We’re working in our communities to make a difference!
About our Council Members…

Educational Program Development and Implementation
Council members assist in planning and carrying out our extension programs, they identify concerns in the community; and make recommendations. They encourage residents, groups and organizations to participate in the Extensions many resources.

Organizational Structure
At the core of this structure are county extension council members, who ensure that the system works by identifying local educational needs, securing funds and ensuring that the research-based information of the state’s land-grant universities is available to people in their communities. Regional extension councils address issues of multi-county or regional concern. Each county extension council is represented on the regional extension council.

Governance
The county extension council administers the local extension budget and operations, including council-employed personnel and fiscal management. The council is responsible for office operations, annual council membership elections, council operations and meetings, legal requirements, regional council relationships, marketing and decision making.

2012 Extension Council
Dennis Ohlensehlen, Chair
Tevin Markt, Vice President
Alice Derr, Secretary
Annmarie Hunziger, Treasurer
Don Holstine, Commissioner
Richard Barrett
Chester Edward
Karen Frede
Jorja Hoehn
Scott Jordan
Darren Markt
Phillip McAfee
Travis Milne
Diane White
Wayne Voltmer
Nancy Wales

AGRONOMIC PROGRAMMING

Vice Provost & Directory of Cooperative Extension
Acknowledgement of Holt Co. Commissioner’s Support-Special

Snap-Shots of how we work in our communities to make a difference

Agronomic Programs, Wayne Flanary
Teaching programs in crop and forage production, plant pathology, entomology, weed science and soils

Family Nutrition Education Program, Gina Ripley
Reaching low-income children and families with nutrition education

Nutrition and Health Education Specialist, Kelli Wilmes
Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Program

Family Financial Education, Rebecca Travnicek
Providing Free tax preparation for Holt County

Ag and Natural Resource Engineer, James Crawford
Returning to Farming after the Flood

Disaster Recovery, Jerry Baker
Flood of 2011, Holt and Atchison Counties

4-H and Youth Programs, Teresa Kurtz
Programs to aid in the development of the 4-H program and youth in Holt County

Livestock Specialist, Amie Schleicher
Educational opportunities and services for livestock producers in Holt County

Financial Statement
Holt County Office & Support Staff
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
Dear Holt County Commissioners and Residents,

We are pleased to present you with a copy of the 2012 annual report compiled by the Holt County Extension Council. This report is a brief overview of the educational programs conducted by Extension specialists for the citizens of Holt County. This annual report is not intended to give the full scope of all activities in the county. Rather, it is an attempt to provide information regarding the major programming efforts through which educational programs are provided to serve the needs of Holt County residents.

University of Missouri Extension council, faculty and staff would like to thank the Holt County commissioners for their support and funding for programs during this past year. In turn, the council, faculty and staff remain committed to improving peoples’ lives by helping them meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century with research-based education and information. We do this by focused programming identified in county annual plans of work.

Current programming efforts statewide focus on agricultural profitability and viability, building family and individual strengths, building human resources, business, community and economic development, enhancing health and nutrition, environmental quality and stewardship and youth development. The success of MU Extension programming in Holt County would not be possible without the help and support of individual volunteers, groups, organizations, businesses, local and county government officials, and the research-based information provided by the land-grant university system.

We appreciate the continuing support that you have provided to Extension as we work to enrich people’s lives. We hope that this report provides a greater understanding about University of Missouri Extension programming efforts.

Respectfully,

Wayne Flanary  
Agronomist Specialist

Tom Kelso  
Business Development Specialist

Teresa Kurtz  
4-H Youth Associate

Charmaine Flint  
Office Manager/bookkeeper

---

**University of Missouri Extension contribution to Holt County**

- Specialists’ salary expense and youth salary expense
- Full benefits for specialists and cost-share medical benefits for secretary
- Training of specialists and other staff
- Travel and lodging during training and other University events
- Computers
- Computer maintenance, support, updates and training
- Access to grants through Extension

Total Value: $160,000

---

**Staff Resources contribution to Holt County**

- Grants
- Publications for Resale
- Postage
- Education Fees

Total Value: $17,828.65

**Holt County local contribution to Extension**

- County Appropriations
- Secretary salary and cost-share with MU for medical benefits
- Non-Payroll Expenses
- Travel expense in county and region-wide events
- Office supplies
- Telephone
- Programs/Professional Development
- Copier Lease
- Insurance

Total Value: $35,040.00
### Agronomic Programs

Teaching programs in crop and forage production, plant pathology, entomology, weed science and soils

**County Program Director**

**Regional Agronomist: Certified Crop Adviser**

Wayne Flanary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The value of all crops including row crop, forages and commercial horticulture are $406 million in Holt, Atchison, Andrew, Nodaway, Clinton, Buchanan, DeKalb counties.</td>
<td>Holt County growers learn</td>
<td>• Precision ag technology and biotechnology and how fits into a growers operation</td>
<td>Formal surveys of growers attitudes to teaching in formal meetings as follows:</td>
<td>Winter Ag Update meetings focus on critical topics for row crop and livestock producers enabling them to be competitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To remain competitive, agriculture requires the latest research, education and resources to continue its growth.</td>
<td>Crop management</td>
<td>• New hybrids and varieties through our testing program</td>
<td>Over the past 8 years, the value of the agronomic meetings rated a 4.25 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor.</td>
<td>Private applicator training provides growers with the knowledge to apply pesticides safely while protecting the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Genetically Improved Crops</td>
<td>Forage management</td>
<td>• Weed control research to improve decisions</td>
<td>Also, data summarized over past 8 years indicated that growers would recommend this meeting to other growers rated a 4.38 average on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor.</td>
<td>Cooperation with commodity groups help growers expand markets and produce food not only locally but globally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo Crop Management Systems</td>
<td>Fertilizer management</td>
<td>• Weed, insect, and disease pests that potentially can attack crops and utilized our pest monitoring program</td>
<td>As speaker being knowledgeable, data summarized was 4.58 on the same scale.</td>
<td>Certified crop adviser meetings provide technical information to crop advisers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Protection</td>
<td>Pest management</td>
<td>• Product evaluation to determine if the product is effective and if it fits a growers operation</td>
<td>Agronomic programs vary with methods of delivery. The result is an action or a decision and knowledge is gained by growers. Also, growers request what the research indicates, what are the advantages and disadvantages of using a product, a strategy, or sometimes how to address a situation or problem.</td>
<td>Graves Chapple Research Center and Hundley-Whale Research Center provides the latest research to help growers remain competitive and provide an economic driver for northwest Missouri.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrient Management Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pesticide safety</td>
<td></td>
<td>As world population continues to increase, the need for food production continues to grow. It is critical to continue to increase crop yields while maintaining the competitiveness to increase food production in an environmentally responsible manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Production and Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Product costs and determining their cost effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Choosing and applying fertilizers in an efficient and environmentally sound manner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tile Demonstration 2012**
**Family Nutrition Education Program**
Reaching low-income children and families with nutrition education.

**Who Are the learners?**

Family Nutrition Education Program (FNEP) provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. In Holt County, 270 elementary students and ten adults participated in FNEP.

**What School District/Agencies Are Served?**

Programming occurred in the following schools:
- Craig RIII Elementary
- Mound City R2 Elementary
- Nodaway-Holt RIII Elementary
- South Holt R1 Elementary

South Holt Elementary Programming also occurred in the following agencies:
- Holt County Health Department
- Oregon Public Library

**What Did They Learn?**

Evaluation data collected across the entire state reflects the positive impacts that occur in every county with FNEP. The following are students’ changes reported by teachers after FNEP classes.
- 99% reported one or more changes
- 90% reported students are more aware of nutrition
- 65% make healthier meal and/or snack choices
- 45% eat breakfast more often
- 77% are more willing to try new foods
- 83% improved hand washing
- 37% improved food safety other than hand washing
- 62% increased physical activity

**What Action Did They Take?**

Nutrition Program Associate Gina Ripley goes into schools and interact with community members to help them make healthier choices and build healthy habits.

Ripley reports, “I was teaching a Summer Library Reading Program to a group of lower elementary-aged children. There were several parents and library board members listening to my program. I had the MyPlate poster on display and I was talking to the students about protein. Many of the adults were interested in learning about MyPlate and most had never seen MyPlate. Several of them asked for a copy of the newsletter to take home. I also directed them to the ChooseMyPlate.gov web site for more information. Even though the program was targeted for children it was also a learning experience for their parents.”

She also says, “The secretary at one of my schools told me about her grandson who is my student at a different school. During Easter dinner her grandson, a first grader, commented that the ham they were eating was a protein food. She agreed and asked how he knew that. He told her that the nutrition lady taught him about the food groups. She told me that I was indeed doing my job successfully because I had made an impact on her grandson!”

**How Does This Make Holt County and Missouri Better?**

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 280 food stamp recipients and food stamp eligible citizens of Holt County.

Participants in FNEP in Holt County who practice healthy eating and activity behaviors are more likely to enjoy a high quality of life as an adult 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.

---

Gina Ripley, nutrition program associate, teaches students the importance of exercising and how it makes their hearts stronger.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Learners</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 27 Holt County residents | Participants completed five fitness assessments at the beginning and end of the 10 week class series. The fitness assessments measure strength, flexibility, and balance. | Stay Strong, Stay Healthy is a 10 week strength training program for middle-aged and older adults. The program is designed to increase aging adults’ access to a safe, structured, and effective strength training program. At each session a prescribed set of 8 upper and lower-body strengthening exercises are done. Participants are made to feel comfortable regardless of their current fitness level so they can safely participate and gradually build the strength beneficial to health. | 100% of participants who completed the program feedback form (15 participants) reported that their health was better because of the program. Over half of the participants reported adding other physical activities to their weekly schedules including gardening, walking, and swimming. 93% (14 of 15 participants) reported that their joints were less painful after the class. 100% of participants reported feeling more flexible. | When you support MU Extension’s Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program, participants will 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 $51,465 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.  

1 The MetLife Market Survey of Adult Day Services & Home Care Costs, 2011 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Learners</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eleven income tax returns were completed and e-filed in Oregon.</td>
<td>Individuals filed as single (two white males and five white females), married filing jointly (four white couples–three couples without children and one couple with a son and a daughter).</td>
<td>Adjusted gross income (AGI) ranged from $0 (one taxpayer) up to $67,800; combined AGI is $247,718. Total refunds were $14,325. Federal refunds totaled $12,979. Missouri state refund was $1,346. Three taxpayers owed a combined $3,582 in federal taxes, with one taxpayer owing $2,299 of that total. Four taxpayers owed Missouri state income taxes in the amounts of $20, $212, $306, and $672. Along with owing federal taxes, one couple also owed Iowa state taxes ($64) and Nebraska state taxes ($52).</td>
<td>One family received a combined Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit of $7,112. This family was planning to use their refund to pay ahead on their home mortgage and repair their second vehicle. Three taxpayers combined property tax/rent credit totaled $545.</td>
<td>When you support the Missouri Taxpayer Educational Initiative, taxpayers save an average of $200 in tax preparation fees per year, leading to the establishment or increase of emergency savings, which stimulates the local economy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To assist farmers with their recovery efforts, 96 participants attended a workshop sponsored by the Atchison and Holt County MU Extension Centers and Missouri Farm Bureau designed to provide producers information and resources.

Agriculture is the major industry in Atchison and Holt counties, so the flood of 2011 had a devastating effect not only on farmers, but every county resident. It is estimated that 60% of the jobs in these counties is either directly or indirectly tied to production agriculture. The flood was unprecedented in its duration which greatly increased the recovery time.

Presenters provided information on topics ranging from agronomic issues, to farm programs, grants available and how the flood would affect future crop insurance programs. The workshop included presenters from MU Extension, Missouri Farm Bureau, United Stated Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, US Army Corp of Engineers, and Risk Management Association which oversees federal crop insurance.

Results of a survey conducted after the events showed that 83% rated the program above average when compared to other educational opportunities available to them. When asked if they would seek additional information on the topics presented, 71% said they would and 75% said what they learned would affect the decisions they made for their land.

It is important to assist farmers return to profitable production quickly as agriculture is the prime economic driver in these counties. This increased business activity creates jobs, increases consumer demand, promotes economic development and generates tax revenue for the public's welfare.

MU Extension Regional Extension Agronomist Wayne Flanary speaks to the audience about agronomic topics at the Returning to Farming after the Flood workshop.
**DISASTER RECOVERY**
Flood of 2011, Holt and Atchison Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Learners</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Andrew County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After the flood of 2011, Holt and Atchison Counties formed a bi-county long term recovery committee (LTRC). The purpose of the committee is to assist qualifying permanent county residents in restoring their homes to livable conditions. Home owners apply to a variety of organizations for possible assistance. When restoration needs continue to be unmet for qualifying residents, applicants also meet with the LTRC case manager and various collaborating agency contacts. Qualifying applications are referred to the local LTRC by the case managers. The LTRC then determines the level(s) of assistance that can be provided through available volunteer groups or financial assistance.</td>
<td>The permanent residents of Atchison and Holt Counties who meet financial guidelines are encouraged to contact case managers from the Atchison-Holt County Long Term Recovery Committee and collaborating agency representatives to determine if further volunteer and/or financial assistance can be provided to restore permanent residences to basic livable conditions.</td>
<td>The Atchison-Holt Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) received recommendations from case managers and from collaborating charitable organizations. Based upon the recommendations of agency case managers, the committee members determined the level of assistance that could be provided to each qualifying case. Community volunteers during a disaster are also organized and assigned to approved cases. The LTRC solicits donations and grant funding from individuals, public entities and faith-based groups that engage in disaster recovery processes.</td>
<td>Immediately following the 2011 flood, the Atchison-Holt Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) began its formational meetings. The LTRC is fully organized and has faith-based and community members involved. As the secretary of the LTRC, Jerry Baker, MU Community Development Specialist, receives and files regular committee reports and notifies members of meeting activities. Over 400 mailings were sent out to local citizens who had inquired or applied to various agencies for restorative information. From these mailings, clients were asked to meet with case managers who refer cases and potential actions to restore homes to basic living conditions needed. The bi-county committee has received more than 3,000 hours of donated labor from a wide geographic area. In addition, individuals, faith-based groups and other agencies have raised more than $25,000 to fund the restoration projects.</td>
<td>The Atchison and Holt County community members who qualify for restorative project assistance are not only provided construction materials and other financial responses, but they are also provided with a “come to” resource. Home restoration to basic livable conditions, muck and mold eradication financial or service resource provisions, tree and debris removable, etc., are activities that assist clients to restore damaged homes to basic livable conditions. The restorative processes enable residents to remain in the county and help rebuild their communities. In addition, volunteers coming into the communities provide emotional support and hope to clients that life can return to normal. People helping people create a general sense of community well-being and helps sustain a stable population that contributes to the community and economic life of the county.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas (MINK) Tourism and Business Development along the Missouri River Corridor - Jerry Baker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas collaborative program known as MINK focuses on promoting entrepreneurship development, existing businesses and tourism assets in two counties each side of the Missouri River Corridor from south of Omaha, Nebraska to north of Kansas City, Missouri.</td>
<td>The program is a collaborative one with multiple agencies among the four-state region and is open to interested individuals desiring to create and promote public awareness of the business, agri-tourism and general tourism assets in the four-state region along the defined Missouri River Corridor. Public meetings have been held this year in each of the four-states as the MINK Committee worked to complete the bylaws. The public media announcement about the organization’s existence was held in Holt County, Missouri with follow-up meetings in Iowa and Nebraska. An earlier meeting was held in Kansas. The organization’s formal filings with the state governments involved have been made and a formal election of officers includes a representative from each state with additional board members as identified in the corporate bylaws. MU Extension Specialist Jerry Baker, was elected as Missouri’s board member and was also named secretary of the organization.</td>
<td>● The MINK organization held regular meetings throughout the year with more than 200 persons in attendance.  ● The official public announcement of the organization’s existence had media from four states present.  ● The organization has official business recognition status in each of the four states.  ● Membership enrolments are accepted at Three different levels.  ● Strategic planning includes future promotions for identified assets that would attract customers and tourist to the four-state area.  ● Creating media connections for regional promotions in the MINK corridor are underway.</td>
<td>● The Missouri MINK Corridor connection is designed to bring business and tourism focus to each of the designated Missouri counties.  ● The MINK business and tourism focus will increase visitor numbers in northwest Missouri communities and add to the general revenue streams.  ● MU Extension programming has provided members with a standardized community tourism asset inventory for use in compiling a listing of local resources to be promoted by MINK.  An increase in local interest groups that will collaborate to promote regional assets and activities is an anticipated outcome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4-H Clubs         | Holt 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 aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips. | An educational opportunity highlight for Holt County youth is the 4-H Achievement Day. Showcasing skills learned within their 4-H projects, 15 4-H members and 13 Clover Kids exhibited a total of 144 projects at the 2012 Achievement Day. | Using the Danish ribbon system to judge project knowledge, of the 144 project exhibits, 88 exhibits were awarded a Blue ribbon, 26 were awarded a Red ribbon, 11 White ribbons were awarded. Of the 88 Blue ribbon exhibits, 41 received a State Fair ribbon, qualifying for the 2012 Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. Holt County enrolled and screened 16 adult volunteers in 2012. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at $18.80 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Holt County volunteers was worth more than $30,080 in 2012! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into healthy adulthood, priceless. | One of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2012. Missouri 4-H members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. MU 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 2011, MU Extension 4-H connected 8,500 young people ages 5 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). These students are more likely to go to college and enjoy:  
- increased financial success for themselves and their offspring  
- be better consumers  
- improve quality of life through more opportunities for leisure and hobbies  
- improve health for themselves and their children (Porter, 2003)  
- more likely to vote as adults  
- more likely to contribute to their community (Lerner 2009; Zaff et al, 2003) |

**4-H Camps are the greatest fun!**
## Livestock, Focus on Forages and Drought

Educational opportunities and services for livestock producers in Holt County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What Did They Learn?</th>
<th>What Action Did Participants Take or How Did They Benefit?</th>
<th>How Does This Work Make Holt County and Missouri Better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is offered</td>
<td>Missouri &quot;recipe&quot; for quality beef production, issues facing animal agriculture, Show-Me-Select replacement heifer program, forage production and management, drought strategies for livestock and pastures, issues with bull leasing, feed efficiency research, data and observations from decades of feedlot research in southwest Iowa</td>
<td>Missouri beef producers have strategic advantages for producing and capturing the value of high-quality value; research-based recommendations for developing heifers; managing forages and drought in the most productive and cost-effective way possible; the health concerns and lease considerations with bull leases; current research on the genetics behind feed efficiency; choice of sires, health programs, and other management has significant impact on the performance and value of calves in the feedlot. Holt County producers participated in some of these opportunities.</td>
<td>Their calf crops are worth more and meeting demand (US and global) for high-quality beef; heifers are more productive, stay in the herd longer, and their calves are worth more; forage resources are more productive and cost-efficient.</td>
<td>Viable livestock operations add to the economic base of the county.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>