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RELIABLE  RESPONSIVE  RELEVANT
Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

The past year has been extremely productive for University of Missouri Extension and Engagement. With the launch of our county engagement specialist model, which is the centerpiece of a long-overdue restructuring, we are better positioned to serve Missourians.

Most county engagement specialists are now in place and the formal training for this new position rolled out this fall. By January 2019, we expect our CESs to be well on their way to success. I see a great future for them and the communities they serve.

At the MU campus, we have been busy putting in place online resources that will benefit Missouri communities. In particular, the All Things Missouri web portal is an exciting tool that can help community leaders search for valuable data. I encourage you to check it out at https://allthingsmissouri.org/.

When 2018 began, we set out to meet with every county’s administrative body. This effort provided valuable insight and helped strengthen relationships; and as a result, we will engage in a similar effort in 2019. Meeting stakeholders and deepening county relationships is something we truly enjoy.

As you read your county’s annual MU Extension report, I am confident that you will be pleased with the results accomplished through county-based University of Missouri faculty. Our faculty take pride in their efforts to respond to local extension council input.

At the state level, we have committed to a goal of doubling the economic impact of MU Extension over the next decade. This goal of $2 billion in public value is ambitious — but, by meeting this challenge, we will help a great many Missourians.

Your support of MU Extension and our efforts in your community are greatly appreciated. As always, I welcome your input on how the University of Missouri can better serve your community and its people.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Stewart

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS
Dear Friends of Extension,

The annual report of the Franklin County University of Missouri Extension Council is a brief summary of the educational programs, activities and partnerships involving Franklin County residents in 2018. MU Extension was created by federal and state statutes to ensure the peoples’ access to research-based knowledge, to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. Local needs and priorities of the community determine the focus.

Extension programs are a reliable source of research-based information. There is an increasing demand to solve ever more complex problems. Specialists respond to local citizens’ needs by providing high impact programming that meet changing societal and personal needs for today and the future. We appreciate the continued support of the Franklin County Commission and the many volunteers and partners that have enabled extension programs to have a positive impact on the citizens in Franklin County.

As a doorway to the University of Missouri Land Grant System, Extension in Franklin County will focus on economic opportunity, educational excellence, and health and well-being. In 2017 we learned MU Extension’s economic impact on the state was over $945 million. Education is a life-long process and the key to community vitality.

Please call or stop by our office if you have questions, or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Buxton, Chairman
Franklin County Extension Council

Kenneth A. Bolte
County Engagement Specialist

Our Mission

The mission of University of Missouri Extension is to:

Improve Missourians’ lives by addressing their highest priorities through the applications of research-based knowledge and resources. As an integral part of the land-grant mission, University of Missouri Extension is a joint venture of:

- University of Missouri campuses
- Lincoln University of Cooperative Extension
- The people of Missouri through county extension councils
- Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Other stakeholders and partners
Business Development

In Franklin County, during 2018, the Business Development Program served people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. Entrepreneurs and business owners in Franklin County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

- Generated sales increases of $11,562,768.
- Created or retained 72 jobs
- An additional 68 residents and businesses received start-up and management counseling, training and other assistance.

The Franklin County Extension Center SBTDc is the primary center serving Franklin, Gasconade, Warren, Lincoln, Montgomery, Washington, St. Francois and St. Genevieve counties.

Franklin County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener training was held in the fall 2018 with 12 participants. The 12-week training program provides about 36 hours of training in a wide range of horticultural topics. Upon completing training, Master Gardeners become volunteers providing education and other efforts in their local communities focusing on horticultural needs.

With nearly 100 members, the Franklin County Master Gardeners gave nearly 2,500 hours to volunteer activities. The Franklin County Master Gardeners established a community garden in Union providing members the opportunity to have an outdoor classroom to demonstrate pollinator species.

Community Involvement

- Franklin County Bicentennial: Plans are underway to celebrate Franklin County’s 200 years of history in 2019 with a year long celebration. County Extension staff are cooperating with the Bicentennial Advisory Committee comprised of citizens and volunteers to plan the events throughout the year.
- Franklin County Service Providers: Meets monthly to share concerns, resources, and ideas on meeting the unmet needs of our community. By sharing information, partnerships can be developed to expand the net scope of the programs.
- Jefferson-Franklin Community Action Corporation: Jenny Wallach was appointed by the Franklin County Commission to represent Franklin County. She serves on the Finance Committee and the Head Start Policy Council.
- Franklin County Hunger Task Force: The task force is made up of food pantries in Franklin County. Their mission is to see that no one goes hungry. MU Extension helps educated clients on how best to use the food provided.
- Franklin County Homeless Task Force: This task force was started to help homeless youth to stay in school. It has expanded to include all who are without shelter. The group is working toward building a shelter and work on enhancing life skills of residents.
- Back to School Fair: Extension staff provided information on healthy eating on a budget and opportunities for youth development.

Franklin County Master Gardeners Century Club Members were honored at their holiday dinner: Pictured R-L: Sally Bocklage, Karen Leslie, Tammy Poertner, Karen Geisert, Georgianne McClanahan, Sharon Jenicek, and Beth KleeKamp. These members put in over 100 volunteer hours each per year.
**Master Naturalist Program**

Thirty people participated in the Missouri Master Naturalist program in a joint effort with St. Louis and St. Charles County. This 55-hour training program provides participants education in a wide range of natural resource topics. After completing the training program, Missouri Master Naturalists serve as volunteers for University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Master Naturalists in Franklin County are members of the Miramiguoa Master Naturalist chapter, which coordinates additional training, volunteer opportunities and chapter business. In 2018 Master Naturalists in Franklin County volunteered 5,825 hours.

**Value Added to the Community**

University of Missouri’s contribution to Extension programs comes in many forms. Primarily, by providing specialist to deliver educational programs and consult with area residents. In 2018, the University of Missouri provided over $400,000.00 to the economy of Franklin County in the form of staff salaries, training, professional development and technology.

**Continuing Education Programs**

The goals are to provide high-quality, professional, full-service meeting management for a variety of noncredit educational programs, such as conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia. Examples include:

- MU Extension’s Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) prepares firefighters for medical emergencies, hazardous materials response, and disaster preparedness and mitigation, as well as fires.
- The Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) develops and provides seminars to the general public in personal safety, workplace violence and citizen response to armed subjects.
- MU Nursing Outreach (MUNO) provides face-to-face and web-based educational programs for nurses and other healthcare professionals.

In 2018 Franklin County had 356 citizens enrolled in noncredit courses through Fire & Rescue Training Institute (FRTI), Missouri Training Institute (MTI), Nursing, (Continuing Medical Education (CME) and the MU Conference Office (MUCO).

**Nutrition Specialist Retires**

Mary Schroepfer, Nutrition and Health Education Specialist for Franklin County and the East Central Region, retired in June of 2018 after 39 years working for the University of Missouri, 36 of those years in Franklin County.

She was the instructor for Eat Well Be Well, Dining with Diabetes, Food Preservation, Stay Strong Stay Healthy, and Building a Better Child Care classes. Mary is known for her ability to answer food safety, food preservation, and nutrition questions.

A comment from one of her students was: “Thanks, you did a great job. You know your trade. I couldn’t find a question you couldn’t answer.”

We wish Mary and her husband Mark all the best in the future. She was a true Extension Professional!
Building Better Child Care

During program year 2018, child care workshops were provided to three licensed child care centers and forty-seven staff, in Franklin County.

The program focus was:
- **Making ABC’s and 123’s More Active**
  Participants reported the need to incorporate more physical activities into learning, and implementing games with learning.
- **Avoiding Behavior Problems: Teach Self-Control**
  Participants reported learning better ways to teach children self-control to help with better behavior when they are ready to start school.
- **Dealing with Food Allergies**
  Participants stated some children are difficult to work with and this program made them realize they needed to focus on these issues and how to work through them and build a more positive relationship with the children.
- **Sleep and Health**
  Seventy-two percent of participants stated learning more clarification on what activities are developmentally appropriate for age groups.
- **Every Child Counts: Building Community**
  Participants reported they learned ways to help children support each other and to help children who may be a loner to become more active and perhaps become a leader.
- **Building Relationships with Children and Youth Who Challenge Us**
  Participants stated some children are difficult to work with and this program made them realize they needed to focus on these issues and how to work through them and build a more positive relationship with the children.

After participating in the child care workshops, one hundred percent reported improved knowledge, skills, or understanding regarding topics covered in these individual classes.

**Food Preservation**

*Quality for Keeps: Home Food Preservation* is a three-session series on safe food preservation methods. The three classes were:
- Water Bath Canning Fruits and Tomatoes;
- Using a Pressure Canner to Can Vegetables
- Preparing Jams and Jellies.

Seven adults participated in *Quality for Keeps: Home Food Preservation* workshops in Franklin County. Participants learned to safely can green beans and salsa; make plum jelly and blueberry jam; make fresh pickles and how to properly sterilize jars and lids.

Participants said they learned to use exact recipe portions, follow the recipes exactly, the importance of canning times and acidity and how ripeness of tomatoes affects the pH. One of the most important things they commented on was the use of safe and proven recipes, and to maintain and update their equipment to meet today’s USDA recommendations.

After attending a *Quality for Keeps: Home Food Preservation* workshop, ninety-eight percent reported improved knowledge, skills, or understanding of safe food preservation method(s); ninety-two percent reported using skills and knowledge to preserve food safely.

Individual problem solving help with food preservation issues was provided to thirty-nine individuals by e-mail and phone.

An additional 152 individuals receive the MU Food Preservation Newsletter, “Preserve it Fresh, Preserve It Safe” which is distributed via e-mail and surface mail on a quarterly basis.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy and Advanced Stay Strong, Stay Healthy are 8-week strength training programs for middle-aged and older adults. Twenty individuals in Franklin County attended two 8-week sessions designed to improve their flexibility, strength and balance in a safe, structured, and effective strength training program.

Sessions were held at Zion United Church of Christ and at Senior Center in Union.

Sessions held at Senior Centers are free to seniors and co-sponsored by University of Missouri Extension, Snap and Mid-East Area Agency on Aging.

Participants reported the following:
"I can easily do my yard work because of strength and flexibility."
“Better balance and flexibility is helping me stay in my home longer.”
“I feel less pain while walking and doing these exercises and another benefit I see is my blood sugars are coming down.”
“This is the best program I have had here at the Senior Center since I have been coming here.”

When you support MU Extension’s Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program, you will help participants increase their physical activity and may improve strength, balance and flexibility, resulting in reduced risk for falls, better overall health and greater independence. These health benefits decrease the likelihood of a participant entering a nursing home, which costs on average $56,758 per year in Missouri. The money saved, benefits the community by keeping more discretionary income in circulation locally. It also keeps people actively, independently contributing to society longer.
Making Divorce Successful for Kids

477 parents affecting 462 children age 18 and under participated in Focus on Kids in 2018.

Focus on Kids provides divorcing and separated parents with information to make divorce successful for the children by helping parents learn co-parenting skills and understand how to help the children cope with the big change in their life. Program evaluations indicate that participating in the Focus on Kids can reduce the level of conflict between parents and therefore reduce the level of stress on children. Parents learn how to nurture and support their children during and after separation and divorce, which leads to more children being raised in a healthy, low-conflict environment. This benefits other community members by reducing the need for community health services for children.

One-year follow-up surveys indicate that nearly seventy-five percent of former FOK participants report the program as being helpful and worthwhile, still credit the program as increasing their knowledge and usage of positive co-parenting behaviors, and reported significant reductions in co-parenting conflict.

The 20th Circuit Court contracts with Franklin County MU Extension to provide the program for divorcing/separating parents with minor age children, never married parents involving custody of a minor age child, and divorced parents seeking a motion to modify a parenting plan. More information about the program can be found by visiting www.missourifamilies.org.

Focus on Kids is coordinated by Dave Hileman, 4-H Youth Specialist. Maria Polacek, retired Department of Family Services employee collaborates as a facilitator.

Family Nutrition Education Program

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought $9,449,699.00 in federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 735,541 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 2,932,390 educational contacts. This year we had 2,242,249 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries and the Show Me Nutrition help line.

Participants in FNP become more aware of nutrition, make healthier meal and snack choices, eat breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity and, in general, make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and activity behaviors are more likely to enjoy a high quality of life as an adult and into senior years. A healthy labor force is critical to attracting and keeping jobs in Missouri. In addition, this important programming effort serves to reduce healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums. Our Nutrition Program Associates (NPAs) are also continuing to provide information about the SNAP benefits program and offer assistance with SNAP applications.

Locally, in Franklin County, 1,110 youth and 3,925 adult contacts were made for a total of 5,035 contacts.

In addition to the numbers, Angela Ernst shared this success story demonstrating local impact:

“During the summer of 2018, I taught a 7-week series of Kids in the Kitchen classes to the elementary school age children at Friendly Folks Day Care in Sullivan. In the fall of 2018, I was at Sullivan Primary to teach in the Pre-K classes. A familiar face approached me in the hallway one afternoon there; it was one of the students from my Kids in the Kitchen class. He wanted to tell me he had been eating more vegetables since our class. He specifically told me about the tuna mac he had made the night before; he proudly told me he had added carrots to it.”

We are happy to have an NPA in Franklin County again and look forward, in 2019, to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.
Agriculture and Our Environment

Around Franklin County in 2018

Overall, weatherwise, 2018 has been a very challenging year. When we look back on the averages for temperatures and rainfall in 2018, you get near normal numbers of annual temperature of 57.3 degrees vs. average of 57.1 degrees and precipitation of 42.6 inches measured vs. 40.96 inches on average measured in St. Louis. For starters, look at the non-spring of 2018. We were dry and abnormally cool in the spring. Cattle farmers had to feed hay longer as grass growth was slow. We went right from winter to summer. April was the second coldest on record followed by the hottest May on record.

With a bit of a late start to corn planting, the May heat had corn and soybeans up and growing in no time. The shortage of rain and lack of substantial moisture, led right into a very hot summer for 2018. Hay yields were reduced by a third and pastures never recovered from the early cool, dry start. This led to stock water shortages throughout the area.

The hot dry summer took a toll on crops overall, but not as bad as what everyone really thought. Warm weather hastened crop maturity leading to an early start to harvest. Some farmers recorded good yields, alongside some corn that was 30 to 40 percent below trend line. Soybean yields, overall, have been better than expected for the hot dry summer we had.

Then another flip came. The end of October saw the rains return and November became the fourth coldest on record. This set back any late harvest opportunities for farmers. An unfamiliar early snow led to one of the snowiest Novembers in decades. Regular rain events continued through the end of the year making a muddy mess for area livestock feeders.

Crop and livestock prices were depressed in 2018 as the nation, as a whole, saw record corn production. With the recent federal tariff policy issues with China, the soybean and swine prices were under pressure following harvest in the fourth quarter. Dairy farmers also saw that increased production has led to lower on farm prices. Farm Bureau has published data that farmers receive less than 20 cents of every dollar spent for food. The consensus nationwide is the decreased net farm income may lead to financial struggles at the farm level in the future.

On a more positive note, the biggest story in 2018 in Franklin County was the opening of the new bridge over the Missouri River at Washington connecting Franklin and Warren counties and replacing the old bridge built in 1936. December 1, 2018, saw county residents being allowed to walk on the new bridge and partake in dedication ceremonies with federal, state, and local officials. The bridge officially opened for traffic on December 3, 2018. The old bridge will be demolished in 2019.

Show-Me Quality Assurance

Youth enrolled in food animal projects attend Quality Assurance training to improve their awareness of food safety and proper animal care. Consumers are concerned with where their food comes from and how it was raised.

The youth learn basic good management practices which include providing proper nutrition, health care, animal welfare, food safety, animal identification, and biosecurity on the farm.

Youth attend three seminars throughout their show career. This training prepares youth to properly raise their project animals and how to talk with consumers about animal agriculture issues and the knowledge they learn from their project.

Agricultural Lenders Seminar

Agriculture Lenders and Agri Business professionals gather each year at our Ag Lenders Seminar. They receive information and resources to update themselves on issues facing their clients in making management decisions.

Topics included farm price outlook and projections for crops and livestock, updates on tax law changes that will affect clients, farm policy update, farm liability needs, and a review of current government loan programs available to clients.

The 2018 Missouri Farm Financial Outlook booklet contained crop and livestock budgets as well as management information on a wide array of current topics was distributed to participants. Those 35 attending manage approximately 870 loans valuing more than 150 million dollars.
Agriculture—Economic Impact

Farming is more than a way of life, it is a business. Farmers must manage land, labor, and capital to be competitive. Adoption of new methods and technology aid producers with production, marketing and management decisions.

- **Grazing School:** Thirty farmers from Franklin and surrounding counties participated in a two-day grazing school in September held in Sullivan. Farmers gained knowledge in grazing management, livestock nutrition, grazing economics, forages, soil fertility and design of a grazing system. Two field visits gave participants hands-on learning. During the second farm visit, they designed a grazing system and then compared designs with others in the training. Farmers who participate in this training are eligible to apply for cost share funding to install grazing and watering systems to improve forage utilization and profitability. This training was jointly developed between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

- **Private Pesticide Applicator Training:** Farmers who wish to purchase or apply restricted use pesticides must go through training to obtain or renew a private pesticide applicator license. Approximately 150 farmers participated in private pesticide applicator training in Franklin County in 2018. Farmers who participate in the training learn about pesticide labeling, personal protective equipment, environmental concerns, pesticide mixing and application, principals of pest control and pesticide formulations. The Missouri Department of Agriculture issues private pesticide applicator licenses.

- **Integrated Pest Management:** Each year farmers, gardeners and homeowners find that they need information and education on pest management. Weeds, insects and diseases are the primary pest problems. People who have questions about pest management will call or bring in pests to the Extension Center for identification and management options. Pest identification is the first step in developing a management plan. Pest management options are presented for the person to use to make decisions. For farmers and commercial vegetable growers, pest management can be important to profitability. For homeowners, pests may cause aesthetic concerns.

- **Strip Trial:** For several years, a statewide program has enlisted farmers to work with University of Missouri Extension to evaluate agronomic treatments on their farms. In 2018, a strip trial on the Tim Stahlman farm near Union evaluated cover crop termination timing before planting soybean. Trials like this across Missouri provide farmers with research based information about cover crops, nitrogen management, seed treatments and other agronomic questions. Farmers are involved in treatment decisions and applying the treatments to their fields. Their combined yield monitor provides yield data to evaluate treatment effects.

- **Soil Testing:** Soil testing provides farmers, gardeners and homeowners information about the fertility of their soil and recommendations on how to fertilize and lime to improve plant growth. In 2018, over three-hundred soil samples were tested in Franklin County. Farmers who use soil testing have reported that yields have improved because of using their soil test results. Other farmers have reduced fertilizer inputs due to soil tests showing that fertility levels are already high. This may be due in part to livestock manure applications. Gardeners and homeowners use soil testing to improve fruit and vegetable production or to make their lawn grow better. Soil testing is a first step in people learning more about soil fertility. Extension guides and personal consultations help people understand their soil test reports and how to use the information in the report.

- **Dairy Profit Seminar:** In cooperation with the Missouri Dairy Association, area dairy producers attended the 2018 Dairy Profit Seminar. Topics covered included supporting calf immune response, managing environmental and contagious mastitis, cow housing options, dairy policy and opportunities and challenges for dairy farms.

- **Stretching Forage Options:** Cattle producers endured a very difficult year in 2018. Early spring cold weather caused producers to feed hay longer in the season. Pastures and hay were slow to get started and then once it did warm up, a lack of rainfall reduced yields by an average of one-third causing many producers to be short on hay for the winter. MU Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist, Dr. Eric Bailey, presented a program on stretching forage supplies and balancing diets for your beef herd. Twenty producers learned how to analyze forage test results, balance diets, reduce feeding waste, sell non-producers and value proposal hay purchases to extend their feed supply.
**Franklin County Century Farmers**

Century farms and ranches have shaped the nation. Amidst every kitchen, behind every faded barn door, and in every soiled and calloused hand lie untold stories of those who feed our nation. As an industry, we are called to discover these stories and share with consumers everywhere the contribution farmers and ranchers have made to our American heritage. It is time to redefine sustainability and put a face to the farmer who fills our cupboards and clothes our backs.

In 1976, the "Centennial Farm" project was initiated in Missouri to award certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. Interest in the program continued so the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and University of Missouri Extension planned a 10-year update in 1986 called the "Century Farm" program. This program has been sustained as a yearly event with over 100 farms being recognized each year. In 2008, the Missouri Farm Bureau became a program co-sponsor.

This year in Franklin County there were eight Century Farms recognized. They are:

- **David and Annett Beste** – Beste Farm since 1915.
- **Wayne E. Brown** – Rockford Farm since 1910.
- **Gilbert E. Brune** – Brune Family Farm since 1918. Beneficiary Deed to Dennis G. Brune, Paul W. Brune, Donna S. Miller.
- **David and Charlene Cox** – Schoeneman Farm since 1917.
- **James Edward Daniel** – George’s Orchard since 1918. Additional owner includes Janet Deanna Daniel.
- **Ralph P. Hardecke** – Hardecke Farm since 1917.
- **Stephen & Judith A. Luecker** – Luecker Farm since 1918.
- **Susan Murphy** – William Joseph Eckelkamp Farm since 1872. Additional owners include John P. Murphy IV, Michael Sean Murphy, Fred Denton Family Limited Partnership.

Long-term owners of Missouri farms are proud of their family accomplishments. This was evident during the Centennial Farm program held in Missouri during the American Revolution Bicentennial Year of 1976. In that popular program, 2,850 Missouri farm owners in 105 of Missouri’s 114 counties were recognized as owning a "Centennial Farm." During the updated "Century Farm" program in 1986, 1,080 additional Missouri farms were recognized. With the annual program updates that started in 1987, an additional 5,504 farms have been recognized. The program has continued with approximately 100 or more farms being recognized each year. In 2018, there were 180 farms recognized.

The following guidelines are used for the selection and recognition of Missouri Century Farms.

1. The same family must have owned the farm for 100 consecutive years or more.
2. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings and nephews and nieces, including through marriage or adoption.
3. The present farm shall consist of no less than 40 acres of the original land and shall make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

Applications are available from February 1 through May 15 from the MU Extension office in your county. Or online at https://extension2.missouri.edu/programs/century-farms/century-farms-apply

**Communities Supporting Youth**

Every summer throughout Franklin County, youth exhibit their project animals at local fairs. These projects require setting goals, learning new skills—both subject matter and life skills and evaluating progress, all in a challenging and fun format.

At two county fairs, the Meramec Community Fair in Sullivan and the Washington Town and Country Fair in Washington, area youth have the opportunity to sell their project market animals for a premium. In 2018, at the Meramec Community Fair in Sullivan, 31 market steers, 83 market hogs and 2 market goats were auctioned providing a total support to youth of $183,105.25. At Washington Town and Country Fair, 47 market steers, 170 market hogs, 24 market lambs and 11 dairy buckets were auctioned providing a total support to youth of $473,158.50. Figuring the actual market price available to these youth on sale day, additional community support amounted to over $507,000 that was paid as a premium to these youth over what they would have received at a terminal market.

Participation in fairs allows youth the opportunity to learn many lessons that can prepare them for adulthood. It also provides youth a way to teach the non-farming public about what they produce and the methods they use to accomplish safe wholesome food production.

Most exhibitors use the proceeds of the sale to secure next year’s project animal and pay related expenses, then put the remainder into their post-high school fund. Buyers often donate their purchases to a charity of their choice, which multiplies the positive support to the community.
State Fair Farm Family

Bill and Barb Placht family of New Haven were among the families honored during the 60th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 13 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Placht family was selected as the Franklin County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Franklin County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes daughters Andi and Lydia. Andi is currently attending MU College of Veterinary Medicine and Lydia is enrolled at Mizzou and is majoring in ag business management. The Placht family have a cow-calf operation and are active members of the Franklin County Cattlemen. Bill serves on the Franklin County Extension Council Board.

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

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Department of Agriculture; Missouri State Fair Commissioners; MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension and Engagement.

This year, all 114 Missouri counties plus the City of St. Louis participated, honoring nearly 490 people from 115 farm families.

The event showcases the impact Missouri Farm Families have on the economy and heritage of the state, said Missouri State Fair Director Mark Wolfe. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”

Beef Quality By Numbers

Consumers are increasingly demanding higher quality beef and are willing to pay higher prices for it. Market steer shows at local fairs select animals with the most pleasing physical appearance but rarely follow through and analyze the meat quality of these animals.

A carcass contest was organized to rank market steers at local fairs on the basis of carcass quality and carcass value. This information can then be transposed to herd animals at the home farm to aid in breeding decisions to produce higher quality calves that are worth more money at market time. Carcass measurements were taken to determine yield grade. Digital pictures of the rib eye were taken and a quality grade was assigned. A value was then placed on the carcass based on quality and yield. A results meeting was held to help exhibitors understand the data and how to use this data to make management decisions for improving the cowherd in the future.

Participants learned how information was gathered, how value was determined and how to use this information for herd improvement. Dollar values were assigned to help participants understand the true meaning of quality by the numbers.

Beef Herd Health

In cooperation with the Franklin County Cattlemen and area veterinarians, area producers heard Dr. Craig Payne, MU Veterinarian, provide information on new parasite control strategies in the beef herd. Dr. Payne also reviewed recommendations for identifying and controlling anaplasmosis in area herds. (A disease spread by biting insects that can cause death.)
Growing Productive, Healthy Kids

4-H in Franklin County

A community of 619 youth building life skills, contributing to their community and becoming college and career ready. Findings from a 2018 evaluation study reveals about Missouri 4-H.

In Franklin County, 4-H Club members were involved in 885 science related projects and experiences.

4-H Cubs
4-H Club participants = 619 members in 20 4-H Clubs Franklin 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 computer science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H Camp
Seventy-nine Franklin County members age 8-13 gain social skills, develop or enhance personal decision making skills, and make lasting friendships at 4-H Camp. 4-H Teens practice their leadership skills and learn parenting skills, as they serve as 4-H Camp Counselors.

4-H School Programs
2,431 youth in Franklin County participated in 4-H school enrichment programs. These programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities. The most popular 4-H school program in Franklin County is Hatching Chicks in the Classroom.

4-H Volunteers
341 youth and adult volunteers assist our 4-H members in 2018. Time valued at $823,174.00

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at $24.14 per hour (Independent Sector, 2017), the contribution of Franklin County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $823,000.00 in 2018. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

4-H State Congress
Franklin County 4-H members joined teens from all parts of the state at Missouri State 4-H Congress. They participated in a variety of hands-on science, leadership, and workforce preparedness workshops, experienced MU Athletics facilities, and dorm life, and enjoyed social activities and inspirational speakers throughout the event. Franklin County participants were (l-r) Madison Brinker, Kaitlyn Wampler, and Rachel Smith. Katelyn helped plan and conduct the event as a member of the Missouri State 4-H Council.

Embyology — Hatching Chicks in the Classroom

4-H school enrichment groups meet during school time and use curricula supplied through 4-H.

4-H Hatching Chicks in the Classroom provides grade appropriate materials to educators for use in the classroom. The materials include building a curiosity of biology through interacting with the world by listening, observation, experimenting and applying knowledge to real-world situations. The program package includes one dozen pre-incubated eggs, one pound of chick feed, an incubator that provides a view of the hatching eggs and a large notebook filled with class plans.

In 2018, students in forty-five classrooms in Franklin County participated. 2,431 students had hands-on experience on hatching chicks, safety, safe handling and care of newly hatched chicks. Teacher comments included:

“We wouldn’t have had this experience without you help!”

“Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity.”

“The kids loved the chick and saw the miracle of life.”

Missouri 4-H Foundation Trustees Dr. Marla Tobin (left) with Sam Williams and Pam Cox/Williams, Franklin County 4-H volunteers and State 4-H Council member Rachel Love (right). Photo by Casey Buckman.
**Interstate Exchange Helps 4-H Members Develop Skills That Will Help Them Be Career Ready**

Franklin County 4-H teens who participated in a two-year Interstate Exchange program reported that the experiences involved in the program helped them develop or enhance valuable life skills. During the two-year effort their experiences include planning meetings, travelling, hosting a member from another state, planning and participating in fund raising, participating in exchange activities, and much more. The members reported that they developed or enhanced several of the essential life skills that relate to positive youth development. Many of these skills will help them succeed in the work force. Some of the life skills the members shared were:

**Social Skills**
- “I can more easily sit by new people and talk to them.”
- “I had to become better at talking to new people.”
- “I was able to more easily talk to other people and I am more comfortable staying with people I don’t know well.”

**Leadership**
- “I have been making new friends and setting an example for others to follow. I have improved my ability to talk to others, as well. Including adults, too.”

**Planning and Organizing**
- “Using past experiences of how well our fundraisers went helped us to decide if it was a good idea to repeat the fundraiser.”
- “At meetings I had to help the group plan what we were going to do when we hosted.”
- “I had to plan what to wear accordingly. I organized events to do on family days.”

**Self-Discipline**
- “There were many things done on this trip that I thought were quite tedious and ridiculous, and yet I somehow dealt with it without just leaving.”

**Contribution to Group Effort**
- “We helped raise money with fundraising and raffles to be able to go see all of the attractions and events.”

**Sharing**
- “As a host I gave up my bedroom for a week.”
- “I had to give up my room for a week, and have someone else using my shower.”

**Self-Motivation**
- “I got out of bed to meet the bus at 6:15 a.m.”

**Communication**
- “I was extremely shy before I started with the exchange, and now I’m more outgoing and open to others.”
- “I stayed with someone I had never met and I got to know him and we talked everyday for a year. I hosted another boy who had nothing in common with me, but we got along great.”

**Decision Making**
- “We had to make group decisions on what we wanted to do when we hosted.”

**Accepting Differences**
- “Some of the people in the exchange don’t have the same morals that I grew up with, but I still got along with them.”

**Stress Management**
- “When travelling it was very stressful to figure out what to bring and meeting new people was also stressful. I survived both!”

**Self-Responsibility**
- “My self-responsibility has become stronger. I have to be prepared each day and know what I need for each day’s activities.”
- “I had to be responsible because if I did something, the person I was hosting might do the same thing.”

**Goal Setting**
- “I learned how to set a goal to get up early and get stuff done.”

Franklin County 4-H Interstate Exchange. Franklin County 4-H teens and adult volunteers spent a week in Wayne County, New York as the first part of a two-year 4-H interstate exchange. Pictured are the Franklin County delegation and their New York hosts on the bank of Lake Erie.

Young 4-H teens from across the state gathered in Columbia for the Missouri State 4-H Teen Conference. The members participated in interactive workshops designed to help them develop their leadership skills and learn about opportunities available to 4-H teens. Members attending from Franklin County were (L-R) Riley Zeitzmann, Kaitlyn Wampler, Darcy Koch, Todd Bobo, Amelia Davis, Cady Koch, Inaya Chishti, Gavin Rutch, Angelique Holtmeyer, Abigail Gilbert, Wyatt Bobo. Kaitlyn Wampler helped to plan and conduct the event as a Franklin County member serving on the Missouri State 4-H Council as a Regional Representative.
Pablo Arroyo
Business Development Specialist
Pablo works with new and existing businesses. His experience in international trade assists local businesses in developing an export market for their products.

Ken Bolte, County Engagement Specialist in Agriculture and Environment
Ken works with new and existing producers with a focus to increase efficiency and net farm income. Program activities with the Franklin County Cattlemen and youth livestock programs enhance food safety awareness and add value to their products.

Angela Ernst
Nutrition Program Associate
Angela is our liaison with local school districts for the Family Nutrition Program, which reaches out to youth through classroom education with the goal to help children make behavior changes to achieve lifelong health and fitness.

Matt Herring
Field Specialist in Agronomy
Matt works with landowners and crop producers to improve practices, increase profitability and maintain environmental quality. He is advisor to the Franklin County Master Gardeners and Miramiguoa Master Naturalist Chapter. Matt also serves on the Franklin County Soil and Water Board.

Dave Hileman
4-H Youth Development Specialist
Dave keeps an active schedule with the largest traditional 4-H program in the state. Dave is an instructor and the coordinator for the Focus on Kids parent education program held in conjunction with the 20th Judicial Court.

Mary Schroepfer
Nutrition and Health Education Specialist
Mary is known for her ability to answer food safety, preservation and nutrition questions. She oversees our Building Better Child Care with Core Competency training programs and is the instructor for Eat Well Be Well and Stay Strong Stay Healthy classes.

Jenny Wallach
4-H Youth Development Program Assoc.
In addition to assisting with 4-H programs, Jenny oversees the embryology program with local schools where “Hatching Chicks in the Classroom” is part of their science curriculum.

Extension - Your one stop source!
Specialists assist county residents via individual consultations, farm visits, newsletters, publications, radio programs, news releases and are guest speakers at a variety of meetings throughout the year.

Marsha Parsons
Bookkeeper/Secretary
Mary Shaw
Secretary

“University of Missouri Extension, how may we help you?”

FRANKLIN COUNTY EXTENSION CENTER
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Address: 116 W Main St., Union, MO 63084-1363
Email: franklinco@missouri.edu
Website: http://extension.missouri.edu/franklin

2018 Franklin County Appropriations Budget

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University of Missouri Extension is a cooperative effort supported by federal, state, and local funds. The University of Missouri receives funding from federal and state governments along with revenue from grants and contracts. These funds are used to support extension staff salaries and benefits and to provide program support, training and materials.