Profit for local businesses and farmers
“The more we support our local economies the better off we are all going to be. What the extension office has been most helpful to me with is profitability studies with my business. Really putting pencil to paper and saying this idea works and this doesn’t. You can rent this farm and run X number of cattle and it will work.”

- Lincoln Hough, President Greene County Cattleman’s Association

“There’s just a whole wealth of areas that Extension is involved in. Help with my blue berries is just one of them.”
- Bob Williams, Retired Software Developer

Development of youth through 4-H
“Where ever you live it’s always good that children learn leadership qualities, speaking qualities and they learn how to interact with others. I do believe there is a crisis in leadership in our world today.”

- Daniel Wooten, Attorney, Law Firm of Neale and Newman, LLP, 4-H Alumnus

“I think that you can look at our youth that are in 4-H you can put them in a group of youth that are not in 4-H and our 4-H kids will stand out far and above with manners, responsibility, knowledge, the way they conduct themselves in public. Extension is where 4-H comes from. We couldn’t be doing this without Extension. So it’s crucial.”

- Julie Williams, Battalion Chief, Springfield Fire Department

“I think with regard to being a neurosurgeon what 4-H did for me was it gave me a lot of great experience in leadership. So even from the time I was 10,11 or 12 years old within our club structure I was taking on leadership positions.”

- Alan M. Scarrow, M.D., J.D., FACS, Neurosurgeon, 4-H Alumnus

Timely News and Information
“Thanks for the timely and informative articles and arrive each week in the Southwest Region News Service packet. They are very useful to us and our readers.”

- Grant Overstake, General Manager, Marshfield Mail and South County Mail

“Excellent work from the specialists in your county shown in the Reaching Out Report! Southwest Missouri is lucky to have such great extension workers!”

- Lane McConnell, Managing Editor, Ozarks Farm & Neighbor

* All quotes taken from the 2010 MU Extension produced video entitled, “Stepping Up to the Challenge.”
Quality of Life Issue for Greene County Residents

“More and more people are looking at quality of life issues. Certainly the vast majority of the programs provided by Extension address that very thing. Quality of life. That’s why it’s so important. ... Extension focuses on the multitude of programs and services that both directly and indirectly affect the quality of life of every citizen in Greene County.”

Harold Bengsch  
Greene County Commissioner

“Sustainability is not a local issue. Sustainability is a regional global issue and every community has to play their role. When you talk about a return on investment and you really look at the dollar for the dollar- the statistics on the dollar for dollar investment are very impressive. But I think even more important is the human investment.”

- Barbara Lucks  
Materials Recovery & Education Coordinator  
City of Springfield

“I believe it’s important that people understand that MU Extension is more than just a name. That it’s a place where individuals can come and gain valuable knowledge about a number of different topics.”

- George Deatz  
Past President, Friends of the Garden

Help for Displaced Workers

“We are here to find economic opportunities for people who are unemployed or underemployed in the Ozark region of Missouri. I’m here in Springfield at the main career center and we are helping people put their lives back together when they have been devastated by the loss of a job. We rely on MU Extension to provide economic prosperity to these individuals and to the region. The Extension Fast Track program is a program to help people develop that entrepreneurial spirit and develop business activities. We use MU Extension to be able to teach those classes and skills, so people can start their own business and no longer rely on the upswing and downswing of another employer's economy. Other important programs they provide are services to dislocated workers. One of the most important of those is the financial workshop and how to deal with financial loss. A part of that is how to take care of the financial issues resulting from being unemployed.”

- Bill Dowling, Director  
Workforce Development Missouri Career Center, Springfield, Mo.

Giving Back Because of Extension

“I am a strong believer in and supporter of Extension programs, having served as a county extension agent in consumer and family sciences in Kansas for many years. I’ve seen how Extension programs change lives and benefit counties. I show my love of and support for extension by being actively involved with the Greene County Extension Council.”

- Marcia Smith, Springfield, Mo.
Key to Healthy Families, Children & Communities

“Our volunteers are 55 and older individuals who work with children that are disadvantaged or have a special need. The volunteer needs to know how to work with them on a professional level. We as an agency look to MU Extension and Jim to help with the training needs that is a requirement of my federal funding source. It also provides a much needed educational tool for the volunteers so they can help the children reach their full potential.”

- Debbie Young
Foster Grandparent Director
Ozarks Area Action Community Corp.

“Knowing that where families leave their children every single day is a safe, a caring, a loving a quality childcare program. To me, that’s the most important thing and should be the most important thing in our community. MU Extension is a big part and a big partner with as far as providing training for the providers. They offer a variety of topics for the providers. I know in Greene County they serve a third of the childcare programs with their training.”

- Nicole Piper, Director,
Childcare Resource & Referral Council of Churches - Ozarks

Weekly News Service

“Just want to let you know how much I enjoy your weekly emailed Extension newsletter. Although this week there was nothing that struck my interest, that is unusual. I like the way the topics are listed and that it is so easy to read the actual item and then just click to get back to the Table of Contents.”

Barb Ittner

Extension Nutrition Classes Have “Never Failed Us”

Pregnancy Care Center

“Pregnancy Care Center clients are typically high risk clients. They are high risk for low birth weight babies, for abuse and neglect, for fatherlessness in their families, so the clientele we bring into the MU Extension program are at highest risk for problems within the family and future health problems. Pregnancy Care Center’s partnership with the MU program makes such a difference in the effectiveness of investing in the health and well-being not only of a pregnant woman but the adequate birth weight of a newborn baby. One hundred percent of newborns born to women who have attended the program have healthy birth weight babies. In 10 years that program has never failed to create a healthy birth weight baby. That is significant when you think of the average cost of a baby in ICU for just a few days is a $150K.”

- Cindy Boston, Chief Executive Officer
Pregnancy Care Center

Comments from Facebook Page

“Greene County Extension is a great place to learn about gardening!”

Jane Reynolds, Springfield, Mo.

“I'm taking Extension’s MoGardens classes on Monday nights. All I can say is, Oh my good!”

Sherry Haney, Springfield, Mo.

“THE place to go for gardening information.”

Gary Johnson, Springfield Mo.
High Quality, Practical and Useful Classes
"I was thrilled to hear that a homemade cleaners class was being presented for only $15. I was curious about the recipes since I was the teacher while in the Peace Corps and taught about soap extension and making lotions. The class was quite useful ... with a lot of chemistry background for those of us with the science in mind. I think that the presenter ... was smart in including this. She was so down to earth and practical as all get out! I thought she was great and I knew she really just liked the creative processes in her productions and their utility. I had fun trying out some of the cleaners like the corn starch and water to clean glass...I now have the recipes on an O-ring and would actually like to give a shortened version to interested people at church. I'm glad I get the (Southwest Region) Extension News each Friday via email...that's where I found the class."

- Janine Clark-Barry
Willard, Mo., May 2012

Historic school network a blast
“Kudos on the historic schools conference. I enjoyed the presentations and networking with others interested in rural historic schoolhouses. It was a privilege both to attend and speak at the conference.”

- Tiffany Patterson
State Historic Preservation Office

Expanding Oral History
“Thanks to Extension for providing leadership to the collection of oral histories in Missouri from former one-room school teachers and students. The special program coordinated by Greene County extension doubled the state collection in just two days of work.”

- Jeff Corrigan
Missouri State Historical Society

Extension is an Excellent, High Quality Partner for the County Parks System
“Parks are about health, education, economic development, the environment and conservation. You’ve got some key areas of our world and our lives that are engraved into and come out of a developed park system. That’s why parks are so important to the Springfield-Greene County Parks system. So we look for partners that have a full blown curriculum driven program that has a lot of different aspects that they can teach our public. So when it comes to the Extension Center it could not be more important for us to have a partner at this scale and at this level of excellence. We demand excellence when we go out and put out educational classes throughout our department and when we put out any type of sessions or any type of clinic system. University of Missouri Extension is that partner.”

- Jodie Adams, Former Director of Parks, Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Valuable Help with Turf
“Yesterday I was able to call upon the assistance of Patrick Byers, a horticulture professional with MU Extension, for a second opinion. It was a turf issue affecting the success or failure of a significant (34000 sq. ft.) sod installation on Drury University campus. Pat was able to give me professional, competent input I can trust. There are too few sources of quality horticultural expertise in our county.”

- Joe Fearn, Drury University
Assistant Director of Facilities for Grounds