Equal opportunity is and shall be provided to all participants in Extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations associated with the armed forces of the United States of America.
Barton County Extension
Mail: 801 E. 12th
Lamar, MO 64759
Phone: 417-682-3579
Fax: 417-682-4125
Email: bartonco@missouri.edu
Web site: www.extension.missouri.edu/Barton

Office is Located in:
Wolf Center
801 E. 12th
Lamar, MO 64759

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday,
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Dear Barton County Commission and Community,

University of Missouri Extension strives to provide research-based information and education to improve the lives of the citizens of Missouri. This 2012 Annual Report provides an overview of the last year, including the programs and progress the Barton County Extension program has provided.

The citizens of Barton County have the opportunity for lifelong education and timely relevant information for better decision making through the programs and information provided by the Barton county office. With this information and their own energy and drive, the people of the county are able to grow and prosper as individuals, families, and community members.

MU Extension in Barton County has encouraged innovation and growth through five major program areas. Access to relevant research-based information is critical in today’s environment, where information abounds, but accuracy and rigor may not. Through classes offered throughout 2012, participants learned more about current agronomy and horticulture practices; nutrition, food preservation and the importance of exercise; information about starting and growing a business, community planning and development, leadership and youth development.

Through partnerships and collaboration, MU Extension in Barton County leverages the reach of programming efforts. Whether working in collaboration with primary and secondary schools, Barton County Memorial Hospital, or the Chamber of Commerce, relevant information and programs reach wide audiences in the county. Continuing to build on these and other partnerships maintains the reputation for innovation and leadership that MU Extension in Barton County has provided for citizens and stakeholders.

The University of Missouri Extension Council and local faculty and staff thank the Barton County Commission for the support and funding of education programs. The council remains committed to providing information and programming to help Barton county citizens grow as individuals and as a community through the local Barton County Extension office.

This year we honor Jay Chism, former Barton County Extension Agronomist. Now the Southwest Regional Director, Jay’s creative and innovative programming has served Barton County agriculture well, and in his new position, his leadership will continue to benefit Barton County.

Submitted by:

Lee Howard  
Council Chairman

Joyce Moser  
Council Secretary

Kathy Macomber  
County Program Director
December 2012

Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

At MU Extension, we know that citizens want their taxpayer-supported institutions to be responsive to their needs. Our distinct land-grant mission is to provide relevant, reliable and responsive education that improves Missourians’ lives, communities and the economy. We fulfill that mission by providing access to many research-based resources of the University of Missouri, in partnership with local and statewide organizations and groups.

Funded through the support of federal, state and county government; grants and contracts; fees for services; and private gifts, MU Extension leverages every dollar received to create expanded educational opportunities. Every dollar appropriated from county government is leveraged with $6 to create a significant return on investment.

MU Extension creates value for citizens – including those who do not participate directly in its programs. For example:

The MU Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute teaches volunteer and career firefighters how to handle or mitigate fires and disasters, resulting in safer firefighters, citizens and communities. In FY2012, MU FRTI trained 17,096 fire and emergency service personnel through 217,000 instructional hours of training. Enrollees were from all of Missouri’s 114 counties.

This summer’s severe drought put MU Extension faculty in an active leadership role in helping Missourians deal with the crisis. MU Extension developed educational materials and programs and provided technical assistance for homeowners, businesses and the agricultural community. Social media, including Facebook, YouTube and websites, were used to inform citizens on such topics as animal nutrition, including nitrate poisoning; heat-related disabilities; government programs; wildfires; and more. Extension faculty also worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement drought cost-share practices, which allowed more than 11,000 landowners to apply for state assistance to access adequate water supplies for livestock and crop production.

These are just two examples of MU Extension’s public value impact. I’m sure you will find many other examples in your local community.

I want to thank you for your support of MU Extension as a critical team player in your locale. Your ideas for improving our partnership are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local Extension Councils Cooperating

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS
Chairman
Lee Howard, elected member, term ends 2014
Vice Chairman
Ted Frieden, elected member, term ends 2013
Secretary
Joyce Moser, elected member, term ends 2013
Treasurer
Tom Dingman, elected member, term ends 2013

Other Members:
Derenda Gariss, elected member, term ends 2013
Dean McKibben, elected member, term ends 2013
Susan Roland, elected member, term ends 2013
Sondra Smith, elected member, term ends 2013
Barb Thrasher, elected member, term ends 2013
Leisa Blanchard, elected member, term ends 2014
Mark Clements, elected member, term ends 2014
Lendi Davis, elected member, term ends 2014
Darrell Kenter, elected member, term ends 2014
Jesse Medlin, elected member, term ends 2014
Cinda Miller, elected member, term ends 2014
Belinda Shoff, elected member, term ends 2014
Lynn Calton, appointed member from City of Lamar
Dennis Wilson, appointed member from Barton County Commission
Chad McCulloch, appointed member from Farm Bureau
Sherry Keith, appointed member from MFA
Lynzee Flores, youth representative
Heath Lawrence, youth representative
Ciara Shoff, youth representative

Unique partnership
Barton County’s University of Missouri Extension County Council is a full partner with Missouri’s land-grant universities to deliver high-quality education and research-based information. This helps people solve real-world problems and take advantage of opportunities. Council members:

- Work with extension specialists to provide the county with quality educational programs;
- Manage finances of local extension operations;
- Provide personnel to carry out extension activities; and
- Elect and organize the local extension council.

Barton County Commissioners

Mike Davis
Presiding Commissioner

Dennis Wilson
District I Commissioner

Bonda Rawlings
District II Commissioner
Regional Staff Serving Barton County

Jeff Barber, Housing and Environmental Design, Greene County
Ed Browning, Natural Resource Engineer, Jasper County
David Burton, Civic Communication, Greene County
Patrick Byers, Horticulture, Greene County
Wayne Dietrich, Community Development, Taney County
Dona Goede, Livestock Specialist, Cedar County
John Hobbs, Agriculture and Rural Development, McDonald County
Janet LaFon, Family Financial Education, Jasper County
Robert McNary, 4-H Youth, Jasper County
Jodie Pennington, Small Ruminant, Newton County
Tony Rickard, Dairy, Barry County
Wesley Tucker, Agriculture Business, Polk County
2012 Highlights

Ben Reed was the recipient of the 2012 Leaders Honor Roll for his support and collaboration with MU Extension in Barton County.

Barton County 4-H Highlights

“Missouri 4-H Homegrown Community Leaders Project” received 1st place at the Missouri Community Betterment Conference.

Linda Morgan was honored for 30 years of volunteer leadership with Learn-A-Do 4-H club.

Bill and Sheri Keltner were inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame.

Caitlyn McKibben, Caitlin Moreno, Lynzee Flores, and Logan Clements received the State 4-H Key Award.

Kenna Roland, Jacob Russell, Hannah Moyer were recipients of the “I Dare You Award”.

Barton County Outstanding 4-H Officers

President: Lynzee Flores  Vice President: Caitlin Moreno  Secretary: Clara Proctor
Treasurer: Noah Shaw  Reporter: Mathew Morgan  Historian: Mycah Reed

Barton County University of Missouri Extension Council made the final payment on their portion of the Wolf Center building loan during 2012.

Wyatt Miller served Barton County as an Agronomy Assistant during 2012.
Doug and Kathy McKibben along with their children represented Barton County as the 2012 Missouri State Farm Family.

In 2012, 131 soil samples were sent to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Laboratory for analysis.

A total of 42 Barton County residents received continuing education through MU Extension’s Fire & Rescue Training Institute, Missouri Training Institute or MU Conference Office during 2012.

Kathy Macomber received the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce award. This award recognizes educational programs supporting the economic viability of Missouri businesses.

Over 870 service hours were volunteered towards the beautification of Lamar and Barton County through community horticulture projects and educational events.

Garret Rose, a Liberal High School student, was awarded the 2012 Barton County Master Gardeners scholarship to continue his education in the agriculture field.

Barton County Master Gardeners received a “Beautification Award” from the Lockwood Prairie Preservation.
Business Development

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.

In 2012, a variety of programs were delivered to current and aspiring entrepreneurs in Barton County including: Attract Customers with Effective Display Techniques for Farmers’ Markets, Successful Social Media Marketing, and The Basics of Writing a Business Plan. Youth entrepreneurship was a focus, with three programs delivered at to Lamar High School students, and a mock job interview session at the Lamar Vo-Tech.

The Barton County Business Expo, a joint effort by the Barton County SBTDC, Barton County Chamber of Commerce, and CDC was successful. Taking place at Memorial Hall, attendance exceeded the 2011 Expo.

In Barton County, the Business Development Program results are:

- New jobs: 15
- Sales increases: $597,192
- New businesses: 2
- Loans and investments in business: $189,486
- Acquired assets: $179,986
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 16
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 42

The business development faculty contributing to these business successes are from the programs identified above. These staff have regional and statewide assignments and work with businesses in all counties across the state.

The Business Development Program Delivery Network includes:

Business Development Specialists headquartered at University of Missouri Extension centers; centers located on the University of Missouri campuses at Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla; and centers at most of the state universities across Missouri. The named programs delivered through this network include:

- Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC) – Funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, this award is matched on the local level by state university hosts and private sector partners. Services include individualized business counseling and a wide variety of educational opportunities. One of the products offered through those centers is the MoFAST SBIR/STTR assistance. Specialists in this area work with university faculty and other innovators to win awards in support of the commercialization of technology.
State-wide Business Development program impact - Overall, the University of Missouri’s Business Development Programs (BDP) served 22,350 people and their businesses state-wide. The total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

- New jobs: 6,531
- Sales increases: $237,046,646
- Government contracts: $198.2M
- New businesses: 303
- Jobs retained: 2,784
- Loans and investments in business: $245,575,470
- Acquired assets: $32,205,965
- Investment in commercialization: $19,417,970 in SBIR/STTR or research proposals submitted with $7,494,246 awards received
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 8,452
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 22,981

Other programs presented - The Barton County Business Expo was held March 30, 2012 at Memorial Hall in Lamar. Nearly 20 area businesses set up booths and over 100 people attended.

In October, Kathy Macomber along with Chrystal Irons presented “Smart Phones/Smart Teaching” at the eX-tension Conference held in Oklahoma City.

Kathy Macomber presented at the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Conference in Tunica, MS in October. Her presentation, “Business Recovery following the Joplin Tornado”, gave an overview of how she worked closely with area businesses affected by the tornado. Kathy also explained the process of working side-by-side with Small Business Administration loan officers and other counselors from the SBTDC at Missouri Southern State University to help business owners reconstruct financial records, locate new office space and face the challenge of re-establishing their businesses.

Kathy Macomber, Business Development Specialist, presented at the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Conference in Tunica, MS.
Barton County 4-H, a community of 193 youths building life skills, engaging in science and connecting to their community. One of every four Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in 4-H during 2012.

Barton County 4-H is built on ten organized 4-H clubs, 181 club members and 12 clover kids led by 56 adult/volunteers who provide positive youth development during monthly meetings, project work, and special club activities. 4-H members have the opportunity to compete on county, regional, state and national levels.

**Barton County 4-H Key Points to “Making the Best Better”**

**4-H “Personal Growth”**

Barton County 4-H offers youth the opportunity to learn and experience personal growth. Various events are planned by volunteers to help youth follow goals they have for themselves. 4-H youth learn through interactive activities, real life experiences, and communication groups. Barton County Teen Leaders hosted 3rd annual Clover Kids Day camp at the Wolf Center. 9 Teen leaders interacted as 4-H camp counselors helping 12 youth age 5-7 years old learn more about 4-H through songs, games, crafts, and community service. Barton County Livestock Judging Day assisted 19 4-H youth in workshops and judging evaluation of four species of livestock. These decision making skills are crucial as youth advance into other project areas. The 2012 Barton County Achievement Day had participation of 6 youth public speaking, 13 project Demonstrations, 15 personal development and 35 project judging events. This is event qualified 35 youth for Regional Achievement Day. The “4-H Learning by Doing” process offers youth the ability to learn and use practical life skills as they grow through personal development.

**4-H “Project Excellence”**

The 53rd Annual 2012 4-H Recognition Banquet presented 76 4-H members meritorious awards from 33 Mo 4-H Project Report forms. 4-H County, State, Regional and National levels of excellence were reached by 170 outstanding 4-H youth from Barton County. 4-H clubs met their goal of achievement through project exhibition. The 2012 exhibition of 4-H project work included: 4-H members providing 24 exhibits to the Missouri State Fair and Ozark Empire Fair received 60 small exhibits. Lamar Free Fair featured a 4-H conference judging program that showcased 136 exhibits. This opportunity provides youth with duel credits in communication skills and project completion.

**4-H “Leadership”**

Barton County 4-H was represented Civic Youth Leadership Summit with teams of outstanding youth. The team worked together to define a need in the community and received a mini grant from Mo 4-H Foundation and Monsanto to work on that community project. In 2011 Barton County Teen Leaders Community service planted a seed with Monsanto grant of $100.00 for the Rick Mammen Memorial Sidewalk project. Community donors and organizations matched that grant with $3,920.00 toward completion of project. The projects reached completion date and was dedication held July 12, 2012.

---

**Rick Mammen Memorial Sidewalk.**
The MOHOCOLA “Missouri 4-H Home Grown Community Leaders” Core team took leadership to the next level by filming a video addressing poverty in Barton County. The video was featured at a public forum facilitated by the youth to gather additional information on how to conquer poverty.

4-H “Community Service”
Barton County 4-H members gained life skills by building community partnerships with local organizations. The Barton County Teen leaders are in the third year with a USDA Grant funding the “Missouri 4-H Home Grown Community Leaders Project.” The MOHOCOLA Core team formed a partnership with Boy Scouts, Lamar FFA, Lamar Head start, Good Samaritan Food pantry, Helping Hands and other community organizations. Collaboration of partnerships over a 3 year span resulted in 380 youth and adult volunteers providing cash and in kind donations of $56,268.04. The 2012 MOHOCOLA Core team projects included, Good Samaritan Food Drive collecting over 3,500 nonperishable food items for 620 families applying monthly and “Money Makes Cents “Reading Program for 29 Lamar Head start Students facilitated by the core team and volunteers. The Barton County youth were recognized for the 2nd year with 1st place Missouri Community Betterment Youth Award from category 5. Tai Thrasher, youth nominee was also presented one of 10 outstanding MCB youth awards.

Presentation display for the 2012 Missouri Community Betterment conference.

Barton County 4-H assisted Economic Security in Tools for School Project program 185 youth with 4-H Literature, school supplies and backpacks. Other organizations reached were: American Cancer Society-Relay for Life, American Red Cross, MODOT Adopt-A-Highway, Community Betterment, Cystic Fibrosis Walk, Salvation Army, Good Samaritan, and Moss House for abused women and children, American Flag hanging around Lamar Square, Barton County Memorial Hospital, Barton County Theatre Arts Council, Maple Leaf Nursing Care Facility, as well as other individual club projects.

Barton County 4-H School Enrichment - Short term educational experiences were presented to 186 youth who received the opportunity to experience life skill learning in nontraditional 4-H club settings. “Character Critters” a 4-H program that instructs young people about the six pillars of character, which are Responsibility, Caring, Respect, Trustworthiness, Fairness, and Citizenship. This program was Lamar Head Start, Tiger Preschool. Lamar East Elementary and Lamar High School student participated in several small term projects that included Hatching Chicks in the Classroom, Building personal leadership skills, Youth entrepreneurship, Leadership for life, Communication toolkit, healthy lifestyles and independent study.
Youth EXCEL – Barton County 4-H Youth EXCEL Leadership Club in Lamar High School. The club was organized under the leadership of Melissa Payseur, Family and Consumer Science teacher at Lamar High School. The Leadership program was comprised of 45 students who participated in 12 sessions of various seminars, featuring speakers that enhance personal and leadership development, healthier life styles and community awareness. 4-H Youth development formed a partnership with Lamar High School F.C.C.L.A. and the Barton County Adult E.X.C.E.L (Experience in Community Enterprise and Leadership Development) program. The funding for this club was provided by the City of Lamar.

Barton County 4-H members who attended camp.

Regional Achievement Day participants.
University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 2,798 low-income participants with nutrition education in Barton County during 2012. 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.

During 2012: 1,882 clients were direct contacts, attending FNEP classes. The goal of direct teaching in FNEP is to conduct an average of six classes with each client, to promote behavioral change. 916 clients received teaching through indirect methods, such as a health fair. Clients were served through Barton county schools, community groups and agencies. Programs offered in Barton County during 2012 included:

**Eating Smart, Being Active** - An eight lesson nutrition curriculum for adults was taught at the Barton County Health Department.

**Show-Me Nutrition Education Displays** – These incorporate nutrition messages around a variety of relevant topics (such as: Supersizing of America; Healthy Eating on the run; Childhood Obesity; Nutrition and Learning; Facts on Fats, etc.). There are 20 distinct Displays that are used along with a corresponding handout to educate adult audiences. These were utilized at the Barton County Health Department, Lamar Good Samaritan, Region X Area on Aging, and Nathan’s place.

**The High School Curriculum** - Designed specifically for teens, is activity based, and motivates and teaches teens to make nutrient-rich food choices. This curriculum was used to teach students at Golden City High School.

**Show Me Nutrition in-classroom education** - Nutrition education with a separate curriculum for each age group -- pre-k through eighth grade. Trained educators teach students about nutrition and physical activity at local schools using the grade-specific curriculum and hands-on learning. The program allows kids to taste healthy foods, is developmentally appropriate, supports schools’ local wellness policies, helps teachers and students adopt healthy behaviors, and increases student’s nutrition knowledge. The Curriculum has been shown to enhance the school’s review for the Missouri School Improvement program. This program was implemented in the following schools and agencies in Barton County: Golden City Elementary, Lamar East Primary, Liberal Elementary, and About Our Kids.

**Food Power Adventure** – This interactive exhibit that takes children to the farm to learn where food comes from, and into the human body to learn how it gives them energy to grow and play. This program was provided at the Liberal School District.

In the fall of 2012, a new Nutrition Program Associate, Theresa Dalby, began working in Barton County. She looks forward to 2013, and the opportunity to continue promoting life-long health and fitness in Barton County.
Nutrition and health are an integral part of decision individuals and families make every day. A major issue facing many Missouri families relates to chronic diseases resulting from obesity and overweight. The 2010 rate of obesity in Missouri stands at 34%; higher than the current national average of 28%. Obesity and childhood obesity are complex issues likely influenced by a variety of socioeconomic, environmental and cultural factors that families and communities face. With regard to behavioral risk and disease factors, 34% of Missourians have been diagnosed with hypertension, 40% of adults in Missouri have high cholesterol, and 25% of the population smoke tobacco. Nutrition and health education programming is aimed at providing evidence based information and skills that help individuals and families to make healthy choices in the area of nutrition, physical fitness, and disease management, and overall health.

**Nutrition Education at Lamar High school** - Working in collaboration with the Family Consumer Sciences teacher, three nutrition and health related classes we taught in the fall reaching 32 high school students. Of the students that participated in the “Portion Distortion” class, most said they had been unaware of how serving sizes had changed in the past decade and were going to watch their portion relative to physical exercise. The class also discussed reading ingredient list of drinks and knowing which foods have added sugars. At the end of class, 100% of students stated that they will read food labels and ingredient lists of items they want to buy in the future. Twelve health students attended the "Effects of Smoking and Health "class. A guest speaker Mr. Emerson Goss of AeroCare explained the long term effects of smoking and second-hand smoke to the human lungs and heart. All students indicated that they had benefited from the information. In particular, after learning all the negative effects of second-hand smoke, one student diagnosed with asthma was very concerned about her future health since her mother smokes around her. Altogether, four students said they were going to do their best to avoid second-hand smoke since their parents smoke around them. In addition, one student stated "I will not touch cigarettes even though my parents smoke”. A class titled "Nutrition for the Life Cycle" was also taught to health students and 100% of students indicated that they learned new material and needed more nutrition information in the future.

**Men’s Health** - A men’s health curriculum is underway. Specialists are currently designing and testing lessons with male audiences. Barton County Extension office hosted a Men’s Health Forum to begin the process of finding solutions on how best to deliver nutrition and health programs to the male audience. Lesson tested was "Osteoporosis Risk for Men". Seven men attended and 100% of participants stated that their knowledge and understanding of bone health improved. In addition, all participants indicated that they will make healthier food choices as a result of knowledge acquired in the program. On the question of the most effective methods MU Extension can use to deliver health related information to men, 57% participants stated newsletters mailed to their home address and newspapers would be best and 42% indicated men's groups would also be effective.

**Reaching out to seniors** - A falls prevention program reached 62 seniors at the Lamar senior center. The class was offered to mark Fall Prevention Awareness Month and discussed major effect of falls including the fear of falling that develops especially after and individual has experienced a fall. According to the studies, many older adults develop this fear and respond by adopting less active lifestyles, resulting in reduced mobility, loss of physical fitness and increased isolation, which unfortunately increases their fall risk. Although several factors make older adults susceptible to falls, falling is not a natural part of aging and the good news is that falls are largely preventable.
Cooking Matters - A six week culinary-based nutrition education program that targets those people who are food insecure or possibly at high risk of food insecurity was taught to Joplin residents living at The FEMA trailers. Cooking Matters aims at empowering individuals and families to bring about positive change in their life and end food insecurity/hunger. Our Nutrition program Associate Mary Ann Pennington from Jasper County co-taught the class. The class had 3 pieces to it: a nutrition education piece, a food safety piece in which a cooking session is built-in and finally participants and instructors eat together as we would at a family dinner. Some comments made by participants included: “This is the first time in my life that I have chopped vegetables and cooked a meal on a stove and I will start using these skills to prepare healthy food for myself”. " I thought I had figured out the food labels thing, but I had no idea that reading the ingredients list was so important". "Before this class I did not know that healthier foods are found on the store perimeter and not in the aisles". In response to the question "How has the course changed your life?" Participants stated the following: "Showed me other options (healthier) for eating meals I already eat”; ”It has given me a broader aspect of all food groups”; “It has shown me how to shop smarter and healthier”; and ”Before this class I did not know that thawing on the counter is bad for you".

Nutrition Class for Early Head Start Parents - A one-time "Healthy Holiday Meals" class was taught to Lamar Early Head Start families. The class had 3 pieces to it: a nutrition education piece, a cooking session in which parents and children participated, and the eating together piece. The class was at Corner Stone Baptist Church in Lamar. Seven adults and 9 children attended. Some comments from the class included: 'Even if it does not look like tasty it does not mean it will not taste good". “I liked it that I got to help with the cooking myself”

Nutrition and Health in the Media - Print media has been used to not only to provide readers with evidence-based nutrition and health information, but also to promote programs. To this end, two subject matter articles and five promotional articles have been published by the Lamar-democrat. One television interview with Marian Kelly of KSN-16, Joplin was presented on the topic of "Added sugars in drinks". Cable TV is also used to announce upcoming health programs.
In Barton County, agriculture drives the local economy. Therefore, educational programs were developed to meet the high priority needs of today’s agriculture sector by supplying them with the information they need to increase profitability of their operations. This was another year of transition in the county because Jay Chism continued to serve as Interim Regional Director. However, agriculture programming was delivered by Agronomy Assistant, Wyatt Miller and other agronomists from neighboring counties.

**Field Crop Scouting Program** – Nearly 70 farmers signed up to receive a message to their cell phones and/or emails each week for 30 weeks to hear the latest field crop scouting report in Barton County. Each farmer paid $35/year to participate in the program. The program covers the fundamental concepts of proper pest control (weeds, diseases, insects...) including pest identification, scouting, and IPM. Long-term impacts were that farmers developed an understanding what to look for when scouting and when treatment is necessary reduce the amount of pesticides used and reduce the amount of pesticides in the environment. University of Missouri agronomy assistant, Wyatt Miller, scouted fields and then recorded a message that provided researched information about pests in area field crops. An automated phone system was used to call all participants at one time. The information was sent within 24 hours from scouting to each participant. A written report, images of plants, and links to MU Guides were also sent via email and posted along with the field crop scouting information to the Barton County Extension website. The program was very popular and has received positive feedback.

**Soils and Crops Conference** – This annual agriculture conference gave producers the opportunity to hear the latest information and ideas from state specialist and allowed them to make pivotal management decision using research-based data. Speakers at this year’s conference included Laura Sweets, Wayne Bailey, Ray Massey, John Lory, Wayne Prewitt from University of Missouri and Jim Powell, a cow/calf producer. Topics for the conference included: Crop Diseases to Watch in 2012, Crop Pest Update, Grazing for Profit, Land Economics Today Compared to the 1980s, and Corn Stalk Testing. Over 80 producers participated in this one-day conference that was sponsored by the following: The Barton County Commission; Missouri Soybean Association; Barton County Soil and Water Conservation District; US Bank; Metropolitan Bank; Lamar Bank and Trust; Heritage Bank of Lamar; and University of Missouri Extension in Barton County.
Barton County Wheat Tour – The wheat tour allowed local producers to learn new management strategies to increase wheat yields. With 45 different wheat variety plots, producers could see firsthand which varieties may be most beneficial for their farm. The plot area was provided courtesy of the David Sheat farm. Wyatt Miller, Agronomy Assistant and Andy McCorkill, Livestock Specialist prepped the plots and facilitated this program. Presentations were provided by Wayne Bailey, Pat Miller and David Tague, with the University of Missouri.

Soybean Herbicides, Going Beyond Glyphosate – The purpose of this workshop was to address potential issues with glyphosate resistance in weeds of agronomic crops. This program was requested by local producers, and nearly 40 producers attended to hear Kevin Bradley, MU weed specialist, discuss glyphosate resistance as well as other options that could use to combat herbicide resistant weeds. Producers also learned about weed control strategies that will be available in the near future. The workshop was closed with Galen Venters, from Helena Chemical Company. The event was sponsored by Barton County Produce LLC, Lockwood Farmer’s Exchange, Medoc Valley Inc., MFA Agri Service, MFA Produce exchange, and Seed and Farm Supply.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training – Pesticides that may cause unreasonable adverse effects to the environment or applicator when used in accordance to its directions are considered restricted use pesticides. For producers in Missouri to purchase or apply these pesticides they must attend a training session or watch the training video. Over 100 producers attended the Barton County private pesticide applicator training, instructed by Pat Miller, Agronomy Specialist in Vernon County. Participants learned the importance of chemical labels as well as proper procedures used to mix and apply chemicals. Because of the potential risks involved with using these pesticides, training is essential for applicators to protect the environment and themselves.

Regional Events - Farmers and gardeners of Barton County also traveled to other counties to attend MU Extension programming. Some of the programs attended by local citizens outside of Barton County included: Missouri Steer Feedlot, Show-Me Select Heifer program, Southwest Missouri Bull Sale, Missouri Blueberry School, Midwest Missouri Commercial Vegetable Growers Conference, Southwest Center Research Field Day and Southwest Sheep and Goat Fiber Daze.
Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener program provides in-depth horticultural training to individuals through-out Missouri who volunteer their time applying what they have learned about gardening to help others in their communities. To become trained to be a Master Gardener, an individual attends a 30 hour core training course. Then the Master Gardener trainee participates in 30 hours of volunteer service in approved University of Missouri Extension activities.

Annual Plant Sale – The 9th Annual Plant Sale was held May 12th at the Moore Pavilion. Money raised during this event is used to fund Master Gardeners cost for replacement of shrubs, plants, mulch for the garden beds and other projects for the year. For this event Master Gardeners donate starts from their favorite annuals, perennials, grasses, ground covers, houseplants, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Garden art containers and books were offered this year. The sale begins in the brisk early morning and continues until everything is sold. Public support and encouragement prompted a weekend mini sale of bulbs to be planted in the fall.

Demonstration Garden – The Master Gardeners’ Demonstration Garden, located in the Lamar City Park, next to the fish pond, continues to impress and educate all who walk through it. The garden is visible from the roadway and is an enticing stop for those wishing to explore its pathways. All of the plants have markers that provide the common name and botanical name. The garden provides almost continuous color and a huge variety of plants, varieties of hostas, day lilies, iris, small shrubs and ground covers. Some plants are featured because of their attractive foliage and others for their blossoms, texture and form. The garden has served as an educational tool for many elementary students on fieldtrips and has been used often as a backdrop for pictures. It is also a refreshing break from a busy day.

2012 Class – During the spring a Master Gardener class was held with fifteen participants. The Master Gardener Program is an intensive horticulture course. Class members receive 30 hours of classroom training provided by area horticulture specialists which sets Master Gardeners program apart from other home gardener programs. Program topics included, Plant Growth, Soils, Composting, Vegetable Gardening, Tree Selection and Care, Turf Grass, Flower Gardening, Home Fruit Production, Hobby Greenhouses, Tool Care, Plant Insects and Diseases. Those that complete this training are Master Gardener interns; these interns can become a certified Master Gardener by completing the required 30 additional hours of volunteer service in horticulture education.
**Rick Mammen Memorial Sidewalk project** – Barton County Master Gardener members assisted the Barton County Teen Leaders with their community project. They helped them with planning and designing the flower bed and sidewalk around an already existing sign honoring the area history. Advice on choosing the correct plants and planting guidance were also given to the Teen Leaders. The completed project was dedicated on July 12, 2012.

**Other Activities** – In addition to public service projects, the Barton County Master Gardeners have enjoyed many, many activities. They have done the plantings at the Moore Pavilion, large pots on the Lamar Square and Wolf Center beds.

This year, members of the Lamar Football Team dug the crabgrass from the bed under the Wolf Center sign and it was replanted with different kinds of day lilies.

The Barton County Master Gardeners have enjoyed potluck suppers after much hard work and time in the different gardens and projects they maintain.

Members also attended many classes through the year, with one of the most interesting workshops that was held in Webb City conducted by Rita Arnold from Arnold’s Greenhouse. She provided new plants and new cultivars of old popular plants. Other classes were Companion Planting in the Garden, Planting a Fall Garden, Wintering Herbs in the House, and Planting Fall Flower Gardens for Maximum Color.

Many members help spread the word about the Master Gardener program by manning the University of Missouri Extension trailer during the Lamar Fair.

In 2012 the Barton County Master Gardeners joined the Missouri Master Gardeners State Association for the first time.
State, Federal and County
Funding for Extension
University of Missouri Extension programs in Barton County are funded by Barton County, state and federal appropriations. Local funding for support of the Barton County Extension Center is provided by the Barton County Commission. They provide office space, funds for office expenses, clerical salaries and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Barton County.

A special acknowledgement and appreciation is given to the Barton County Commission for financial assistance.

University of Missouri’s
Contribution to
Barton County’s Extension Program
University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for three professional and two educational assistants, all headquartered in Barton County.

The University provides in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for staff, postage for staff communications and matching funds for technology equipment.

Financial Statement
BEGINNING BALANCE $38,347.84

REVENUE
County Appropriations $ 75,174.18
Postage $ 2,044.00
Soil & Plant Testing Fees $ 1,772.50
Items for Resale $ 206.19
Ag Short Course Fees $ 3,207.05
Business Short Course Fees $ 1,373.53
Other Short Course Fees $ 400.00
Grants (4-H MOHOCOLA) $ 1,298.75
Master Gardener Class Fees $ 1,085.25
Master Gardener Plant Sale $ 1,091.47
Printing $ 1,034.60
Interest Income (Checking Acct.) $ 2.74
TOTAL REVENUE $88,690.26

EXPENSES
Salaries $ 43,695.08
Staff Benefits $ 2,325.80
Travel $ 6,799.09
Postage $ 1,859.23
Telephone $ 1,940.59
Advertising $ 1,582.38
Rent/Utilities $ 8,187.67
Supplies and Service $ 9,618.57
Surety Bond/Insurance $ 898.00
Transfer to Savings Acct. $ 9,000.00
Miscellaneous $ 3,527.85
Soil Lab Testing charges $ 1,852.00
Resale Items $ 203.43
Repair/Maintenance $ 1,275.00
Fee Generation Distribution $ 675.00
Capital Repairs $ 3,188.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES $ 96,628.34

CLOSING BALANCE $30,409.76
Certificate of Deposit Balance $ 11,062.32
Building Savings $ 16,430.68