SOUTHWEST REGION EXTENSION PRIDE POINTS

Over 100,000 residents of southwest Missouri annually turn to University of Missouri Extension to gain practical knowledge, solve problems, adapt to change and make informed decisions. There are some MU Extension programs that are unique to southwest Missouri and provide tangible benefits.

An active Southwest Region Extension Council also provides a forum through which member county councils cooperate in providing effective educational programs for the entire region.

Regional Business Specialists Aid Entrepreneurs
*Clients helped at Small Business & Technology Development Centers.*
- Regional business clients achieved $26.8 million in sales.
- Assisted clients made $22.2 million in investments during 2010.
- Clients created or retained 1,313 jobs and started 42 businesses.

Community Visioning Has Tangible Benefits
*This joint program with Drury University helps communities plan.*
- 25 Missouri communities have been helped since 2006.
- This collaboration has attracted over $123,000 in fees.
- Over $18 million has been awarded to partner communities.

Agricultural Research that Helps Area Farmers
*Work at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon:*
- New pasture-based dairies, modeled on MU Extension’s rotational grazing system in southwest Missouri, have generated 1,100 jobs and added over $124 million to Missouri’s economy.
- An agricultural preparedness specialist coordinates bio-security training for the agriculture community in the region.

Southwest Region News Service Shares Research
*Different techniques are used to distribute research-based info.*
- Over 9,000 subscribe to news content that is e-mailed weekly.
- Over 2,500 in the region interact with us through social media.
- More than 200,000 read or hear our news content each week.

http://extension.missouri.edu
Greene County

There are also many University of Missouri Extension programs that have a positive impact on residents of Greene County. Local efforts like 4-H, Master Gardeners, and the Family Nutrition Education Program have great impact along with other county-specific efforts determined by a publicly elected County Council.

Master Gardeners in the Community
*Master Gardeners provide educational programs, work in gardens and answer questions from members of the public.*
- About 270 locally trained Master Gardeners.
- Over 16,900 hours volunteered during 2010.

Headstart Garden Project
*This project targets young children, teachers and parents and three Headstart facilities in Springfield.*
- Gardens were prepared, planted, and tended as part of the learning experience.
- Harvested vegetables are washed and prepared by the children, and cooked and served as part of the food service at the facilities.

Nutrition Education Helps Local Families
*Family Nutrition Education Programs encourage healthy lifestyles.*
- In 2010, reached 43,813 low-income participants.
- 40,101 youth provided nutrition education during 2010.
- Nutrition educators work in WIC clinics, at community agencies, in schools, food pantries and more.

4-H Develops Youth to Lead
*Studies show 4-H’ers are 70 percent more likely to go to college.*
- About 330 youth are enrolled locally.
- 127 adult volunteers.
- 14 active clubs including three urban clubs.
- Over 118 programs available for youth.

Childcare Training Enhances Safety and Learning
*Classes help childcare providers stay current and assist them in improving program outcomes.*
- In 2010, about 72 childcare operations assisted.