consumers. Extension tries to offer a variety of agriculture related programs for various individuals with an interest in agriculture. Following are a couple of examples.

Ag Lender Training

Many years ago, extension developed training for agricultural loan officers. The training continues in various locations across the state. On November 24th, an ag lender seminar was held in Mexico for thirty-five lenders from eleven counties. Topics for the seminar in Mexico included: Crop and Livestock Outlooks, Farm bill, Worldwide issues, Changes in crop insurance, Affordable Care Act, Land rent and values.

Lenders received the 2015 Missouri Farm Financial Outlook book which included budgets for all major crop and livestock enterprises in the state. Lenders will help their agricultural customers to use the information and tools they were given. Specific actions include: using the farm bill decision tool, referring people to the Missouri Marketplace, and using the crop and livestock budgets.

The lenders who attended manage more than 2,000 ag loans totaling more than $400 million.

By attending University of Missouri’s Agricultural Lenders’ seminars, lenders are able to help their clients make better decisions based on the decision tools, budgets, and other resources provided. This benefits their portfolio of producers and landowners by a better understanding of enterprise budgets and cash flow affecting families’ and businesses’ financial health.

(Submitted by Mary Sobba, ag business specialist)

University of Missouri Extension Mission Statement

Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve the lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.
Health Insurance Education Initiative

This year University Extension conducted training on the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Everyone will be affected directly or indirectly by the new law. Individuals, families and businesses will need to make decisions about their health insurance. As a non-partisan entity, University of Missouri Extension provides education to ensure that you have the resources and skills you need to make informed health insurance decisions for yourself, your family and your business.

The purpose of this training is to help the citizens of Audrain County to:
- Better understand the law and clear up confusion,
- Understand your health insurance options, and
- Make informed health insurance decisions.

The Audrain County Extension office has conducted this health insurance training in the county and is a valuable resource for information on the Affordable Care Act. Anyone needing information on the new law should contact the Audrain County Extension Office and ask for Virgil Woolridge at 573-581-3231. Additional information is also available at http://extension.missouri.edu/insure.

(Submitted by: Virgil Woolridge, County Program Director)

2014 Audrain County Master Gardeners

Audrain County Master Gardeners were instrumental in many horticulture happenings around Audrain County and the state during 2014. “Helping Others Learn to Grow” is the motto of the Missouri Master Gardener program. The Audrain County Master Gardeners provided many volunteer hours putting this motto into practice. They provided leadership, resources and gardening knowledge for the Mexico Help Center and to the newly developed Missouri Community Garden project. A Grow Well Missouri (University of Missouri) grant provided free garden seeds through the Mexico Help Center. Bulk seeds were re-packaged for distribution. Additionally, tomato plants and pepper plants were given to residents on distribution days. All of this was designed to promote healthier food to eat by residents. This was the first year of this innovative, two-year project. The Missouri Master Gardener Training Course was again held in Audrain County. Seven area participants completed this eleven-week horticulture experience. Three counties were represented in this group. The Master Gardener Trainees are pictured below.

Front row: Joy Hoyt, Penny Sheperd, and Roberta Wilson (Presenter); Back row: Janet Armstrong, Terry Hoyt, Dayton Sheperd, Susan Rockett, and Jim Smith.

Missouri Master Gardener Core training has been offered in the fall in Audrain County. Since its inception in Audrain county in 2004, 132 people have completed the training.

The group’s participation with the Missouri Master Gardener Association continues to grow. In 2014 local participants contributed over 500 volunteer service hours, 166 hours for continuing education and 20 hours of Advanced Education on the online with many more being tabulated locally in the Extension office. Volunteer service in the community comes in many different ways and opportunities. Participation in horticulture events like Mexico Community Garden, the 4-H and Youth Fair, Arbor Day, Farmers’ Market events, spring garage-plant sale, assisting at the Mexico Help Center and beautification at the Martinsburg Library to name a few. Others shared their knowledge with friends and neighbors to beautify their neighborhoods. Max Glover, Agronomy Specialist in the Northeast Extension District, is the Master Gardener Advisor. He is based in Shelby County. Master Gardening training was first provided by Audrain County Extension in 2004. The Audrain Master Gardener Chapter was formed in 2005.

(Submitted by: G. Sue Priest, Certified AC Master Gardener 2005-2014)