December 2014

Dear County Commissioners and Friends of MU Extension:

Over the past year, with a theme of Celebrating the Past and Building for the Future, MU Extension marked a century of service to Missouri. While the celebrations have come to an end, the focus on building for the future is strong. The university’s commitment to the mission of bringing relevant, reliable and responsive education to improve lives and local economies is alive and well.

To maintain our position as a valued and trusted resource for Missourians, MU Extension continues to strengthen existing programs, build relationships and explore new opportunities to benefit Missourians. For example:

- In the area of agriculture, the Show-Me Select Heifer Replacement program continues to improve the breeding performance of heifers as it helps participants realize record prices for their efforts. Producers from 103 of Missouri’s 114 counties have enrolled heifers in the program. In a record setting sale, 168 bred replacement heifers sold for an average of $3,033 at the Fruitland (Missouri) Livestock Auction.

- Strengthening communities through art, innovation and creativity, Extension’s Community Arts Program is piloting an initiative in Lexington to help the community enhance its image with art businesses and opportunities that reflect the talent of regional artists and benefit a nine-county tourism alliance. The Community Arts Program is also at work in the St. Louis area, overseeing the Saint Louis Storytelling Festival, which engages approximately 25,000 people each year.

- Knowing the value of dialogue with those it serves, MU Extension has made a concerted effort with the Mizzou Alumni Association to introduce MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to extension programs, participants, key stakeholders and alumni from all corners of the state. These tour events, which will continue into 2015, are designed to foster understanding and support that lead to a stronger local extension effort across the state.

These are just a few examples of MU Extension’s focus on building for the future and continuing to making an impact in local communities.

I thank you for your support of MU Extension and our efforts in your community. I look forward to our continuing partnership and welcome your ideas for improving our partnership.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director
Extension’s Program Guidance Comes from You

The University of Missouri Extension council and staff would like to thank the Dunklin County Commissioners for their support and funding for programs during this past year. In turn, the council and staff remain committed to improving people’s lives by helping them meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century with research-based education and information.

University of Missouri Extension serves as the outreach arm of the four University of Missouri System campuses and Lincoln University. Through us, local residents have access to a vast information base to help with decision making and problem solving. Many of the services are available free of charge, paid for by your federal, state, and county tax dollars.

The contents of this report are a summary of the highlights of our educational efforts and successes during the past year. We hope that this report provides a greater understanding about University of Missouri Extension programming efforts in Dunklin County.

Many community members volunteer their time in helping the staff better meet the needs of local residents. We can’t thank them enough for their dedication.

Our office is here to serve the citizens of Dunklin County.

Jessica Godsey
Council Secretary

Mike Milam
County Program Director
Dunklin County Staff

Mike Milam
County Program Director
Agronomy Specialist

Kim Holsten
Office Manager

Don Ray
Family Financial Specialist

Lavonda Swindle
Nutrition Program Associate

Sharon Sutherland
Nutrition Program Associate
Regional Staff

Van Ayers
Agriculture and Rural Development

Mary Engram
Human Development

David Reinbott
Farm Management

Richard Proffer
Business Development

Linda Morgan
Nutrition/Health Education Specialist/FNEP Coordinator

Stephanie Milner
4-H Youth Specialist

Janet Kline
Regional Director
COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

The County Extension Council consists of dedicated volunteers who meet monthly to help determine the programs that will best meet the needs of Dunklin County citizens, approve personnel headquartered in the county, and maintain the Extension Center using funds provided by the Dunklin County Commission.

OFFICERS

Scotty Morgan-Chair
Linda Lesslie - Vice Chairman
Nevada Smith - Treasurer
Jessica Godsey - Secretary

MEMBERS

Brian Hays, Campbell – District I
Lianne Long, Kennett – District I
Ricky Ward, Holcomb – District I
Linda Lesslie, Holcomb – District I
Austin Davidson, Clarkton – District I
Eric Lemings, Clarkton – District I
Kena Skelton, Kennett – District I

Eddie Lomax, Senath – District II
Mike Todd, Senath – District II
Nevada Smith, Kennett – District II
Jessica Godsey, Hornersville – District II
Casey Keating, Hornersville – District II
Dustin Jackson, Senath – District II
Tyler Harris, Senath - District II
The Extension Council truly appreciates the continued support of the Dunklin County Commission.

**COUNTY COMMISSION:**

Don Collins - Presiding  
Jeanie Herbst – District I  
Patrick McHaney – District II  
Kent Hampton – County Clerk

**University of Missouri’s Contribution to County Extension Program**

University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for one professional and one para-professional staff member headquartered in Dunklin County.

The University of Missouri provides in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for staff, postage for staff communications and matching funds for computer equipment costs and maintenance.

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Appropriations</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
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**TOTAL REVENUE**  
$37,000

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Payroll Expenses</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
<td>$3,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$2,933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$2,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Family</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Dinner</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (IT Services)</td>
<td>$400</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
$37,380
Pesticide Applicator Training

The participants learned skills so that they can apply pesticides to protect humans and the environment. As a result of this information clients had a better understanding of IPM techniques necessary to improve potential yield, therefore improving profits and their lives. During this session non-biased, research based information was provided to clients in the assigned areas which included multiple aspects of row crop production.

Kennett Community Garden

Lavonda Swindle, Sharon Sutherland, and I were involved in all aspects of the Kennett Community Garden. This includes planning, planting, harvesting and educational programming. In addition there was a children’s garden that was used to educate at-risk youth. The children’s garden was funded entirely by donations.

Individual Consultations

A major portion of my job involves individual consultations with homeowners and crop producers. During these sessions non-biased, research based information was provided to clients in the assigned areas which included multiple aspects of home horticulture. Homeowners have many questions pertaining to lawn improvement, weed identification and control, fungal identification in their garden, tree repair and health, and insect identification and control. This information was provided via one on one, walk-ins, home visits, and phone calls. New technologies were incorporated into the learning process such as use of internet based education. As a result of this information clients had a better understanding of the production techniques necessary to improve their home and garden, therefore improving their lives. I signed off on soil tests; several spray drift complaints, bed bugs, lawns, gardens, weed and insect id, and other questions. Crop consultations included commercial watermelon and cantaloupes, cotton, soybeans, corn, and wheat. Many of the melon complaints were related to pollination problems, bacterial fruit blotch, hollow heart, gummy stem blight and nutrient deficiency. Two tissue samples were sent to the Delta Regional Soils Lab at the Fisher Delta Research Center at Portageville. There were also several drift complaints.
There are herbicide questions related to glyphosate resistant weeds. Six samples were sent to the Plant Diagnostic Lab in Columbia. Patty Wallace, director, was very responsive to the problems and had a very quick turnaround. Four nematode samples were sent to the Nematology Lab in Columbia to determine soybean cyst nematode race resistance so that producers will know which varieties have resistance.

**High School Biology Presentations and Insect Collecting Field Day**

I had been contacted by the Biology II instructor at Kennett High School, Katie Porterfield. She requested that I speak to her class about insects and that we plan an insect collecting field day for her students at the Ben Cash Conservation Area. There were two Biology II classes this year. There were thirty-two students enrolled in these classes. I presented information about where to collect insects and general information that would help them with their collections. During the class, I provided leaf litter with enough springtails for the entire class. I also brought in cotton blossoms that contained enough thrips for the entire class. I provided a number of other insect orders and species that the teacher could use for prizes when students answered questions during class. During the course of the next month, I assisted several students who had questions about identification.

Prior to the field day, I visited the area twice and scouted areas to find specific insects. I also found insects in cotton, soybean, and watermelon fields. This insect collecting field day has been a yearly program for high school biology students. This gives the high school students and opportunity to have hands-on collecting experiences and the identification of insects. The conservation area has aquatic, wooded, and vegetative areas which will host a wide variety of insects. Rainfall events had affected several of the collecting sites, but we were able to find many of the insect orders that they needed. Each year students are shown where to collect insects in each of the vegetative, aquatic, and wooded habitats. I also bring in extra materials such as mushrooms, tree bark, and leaf litter to share these insects with the students. This year every student was able to get toad bugs, and doodlebugs which are easy to find at this location. Two extension council members, Casey Keating and Jessica Godsey have been involved with the field day. All students were able to collect a minute tree fungus beetle when we found a rotting tree fungus. These tiny iridescent insects have horns that can only be seen with high magnification. There were fifteen participants at the field day. The students learn about insect ecology, insect taxonomy, beneficial and harmful insects, and in the process will collect insects for their collections.
As a result of this annual program students will improve their grades, have a greater interest in applied biology and will be happier and improve their lives. Since I have been doing this for over 20 years, I still run into students who remind me about their participation and success.

Mike Milam, Agronomy Specialist and County Program Director
UM Extension Dunklin County
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Kennett Missouri 63857
Phone: (573) 888-4722
milammr@missouri.edu
The mission of our Family Financial Education Specialist is to provide educational programs related to financial literacy, money management, asset development, debt management and consumer issues to the citizens of Southeast Missouri. To achieve success, a wide array of programs and financial counseling are offered by our staff in Dunklin County to local citizens and throughout Southeast Missouri. A few programs offered by our Dunklin County office include the following.

Each year, the University of Missouri Extension in Dunklin County participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Grant Program. The program is an IRS initiative designed to promote and support free tax preparation service for the underserved, in both urban and non-urban locations. The service is targeted to low to moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speaking individuals. During 2014, a total of 191 tax returns were prepared by our staff and volunteers for Dunklin County citizens at no charge by our staff and volunteers. Total federal and state refunds in Dunklin County totaled $80,784 and $52,425, respectively. Based on research, Dunklin County residents saved between $34,380 and $37,818 in tax preparation fees, allowing those funds to be utilized for the betterment of their family’s financial health and improving the local economy through the purchase of local goods and services. The program is not limited to Dunklin County, throughout Southeast Missouri, a total of 705 tax returns were prepared resulting in federal and state refunds of $435,906 and $209,482, respectively and a tax preparation savings to Southeast Missouri of approximately $139,590.

Another program offered by our staff are the Take Control of Your Finances workshops which focus on helping recently displaced workers manage and budget their money until a new job opportunity appears. The workshop includes researched based information on how to track spending, develop a budget, prioritize debt, maintain good relations with creditors and identify resources in our community that can help citizens save money.

We have recently started offering the H.O.M.E. Program in conjunction with the USDA for those who dream of owning their own home. The program covers financial preparedness, an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of renting vs. buying, understanding how much house you can afford based on your budget, understanding your credit report, insurance, predatory lending, inspections, the different types of home ownership, negotiation, mortgages, closing cost and avoiding foreclosure as well as basic home maintenance.
Financial counseling is offered by our staff on issues ranging from how to develop a savings plan, a plan to get out of debt, proper insurance coverage, funding education for yourself or your children, retirement planning, cash flow management, and improving communication in your family about financial resources.

Don Ray, Family Financial Education Specialist
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Phone: (573) 888-4722
raysd@missouri.edu
FNEP Brings Nutrition Education to communities where Missourians live, work and play. Education curriculum includes nutrition, physical activity and food safety for both children and adults. Nutrition education for youths provides developmentally appropriate format with hands on activities. Lessons include opportunities for taste testing foods, physical activity and skills that lead to good health. Education for adults includes nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and food resource management.

University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 5,881 low-income participants with nutrition education in Dunklin County during FY2013-2014.

Schools and Agencies Served:
Southland Elementary       Sandy’s Daycare       Faulkners Grocery
Holcomb Elementary         Kennett School       Family Counseling
Community Garden           Kids R Us               Probation
Kennett Christian ACM     Drug Court              Senath Elementary
Caring Counsel             Willoughby Park       Oakland Feeding Circle
Campbell School            Jones Park             Country Mart
Belinda Day Care           Helping Hand
Clarkton School            Kennett Head Start
Senath Elementary          Malden Head Start
Carter Cottage Day         South School
Arbyrd Dollar General Store VFW
Presbyterian Church         Malden School
Esther House               Sheryl Crow Aquatic
Fit Kids Summer Program    Community Garden

*Evaluation data collected across the entire state reflects the positive impacts that occur in every county with FNEP.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student changes reported by teachers</th>
<th>Percent of teachers who observed each type of student change</th>
<th>Percent of teachers whose students talked about this change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More aware of nutrition</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More willing to try new foods</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved hand washing</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers’ Changes (self-reported)</th>
<th>Percent of teachers who model or talk about the behavior in front of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More aware of nutrition</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make healthier meal and/or snack choices</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More willing to try new foods</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved hand washing</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Evaluation data was collected on students who participated in a variety of curricula from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.

**Lavonda Swindle success story:**

A youth group’s lesson was Eating More Vegetables. Several told me they don’t eat vegetables. We talked about what a vegetable is, and the nutrients that we get from them for our body. We made roll ups using fresh spinach leaves. After trying them the kids were amazed at how much they liked them. They recognized this was something simple and healthy and they could make them.

**Sharon Sutherland success story:**

At a shelter with adults we talked about comparing prices. Several did not know to look at unit price or how to make a shopping list. The women were very excited to make a shopping list for their families. The next class they all wanted to tell how their shopping list saved them money and made them more conscious of making healthy meals.
Lavonda Swindle and Sharon Sutherland at their Community Garden

If you have any questions or comments regarding FNEP please contact:

Dr. Linda J. Morgan at the address below

Project Director-SE region/Nutrition Spec.
Family Nutrition Education Program
County Program Director-Pemiscot
University of MO Extension
Dexter FNEP office
1723 West Bus. Hwy 60, Su. 3
Dexter, MO 63841
(573)-614-7110
(573)-624-4889 fax
morganlj@missouri.edu
One of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2014.

4-H Youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and health for the 21st century workforce. Missouri 4-H members spend almost nine times more of their leisure time than peers engaged in projects anchored in science. As a result, 4-H members are three times more likely to go into science related careers than similar peers (Lerner and Lerner, 2008). Fostering career development is the fact that Missouri 4-H members are connected to college campuses and faculty. MU Extension 4-H connects 8,500 young people to University of Missouri campuses. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going onto higher education (Hoover, 2006).

Youth who earn their earn bachelor’s degree, increase annual earnings by $2 million over their lifetime (NACUBO, 2012). If 70% of the Dunklin members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go onto earning their Bachelors, 4-H would help young people earn $4,221,000. An example 25 youth X 0.70 X @$2,400,000 = $35.18 million more of lifetime earnings.

Missouri 4-H members, however, also learn to use these talents to engage in their communities. Young people in 4-H are engaged in twice as many leadership roles than their non-4-H peers. This provides them with the experience in problem-solving to step up and lead in a complex, changing world. In Dunklin, 3 4-H members were engaged in leadership and service experiences in their communities.

4-H clubs

4-H participants = 3

Dunklin County 4-H clubs offer 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 aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H special-interest programs
4-H participants = 3

Dunklin County 4-H special-interest programs include conferences, distance learning programs, day camps and other educational activities, such as school-age care. They often reach youths with special needs, such as those living in group homes or youths who are physically or mentally challenged.

4-H school programs

4-H participants = 210

Dunklin 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 Dunklin County is Ecology Day.

4-H members supported by 23 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at $2,898

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 Dunklin County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $2,898 in 2014! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into health adulthood, priceless.

Dunklin County is growing future scientists. 4-H’ers is more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering or computer technology. Three of our 4-H members were enrolled in science related projects this past year doing the swine project. Not only did these youth participate in STEM activities, but they learn life skills while having fun!

Stephanie Milner, Youth Specialist
University of Missouri Extension
222 North Broadway
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Phone (573) 686-8064
Email: milners@missouri.edu
The 2014 watermelon meeting was held in December of this year. The meeting provided CEU credits for those with certification as well as education to 33 in attendance. Educational topics included labor, plastic cover contamination and removal, watermelon trials, farm bill, perishable agriculture commodities act and the new melon app for phones. Based on participant responses the meeting will impact changes in operational billing based on the agriculture commodities act. Those in attendance reported 23 acres of pumpkins, 148 acres of seeded watermelon, 470 acres of seedless watermelon and 38 acres of cantaloupe grown in 2014.

I continue to answer many individual horticulture questions for those in Dunklin County. Of all the discussions, 33% benefited a commercial enterprise. Topics discussed which impacted the county included:

- Watermelon Management
- Pecan Disease
- Fruit Prices
- Fruit Diseases
- Composting
- Ornamental Issues
- Nutrient Management
- Weed control
- Pecan Fertility

Sarah Denkler, Horticulture Specialist
Associate Extension Professional
University of Missouri Extension
222 North Broadway
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Phone (573) 686-8064
E-mail denklers@missouri.edu
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 Dunklin County, during 2014, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Environmental Program, Missouri Career Options Project, and the Missouri Market Development program served 9 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners in Dunklin County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 9

Overall, the University of Missouri’s Business Development Programs (BDP) served people and their businesses state-wide. The total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

- New jobs: 2674
- Sales increases: $207,464,049
- Government contracts: $349,593,124
- New businesses: 238
- Jobs retained: 1616
- Loans and investments in business: $204,377,650
- $8,965,684 in SBIR/STTR or research proposals submitted with $3,814,347 awards received
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 14381
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 12394
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.

**Missouri Procurement Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)** -- Funded by the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency, this program helps businesses win government contracts for a wide range of products and services.

**Career Options** – Improving individual capacity is the focus of the MU Extension Career Options program, which is funded through a partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development Workforce Development unit. This program assists displaced workers and others in many ways, including through the exploration of business ownership and career repositioning following company closings, layoffs and other employment-related changes.

**Missouri Environmental Program** -- Showing businesses how to save money by reducing waste, understanding regulations and using recycled materials.

Richard Proffer, Business Development Specialist  
UM Extension Cape Girardeau County  
684 West Jackson Trail  
Jackson Missouri 6375  
Phone: (573) 243-3851  
profferrd@missouri.edu
Dunklin County’s local Extension Council met for their Annual Honors Dinner, recently, at Grecian Steakhouse.

Mike Milam, Agronomy Specialist for the local extension service, said it was the one time of the year they could honor the long-term commitment and support of the extension service within the council, as well as those in within the community.

Don Ray, CPA and Family Financial Education Specialist for the extension service, through the OAKS Center in Kennett, provided free tax preparation for the elderly and those with low income.

Ray said since Jan. 1, the program had already prepared and completed 693 tax returns.

According to Ray, they touched 879 lives and produced $430,000 in federal refunds and $207,000 in state refunds.

The big impact, however, was in the money saved in preparation fees, which was money put back into each household.

"By helping people save even a little money, we may be able to make their life a little easier," said Ray.

"The can take what they saved in tax prep fees and purchase shoes for their kid, groceries for the table, or another month’s supply of prescriptions.

Ray recognized those who helped with the program throughout the year.

He thanked Sharon Montgomery, Director at the OAKS, for letting them use the nutrition center, and staff members, Amanda Crafton and Beverly Meredith for helping by making appointments and having appointment sheets ready for them.

"It made our job a lot easier," said Ray. He went on to thank Jack and Mary Norman, as well as Earl and Vicki Young for their help in preparing the taxes.

Ray then recognized Kim Holsten, the County Office Support Staff, for her help in garnering all the calls that come into the center. Holsten works with Milam in the Kennett extension office. "She gets overlooked, and she makes a lot of phone calls and without her, I couldn’t do this," said Ray.
Next, Milam handed out their Leaders Honor Roll Certificates. "This is for those people who have helped with our Extension Programming," said Milam.

"One goes to Sharon Montgomery for all of her help given to Don for that program over the last two years." The second was given to

This year the University of Missouri Extension Service celebrates 100 years of service to Missouri communities across the state.

For Dunklin County these services include everything from agriculture to free tax preparation, such as the Children's Garden and the Free Tax Preparation Program.

Sharon Southerland and Lavonda Swindle, UM Extension nutritionists, go to the schools and help teach children about exercise and nutritious snack choices.

Through the Children's Garden, they offer hands-on learning, teaching children about how their food is grown.

Along with working with the free tax program, Ray teaches courses on how to live on a limited budget for the month which is beneficial to those in this area.

In addition to the other financial programs, he teaches people how to gain control of their finances.

Throughout the years, their programs have served as a guide for farmers and gardeners from how to weed a garden to raising chicks.
Director, Sharon Montgomery, received a Leaders Honor Roll certificate from Mike Milam, agronomy specialist from UMES, for her support and help to the Free Tax Program.
Kennett, MO — Eric and Deanne Lemings and family of Clarkton were among the 110 families honored during the Missouri State Fair’s Farm Family Day on August 11, 2014.

The Lemings were selected as the Dunklin County Missouri State Fair Farm Family by the Dunklin County Extension Council and local Farm Bureau. The family includes Maggie and Annie Lemings.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state who are active in their community, involved in agriculture, and participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H and FFA.

The annual event was sponsored by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri State Fair, the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and University of Missouri Extension.
2014 Dunklin County Activities

- The 2014 Delta Fair features its first petting zoo in years, when the festivities open on Tuesday. The zoo is a coordinated effort between the University of Missouri (MU) Extension Service office in Dunklin County, and the Arkansas State University (ASU) Agriculture Department, in Jonesboro. For next year’s fair, Cassie Keating, Jessica Godsey (extension council members), and others are now working with Delta Fair Board to add more animals for the petting zoo.

- In October, Stephanie Milner, Youth Specialist, and Mary Engram, Human Development Specialist, conducted a Mental Health First Aid for Youth class in Kennett. Eleven people attended including several CASA volunteers, church youth workers and some Children’s Division staff.

  The Mental Health First Aid for Youth course teaches people how to give first aid to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis situation and/or who are in the early stages of a mental health disorder.

  Seven people completed the class and received the official Mental Health First Aider certificate. One hundred percent of the participants said that they would recommend the course to others.

- During the year on Sunday’s, Mike Milam, Sarah Denkler, and Don Ray write articles for the Daily Dunklin Democrat. Addition to that, Mike writes monthly articles for Cotton Farming Magazine on their Specialist Speaking page.