

# UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI **M** Extension

## 2006 Annual Report Benton County



### Improving peoples lives through high-priority educational programs and research-based information.

Dear Friends of University of Missouri Extension,

A unique partnership exists between University of Missouri Extension and local government. In Benton County, we're proud of the many ways our partnerships with local government, organizations and coalitions have worked to improve people's lives in our county.

This past year University of Missouri Extension had approximately **8,800** educational contacts with the citizens of Benton County. Citizens benefited from one-on-one assistance, seminars, services and research-based publications. This annual report highlights just a few of the many programs that made a difference in 2006.

While MU Extension centers draw from expertise on the four campuses, our Extension faculty members are ingrained in local communities. Through input from University of Missouri Extension Council of Benton County, Extension faculty respond to local priorities with programs to enhance economic viability; build strong individuals, families and communities; and create and sustain healthy environments.

We look forward to continuing to improve the lives of the residents of Benton County.

*Rodney Meyer*  
Presiding Commissioner  
Benton County

*Cindy Harris*  
Benton County Extension  
Council Chair

*Gene Schmitz*  
County Program Director  
Benton County

<http://extension.missouri.edu/Benton>

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

## 2006 Livestock Programming Meetings / Events

- ▶ March – Tri-County Dairy Day
- ▶ June – Benton County Cattlemen's Association; bermudagrass plots
- ▶ August – Drought management meetings
- ▶ September – Benton County Cattlemen's Association; FAPRI discussion on beef marketing outlook
- ▶ September – Edwards Fun Day
- ▶ October – Benton County Grazing School

### Phone, office and farm visit contacts

The following topics were discussed during one-on-one meetings: beef management, nutrition, pasture & forage management and Show-Me-Select. Benton county residents attended the State Beef Tour in August in Pettis and Saline counties. One-hundred fifteen people from 53 towns registered at the beef tour. My total Benton county contacts numbered 411 males and 85 females during 2007. Additional state-wide contacts numbered 680 males and 270 females.

The on-going drought prompted many producers to call asking about developing feeding programs for their beef cow herds. Several of these calls began with "I saw some ration work you had done for my neighbor (or family member). Could you do that for me?" Other producers were referred to me by producers with whom I had worked in past years. One producer was amazed, and glad, to learn that adjustments to his feeding program would save him between \$5 and \$10 per day in feed costs for his herd for the entire winter feeding period (approximately 120 days).

### Youth Programming

Missouri Quality Assurance Program was initiated for 4-H animal project participants and presented in Lincoln in April. Five 4-H members attended the training. Additional efforts were through the beef, sheep and swine weigh-ins and Benton County Fair activities.

## Cooperative Agriculture Programming

**Randa Brunkhorst, Rich Hoormann and Gene Schmitz**

**Drought Management Meetings** – August 2006 – Little rainfall in the summer of 2006 led to a shortage in forage supplies early in the fall. Livestock producers began to use their already limited hay reserves and were concerned about their ability to feed their livestock through the winter. Gene Schmitz, Livestock Specialist; Rich Hoormann, Agronomy Specialist; and Randa Brunkhorst,

Ag Business Specialist, developed a program to help livestock producers develop some grazing strategies to deal with the drought. 25 participants from Pettis, Benton, Morgan, Moniteau, and Cooper counties attended the 5 sessions. They learned about fertilizing strategies to stimulate forage production, alternative forages that are available, budgets for using alternative forages, and the benefits of stockpiling. Several producers reported that they intended to fertilize their fescue pastures to stockpile some forages for the winter. There were several participants that expressed interest in planting ryegrass as an annual crop for additional available forages. All agreed that fall and winter rains would be the best option to end forage shortages.

**Central Missouri Sheep & Goat Marketing Group, LLC** – There is a growing number of small ruminant producers in the Central Missouri Region. The producers face a marketing challenge because there is no market within a 100 mile radius of the area. The need was emphasized when 180 small ruminant producers attended an awareness meeting in Fortuna in the spring of 2006.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was that the group decided to form the Central Missouri Sheep & Goat Marketing Group, LLC. Gene Schmitz, Livestock Specialist; Rich Hoormann, Agronomy Specialist; Mary Sobba, Ag Business Specialist; Parman Green Ag Business Specialist; and Randa Brunkhorst, Ag Business Specialist worked with the group to form the Central Missouri Sheep & Goat Marketing Group, LLC in September. This allowed them to have their first breeding auction in Versailles in October 2006. 178 sheep and goats were sold at the first auction from 25 consigners. The consigners represented 15 towns from Moniteau, Morgan, Miller, Camden, Cooper, Benton, and Pettis counties.

The gross sales of the first auction were \$10,750. "Without the help of MU Extension, we would still be back where we were in Fortuna still wondering which way to go first," stated Jim Homan, Chairman of the LLC. The group felt their first sale was a success and have scheduled two for 2007 along with plans to host educational seminars.

### Forage Plots

**Rich Hoormann and Gene Schmitz**

The bermudagrass and tall fescue plots in Lincoln continue to provide yield and quality data. A producer in SE Benton county is in the process of renovating tall fescue pasture to bermudagrass, using

cereal rye as a winter cover/grazing crop. It is doubtful that he would be considering this change in his forage base without the experience gained from these plots. Tall fescue plots were established and different sources of N were applied for fall stockpile production. Lack of rainfall prevented sufficient forage growth for harvest.

## Business Development

### Chris Thompson, Business Development Specialist

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 and the well-being of its citizens and communities.

In Benton county, during 2006, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension and its business development partners served 19 people and their companies by:

- ▶ Counseling 5 individuals
- ▶ Training 10 individuals
- ▶ Providing information to 4 individuals

### PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR 2007

Business programs will continue to be offered at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Between January and April 2007 six separate programs on business start-ups, business planning, financial management and pricing are scheduled.

### THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DELIVERY NETWORK

This includes 10 Business Development Specialists headquartered at University of Missouri Extension centers; the University of Missouri campuses at Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla; and state colleges and universities across Missouri. The named programs delivered through this network include:

- ▶ Missouri Small Business Development Centers (MO SBDC)
- ▶ Missouri Procurement Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)
- ▶ Missouri Small Business Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC)
- ▶ Missouri Market Development Program
- ▶ Career Options

# Building Strong Individuals, Families & Communities

**Benton County Food Pantry Classes.** The classes continue to be very popular among senior citizens—54 participated this year. Held every month at the Oak Tree Villa Apartments, a senior citizen retirement complex, the classes provide helpful nutrition and consumer information in addition to demonstrating ways to use overstocked Food Pantry items. One concern for many senior citizens is the new Social Security Drug plans. Topics such as this are discussed in the class.

**Community Emergency Preparedness.** Forty Benton county residents participated in workshops where they learned how to prepare for any emergency in their home, car, or office. Each participant took with them a list of items necessary to have in their “emergency pack” whether it is a plastic tub for their basement or a backpack for their car.

**Identity Theft—A Loss that Hurts!** In all societies, there are the few that will try to circumvent the system—in other words, steal. It is important that we are aware of “Identity Theft” and thereby act responsibly to protect ourselves from falling victim. How can we protect our identity? What should we do if it does happen? During 2006, a total of 17 Lincoln High School students learned ways to protect their identity.

**Missouri Reentry Process.** One of the most pressing and complex challenges facing state government in Missouri and across the nation today is the reintegration of adult offenders from prison back into society. Ninety-seven percent of all the men and women committed to prison will someday be released from incarceration. It is in everyone’s best interest that released offenders reenter society safely and live as law-abiding, self-sufficient citizens. During the spring and fall of 2006, five thirteen-week Building Strong Families sessions were held at the Boonville Correctional Center (BCC) and the Tipton Correctional Center. More than 100 inmates from every Missouri county participated in the five sessions.

**Financial Success.** The **Financial Success** debtor education program will help individuals and families meet their bankruptcy education requirement, improve their financial management skills and get more from their money. Financial Success is a 3-hour program offered face-to-face and available throughout the state. During the spring and fall of 2006, 15 individuals participated in the three-hour program.

**E-Newsletter.** Weekly health, nutrition, and finance articles are e-mailed to Benton county residents resulting in a total of 3,850 indirect contacts for 2006.

**Focus on Kids.** FOK is an educational program for divorcing parents which emphasizes understanding the importance of

sustained supportive involvement by both parents. It provides information on the developmental needs and common reactions to divorce by children. Specific behaviors that are helpful in co-parenting situations are discussed. There were 26 Benton county citizens participating in the Pettis County Focus on Kids program in 2006. One participant reported, “The instructors helped me to realize that both parents involvement is extremely important for the child.

## Benton County Makes the News

On Nov. 1, 2006, a media crew from the University of Missouri spent a day at Warsaw South R-9 Elem. School. The filming came at the same time that Warsaw South was receiving an award from University of Missouri Extension for their outstanding commitment to Physical Education and Wellness.

Dr. Stephen Ball, State Fitness Specialist and assistant professor of Exercise Physiology, presented the award to the students and faculty of South School at a surprise assembly. Mrs. Betsy Berry, Physical Education Instructor, at South School accepted the award for the school since she initiated the program that promoted more physical activities and healthier lifestyles. Examples: no pop for a week, trying new fruits and vegetables, no more than 30 minutes of television per day, and many more activities. Mrs. Berry along with the rest of the staff at Warsaw South School do a wonderful job at being involved hands on in these activities.

Both Kansas City and Springfield news channels ran the story. The University of Missouri Extension, Nutrition Education Program and the Warsaw South School worked together to promote getting kids moving and eating healthier.

Tammy Culpepper, Nutrition Education Assistant in Benton county, nominated Warsaw South School for this award. She has worked closely with South School teachers on nutrition education programs. Their combined education efforts are making a positive impact on student’s eating habits and lives.

To view the video go to the following web site, <http://extension.missouri.edu/> and click on [Healthy school Windows Media video](#).

## BENTON COUNTY 4-H

**4-H Clubs.** Through club involvement youth learn valuable life skills such as; goal setting, leadership, problem solving, record keeping, teamwork, and character. 164 members comprise 8 community-based



clubs, 27 of these young people were involved in Clover Kids, for youth ages 5-7.

**4-H Adult Leadership Development.** 128 volunteer leaders assisted members in project and club work. Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. National statistics suggest that the average volunteer contributes 50 hours per year.

Valuing their time at \$15.71 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Benton county 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$100,544 in 2006!

**4-H Project Work.** Shooting Sports (106 youth), Horse (67 youth), Arts and Crafts (65 youth) Meat Science (45 youth) Dogs (39 youth), Woodworking (38 youth), Foods (36 youth) were the seven projects with the largest enrollments. Members completed projects by exhibiting 209 indoor project items, 299 livestock entries, and 176 horse entries in the Benton County 4-H/FFA Youth Fair.

**Benton County Government Day.** 36 High School students and 36 Junior High School students from Warsaw, Cole Camp and Lincoln High Schools spent a day learning about local county government. The program is provided through a cooperative effort with Extension, the American Legion and county officials. During the program youth were guided through the government offices in the Benton County Courthouse and the Sheriff’s Office.

**Science in the Classroom.** Benton County 4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Most are led by teachers or 4-H volunteers. The most popular 4-H school program in Benton county is the “Hatching Chicks in the Classroom.” In 2006, 472 elementary youth learned about science through this school enrichment program.

## Outstanding 4-H Achievement.

- ▶ Senior 4-H member serves as Central Region Representative to State 4-H Council
- ▶ Benton County Poultry Jr. and Sr. Teams places first in State Poultry Avian Bowl
- ▶ Junior 4-H member places 2<sup>nd</sup> in Clothes You Buy at State Fashion Revue Contest
- ▶ Senior 4-H member receives State 4-H Key Award
- ▶ Seven out of eight 4-H Clubs receive a Gold Seal Award
- ▶ Two youth received the “I Dare You Leadership Award”
- ▶ Twenty-eight youth exhibited projects at the Missouri State Fair
- ▶ Two youth presented a demonstration at the Missouri State Fair

## 2006 Benton County Extension Council

### ELECTED

- ◆ **Cindy Harris, Chairman**
- ◆ **Michael Cash, Vice Chair**
- ◆ **Linda Daniel, Treasurer**
- ◆ **Debbie Swerline, Secretary**
- ◆ Judy Kinhead
- ◆ Homer May
- ◆ Linda Barton
- ◆ Joan Lewis

- ◆ Sharyn Flowers
- ◆ Jerry Smith
- ◆ John Montemayor
- ◆ Rod Brethower

### APPOINTED

- ◆ Tom Henderson, County Commission
- ◆ Tom Pegram, Cattlemen
- ◆ Jenna Lee Ficken, Farm Bureau
- ◆ Bonnie Luttrull, City of Warsaw



## 2006 BENTON COUNTY FINANCE SUMMARY

### Income

Governmental Appropriations	37,500.00
Balance Transfers	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>37,500.00</b>

### Expense

Personnel - Salaries	23,037.96
Payroll Expenses	4,167.85
Travel	4,878.00
Postage	45.00
Telephone - Local	2,197.32
Telephone - Tolls	383.08
Advertising	127.00
Rent/Lease Space	35.00
Publishing/Printing	89.68
Supplies/Services	764.54
Internet Services	400.00
Insurance	205.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Repairs/Maintenance	350.00
Furniture/Equipment	703.96
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>37,434.39</b>

Net Income **65.61**

## Benton County University of Missouri Extension Faculty & Support Staff

### ADMINISTRATION

*Mark Stillwell, Central Missouri Regional Director, 573.882.2695*

*Julie Royse, Coordinator, FNP, 573.634.2824*

*Vera Nichols, Nutrition & Health Education Specialist, 573.445.9792*

### AGRICULTURE

**\*Gene Schmitz, Livestock Specialist/ County Program Director**  
660.438.5012

*Beverly Pfeiffer, Human Development Specialist*  
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*Rich Hoormann, Agronomy Specialist*  
573.378.5358

*Connie Mefford, 4-H Youth Specialist,*  
660.827.0591

*Todd Lorenz, Horticulture/Agronomy Specialist*  
660.882.5661

**\*JoAnn Clark, 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant,** 660.438.5012

*Randa Brunkhorst, Agriculture Business Specialist, 660.827.0591*

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Ron Higginbotham, Community Development Specialist, 573.445.9792*

*Chris Thompson, Business & Industry Specialist, 573.634.2824*

### FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

**\*Jamie H. Thompson, County Program Director/Family Financial Education Specialist** 660.438.5012

### OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF

**\*Katherine Culpepper, Office Manager,** 660.438.5012

**\*Tammy Culpepper, Nutrition Program Assistant**  
660.438.5012

**\*headquartered in Benton County Extension Center**

### Mission

*Using science-based knowledge, University of Missouri Extension engages people to understand change, solve problems and make informed decisions.*

*University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status in employment or in any program activity.*

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