December 2012

Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

At MU Extension, we know that citizens want their taxpayer-supported institutions to be responsive to their needs. Our distinct land-grant mission is to provide relevant, reliable and responsive education that improves Missourians’ lives, communities and the economy. We fulfill that mission by providing access to many research-based resources of the University of Missouri, in partnership with local and statewide organizations and groups.

Funded through the support of federal, state and county government; grants and contracts; fees for services; and private gifts, MU Extension leverages every dollar received to create expanded educational opportunities. Every dollar appropriated from county government is leveraged with $6 to create a significant return on investment.

MU Extension creates value for citizens – including those who do not participate directly in its programs. For example:

- The MU Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute teaches volunteer and career firefighters how to handle or mitigate fires and disasters, resulting in safer firefighters, citizens and communities. In FY2012, MU FRTI trained 17,096 fire and emergency service personnel through 217,000 instructional hours of training. Enrollees were from all of Missouri’s 114 counties.

- This summer’s severe drought put MU Extension faculty in an active leadership role in helping Missourians deal with the crisis. MU Extension developed educational materials and programs and provided technical assistance for homeowners, businesses and the agricultural community. Social media, including Facebook, YouTube and websites, were used to inform citizens on such topics as animal nutrition, including nitrate poisoning; heat-related disabilities; government programs; wildfires; and more. Extension faculty also worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement drought cost-share practices, which allowed more than 11,000 landowners to apply for state assistance to access adequate water supplies for livestock and crop production.

These are just two examples of MU Extension’s public value impact. I’m sure you will find many other examples in your local community.

I want to thank you for your support of MU Extension as a critical team player in your locale. Your ideas for improving our partnership are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS
Dear County Commissioners and residents of Harrison County,

We are pleased to present you with this 2012 annual report highlighting some of University of Missouri Extension’s programming in the county. MU Extension is the statewide outreach of all four campuses of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University. MU Extension staff provide educational resources to help citizens apply researched knowledge to solve individual and community problems.

Through conferences, short courses, workshops, one-on-one consultations, printed and recorded materials and mass media, the MU Extension team brings to the public practical information in six program areas:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Business and Workforce Development
- Community Development
- Continuing Education
- Human Environmental Sciences

These solutions in Harrison County are made possible by the financial and programming support of the University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county commission, and the county extension council. Our impact relies on the additional support of individual volunteers, groups, agencies, organizations and businesses.

We appreciate all those who made 2012 such a big success in improving people’s lives and we look forward to continuing this effort together. We hope this report increases understanding about what University of Missouri Extension has done in Harrison County in 2012.

Sincerely,

Janet Hackert
Leon Hicks

Janet Hackert
Leon Hicks

Extension Council Roles and Responsibilities
The Harrison County University of Missouri Extension Council serves as a governing body for MU Extension programs in the county. Their responsibilities include:

- Make recommendations and suggestion to the University concerning extension programs.
- Make recommendations and suggestions to the University concerning the appointment or removal of extension personnel.
- Arrange for and administer the county’s share of the cost of the extension services over which the council has jurisdiction.
- Receive, hold and/or sell real and personal property reasonably required for the extension program.
Federal and state funds provide salaries and benefits for professional staff assigned to the county, expenses for professional development, official mail and cost sharing on computer technology. The University also provides educational materials and faculty support for extension programs.

### University of Missouri Extension in Harrison County Funding Sources

- Federal: 58%
- State: 26%
- County: 14%
- Fees, grants, donations: 2%

### 2012 Financial Statement
Harrison County Extension

#### Income
- County Appropriations: $31,003.00
- Balance Transfers: -1,135.74
- Total Income: $29,867.26

#### Expenses
- Salary and Payroll: $15,738.75
- Payroll Expenses: 3,389.82
- Non Payroll Salaries: 4,200.00
- Travel: 1,576.43
- Postage: 150.00
- Telephone - Local: 925.76
- Telephone - Tolls: 443.52
- Advertising: 200.00
- Rent/Lease Equipment: 924.23
- Publishing/Printing: 340.00
- Supplies/Services: 755.56
- Council Expenses: 202.79
- Other Contract Services: 400.00
- Insurance: 178.00
- Miscellaneous: 306.50
- Extension Council Election: 135.90

Total Expenses: $29,867.26

A special thanks to Harrison County Commissioners Roger Gibson, Jack Hodge and George Bowles for their ongoing support of University of Missouri Extension in Harrison County.
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  Finding the specialist to meet your need
In February 2012, 32 agricultural producers met in the Bethany Community Center to receive their private pesticide applicator training. This training provided by the University of Missouri Extension permits agricultural producers to receive a license from the state of Missouri allowing them to purchase and use restricted use pesticides. The meeting also gave producers a chance to hear from agricultural specialists about various topics that were important in 2012.

The 2012 training included information regarding pests which affect producers in northwest Missouri. Agronomy Specialist Heather Benedict informed producers about some of the nematodes or microscopic worms that feed on corn and soybean roots. Soybean cyst nematodes are the most common type in Missouri and may be responsible for up to 35 percent yield loss without a visible effect on the beans. Of those reporting, 57 percent said they would be more likely to test for nematodes after the meeting.

Benedict also covered herbicide resistance in weeds and how to effectively treat those weeds. The treatments include using a pre-emergent herbicide and testing water quality. Of the respondents, 83 percent reported that after the meeting they would use one or both of the solutions in order to prevent herbicide resistance in weeds. This is important in order to insure that herbicides are not misused or overused and affect the environment which we all depend on.

One of the most important topics in proper pesticide application is protecting the applicator from negative effects of pesticides by properly caring for the individual. Benedict used a black light demonstration to show attendees how chemicals can easily be transferred from hands to other parts of the body.

Livestock Specialist Shawn Deering informed attendees about various animal confinement systems. Deering reported that with the decrease in pasture and hay ground as a result of high grain prices, producers would need to understand how to use confinement systems more profitably.

Agricultural Economist Randa Doty spoke about cash rental rates in Missouri. She helped producers understand what they could expect to pay for renting crop land vs. pasture or hay ground.

Horticulture specialist Tim Baker talked to producers about pests which affect the trees on their acreages. Some of the pests that got the most attention included the emerald ash borer and the thousand canker disease in walnut trees.

The information provided helped producers gain more than just their licenses. One producer reported, “I have probably been to a half a dozen of those pesticide trainings and this one was by far the best. It was really informative and I wasn’t bored to death.” The work of the specialists as well as those in attendance made the meeting a success.

Vegetable producers attended a meeting in Eagleville in 2012. The spring meeting marked the third year a meeting for vegetable producers was held in Harrison County. It was well attended with participants getting much needed information about the nationwide good agricultural practices, or GAP standards.

Throughout the United States vegetable producers are being encouraged to adopt a set of standards termed GAP. These are mostly common sense practices that ensure clean safe food handling. Some of the practices that are emphasized include frequent hand washing, testing of water used for irrigation and contamination prevention of the produce during transportation. These are precautions that the producers in Harrison County adhere to, but they need to have a system to record their work, allowing accountability for the consumers.

While GAP certification is currently a voluntary process, many buyers are more likely to patronize certified sellers. The certification process is expensive and time consuming, but MU Extension specialists, Tim Baker, Tom Fowler and Heather Benedict are working to keep growers informed of the process and what is expected.

A representative from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and a representative of Missouri vegetable auctions were available at the meeting to answer questions regarding GAP adoption in Missouri. About ⅔ of the attendees grow produce for vegetable auctions or local farmers markets. Their training will allow them to be in compliance with changes in the food handling laws. This will also help to prevent large scale contamination in Missouri food systems.
The year of 2012 will undoubtedly be known to those in agriculture for the drought. This is one of the worst drought years in history, with the lack of rainfall affecting more of the United States than since the 1950’s. Row crop producers suffered from a lack of yield and decisions had to be made regarding whether to harvest for grain or to use the plants as livestock feed. Livestock producers had an urgent need for water for their animals and finding feed sources to get their herds through the winter. These needs led producers to look for solutions at their local MU Extension office.

As a way to allow producers to get answers and compare ideas, MU Extension specialists held a chat over coffee and donuts at the Toot Toot restaurant. The informal gathering was held on the morning of August 21. Throughout the afternoon around 25 producers stopped by to talk to representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices as well as MU Extension Livestock Specialist Shawn Deering and Agronomy Specialist Heather Benedict. The producers were able to learn about the best way to deal with their drought-stressed crops. The NRCS and FSA personnel helped producers learn about livestock water options while Deering and Benedict helped producers make decisions about feeding corn stalks that had been tested for nitrates and talked about hay and crop choices to get through the drought. Producers also were able to make decisions about planting wheat after herbicides were used in the drought year.

One immediate impact of the drought was the amount of nitrates in corn stalks. In normal rainfall years, nitrates move through the stalk and enter the corn ear; however in a drought year the nitrates are concentrated in the stalk of the corn. When the corn is fed to livestock, the nitrates turn to nitrites and change blood chemistry. The blood can no longer carry oxygen which suffocates the animals. This year producers found high levels of nitrates in the corn stalks which resulted in death of cattle. MU Extension personnel used nitrate spot testing to show the presence of nitrates in high amounts in corn stalks, allowing producers to know if feeding the stalks would be a danger to animals. Many of the corn growers in Harrison and surrounding counties stopped in to the extension office to have their corn stalks tested for nitrates. If the spot test showed the presence of nitrates, the samples were often sent to a laboratory to quantify the amount of nitrate present. The results of the tests allowed farmers to make decisions about feeding the stalks to cattle.

A corn stalk with a spot indicating the presence of nitrate.

One of the methods cattle growers found to utilize corn stalks was in silage. This was a good method of using an available feed source while also preserving the quality of the products. Ensiling the corn also has the effect of decreasing the nitrates in the feed. The extension office was able to help producers get their silage to a lab to be tested for feed quality and the presence of nitrates.

Another concern for corn producers as a result of drought was aflatoxins in corn. Aflatoxin is a carcinogen that is present in corn as a result of the fungus *Aspergillus flavous*. One of the contributing factors to the fungus infecting the corn ears is the presence of corn ear worms. Another factor that influences the presence of *Aspergillus* is hot dry weather. Corn used for human consumption can not be sold unless the toxin levels are lower than 20 parts per billion (ppb) while cattle can tolerate up to 200 ppb. Grain elevators will not accept grain that is contaminated with aflatoxins. Corn growers brought corn to the extension offices to have it tested for the presence of aflatoxins.

The insects were not daunted by the dry weather. One of the services offered at the Harrison County Extension office is the identification of insects. For gardeners and farmers in Harrison County the proper identification of the pest troubling them is important. If the insect is not properly identified, it is difficult to find a way to control an infestation. The growers in Harrison County were able to find solutions to insect problems after proper identification.
4-H in Harrison County

Harrison County 4-H serves 100 youth through five organized clubs, school enrichment programs, camps and other service and skill-learning activities. Harrison 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 67 adult volunteers. The youth of Harrison County have demonstrated advanced learning through the following activities:

Regional, State and National 4-H Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clover Kids Overnight Camp</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Summer Camp</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Shooting Sports Contests</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodaway County Shooting Sports Contest</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Public Speaking</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National 4-H Congress</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests from animal science to aerospace, resulting in increased interest in science at a rate three times that of non-4-H peers. Projects such as robotics, water quality, conservation, livestock, veterinary science and computer software allow 4-H members to practice wise use of resources; decision making, goal setting and marketable skills; and self-motivation.

Interest in science is a predictor for young people to choose science-related careers. Compared to non-4-H youth, 4-H youth are 70 percent more likely to participate in science, engineering or computer technology programs and 40 percent more likely to pursue science, engineering or computer technology courses or careers. This interest in science, along with 4-H members’ 70 percent greater likelihood to go to college than youth participating in other out-of-school programs, is helping grow future scientists. See the side note for an example, written by Rebecca Prest, Far and Near 4-H club member, 4-H Advisory Board secretary and local extension council youth advisor.

Missouri 4-H members are twice as likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. University of Missouri-Columbia is by far the campus most frequently visited and 4-H is the second most reported reason to be on the MU campus (Lerner, 2008). In 2012, MU Extension 4-H connected 8,500 young people age 8 to 18 to University of Missouri campuses and faculty. Being on a campus is a predictor of youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006).

Youth who earn their bachelor’s degree increase annual earnings by $2.01 million over their lifetime (Porter, 2003). If 70 percent of the Harrison County members participating in 4-H events on the MU campus go on to earn their bachelor’s degrees, 4-H would help young people earn $47.8 million more in lifetime earnings cumulatively.

Volunteers create and support the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers, responding to a survey, report that they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at $18.80 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Harrison County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $125,960 in 2012! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into healthy adulthood and this is priceless.

From the desk of Rebecca Prest

Most people would look at my grade card and say, “She’s smart,” and they would be lying. 4-H has taught me how to work, and work hard, at what I want, be it an A or getting ribbons at horse shows. Now, I’m using those skills in trying to choose a job, hopefully something equine or ag-related. Because 4-H has also shown me how many cool jobs are out there through annual equine careers and horse industry tours and everyday opportunities, I can choose wisely and find a career that I can stick with and enjoy for the rest of my life. 4-H has opened my mind, gotten me out of my box, and handed me a map of the world.

References:


4-H Members Learning What They Need to Be Adults

Overnight Clover Kid Camp
attendees from Harrison County:
Rachel and Jarrett Eivins, Heather and Spencer
Fitzgerald, Deleena and Areona Hamilton.

Mitchell Bagley showing rabbits.

Samantha Luke, right, showing poultry
at the Fair.

Judging class at Achievement
and Contest Day.

Shooting sports at the Ravenwood shoot.
Sam Coleman and Allison Eivins.
Family Nutrition Education Program (FNEP) provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. In Harrison County, 698 elementary students participated in FNEP classes. At a local health fair, 145 adults visited the FNEP booth, and 200 adults received information including recipes and fitness tips through the Harrison County Food Pantry.

Programming occurred in all five public schools in the county as well as a private school. University of Missouri Extension also partnered with the Harrison County Health Department and the Harrison County Food Pantry to reach as many as possible with the message of good health for a lifetime.

Evaluation data collected across the state reflects the positive impacts that occur in Harrison county with FNEP. The following are students’ changes reported by teachers after participating in a series of five to seven FNEP classes:

★ 99 percent reported one or more changes.
★ 90 percent reported students are more aware of nutrition.
★ 83 percent improved hand washing.
★ 77 percent are more willing to try new foods.
★ 65 percent make healthier meal and/or snack choices.
★ 62 percent increased physical activity.

These statistics play out in the individuals and families touched by FNEP in Harrison County.

Nutrition Program Associate Debbie Herrold goes into schools and interacts with community members to help them make healthier choices and build healthy habits. She has many success stories of how the program has helped people make a change for the better. For example, a girl in fourth grade in Ridgeway told Herrold about going into the restroom at a local restaurant and seeing two younger students using the ABC song to make sure they were scrubbing their hands long enough to get them clean, a technique Herrold had taught them.

Herrold also sees FNEP programming impact the families of participants, as in the case of a story a parent of a Cainsville Elementary student shared. The mother had tried to get her daughter to eat healthier foods, but to no avail. After tasting good foods in Herrold’s class, the girl actually requested them at home. The family has now added several healthier options to their meals.

The impact goes beyond the classroom or even the home and into the community, as Herrold relates in this success story:

“The students at Cainsville Elementary are excited about nutrition and ask numerous questions about how they can apply it to their daily lives. One student in the third/fourth grade classroom told me that her family had plans to open a restaurant. On one of my subsequent visits, she excitedly related the healthy choices that would be available when they opened, including whole grain bread and a variety of salads. I believe this is a great example of our program making a difference not only in the kids and their families, but in the communities that FNEP serves as well.”

In 2012, the Family Nutrition Education Program brought $10,420,125.00 in federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 1,043 food stamp recipients and food stamp eligible citizens of Harrison County.

Participants in FNEP in Harrison County who practice healthy eating and activity behaviors are more likely to enjoy a high quality of life as adults and into old age. 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.
A Matter of Balance class, taught by Connie Neal, housing and environmental design specialist, and Janet Hackert, nutrition and health education specialist, helps participants to view falls and fear of falling as controllable; to set realistic goals for increasing activity; to change their environment to reduce fall risk factors; and to do regular exercise to increase strength and balance. A physical therapist from Harrison County Community Hospital shared tips on preventing a fall, demonstrated how to get up from a fall and answered participants’ questions.

Nine women, mostly in their 80s, from across Harrison County attended this course. All were living independently, four in local independent living apartments, the rest in the community.

During the sixth of eight lessons, 71 percent reported that they were doing the Matter of Balance exercises between classes. One woman reported, "I'm more conscious of where I place my feet. There was some gravel on the street and because I had taken notice of it, I did NOT stumble on that uneven area."

Even midway through, one participant had taken out a throw rug that skids because she recognized its movement (and the dog’s propensity to play with it) were increasing her risk for falling. Another said she no longer uses her steps as a depository for "stuff that needs to go upstairs or downstairs." Instead she either takes it right away or leaves it in a safer place till she’s ready to make the trip up or down the stairs.

Based on an exit survey, 80 percent of participants reported that as a result of taking this class, they feel more comfortable talking with others about their fear; 83 percent have made changes to their environment; and 100 percent feel more comfortable increasing their activity and plan to continue exercising.

One objective of the Matter of Balance course is to help older citizens improve flexibility, balance and strength. By participating in this program, they practice and carry out fall prevention strategies, and make or maintain changes in their daily lives which help reduce their fear of falling. That in turn allows them to actively participate in their community and continue to be contributing members of society.

The Missouri Taxpayer Education Initiative program works in local communities to prepare and electronically file state and federal income tax returns and Missouri Property Tax Credit claims for low- to moderate-income individuals, free of charge. Dr. Rebecca Travnichek, family financial education specialist, worked with clients to impart financial information and build long-term relationships to support ongoing financial education. The program includes the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Individuals bring all W-2, 1098 and 1099 forms, as well as Social Security cards and birth dates for everyone who will be claimed on the return (adults and children). They also bring anything else they have that is tax related, including the previous year’s tax return.

Missouri Taxpayer Education Initiative

3 adults ... $174 in refunds ... save money on filing that can be spent in Harrison County

Three income tax returns were completed and e-filed in Bethany. Two single women and a couple filed. Participants in this program had adjusted gross incomes (AGI) ranging from $0 to $23,931, with a combined AGI of $30,231. Total refunds (for Missouri) were $174 which was a property tax/rent credit for one taxpayer. One taxpayer owed $1,581 in federal income taxes (this was due to a cancellation of debt obligation).

When you support the Missouri Taxpayer Educational Initiative, taxpayers save an average of $200 in tax preparation fees, which leads to families being able to purchase necessities. This program also benefits communities by stimulating the local economy through federal and state tax refund dollars and dollars from tax credits.
Awards

Leaders Honor Roll

**Dixie Francis and Randy Garrett** were awarded the 2012 Leaders Honor Roll. It is an award given to those members of the community who have gone above and beyond to support MU Extension and to promote its programming. Dixie has served as secretary on the extension council during her term. She has promoted extension through her connections in the community and work with Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP). Randy Garrett has been the woodworking project leader for the Pawnee Peppers 4-H Club for the past two years. He teaches and assists the children with the projects from start to finish. Since he has started as a volunteer, woodworking projects have increased in numbers and quality.

![Janet Hackert presenting award to Dixie Francis](image1.jpg)

![Janet Hackert presenting award to Randy Garrett](image2.jpg)

Century Farm Family

**Archie and Dorothy Claycomb** (below, left) and **Vondalena Brammer and sons** (below right) were awarded the Century Farm Award. It is given to farms that have at least 40 acres and that have been in the same family for at least 100 years. Claycombs’ 100-acre farm has been in the family since 1864 and Brammers’ 95-acre farm has been in the family since 1909.
Staff Assigned to Harrison County

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