Early History of Extension in Greene County

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University of Missouri establishes a statewide Extension program — 1914.

First recorded instance of an MU Extension specialist doing work in Greene County—1917.

Extension was first called a political subdivision in Greene County — 1956

Interesting Facts:

- 1939 – Law allowing counties to petition county court (commission) for formation of Extension
- 1941 Genesis of Greene County Extension – paper work is filed.
- 1943– First Greene County Extension annual meeting mentioned
- 1944- Suggested by C.C. Keller that each township get together and select two members of the board of directors in the county at large and was acted upon as suggested
- C.C. Keller was elected as a county agent
- Mrs. Joyce Beard was elected as a Home demonstrations Agent (nominated by all the ladies)
- 1945- John Mathews gives talk on cooperation.
  “First, when farmers are prosperous the nation has good time; second, group action gets man valuable things that we cannot get as individuals.”
- 1945-$400.00 spent on Moving Picture Equipment. There have been 440 people who paid their dues of $1.00 per family membership
- 1946- met in the “Farmer’s Auditorium” at 833 Boonville.
- 1946- M.F.A gave presentations for the Extension council on balanced farming. John Matthews gave presentation (successful county agent for many years). Rush Commission company also give a presentation on why farmers should organize
- 1947- $39.75 spent on a turntable for a moving picture machine
- November 1, 1948- Extension Board met at the home of C. C. Keller
- November 22 1948- sixth annual meeting of the Greene County Agricultural Extension Association. Mentions that Extension’s fundamental duties were to represent the “largest adult educational system in the world, second, the largest voluntary youth movement in the world- 4-H, and third, one of the largest, if not the largest, women’s organizations in the world and the is the Home Economics Clubs”
- July 1950- Miss Ruth Flett approved for the position of home agent.
• September 1950- Extension Council Membership Drive goes into effect.

• March 1951- Mention of an Extension Minister, The Reverend Gene Wetherell

• June 1951- Board recommends Springfield Chamber of Commerce for recognition by the College of Agriculture for its assistance given to the Balanced Farming Program

• August 1951- The board discusses details on “pasture tour plans” led by Agent Ewing

• November 1951- Article XIII. Amended. “Section I. These by-laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting or at any special meeting called for the purpose. Notice in writing of the proposed changes shall be mailed to all members at least one week prior to the time of meeting.” Amended November 15, 1951

• November 1951- Other proposed changed to by-laws: Annual meeting be held in the town of Springfield at 2:00 on the third Thursday in November each year for the purpose of electing officers; The fiscal year of this organization shall begin January 1 and end December 31; Notices of annual meetings shall be mailed to each member of the organization; Special meetings may be called at any time by the president or by a majority of the board of directors or by ten percent of the members of the organization. No business may be transacted at a special meeting other than stated in the call.

• December 1951- Livestock committee appointed and an Ediphone purchased

• May 1952- Pasture Improvement project carried out on the Browser Farm. Test plots are showing up nicely and are proving valuable as educational material. Assistant home agent reported that Greene County now had 47 home economics clubs with an enrollment of about 900 members. 4-H Enrollments totaled 446

• July 1952- The drought has reached a serious stage. Council decides to report information concerning the location of hay at reasonable prices made through the PMA offices

• August 1952- Motion carried that agents continue their cooperation efforts with the Ozark Empire Fair

• Board discusses the matter of information being broadcast by C.C. Keller, “Information Agent at Large,” and decided that some of this information might be detrimental to the Extension Service in the county. Director J.W. Burch was called in for a consultation by the entire Extension Board. Special Session August 12 1952- Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent radio broadcast

• November 1952- Mr. John Rush and the Union Stockyards Company plays a large part in the Recognition Program over Radio Station K.W.T.O. each Saturday Morning

• Tom Ellis, local Farm Editor is introduced

• May 1953- Clyde Club presented a booklet called “Greene County Rural Program.”

• Legislation was discussed pertaining to the consolidation of the 10 laws governing Federal extension appropriations into one. Motion was made to send letters to representatives and senators favoring this bill.
July 1953- Mr. Clyde Clubb, County Agent, led a discussion on the seriousness of the drought. He pointed out that the pastures, corn and fall hay crops were badly damaged. A committee recommended that Greene County be included in a group to be declared as a disaster area, thereby making federal aid available.

January 1954- Agricultural extension Assn. headquarters at 870 Boonville Ave (modern day City Hall).

March 1954- The board members put on record as commending Tom Ellis, Farm Editor of the Springfield Newspapers for his articles, specifically his editorials.

December 1954- Meeting was held in the Federal Building, but consensus was made that the future meetings should be held in the Farmers Auditorium.

April 1955- 4-H reported plans for sponsoring a county wide baseball program.

November 14 1955- motion carried that 20% of the council, and/or four members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum.

December 3, 1955- monthly meeting: Greene County Extension would no longer be allowed to use Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The Farm Bureau, hence forth, offered those services.

February 1958- Local Standard of Achievement put into place for the Green County home Economics Clubs.

November 1965- Women’s Clubs studied way of Saving Time and Energy in the home.

February 6, 1960- mentioned the purchase of an exhaust fan and a little refrigerator.

August 6, 1960- A letter from the State Extension office suggested that the county Extension office go on a five-day work week. 9/1/1960 the motion went into effect. Extension furnished several lunches.

November 30, 1960- First mention of 4-H activities, as well as highlighting Dairy and Soils, Marketing, Home Economics, and the overall program.

November 30, 1960- First Transcription machine was purchased by Greene County for $229.25.

December 1960- first mention of the court denying a proposed Extension budget.

February 1961- sold the old record player and bought a new one.

March 1961- In order to send an Extension agent to Michigan to learn more about 4-H, the county was asked to pay for his lodging and meals. They readily agreed.

August 1961- Special Meeting: Motion carried that set the county into 8 districts with two elected positions from each district.

February 1965- “University Extension Center Short
Courses” were mentioned several times, but there was very little explanation as to what they actually were

- April 1965- Mr. Clubb explains that the cull council needs to be brought up to date on the Economic Opportunity Act
- November 1965- County Auditor William Stone was assigned to audit the Extension council accounts at the end of the year
- May 1966- Council discusses a Pasture Improvement Program
- November 1966- Mention of Extension broadcasting over KWTO station
- May 1969- The possibility of a Community Development Agent being assigned to GC was discussed. Motion was made and carried.
- September 1969- Mention of an Expanded Nutrition Education Program for low-income families for Greene County and surrounding counties
- Doubts of program’s usefulness
- January 1970- Duane Houk presented to the council as Area Horticulture Agent
- May 1970- Mr Beryl Lycan assumes duties as business extension agent
- September 4, 1970- Secretary selected at a salary of $300.00 dollars a month
- January 2, 1971- Soil samples will be $1 for Green County samples
- During 60’s and 70’s, specific family was chosen to represent Greene County at the State Fair.

Strange Facts:

- 1960- Mr. Clubb pointed out that a law had been passed whereby the General Services Administration and the Post Office department would turn over any equipment owned to the local extension council. Few Details.
- 1960-Mrs. Appleby (secretary elected in 1959) handed in her resignation due to the fact that her husband died, and therefore, she no longer had suitable transportation to the meetings.
- 1961- General Service Administration requested Extension to vacate their office for the purpose of creating a Federal Judge Office.
- In the 60’s, there were more instances of raises and paid leave time for female employees
Past Extension Budgets (the early years)

- 1953- $10,975
- 1955- $9,500
- 1956- $11,650.00 (However, they managed to spend approximately $10,775.00)
- 1957- $11,761.00 (Note: Starting in 1957, a new county agent law prohibited them from collecting membership dues, which, in the past, had contributed about $1000.00 per year toward the budget)
- 1958- $12,218.00
- 1960- Requested a budget of 15,768, but only received 14,968 from court
- 1965- 23,072.00
- 1967- 24,873.00

Early Board Members

1941
Homer W. Appleby- Chairman
Mae King Webb- Secretary-Treasurer

1947, 1948
C.C. Gibson, President
Ben Edmondson, VP
Mrs. Hal Ingram, Secretary-treasurer
Mrs. M.P. Hawkins, Member of Board
E.L. Barrett, Member of Board
Extension Agents: Miss Barber- Home Agent; Miss Crighton- Club Agent; Mr. Amburgey- the Balanced Farming Agent; Mr. Keller, the County Agent

1952
Mr. Edward Staley- President
Mr. Ray Pursley- VP
Mrs. Orren W. Mills- Secretary/Treasurer
Raymond Grier- Board Member
Mrs. C.L. O’Neal- Board Member
Extension Agents: Robert L Jackson- Associate Agent; Ruth Flett- Home Demonstration Agent; Clyde C. Clubb- County Agent

1953
Mr. Raymond Grier- President
Mr. Douglas Miller- VP
Mrs. Orren W. Mills- Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Robert McLin- Board Member  
Mr. Allen Owen- Board Member  
Extension Agents: Robert L. Jackson- Associate County Agent (soils laboratory); Ruth Flett

1954  
Douglas Miller- Chairman  
Hubert Hudgins, Vice-Chairman  
Mae King Webb- Secretary-Treasurer  
Mrs. Troy Bedell- Board Member  
Mr. Chet Logan- Board Member  
Mrs. Vandiver Nicholson- board member  
Mr. V.W. Whitfield- Board member  
Mr. Fred Burg  
Extension Agents: Clyde C. Clubb- County agent; Miss Ruth Flett- Home Agent

1955  
Mr. Chester Logan- Vice Chairman  
Mae King Webb- Secretary-Treasurer  
Allen J Owen- Board Member  
Mrs. Glen Cowan- Board Member  
Extension Agents: Clyde C. Clubb- County Agent; Miss Ruth Flett- Home Agent; Mrs. Mary Alice Carlson- Marketing Agent; Mr. Richard L Cass, Assistant County Agent

1963-  
George Smith/Paul Steinert- Chairman  
Mrs. Raymond Grier Secretary  
John Rea- Extension Area Livestock Agent  
Mrs. Burnie Huff- Treasurer

1964-  
Dale Edmonson- Chairman

1965  
J.N. Smith- Chairman  
C.M. Kindrick Jr.- Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Raymond Grier- Secretary

1966  
Warren G. Dennis- Chairman  
Mrs. Tom Comstock- Secretary  
Mrs. Carl Brown- Treasurer

1967  
James Squibb- Chairman  
Mrs. Theda Bailey- Treasurer  
Mrs. Monye Richter- Secretary  
Clyde Clubb

Mary Alice Carlson  
Ruth Flett  
Walter Hoener  
Peggy Pearl  
Dick Cass  
1970  
James P Squibb- Chairman  
Norman Dillard- Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Monye Richter