December 2010
Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:
When you invest public funds, you want to know that those funds are making a real difference – that the program has value to the public. And in these tough economic times, you especially are interested in programs that create and retain jobs. Fortunately, that is exactly the case with your investment in University of Missouri Extension programs.
Here are just a few examples:

The **FastTrac New Venture** course creates new jobs by providing tools to those who want to start their own business. Entrepreneurs determine the economic feasibility of their business concept, design a business model that matches their personal vision, and create a business plan to communicate the opportunity to investors.

**Pasture-based Dairies**, modeled on MU Extension’s rotational grazing systems, have generated 1,100 jobs and added more than $124 million to Missouri’s economy.

The Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis works with the Missouri Department of Economic Development to provide an [online career exploration tool](#), which provides information about promising employment arenas.

**Eat Well Be Well with Diabetes** provides practical information and skills to self-manage the disease and promote optimum health. Employees who have better control of their blood glucose levels have reduced rates of job absenteeism.

**4-H science, engineering, math and technology projects**, such as robotics and computing, are preparing youth for jobs of the future. Teens are learning how to be team players, to be lifelong learners, and to approach problem-solving with confidence.

**Leadership education** for steelworkers, pipe fitters and other union workers prepares shop stewards and others to understand how global issues affect today’s workforce and how to secure jobs using practices that reflect joint employer-employee goals.

MU Extension programs are tailored to meet local needs. Visit your local extension center or go online to learn more about the MU Extension programs that create and retain jobs in your community.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director
Dear Citizens,

Thank you. Your support has made it possible for University of Missouri Extension to provide educational programs for the citizens of Howard County. University of Missouri Extension provides research-based resources and programs to address high priority issues, and is a direct link to the four campuses of the University of Missouri System. In 2010, more than one million Missourians statewide turned to University of Missouri Extension for help in improving their farms, businesses, families and communities.

For almost 100 years, the University of Missouri has provided cooperative extension services to Missouri residents. Missouri’s extension effort has its roots in federal acts (the Morrill Act of 1862, the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914) that enabled the university to create and sustain an Extension service. The success of University of Missouri in Howard County depends upon the dedication and support of members of the County Extension Council. The council assists staff with planning and implementing programs by communicating the interests and concerns of local citizens. Programming efforts require the best efforts of our partnerships in the state to maximize and apply our resources where the greatest impact can be made.

In an effort to reduce publication costs, highlights and outcomes of local program efforts in 2010 are included in this condensed annual report. For the full report, please visit our website: http://extension.missouri.edu/howard/ or call our office at 660-248-2272 for a printed report.

Tracey Frevert  Laura Korte  Todd Lorenz
Chairman  Secretary  Acting County Program Director
Howard County Extension Council  Howard County Extension

Funds from the University of Missouri and USDA are used to pay the salary and benefits of Extension specialists and most education assistants, training for Extension specialists, travel to state-sponsored training and committee meetings, regional and statewide administration, a portion of the cost of computer equipment, and maintenance costs, and postage for official business mail of Extension specialists.

County funds are used to provide the space for the Extension office, salaries and benefits for secretaries and some education assistants, travel within the region, long-distance phone calls and local phone service, office furniture and equipment, audio-visual equipment, office and program supplies and printing, a portion of computer costs, insurance for office equipment and furnishings, and cost of council maintenance such as elections, bonds, and audits.
How Did Howard County Participants Benefit? Within Howard County 4-H Clubs youth are provided with the opportunity to practice leadership, citizenship, responsibility, team work, community service and other life skills under the guidance of trained adult volunteers. Howard County 4-H creates environments in which young people are valued, contributing members of their community. 4-H provides Howard County youth with hands-on learning opportunities in a safe environment where they can experiment, innovate, and think independently with the help of caring volunteers Howard County 4-H Clubs provide 201 youth with the opportunity to learn leadership, citizenship, responsibility, team work, community service and other life skills. Members learn about various 4-H projects through hands-on activities. Howard County 4-H serves youth through five organized clubs, school enrichment groups, camps, and more. The youth of Howard County have demonstrated learning through the following activities and events:
- Howard County Fair (107 county fair livestock exhibits, 132 county fair inside exhibits)
- Regional, State and National 4-H events: The events that Howard County 4-Hers attended were camps, Teen Conference, State Fair Demonstrations/Exhibits, State Fashion Revue, State Shooting Sports, Clover Kids Camp, 4-H Summer Camp, Congress, and State Public Speaking. A total of 80 youth represented Howard County in these various events.
- 4-H’s S.E.T. (Science, Engineering and Technology) program helps to close the gap in the demand for trained Scientist and Engineers. 4-H provides 332,090 youth contacts and 19,018 adult contacts in projects such as robotics, water quality, conservation, livestock, veterinary science, and computer software. During which time 4-H’ers practice: wise use of resources, decision making, goal setting, marketable skills, and self-motivation. Thus, creating 4-H youth that care about and contribute to the economic vitality of the entire community

How Does This Work Make Howard County and Missouri Better

According to a Carnegie report the value of youth development programming provided MU Extension 4-H faculty and staff is $9,968,600 or a return on investment of $1.47 on the public investment. 4-H members report an increased interest in science and science careers at a rate 3 times that of non-4-H peers. In 2008, $12.1 billion (three-quarters) of Missouri’s exports were science-, engineering- and technology-related industries studies show the youth in programs like 4-H are 70% more likely to attend college and increase their earning potential $2.01 million dollars over their life time. If just one-third of our club members completed a Bachelor’s degree, this would create $14 billion of earning potential. Communities reap long-term benefits by supporting programs like 4-H. Youth engaged in the program are 60% more likely to vote than their non-engaged peers. In addition, 4-H youth are more likely to volunteer and contribute to their communities than youth participating in other youth programs.

MU Extension’s business development programs help entrepreneurs succeed in private enterprise and promote local and statewide economic development efforts. We perform this vital service via a network of business counseling specialists located throughout the state.

MU Extension Business Development Programs

Business Development Specialist: Virgil Woolridge

In Howard County, during 2009, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Environmental Program, Missouri Career Options Project, and the Missouri Market Development program served 7 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners in Howard County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:
- New jobs: 4
- New businesses: 1
- Loans and investments in business: $344,000
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 7

Business training attendees and conference participants: 6

For more information about the University of Missouri Business Development program visit our web site at: http://www.missouribusiness.net/ or contact Virgil at 573-581-3231 or woolridgev@missouri.edu.

The Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative

The Missouri Rural Development Partners prepared a report for Howard County and published the following key findings:

Top Five Community Strengths
1. Availability of legal, accounting, printing and marketing services
2. Availability of business planning assistance
3. City government’s utilization of external funding to improve the community
4. Community access to health care
5. Quality of community natural and man-made assets
MU Extension links producers, families, agribusinesses and communities to practical, research-based resources. The result: A better quality of life for all Missourians.

Agronomy

Todd Lorenz- Regional Horticulture/Agronomy Specialist: Todd is in the interim role as County Program Director while Wendy continues to serve in Iraq. He also handles agriculture and horticulture related walk-ins, phone calls, and photo identification of insects, weeds, and diseases. This also includes preparing timely news releases. By state mandate, the University of Missouri Extension is responsible for educational resources and program training for farmers who wish to apply restricted use pesticides under an agreement with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Private Applicator Trainings (PAT) are used to meet the requirements of the state licensing. In 2010 Howard County presented the five-year renewable licensing program to 31 applicants. This year, Howard County also assisted citizens with 40 soil samples and interpreting their results. The Howard County Soil & Water Conservation District serves land-owners through soil-saving cost-share practices. By state mandate, an Extension specialist represents farmers in the county.

Old Trails Regional Tourism Partnership Organizational Development

The Old Trails Regional Tourism Partnership has attained several key accomplishments during 2010: 501 (c)(6) status was granted by the IRS on June 10., State sales tax exemption was granted on July 22. The partnership was expanded through a bylaw revision that added Clay County to the region. An application for the USDA pilot project “Stronger Economies Together” was submitted and OTRTP was selected as one of two sites in Missouri. A logo and other graphic artwork was developed to identify and market the region. A website has been developed and is now on-line at www.oldtrails.org. Rack cards were developed and printed to market the region at tourist sites and welcome centers. Displays were created and booths were set up at the Missouri State Fair, Show Me Film Festival, and Santa Fe Wine Festival.

Women in Agriculture

Cynthia Crawford coordinated the Women in Ag/Ag Landowners Regional conference held in Marshall. Howard County had 8 participants, who were presented topic on Succession and estate planning, Marketing agriculture products, Government programs for ag producers, Living and growing green, Farm Safety, and Native plants.

Ag Business Management Programming

Parman Green, Regional Ag Business Specialist provided programming in Business/Farm Income Tax, QuickBooks-Farm/Business Record Keeping and Hosted Ag Lender Seminar in Boonville. The program title was Financing Agriculture in Challenging Times and covered grain and livestock production, marketing and trends. Parman was also involved with the Women in Ag conference. Gene Schmitz, Regional Livestock specialist assigned to cooper county provided services to cattle producers in Cooper County through direct contacts, news releases for KWRT radio, Boonville Daily news and other articles in state and national publications. He has been actively involved in the Clifton City Research plots and is currently testing computerized forage feed reader. Gene was also involved with the FFA Field Day where the youth received practical information on forage management, beef cattle management and nutrition.

Community Development

Focus on Fayette : This has been a partnership of Extension, the City of Fayette and the Economic Development Committee. Monthly meetings that started with a program designed to help the planning committee of this effort decide what they really wanted to do and how they wanted to go about accomplishing this. The first 3 meetings were attended by an average of 45 residents and they focused on activities that would move Fayette forward. As a result of these meetings 4 action groups were created. These included Economic Development, Local business development, City Square/ Store Fronts, Regional and Economic Development. Publications and Presentations – In order to provide the services and programs to Howard County and surrounding counties, effective research based information needs to be developed and produced. Materials reduced to updated in the past years include: Strategic Planning, Fund Raising for Nonprofit Organizations, Facilitation and Meetings, Problem Solving, Process Design, Board Duties and Responsibilities Building, Capacities for Organizations and Communities, Developing a Healthy Organization, Building A Strong Community, Managing Community Change.

Missouri Families

MU Extension programs strive to maximize the quality of human and family life, with special attention to the needs to socially and economically vulnerable populations. Our realm of expertise is far reaching. It includes family and financial education; design of living and working environments; family and human development; community support systems; and nutrition, health and physical activity.
Focus on Kids

Art Schneider – Human Development Specialist: Between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, 22 parents attended the class. In addition to economic benefits, 59% of all parents attending the 2 ½ hour Focus on Kids, a mandated program for divorcing parents with children under age 18, agreed or strongly agreed that the program should be required for divorcing parents. Yet 96% also reported the program was worthwhile. Conservative estimates of the impact of the past year Focus On Kids (FOK) program in Howard County suggest that custodial mothers receive additional child support of nearly $11,000 a year. Typical comments on what they liked about the class included: “We were advised on making detailed & specific parenting plans,” “Discussion of ways to help children feel less stressed,” and “The vignettes were good and useful”.

Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP)

Carol Ivy, Nutrition Program Assistant,: Show Me Nutrition Education for youths provides information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. At each of the seven lessons taught, a newsletter goes home to the family. It provides a summary of the lesson taught, sometimes using a game or puzzle as an interactive way for parents to discover what their student learned. During 2010, Carol provided classes to students at Howard County Elementary, Glasgow, and Daly Elementary in Fayette. Adult nutrition classes were reached through the Howard County Health Department. Show Me Nutrition Education Displays updated teachers and staff on nutrition and health information. Teachers use this information in the classroom or by modeling healthy behaviors to their students. With these exhibits we are “training trainers” to deliver good nutrition messages.

For youths who participated in FNP, results summarized for the state revealed the following positive impacts:

- 44% have participated in FNP for 3 or more years
- 99% (3,103 teachers) reported one or more changes in students after FNP.

Increased Interest in Home Food Preservation

Vera Massey, Nutrition & Health Education Specialist: During 2010, the demand for home food preservation information and workshops continued. Men and women of all ages and experience levels (none to more than 30 years) were interested in learning how to safely preserve foods. University of Missouri Extension responded to this demand by providing 7 food preservation workshops safe and reliable methods of home food preservation. A series of seven 2 ½ –hr food preservation workshops were held in Columbia, with 207 participants from Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Howard, and Osage counties. Howard increased their food preservation knowledge and skills through workshops and other learning experiences. Thousands of others learned about safe home food preservation through multiple radio, television and newspaper feature stories.

Howard County Staff

Pictured from top left to right:
Todd Lorenz, Catie Selby

Pictured from bottom left to right:
Debbie Brucks, Linda Cruse

Wendy Flatt in Altun Korpi
The 12th Annual Howard County Town and Country Event will be held on February 12, 2011, at the Fayette High School. Educational activities, a business exposition showcasing Howard County businesses. The evening will include a banquet during which several citizens in Howard County will be honored for their work in the community. The entertainment for the evening will be provided by Andrew McCrea, an Oscar winning broadcaster, author, and a motivational speaker.

Howard County Farm Tour held on August 5, 2010, at the MU AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH FARM. The group visited the Hickman House. There were 19 Howard County residences join us this year for the farm tour. Our special guest was Naomi Boss a regional representative from Congressmen Sam Graves office.
Kirkuk, Iraq-------Wendy Flatt, MU Extension Livestock Specialist, has been on “loan” with USDA-FAS since September 2009 on the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) as an Agriculture Advisor in Kirkuk, Iraq. Kirkuk is approximately 250 km northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, in a very ethnically diverse area that is home to Kurds, Arabs, Turkoman, Christians and others. Ms. Flatt has been working on several agricultural projects with Iraqi farmers, government officials, non-government organizations (NGO’s) and other entities since she has been in Iraq. One of the projects Ms. Flatt was integral in developing; included a Women’s Veterinary Initiative. Twenty-seven Iraqi women veterinarians went through 3.5 weeks of training to learn how to run their own businesses, estrous synchronize cows and sheep, artificial inseminate, apply for and get micro-loans to purchase equipment for their potential businesses, sanitary milk collection, learn new technology and production methods for dairy production, HACCP (hazard analysis critical control points), diagnosing mastitis before collecting milk and other skills needed to help build potential veterinary businesses. She also worked with the Kirkuk Veterinary Syndicate (which is the equivalent to the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association and is a conglomeration of both private and government employed veterinarians) and the State Veterinary Company (which is the government owned veterinary enterprise) to obtain a liquid nitrogen generator. Currently, veterinarians in Kirkuk province do not have access to liquid nitrogen for their semen tanks. The only present source is either from the State Veterinary Company in Baghdad (250 km south of Kirkuk) or the North Oil Company in Kirkuk, which isn’t very readily available to private veterinarians that need it. This nitrogen generator will help veterinarians obtain a good ready source of liquid nitrogen for their semen tanks and was paid for with Government of Iraq funds! Ms. Flatt and her colleagues have also been working with four private organizations, better known as dairy associations, to jump start the dairy processing industry in Kirkuk. Currently, yoghurt, cheese, and milk are all brought in from other countries and sold in Kirkuk. Most of the locally made dairy products are done in village kitchens in which quality, consistency and sanitation are all a concern for local residents buying these products. The PRT has been working with four associations interested in bringing in microdairy processors into Iraq. These microdairy processors, will make yoghurt, cheese and pasteurized milk in a sanitary, consistent method so that the products can be sold locally without locals worrying about contracting diseases such as brucellosis or getting food poisoning. Along with the microdairy processors, there is several weeks of training that Ms. Flatt and her team developed, which has taught Iraqi farmers how to produce and collect milk sanitarily and hygienically, how to produce more milk from the same number of cows and sheep, how to keep their herds disease free, how to work and choose a good veterinarian and other topics that were covered during the several week course. Once the micro-dairy processors are in country, there will be at least two more weeks of training for the association members to go through to learn how to run, clean, maintain and make sure the equipment stays running. Ms. Flatt has also been involved with several other projects which include; Women Entrepreneur’s program, working with the DG (Director General) of Extension on obtaining several pieces of equipment funded through CERP (commanders emergency response program) and material donated from University of Missouri Extension, working with the DG of Livestock on obtaining silage harvesting equipment so they can teach farmers how to put up silage to feed to their livestock and improve nutrition, several feral hog programs around Kirkuk with a live trapping demonstration, and a Veterinary Initiative geared towards the male veterinarians in Kirkuk that will look like the Women’s Veterinary Initiative only for the male veterinarians. All these projects will go a long way to helping increase production and food security in Kirkuk and hopefully “kick start” agriculture so Kirkukies will have opportunities for jobs in the agricultural sector and secure their food situation in their province so they aren’t dependant on their neighbors (like Iran) to provide their food supply.