

## MU Extension: The University of Missouri in Dent County

*MU Extension is the University of Missouri's classroom in communities across the state. Created by federal land-grant and state statutes, MU Extension connects people to research-based education that improves the economy and people's quality of life. No other educational institution has this statewide mandate.*

**MU Extension provides practical education to 1.2 million Missourians annually.**

**MU Extension is *relevant, reliable and responsive* to today's needs:**

- Business start-up and retention
- Nutrition and health
- Agriculture and natural resources
- Lawns and gardens
- Family finances
- Emergency management
- Community leadership
- 4-H youth development

### MU Extension in Dent County 2011



#### **4-H Develops Youth to Lead, Volunteers to Serve**

*Studies show 4-H'ers have three times greater interest in science than non-4-H peers and are 70 percent more likely to go to college.*

- In Dent County, 204 youth are enrolled and participating in 4-H clubs and 75 adult volunteers make 4-H a success in this county.
- In 2011, 6 Dent County shooting sports members placed at the top of their divisions at the Missouri State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest.
- One West Side 4-H club member took 4th place in the intermediate division of Dairy Judging at the Missouri State Fair.

#### **Healthy Lifestyle Initiative Improves Health of Local Residents**

*HLI helps communities develop and implement action plans focused on increasing the availability of healthy, affordable, locally produced food and safe, accessible physical activity.*

- Since 2009, 41 Dent County residents have completed the Master Gardener course. Local Master Gardeners each volunteer over 30 hours annually to gardening projects such as the Salem Community Garden, downtown Salem planters, Craig Plaza, and Bonebrake Center.
- The Salem Community Garden provides a place for over 20 families to grow healthy vegetables for their own family meals or donations to local food pantries. Over 50 pounds of food were donated in 2011.
- Dent County Garden 'n Grow program engages youth to grow their own gardens, harvest and prepare healthy produce, sell at local farmers' markets and donate food to help feed hungry Dent County residents.



## MU Extension educational programs play a vital role in Dent County



### Agricultural Research Helps Area Farmers

*Wurdack Farm research is applied throughout the region:*

- Grazing Wedge is a forage management tool that has been utilized to better manage, utilize and understand forage growth and quality.
- Nearly 800 students and over 125 producers attend annual Field Days, Grazing Schools and other livestock workshops.
- South Ozarks Premier Beef Marketing Program allows producers to cooperatively market beef calves and receive performance data that allows better management of herds.

### Partnering to Build Stronger Communities

*Community Development programs foster economic development, leadership, and better community decision making.*

- Dent County Youth Leadership Academy teaches students about their community and encourages a new generation of local leaders. Since 2008, 58 students have graduated from the Academy.
- 20 elected leaders from Dent and surrounding counties participated in a *Fundamentals of Economic Development* workshop to learn new strategies for supporting and growing local businesses.



### Nutrition Education Helps Local Families

*Family Nutrition Education Programs provide children with nutrition education that leads to life-long healthy eating habits.*

- Students in all Dent County public schools received nutrition education from MU Extension.
- Special programs such as Salem Upper Elementary Serendipity and Beef Day teach youth how to prepare healthy meals and snacks.

### Community-Guided Programs Reach Thousands

*The County Extension Council guides MU Extension programs in Dent County.*

- Over 85 soil tests were processed for area farmers and gardeners.
- County extension faculty and staff provided free consultation on a wide variety of topics to over 4,000 individuals in 2011.
- Newsletters, farm visits, website/Facebook announcements, and regular articles in The Salem News share practical knowledge to help Dent County residents solve problems, adapt to change, and make informed decisions.