

2006

Dent County Extension Annual Report

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

 Extension

Live. And Learn.

2006 Annual Report University of Missouri Extension Dent County

University of Missouri Extension Dent County

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Extension Council 2005-2006

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Marianne Skiles
Bill Headrick

The Dent County Extension Council greatly appreciates the continued support of Extension programs by Dent County Commissioners Jim Biggs, J.J. Tune and Bobby Simpson; the City of Salem and the Judson Young Foundation.

Friends of Extension

This 2006 annual report is presented by the Dent County Extension Council as an overview of the educational programs conducted for the citizens of Dent County. The success of University of Missouri Extension programming in Dent County would not be possible without the help and support of individual volunteers, groups, organizations, businesses, local and county government officials, and the research-based information provided by the land-grant university system.

Sincerely,

Sharon Schafer

Sharon Schafer, Chair

Karen Collier

Karen Collier, Secretary

Letter from the Vice Provost

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:

Thank you! Your financial support to our land-grant university partnership makes it possible for University of Missouri Extension to deliver high-quality educational programs where Missourians live, work and experience quality of life.

More than 1 million Missourians annually turn to MU Extension for help in improving businesses, farms and communities and strengthening their families. Your partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State of Missouri, and local organizations and businesses enhances the state's economy and brings unique opportunities to families and individuals.

In fact, MU Extension partners with more than 100 entities across the state. Those partnerships enable us to extend our educational reach without duplicating services. In FY2007, MU Extension will leverage \$39 million in federal and state funding resources into more than \$81 million in educational programming to serve Missourians.

In 2006, dollars allocated by county commissions to support extension at the local

level amounted to 17 percent of the total dollars for extension funding statewide. These local dollars were leveraged to provide more programs to more people. Additionally, our local partners across the state (county commissioners and councils) provided significant in-kind contributions in the forms of office space and meeting space. Grants, fees and contract dollars account for almost 23 percent of extension funding. Combined with state and federal funds, every local tax dollar is matched with an average return of \$10.37. We use these funds very efficiently. In FY2007, just four percent of the budget is going toward administration, compared with 12 percent for most non-profits and government agencies.

The return on your investment in MU Extension for your community is great:

- Businesses become and remain profitable -- creating and retaining jobs.
- Improved agricultural yields add to producers' bottom line, and citizens enjoy a safer environment.
- Towns and cities use research-based resources to make better decisions about their future.
- Young people are more likely to stay in school and increase their lifetime earnings.
- Professionals and other workers stay on the cutting edge of career requirements through continuing education.
- Adults and young people live healthier lifestyles and suffer fewer medical costs.

Your local extension faculty and staff, campus faculty, county extension council members, 4-H volunteers, Master Gardeners and other program supporters look forward to a continued fruitful partnership in 2007. If you have suggestions for how University of Missouri Extension can better serve your needs, please contact me or your local extension center.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director of Extension

AGRICULTURE

Dent County Agriculture:

The 2002 U.S. Census of Agriculture revealed that there were 693 farms in Dent County. The market value of agricultural products sold by these farms totaled \$10,216,000, with \$9,204,000 representing livestock and their products. The Missouri Agriculture Statistics service reported that in 2002, there were 34,768 cattle in Dent County. It is clear from the data that livestock production is significant in Dent County and beef cattle represent the largest enterprise.

Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program:

The Show Me Select Replacement Heifer Program produces heifers to replace aging herd cows and improve farm profitability. 755 heifers from 13 farms are enrolled in the program, with a 2006 spring sale average of \$1,245 and fall sale of \$1,108 per head. A total of 2,114 heifers have sold through the South Central sale with a sales total of \$2,183,560 over eight years.

Goat Production and Management ITV Series:

Eighty-five Southern Missouri meat goat producers from 12 counties and 56 farms participated in a Meat Goat ITV Workshop designed to help advanced meat goat producers increase their goats reproductive rate, reduce the amount of chemical wormer used, improve herd health, increase profitability, and update knowledge on the latest research and management techniques for meat goat production.

Beef Cattle Genetics Program:

Twenty-four area livestock producers attended this program, focusing on genetic improvement of beef cattle and included the topics of sire selection and crossbreeding/heterosis, understanding new EPD's and Indexes, the use of Calving Ease vs. Birth weight EPD's for sire selection.

Quality Systems Assessment (QSA):

This program, developed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, gives beef producers the opportunity access foreign export markets that specify cattle must be source and age verified by a third party. The role of MU extension in this program is to serve as the supply evaluator, whereby, on farm audits are conducted and producers are qualified allowing feeder cattle to be eligible to be sold as "source and age verified".

South Ozarks Premier Beef Marketing Program (SOPBM):

SOPBM allows producers to cooperatively market beef calves in 50,000 lb semi-truck loads, and gain data which allows them to make management decisions about their cowherds. To date, thirty-eight producers have back-grounded sixteen groups and 9,037 head in the program. In 2006, producers involved with this program toured feedlots in Iowa involved in the Tri-County

Steer Carcass Futurity Program, an Iowa Bull Performance Testing Station, and toured and met with scientists at USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. These producers have enjoyed gains of \$47,500 from back-grounding and \$14,412 from retaining ownership through the feedlot.

Youth Livestock Involvement:

Junior livestock producers attended several events designed to help strengthen their knowledge of the livestock industry and their projects. These included a "Livestock Quality Assurance" program, a beef cattle pre-show, a fitting and grooming clinic, the Missouri Department of Agriculture Livestock Judging and Grading Workshop and Contest, and coordination and involvement at the Dent County Fall Festival Jr. livestock sale, live and carcass show, and the 2006 Youth Beef Day Program.

MU Wurdack Farm:

Nearly 1000 agriculture students from around Missouri took part in an extensive farm field day. Approximately 75 producers attended the annual Fall Field day. The topics of this years program included: Cattle Genomics Research, Alternative Fuels, Fescue Type Study, Nitrogen Sources for Hay and Pasture, Ethanol Production and use of Distillers Dried Grain for Livestock Producers, Silvopasture, Timber Stand Improvement, Small Diameter Logging, and Timber Harvest and Sale. Current projects at the farm include silvopasture and agroforestry demonstration plots, an intensive beef marketing and record keeping program, pasture renovation to evaluate novel endophyte fescue and as viable Ozark forage, and continued evaluation of artificial insemination and estrus synchronization for the commercial cowherd. Additionally, the farm hosted several educational programs/tours for local schools and organizations, highlighting the ongoing projects and programs at the farm.

Management Intensive Grazing School:

This series of workshops teach livestock producers how to maximize their forage resources for the overall benefit of their farming operation. Concepts regarding soil fertility, plant health, forage species and suitability, animal requirements, water resources, fencing, system design, and grazing economics are included in this course. Two Grazing Schools were held locally in 2006. The Annual Grazing School held at MU Wurdack Farm attracted 18 participants, and the Phelps County Grazing School had 26 participants.

Additional Technical Services:

The Livestock Specialist serves in a number of additional capacities. These include Soil and Water District Secretary, executive board member of area county cattlemen's associations, member of the Advanced Grazer Group, and a member of numerous other agricultural organizations. Additionally, on-farm and office consultations, presentations

and news releases on current issues are technical services provided to citizens of Dent County.

Master Naturalist:

Missouri Master Naturalist™ is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer program. Its purpose is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Missouri.

Participants receive 40 hours of training in Missouri ecosystems, including ecology and resource management and more. They also contribute 40 hours of service in natural resource conservation projects that meet local needs.

Once participants receive training and completed their service, they become a certified Master Naturalist™. Each year, members complete 8 hours of additional advanced training and contribute 40 hours of service to maintain certification.

The Meramec Hills Chapter formed in February of 2005. Members of the group are from Phelps and Dent County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Youth Leadership Academy:

This program is intended to provide civic education to foster in youth an understanding of the processes of community decision making; to increase knowledge of the community, its structures, history, conditions and issues; and to develop such skills as problem solving, working with groups, enhancing cooperation, and dealing with conflict. Nine youth completed this seven week program. Past graduates have indicated information received during this program benefited them as they served on various local school and community organizations

Emergency Management:

Programs in this area focus on providing educational and technical assistance to individual and families, local governments, businesses, schools and organizations in preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. Over 300 individuals completed a home disaster plan to better prepare them to cope with a disaster before it strikes.

Coalition and Networking:

Extension faculty serve in a variety of leadership capacities with nearly 20 coalitions and organizations throughout the county. MU Extension lends its subject matter expertise, as well as organizational skills to assist citizens and organizations in accomplishing their established goals.

NUTRITION, FINANCIAL EDUCATION and BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Family Nutrition Program:

The focus of the FNP is to help young people learn to make wise choices for the benefit of their health and to develop sound eating and exercise habits leading to optimal nutrition and overall improved health. The target audiences are youth and pregnant and parenting teens in a school setting. The nutrition educator worked with 1,101 elementary students and adults in Dent County in 2006.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In Dent County 158 youth participated in learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills through 4-H events and activities. One out of every ten Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H Program in 2006.

Ongoing participation in extracurricular activities, such as 4-H, can lead to long-term payoffs. Regardless of family background, studies find that teens who are involved in extracurricular activities are more likely to attend college, which in turn, can increase their potential lifetime earnings.

Those involved teens are also more likely as adults to vote in local and national elections, and to volunteer in community and religious organizations, thus making real the concept of civic engagement.

Volunteers create, support and are also part of the 4-H community. National statistics suggest that the average volunteer contributes 208 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$15.24 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Dent County 4-H volunteers was worth almost \$27,000 in 2006.

4-H Clubs: Four Dent County 4-H Clubs offer long term educational experiences where 158 members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of 85 total youth and adult volunteers who teach projects ranging from aerospace and arts to shooting sports and woodworking. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping, and educational trips.

Community Service or service to others is a key part of the 4-H program. Dent County 4-H Clubs have a tradition of being involved in their communities, and did a wide variety of community service activities this year. One of the highlights of 2006 was The Foster Children Christmas Party. Dent County

4-H clubs worked together to provide food, singing, games, gifts, and a visit from Santa for 41 foster children and their foster families.

4-H Member and Leader Opportunities:

State 4-H Events – Dent County youth attended State 4-H Teen Conference, State 4-H Congress, 4-H Citizenship Youth Forum, Livestock Grading & Judging Clinic and State Shooting Sports Contest.

4-H Day with the Cardinals – Ten youth and leaders attended the Cardinal ballgame in St. Louis.

Achievement Day – Fifty-five members, parents, and judges attended this annual event that included personal appearance, project exhibit judging, public speaking, demonstrations, and skits.

4-H Camp – Eight Dent County youth and four teen counselors enjoyed camp crafts, sports, and activities with 90 young people from four counties at Camp Clover Point. 2006 summer work student, Krystal Sims, was craft director, and Orin Pogue was one of three lifeguards, both serving as camp staff for the 2006 4-H camping program

4-H Horse Camp – Two youth attended this first-time-held camp that featured a trail ride and educational horse related activities.

Aerospace Camp – Two Dent County 4-H youth joined over 200 campers on the Rolla UMR campus for a 3-day hands-on learning experience on science and technology.

Shooting Sports – Seventeen 4-H teens participated in 25 events at the MO State Shooting Sports Contest. Sydni Kaden won 4th place in the state overall in the Pellet Target Junior Division. Ten members also attended a regional shoot.

Dent County Fall Festival – Approximately 120 4-H projects and livestock were exhibited and judged at this fair. 4-H/FFA members entered a combined total of 76 livestock entries and sold 47 market animals for another record market sale, nearing \$88,000 in receipts.

4-H Membership Recognition: One hundred fifty 4-H members, Clover Kids, and volunteer leaders were recognized for their many accomplishments at the annual 4-H Recognition Banquet. Special awards were presented for outstanding achievement and retiring leaders.

4-H Scholarships: High School Seniors and 4-H members Emma Heithold and Orin Pogue each received scholarships (\$500 & \$1000 respectively) from the MO 4-H Foundation.

2006 SUMMARY

Dent County Office: Not a day goes by in Dent County without an individual, family, business or agricultural producer turning for help from the local extension office. During 2005, the Dent County Extension Office averaged over 300 telephone calls and client walk-ins each month. All totaled, over 14,000 citizens received information via mailings, newsletters, farm visits, the Internet or through participating in a variety of seminars and workshops.

The county office serves as a resource for home and landowners for soil tests, plant identification, plant disease identification, home horticulture, insect identification, youth programming, community assistance and leadership programs.

Extension State-wide:

In 2006, more than 1 million Missourians turned to University of Missouri Extension to help them solve problems, address complex change, make more informed decisions and improve their quality of life.

Through input from Extension councils, we respond to local priorities with programs to enhance economic viability; build strong individuals, families and communities; and create and sustain healthy environments. Our efforts address the following program areas.

Agriculture and Natural Resources supplies 21st century tools to enhance profitability and protect the environment

Business Development creates wealth for communities by assisting business start-ups, and helping businesses remain competitive and prosperous.

Community Development engages people to tap into local strengths and University resources to create communities of the future.

4-H Youth Development connects parents and youth with the latest research and best practices to help young people be valued, contributing members of their communities.

Human Environmental Sciences provides Missouri families with research-based programs on health, nutrition, parenting, aging, personal finance, housing, consumer action, and more.

Continuing Education offers University and high school degrees, professional development, credit and non-credit, distance education in business, law, labor education, public safety, health care, veterinary medicine, nursing, fire and rescue training, teacher education, law enforcement

