Jasper County 2016 Annual Report

Return on Investment

University of Missouri Extension

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension
January 5, 2017

Dear County Commissioners and Friends of MU Extension:

The past year was a busy one for University of Missouri Extension. As a long-time extension professional and newcomer to Missouri, I have found the support from people like you to be remarkable. Missouri is a special place with a promising future.

Through the efforts of faculty, staff and amazing volunteers, MU Extension connects millions of Missourians with knowledge they put into action in their daily lives. Using a range of learning experiences, we reach people of all ages and backgrounds, in every corner of the state.

In response to direct input received from local councils and the unique nature of each county, extension programs vary slightly across the state. This strength of local flexibility and public engagement enables county-based Mizzou faculty to provide local learning experiences that improve lives and community vitality. For example:

- MU Extension business specialists helped local Missouri businesses achieve sales increases of $186 million while creating or retaining 7,766 jobs.
- Helping assure access to health care in local communities, MU Nursing Outreach made it possible for 2,094 nurses keep their skills up to date.
- Our 4-H youth development specialists and other extension team members worked with volunteers and community leaders to reach 269,000 youths ages 5 to 18 across the state.
- Anticipating the needs of Missouri’s aging farm population, extension faculty developed workshops that target estate planning, succession and retirement planning specific to farmers.

These are just a few examples of how Mizzou’s commitment to extension and engagement benefitted Missourians this past year.

In the interest of better serving Missourians, we are conducting a statewide needs assessment. It will include extensive input from local communities and stakeholders. It will result in stronger alignment between extension programs and local needs.

I encourage you to read the attached annual report from your county office to gain an understanding of how MU Extension has worked this past year to serve your community.

Your support of MU Extension and our efforts in your community is greatly appreciated. As always, I welcome your input on how the University of Missouri can better serve the people.

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor for Extension
Extension’s Program Guidance Comes from You

The University of Missouri Extension council and staff would like to thank the Jasper County Commissioners for their support and funding for programs. The council and staff remain committed to improving people’s lives by helping them meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century with research-based education and information. County residents decide the direction of extension’s educational programming. Current emphasis areas in Jasper County focus on agriculture, business and workforce, children and teens, family life, home and garden, and nutrition and health.

University of Missouri Extension is a partnership of the University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, the people of Missouri through county extension councils, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The mission of MU Extension is to "serve Missouri by extending the unbiased research-based knowledge and problem-solving resources of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University to focus on high-priority needs of people throughout the state." The University of Missouri and Lincoln University are Missouri’s land-grant universities, charged by federal acts of Congress to deliver extension programs.

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 contents of this report are a summary of the highlights of our educational efforts during the past year. We hope that this report provides a greater understanding about University of Missouri Extension programming efforts in Jasper County.

Submitted by,

Vickie Flenniken
Council Secretary

Peter Carter
Council Chair

Janet LaFon
County Program Director
University of Missouri Extension Contacts: Extension faculty and staff made 25,572 direct contacts and 85,872 indirect contacts in Jasper County during 2016. Of those, 265 were walk-in consultations and incoming telephone calls that were personally recorded by support staff.

Testing Services: One hundred seventy-six lawn and garden soil samples, 125 agricultural soil samples, four commercial soil samples, two manure samples, five compost, one environmental soil test, and three plant disease samples were submitted for testing.

MU Continuing Education Enrollment: This includes programs such as MU Direct, which is credit and non-credit continuing and distance education; MU Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute; MU Extension Law Enforcement Training Institute; Office of Continuing Medical Education; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; Missouri Training Institute; Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education; Labor Education; and MU’s Nursing Outreach. There were 352 Jasper County learners in these programs.

2016 Economic Contributions of Agriculture and Forestry in Jasper County: Sales, $3.4 billion; value-added, $869.4 million; jobs, 11,144; labor income, $519.8 million; taxes, $158 million. Number of farms 1,299; average size of farm, 190 acres; total land area, 408,627 acres; total land in farms, 246,707 acres; population (2015), 118,598. Source: Agriculture.MO.Gov.

Extension Leaders Honor Roll: Each year, extension leaders from across Missouri are recognized for their outstanding support of our programs. Their names are added to the Extension Leaders Honor Roll. Larry Jackson received this recognition in Jasper County for 2016.

Larry has been a Jasper County Extension Council member and has always been involved with the Jasper County Youth Fair. Even as a youngster he participated in 4-H and FFA. As a parent, his children participated and now he volunteers too, as he says, “To help the kids, I do it all for the kids. Anything to better the lives of the kids is what we need to do. If we can help just one kid, that’s what we’re supposed to do.” Larry loves helping young people showcase their projects at the fair. Even though he thinks his role in the youth fair is small, the impact he has made on local families is huge. In fact, everyone says the Jasper County Youth Fair wouldn’t be the same without Larry.

Century Farm Family: The Missouri Century Farm Program annually recognizes Missouri farms that are still productive and have been in the same family for 100 years or more. The newest addition to the Century Farm Program included one farm in Jasper County.

Donna and Herb Winslow, Carthage, own 103.49 acres that have been in her family since 1916. The farm was originally purchased by Mrs. Winslow’s grandfather, John W. Roper. It was later owned by Mrs. Winslow’s parents, Carl and Marcella Roper. Mr. and Mrs. Winslow purchased the farm in 1974 from her mother.
**State Fair Farm Family:** Lori and Eugene Meyer of Sarcoxie were among the 114 families honored during the Missouri State Fair’s Farm Family Day on August 15, 2016.

The Meyers were selected as the Jasper County Missouri State Fair Farm Family by the Jasper County Extension Council and local Farm Bureau. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state who are active in their community, involved in agriculture, and participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H and FFA.

**Robert Balek** represents extension on the Carthage Tree Board. This monthly horticulture-related meeting builds relationships within the community.

**Janet LaFon** co-presented sessions at the Missouri Assistive Technology Power Up statewide conference in St. Charles and at the Human Environmental Sciences Extension Update Conference in Columbia. She also co-presented a webinar on the Joplin tornado for eXtension and another webinar on the Noel project for Epsilon Sigma Phi in Missouri.

In June, **Janet LaFon** was recognized as one of 15 Most Influential Women in the Joplin area by the Joplin Regional Business Journal.

**Television interviews:** Television outreach consisted of twice-monthly interviews on KSN-TV’s “Living Well.” Talking points were on homeowner horticulture and upcoming events. Two additional interviews on the Carol Parker Show was a collaboration between the horticulture specialist and nutrition program associates. One was providing information on different apple varieties and a recipe for sweet baked apple wedges. The other was similar, but for winter squash.

**Newsletters:** Local specialists contributed to two monthly newsletters, 4-H News and Notes and Ag News and Views, that reached over 340 Jasper County families. The newsletters are also available online at extension.missouri.edu/jasper.

Extension specialists from across the region provided monthly articles for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter. There are 2,400 newsletters distributed monthly.

University of Missouri Extension specialists and nutrition program associates in Jasper County contribute to a weekly column in the Carthage Press.

**Expanding Our Outreach with Media:** The Southwest Region News Service operates out of the Greene County Extension office and reaches nearly 250,000 residents every week with research-based MU Extension information. Some of the tools used include an e-mailed weekly news service that reaches over 9,800 individuals. The use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube reach an additional 32,000-plus people per week. Three weekly columns in newspapers reach an audience of over 105,000.

Regular interviews of MU Extension specialists on Springfield and Joplin television and radio stations expand the weekly audience further. In addition, printed versions of the media releases are sent out via the weekly Southwest Region News Service in a variety of print publications in southwest Missouri and beyond.
Agriculture and Environmental Quality

Making a difference

Through MU Extension’s Agriculture programs, participants keep better farm records, are better prepared to identify crop and livestock problems, and increase farm production. This benefits others by providing increased tax base for public services, reducing the potential for water quality and other environmental impacts, and providing a more dependable and affordable food supply.

Horticulture

Webb City Farmers Market First Thursdays
Extension was represented monthly at the Webb City Farmers Market First Thursdays, which highlighted horticulture topics and programs for passers-by, as well as answering questions. Each month, several hundred visitors had the chance to interact with the displays and talk with extension personnel.

Apple Grafting Workshop
A dozen people participated in the Apple Grafting workshop held in Carthage in April. This outreach helps fruit growers build their own trees.

Community Garden Workshop
The workshop organized by the horticulture specialist and held in Webb City, introduced community garden managers, leaders, and workers to MU Extension’s Community Garden Toolkit as part of the Grow-Well Missouri Program. Twenty-one participated in the workshop.

Fruit Tree Workshop
Pinewood Nursery in LaRussell hosted a fruit tree workshop for 18 local residents. The topic of pest management on fruit trees was of particular interest.

Sports Field Turf Conference
The Jasper County horticulture specialist in partnership with Ozark Christian College in Joplin organized the conference. State specialists gave instruction on turf and pests, and answered questions. A tour of the grounds was also provided, including an in-depth look at the new Bermuda grass soccer field. Nine participants representing six institutions were present.

Farmers Market Sampling and Price Data Collection
Data collected at various farmers’ markets across the southwest region was submitted as part of a USDA grant through Missouri Department of Agriculture. “Assessing Sampling, Price Reporting as Farmers Market Vendor Marketing Tools” will identify how Missouri can expand a farmers market pricing tool, and determine the opportunities for creating that tool to ensure consumers have access to reasonably-priced, high-quality, local food. Twelve markets were visited in the region for this project,

Seed Saver Workshop
By request of the Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners, a Seed Savers workshop was again organized. The class was upgraded to include hands-on demonstrations and participation by attendees.

The techniques of seed harvesting, cleaning, and storage were taught. Additional topics included preservation of genetic integrity of heirlooms and protecting from cross-pollination by unwanted varieties. Master Gardeners supplied tools and seed, which they then donated to future classes on the subject.

This class was successful, and has been repeated in several counties in the southwest region.
Master Gardener

The Master Gardener program in Jasper County started in 1992, and is still going strong. Since then, over 490 area residents have attended the annual training courses, and have donated over 53,972 hours of volunteer time within their local communities.

A total of 46 Master Gardeners reported volunteering over 2,160 hours during 2016. They made 1,264 contacts with area residents. By valuing their time based on the latest value of a volunteer’s time for Missouri, the contribution of these volunteers was worth $46,035.

Volunteer projects included: beautification projects at churches, parks, schools, the Carthage Library, the Joplin Humane Society, the Carthage Humane Society and agencies such as the Carthage C.A.N.D.O. Senior Center; community gardens in Joplin; a demonstration garden at the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center; working on gardening projects with youth in the Webb City area; donating garden produce and offering educational workshops at the Joplin Crosslines.

There were five volunteers who completed their certification by donating 30 or more hours of volunteer service since completing their training program. In addition, 37 maintained their certification by donating at least 20 hours of volunteer service, plus completing at least six hours of continuing education during 2016.

Awards presented in 2016 were: Rookie of the Year, John Morrison; Lou Ann Herron Community Service Award, Debbie Fedie; Coordinator’s Service Award, Eric Osen; and Volunteer of the Year Award, Chuck Evans.

Master Gardener Core Training

A core training course was held in Carthage with 13 participants. Fifteen, 3-hour sessions were offered, giving the participants some options for obtaining their 30 hours of training. Topics covered included an orientation to the program, plant growth and development, woody ornamentals, home lawn and turf, soils, plant diseases, insects, plant propagation, pest management, vegetables, pruning, herbaceous perennial flowers, home fruit production, and an orientation to working the local Master Gardener helpline.
Jasper County’s Master Gardener Helpline
Master Gardener volunteers operated a helpline three days a week from April to mid-August, answering lawn and garden questions. It was staffed by 11 Master Gardener volunteers who assisted 97 citizens by answering 117 questions and giving horticulture advice to callers and office walk-ins.

<table>
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<th>Horticulture Helpline Topic</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
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<tr>
<td>fruits</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>ornamentals/trees or shrubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
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Master Gardener continuing education
Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners hosted continuing education sessions provided by the horticulture specialist, including high tunnel vegetable production, wildflower garden management, Crosslines Pantry garden program planning, and Seed Savers Workshop.

Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale a Success
The Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners held their annual plant sale in Carthage in May. In addition, they sold plants left over from the main sale at the Joplin Crosslines later in May.

Each year, the members gather plants from their own gardens and/or start plants from seeds to sell at bargain prices to eager gardeners. The proceeds of the sale are used to support various community projects sponsored by the organization, such as the Carthage Library Garden, a garden area at the Carthage C.A.N.D.O. Senior Center, a community garden project at the Joplin Crosslines, and a demonstration garden area at the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center in Joplin. In addition, they provide training course scholarships to help lower the fees for new Master Gardener trainees.
Livestock

The major beef cattle educational efforts for 2016 in Jasper County were: improve beef cattle quality; improve beef cattle reproduction practices; and enhance marketing opportunities.

The Missouri Show-Me-Select Beef Heifer Development program is used to achieve each of these objectives. Jerry Carnes, Diamond and Goodnight Angus, Carthage were enrolled as SMS producers the past year. A sale of SMS tagged heifers is held at Joplin Regional Stockyards each May and November. Carnes sold in the November sale. Buyers of SMS heifers in 2016 were Tom Elliston, Carl Junction; Janet Hebert, Sarcoxie; and Gary Wampler, Carthage who are repeat buyers. New buyers were Ryan Fenix, Webb City and Harlan Black, Carthage.

Extension assists with a performance-tested bull sale in March and October at Springfield Livestock Marketing Center where bulls are screened for above-average expected progeny difference (EPD) values. Buyers of bulls at those sales included Gary Wampler and Tom Fix, Carthage.

Bulls need TLC via an annual checkup by a veterinarian. To remind cow-calf producers of this checkup, Bull Breeding Soundness Clinics (BSE) are held at several vet clinics in the region each March and October. Jasper County producers used clinics at Miller and Diamond. Participants were: Jerry Carnes, Diamond; Patsy Bright, Johnny Hankin, Terry Paradise and Ron Wagner, all of Sarcoxie; as well as Rob Erwin, Carthage and Kevin Charleston, Reeds.

The Missouri Steer Feedout had the following enter steer calves in this program that gives the cow owner a low-risk chance to receive feedback on how their cattle perform in the feedlot and on the rail: Top Notch Farm and Goodnight Angus, Carthage and Lakeview Farms, Aaron Walker, Joplin. In conjunction with the weigh-in at Joplin Regional Stockyards a discussion on feeder cattle grades and desirability of different groups of the steers was held in November.

The University of Missouri Extension genetics specialist received a sizeable grant to investigate the environmental adaptability of different animals via DNA evaluation. As a portion of the field study animals are hair scored in May and June for three years. Blood samples were collected for DNA testing in 2016. Participants from Jasper county were Chris Cloud and Goodnight Angus both from Carthage.

Sixty-two cattlemen receive a monthly Beef Newsletter from Eldon Cole.

Joplin FFA Agriculture Expo

The purpose of the Ag Expo was to enlighten high school students to the constantly changing world of agriculture. The expo helped students understand that there is more to agriculture than “farming.” The expo helped promote and enlighten students to this field which employs more than 20 percent of the work force and ensures that we spend a lower percentage of our annual income on food than any other country. There is a large percentage of the workforce in Joplin who are employed in an agriculture industry and those careers are part of the largest industry in the United States. Extension also provided a display on careers in horticulture. Approximately 500 students and 100 adults attended.
Agronomy

Pesticide Applicator Training
The pesticide applicator training program was developed to provide information and training for farmers to enable them to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides. Producers learn about pest identification, control methods, reading the pesticide label, protective wear, pesticide storage, spill containment, sprayer calibration, record keeping, and environmental concerns. Certification is required by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and licenses are renewed every five years. A training workshop was held in Carthage in February, with 18 participants. In addition, nine clients utilized a computer training program at the Jasper County Extension Center. On an end-of-session evaluation, participants shared that they had increased their knowledge on topics such as their ability to safely apply pesticides according to label, correct calibrations and their ability to measure and spray the correct rate of pesticide.

Jasper County Livestock and Forage Conference
A Livestock and Forage Conference was held in Carthage in January, with 61 participants. Extension specialists presented information on the Pros and Cons of Grazing Cover Crops and Supplementation for Poor Quality Hay. Sponsorships for the conference were provided by Race Brothers, Southwest Missouri Bank, FCS Financial, Hometown Bank, Joplin Regional Stockyards, Legacy Farm and Lawn, Custom Labs of Golden City, Jasper County 4-H, Jasper County Commission, and the Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Agricultural Business

Ag Lenders Seminar 2016
Fifty-four agricultural lenders and Farm Service Agencies from Barry, Barton, Christian, Dade, Greene, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton and Webster counties attended the 2016 Ag Lender Seminar in Mt. Vernon, Missouri. Agriculture lenders come in contact with more people involved in agriculture than any other single commercial institution. Many times those working with the financial support of many operations can have a tremendous influence on the management behavior of the producers.

Research-based information is needed for lenders to make sound business decisions for their lending institutions. Lenders must consider many economic forces when making lending decisions and this seminar focused on key issues affecting those decisions.

Topics taught and discussed were: Livestock and Crop Outlooks, Land Prices and Pasture rent, Sheep and Goat production, Ag Site Assessment Tool, and Farm Stress Signals. These programs were presented by Dr. Scott Brown, MU ag economist; Jennifer Lutes, ag business specialist and Jim Spencer Jr., ag business specialist.

Each participant received a book entitled “Missouri Farm Financial Outlook 2017.” The seminar booklet contains current articles on farm topics such as outlook, management and budgets for planning next year’s farm operations.

Evaluations indicate that the lenders thought the program was very valuable. The participants were asked to rate the program on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being very valuable. The lenders were asked the following question: “Overall, how do you rate this seminar?” The average rating was 8.5 out of 10.
Dairy

The University of Missouri transdisciplinary Dairy Team works collaboratively to ensure dairy managers are best able to maximize profitability through sound management practices. The State of Missouri is recognized as a milk deficit state, meaning, the total volume of milk produced does not meet the demands of Missouri consumers. It is necessary to serve this valuable audience with fact-based management tools to ensure longevity of our current dairy population. Throughout 2016 dairy managers had a number of learning opportunities as seen below.

Milk Quality

Improvement of milk quality through employee training and on-farm investigation of opportunities highlighted 2016. Herds who participated in “Milker Training” saw as much as a 20 percent reduction in chore time, resulting in nearly $1,000.00/month in saved wages. The improved efficiency around milking is primarily a result of improved animal handling by hired hands. In a herd with contagious mastitis, employee training resulted in a staggering 60 percent decline in bulk tank somatic cell counts over a 3-month period when coupled with improved concentrations of dietary selenium and zinc.

Future collaborations with the Missouri Department of Workforce development and local Future Farmers of America will assist in preparing an apprenticeship-trained body of employees.

Pack Barn Tour

Inclement conditions, including heat, mud and cold, are all challenges to our Missouri Dairymen. These conditions typically occur around 6-9 months out of the year. Pack barn construction allows producers to protect their herd from the elements at a lower upfront investment.

Attendees from across the state traveled to Southeast Missouri to learn more from their peer dairymen who have been managing a pack for years. Additionally, the University of Missouri – Extension Dairy Team arrived with fact sheets, blue prints and detailed cost comparisons. The van ride returning to Southwest Missouri was full of brainstorming and planning of new facilities.

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Efforts

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension continued its work in Jasper County to help disadvantaged farmers increase their agricultural skills, develop sound economic practices and help them understand and use practices in sustainable agriculture. Programming that benefited Jasper County residents included:

- Two high tunnels were constructed.
- A total of 67 farm visits were made.
- Seven agricultural booths at Webb City Farmers Market for vendors and guests to ask questions concerning agriculture were conducted.
- No less than twelve workshops concerning small ruminant, large ruminant, and vegetable production.
- Feral swine education to Jasper County land-owners.
- Increased farm income for Jasper County farmers by approximately $23,000.00.
- Reaching over 5,000 Hispanic individuals educating them on agriculture skills and the services of University Extension and USDA programs.
Master Naturalist

The Master Naturalist program is a partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and University of Missouri Extension. The Master Naturalist’s mission is to promote awareness and citizen stewardship of natural resources through science-based education and community service.

In 2016, the Chert Glades Master Naturalists reported donating 4,533 hours of volunteer service valued at over $96,598. There were 29 members who completed their certification in 2016 and over 1,000 hours of advanced training was completed by chapter members.

Stella Eagle Day

2016 started with our signature event, Stella Eagle Day. The chapter has sponsored this event annually since 2009 along with our partners, MDC and the City of Stella. It was estimated that 1,500 people visited the small town of Stella that day, most stopped by our tent and exhibits. About 35 members participated. New this year was a “go fish” game where kids could win prizes after attempting to catch foods that eagles eat. News coverage was provided by Joplin, Neosho, and Springfield media. Our message continues to be the successful recovery of eagles, along with conservation of their habitat.

Monarch-related activities

During 2016, Chert Glades Chapter continued to actively embrace the need to safeguard Monarch Butterfly migration. Master Naturalists have taken advantage of opportunities to plant, educate, plan, write proposals, and then plant some more! Seeds of both host/milkweed and nectar plants have been collected and shared. More specifically:

- The Chapter registered, certified, signed and expanded the Monarch Waystation developed at Cunningham Park from 250 to over 1,200 sq. ft. Using an MDC Community Conservation Grant, a substantial number of both host and nectar plants were added.
- A Monarch Waystation was installed at Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center (WCG) as an individual capstone project.
- Four proposals to secure milkweed from the state nursery were written and accepted. Approximately 300 plants were installed at four park locations, a prairie restoration site within Joplin, and at WCG. In addition, twelve plants have been potted and await a green light for planting at the Neosho/Carver School restoration.
- Outreach booths at both George Washington Carver Prairie Day and the Prairie State Park Jubilee focused on Monarchs and other pollinators. One member provided home-reared Monarchs in all stages of development and allowed children to individually release ready adults. Information about the Monarch life cycle, milkweed species, problems and projects at federal, state, local and personal levels were shared. Three hundred packets of common milkweed seed were distributed.
- Chapter members have given presentations at local garden clubs, WCG, Kiwanis, Girl Scout summer camp, and at numerous area schools. In addition, the Master Naturalist website blog and Facebook pages have continued to inform and educate on a regular basis.
- A substantial amount of milkweed seed was collected and sent to the state nursery in addition to packets shared with the public and distributed among members. A November seed swap provided an opportunity for members to share native plant seed at a “Milk-jug Planting Workshop” presented by experienced members.
**Joplin Bridge Project**

The glade restoration project at Redings Mill Bridge was expanded to include three acres in late 2015. During 2016, members have been actively clearing undesirable trees and shrubs and such invasive plants as privet, winter creeper, sericia lespedeza, and johnsongrass. Two signs were constructed for wildlife habitat and placed in front of member-constructed, habitat-friendly brush piles.

Through a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation, a kiosk was purchased and installed in mid-summer. The kiosk contains information about types of glades, glade plants and animals, invasive species, and information about the chapter and the purpose of the restoration.

**Carver Day**

There is always a great turn out at Carver Day with 1,400 in attendance this year. Activities highlighted Monarchs and habitat restoration. Two new Master Naturalist members raised monarchs and had them ready to be released at Carver Day.

**Waterfest**

On August 13, 2016, the chapter participated in the Shoal Creek Water Festival with approximately 2,000 in attendance. Held along the banks of Shoal Creek in Joplin, Missouri by our partner, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, the festival celebrated the 100th anniversary of Wildcat Park. Over 20 members of the Chert Glade Chapter volunteered in their booth or with other parts of the festival. The booth's theme was freshwater mussels and crayfish. Charts and other information about the mussels and crayfish in southwest Missouri were presented. About 100 children received small coloring booklets showing the life cycle of a mussel. An aquarium with small crayfish plus samples of mussel shells was provided. One of the most popular exhibits was a bucket of large crayfish that a gentleman fished out of Shoal Creek and presented to us. Several members showed the children how to hold a crayfish or crawdad as most of us call them. The crawdads went gratefully back into Shoal Creek after the event. As always, the emphasis at the water festival is keeping our water clean in order to support wildlife and ourselves.

**Joplin Prairie Cleanup**

In April, members participated in trash pickup on the remnant Joplin Prairie in central Joplin, Missouri. Our partner, the City of Joplin, provided a dumpster again this year for members to fill. Most of the trash collected was leftover tornado debris from the F5 tornado that hit Joplin in 2011, including partial roofing shingles, plastic, and random household building materials and items. This is the second year members have completed trash clean-up in this area.

**Prairie Day**

A number of members participated in Prairie Day at Prairie State Park in September with over 2,200 in attendance. Again we highlighted Monarch restoration and prairie preservation points.

**Ongoing Community Service Projects**

- Habitat management at MDC conservation areas.
- Work with Missourians for Monarchs and other organizations on restoring monarch habitat.
- Building monarch waystations in city parks and at schools.
- Harvesting seeds from milkweed and other native species.
- Redings Mill Bridge glade restoration project.
- Joplin tree planting and watering.
- Work with Missouri Prairie Foundation recording plant species and doing seed collections.
- Bird banding with Missouri State University.
- Educational programs at Wildcat Glades Nature Center, George Washington Carver National Monument, Roaring River State Park, local schools and community groups.
- Kellogg Lake Kid's Day, Carthage Missouri.
- Stream Team water quality monitoring.
Making a difference

4-H project work helps 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. Interest in science is a predictor for young people to choose science-related 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. Future scientists are critical to our state, national and global economy; three-quarters of Missouri’s $13.9 billion in products and services exported in 2012 were science, engineering and technology-based industries (Lerner and Lerner, Wave 6; MERIC).

4-H in Jasper County is a community of 285 youths building life skills, engaging in science and contributing to their communities.

One of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in MU Extension 4-H Youth Development programs in 2016.

4-H Connects Kids to a Higher Quality of Life

4-H youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and health for the 21st century workforce. Missouri 4-H members spend more of their leisure time than peers engaged in projects of interest anchored in science (Khan, 1989). It is no wonder that 4-H members are three times more likely to go into science-related careers than similar peers (Lerner and Lerner, 2008).

4-H youth are more connected to college campuses and faculty than their friends. MU Extension 4-H connects 8,700 young people to University of Missouri campuses each year. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006). 4-H youth are nearly twice as likely to expect to go on to college (Lerner and Lerner, 2011).

Youth who earn a bachelor’s degree increase annual earnings by $2 million over their lifetimes (NACUBO, 2012). If 50 percent of the Jasper County members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go on to earn a bachelor’s degree, 4-H would help these young people earn $285,425,000 more of lifetime earnings.

Missouri 4-H is growing future scientists. Young people in 4-H are three times more likely to be interested and pursue science-based careers over their non-4-H peers. Our nation needs young people prepared to live and work in a world that no one can imagine—jobs that do not yet exist, using technology that has not been invented, and solving problems that have not yet been identified. In Jasper County, the 285 members were engaged in 681 science-related projects and experiences.

References:
Jasper County 4-H

4-H Club Information
Jasper 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.

4-H School Programs
Jasper County 4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Most are led by teachers or 4-H volunteers. The most popular 4-H school program in Jasper County is basic electricity, with 42 participants.

4-H Volunteers
Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey reported they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Jasper County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $366,532 in 2016! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into healthy adulthood, which is priceless. 4-H members were supported by 172 youth and adult volunteers.

Jasper County Teen Council
Teen council consists of 4-H members ages 12-18. These teens help with county and fun events, as well as service projects. Approximately 25 county 4-H members meet on a monthly basis.

4-H Council (Parents’ Association)
The Jasper County 4-H Parents’ Association is composed of club leaders, project leaders and parents of 4-H club members from every club in the county. Average attendance is 15. There must be more than half of the clubs represented for the association to transact business.

County Achievement Day and Fashion Revue
Members competed in demonstrations, judging, personal development, fashion revue, public speaking, and Clover Kid sharing. Twenty-eight members participated in 27 different project areas. Top members in fashion revue were Abigail Dumm, MaKensey Dumm, Livia Dumm, and Lacey Allen. Top demonstrators were Abigail Dumm, Livia Dumm, Marissa Thorn, Johnathon Baugh, Hannah Andrews, MaKensey Dumm, Hannah Baugh, and Rachel Baugh.

Jasper County Youth Fair
The 2016 Jasper County Youth Fair had a total of 1,648 exhibits. Participants earned $9,232.80 in premiums. Entries included 144 beef, 24 dairy, 114 goats, 214 horses, 160 poultry, 115 rabbits, 82 sheep, 56 hogs, 562 4-H non-animal exhibits, and 177 FFA non-animal exhibits. There were 351 individual exhibitors this year.

The animals sold at the Market Sale brought a total of $114,855. There were 57 exhibitors who qualified for the sale. Animals sold were two market turkeys, two market broilers, two rabbit meat pens, two beef feeder steers, one dairy feeder steer, 10 market steers, 18 market hogs, 10 market lambs, and 10 market goats. The Jasper County Fair Board keeps 10 percent of the market sale total to pay class premiums to all exhibitors. This year the fair paid $.25 per premium point.

Jasper County Youth Fair Royalty: Little Mister Will Coats; Little Miss Lannah Cassatt; Jr. Princess Evelyn Gilbreath, Princess Hannah Rockers, Queen Lani Ogle.
Weights Work Wonders
This is a community service project created by the Jasper County Mt. Moriah 4-H Club clothing project group to provide inexpensive weighted blankets and vests for children affected by autism. When a child affected by autism becomes agitated or upset, lying under a weighted blanket or wearing a weighted vest helps the child calm down and regain control. Project members made 12 weighted blankets and one weighted vest for area agencies. The project group also made eight receiving blankets for Life Choices in Carthage.

Regional 4-H Events
Regional Achievement Day
The following 4-H members received a blue ribbon at the Jasper County Achievement Day which qualified them to represent Jasper County at the regional event. Those competing were: Demonstrations: animal science—Savanna Fisher and Aubri Fisher; gardening—Nathaniel Hudson and Luke Baugh; foods—Marissa Thorn, Emily Meyer, Hannah Baugh and Johnathon Baugh; crochet—Rachel Baugh; Personal Development: Marissa Thorn and Isaiah Chandler; Project judging: poultry—Nathaniel Hudson; cake decorating—Aubri Fisher; swine—Sadie Ramirez and Lannah Cassatt; horse—Emily Egger, Garrett Egger, Savanna Fisher, Lannah Cassatt, Tannah Cassatt and Isaiah Chandler; beef—Tannah Cassatt, Emily Meyer, Matthew Meyer and Eli Meyer; arts and crafts—Laura Thorn; shooting sports—Sadie Ramirez; foods—Marissa Thorn; and Public speaking: Garrett Egger and Emily Egger.

Southwest Regional 4-H Member and Leadership Camps
The camps held at Camp Smokey, Roaring River State Park, Cassville, were attended by 26 club members and one adult leader from Jasper County. Most of those members are now serving as officers in their respective clubs.

Member/Leader Trainings
Making the Best Better and Bright and Bold are annual member/leader training workshops. The events provided workshops on leadership, public speaking and demonstrations, as well as project-related sessions. Certifications for volunteer orientation and Show Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) were conducted as well.

The goals of these trainings were:
- Youth and leaders develop improved knowledge of project materials.
- Youth and leaders develop increased skills in making decisions, speaking in public, thinking critically and solving problems.
- Youth and leaders develop increased capability to listen and to respect the opinions of other people.
- Youth and leaders develop increased skills to work in groups.

Members and leaders trained during 2016:
- Eleven new adult leaders took the volunteer orientation in order to become certified 4-H leaders.
- Thirty-six 4-H members were certified in Jasper County to show their livestock at fairs through the Show Me Quality Assurance program.
- One hundred seventy-two 4-H members and leaders were trained in 104 different project areas.

Ozark Empire Fair
One hundred three Jasper County 4-H’ers exhibited 239 non-animal projects at the Ozark Empire Fair. This resulted in 168 blue ribbons, 44 red ribbons, three white, three overall grand champions, two overall reserve champions, 16 grand champion and 14 reserve champion winners. A demonstration was given by Nathaniel Hudson. In addition, several members exhibited animals at the fair.
Regional Shooting Sports
The 2016 Southwest Missouri Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Contests were held at the Andy Dalton Range in Bois D’Arc, Missouri and in Polk County in the west central region.

Those competing from Jasper County were: junior division—Toby Whitmore competed in archery; intermediate division—Emily Bowles, 1st place traditional recurve and 1st place freestyle; senior division—Christopher Bowles, 1st place freestyle and 1st place traditional recurve; Brett Pennington, 3rd place compound release; Parker Athey placed 1st in .22 rifle and Brett Pennington placed 3rd in trap.

State 4-H Events

State 4-H Fashion Revue
Representatives were selected during county fashion revue events. The State 4-H Fashion Revue is hosted by University of Missouri Extension. Members competing were: junior division—Livia Dumm, 1st place clothes you make; intermediate division—Abigail Dumm, 1st place clothes you make; and senior division—MaKensey Dumm, 1st place clothes you make.

State Livestock Judging Contest
First place junior and senior members are determined by scores they receive during the county contest. The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is hosted by MU Extension. Members were: senior team—Eli Meyer, Sadie Ramirez, Lydia Rockers and Garrett Wolf; junior team—Lacey Allen, Will Coats, Austin Pope and Marissa Thorn.

Youth Civic Leadership Summit
This was a statewide weekend retreat for young people who are active or aspiring leaders and decision-makers in their communities. Attending from Jasper County were Christopher Beatty, Matthew Beatty and Isaiah Chandler.

Missouri State Fair
Members receiving blue ribbons at the Ozark Empire Fair may exhibit at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. One hundred fifteen Jasper County members exhibited at the State Fair. Hannah Andrews, Nathaniel Hudson, Abe Maples, Grace Maples, and Sadie Maples gave demonstrations at the fair.

State Shooting Sports
Members enrolled in the Shooting Sports project may be selected to represent Jasper County by accruing points in local events. Members competing were: intermediate division—Emily Bowles, 3rd place archery recurve, 2nd place American 600 recurve, 6th place traditional, and 2nd place freestyle; Korbin Fast, competed in .22 rifle standard; senior division—Parker Athey, 5th place hunting skills, 6th place .22 rifle aperture and competed in muzzleloading; Christopher Bowles, 1st place archery recurve 3D, 4th place American 600 recurve freestyle and 2nd place traditional; Sadie Ramirez, competed in .22 rifle and muzzleloading; and Brett Pennington, competed in archery compound release, American 600 recurve, and America 300.

State Hippology Contest
Hippology is an activity that can enhance learning for 4-H members by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a competitive setting. Attending from Jasper County were Mackenzie Bell (6th place individual), Lannah Cassatt, Tannah Cassatt, Emily Egger, Garrett Egger, Evelyn Gilbreath, Katherine Macy, Laura Thorn, Marissa Thorn, Jerry Watson, Emilee Block, Isiah Chandler, and Mikayla East.
**State Public Speaking**
This contest is open to any 4-H member. Members give a speech on any subject of their choice. Two county winners in each age category may be selected to represent the county at the State Public Speaking event held on the MU Campus in Columbia. Emily Egger placed 3rd in extemporaneous and Garrett Egger placed 3rd in prepared speaking.

**State 4-H Meats Judging Contest**
The meat industry is an important component in Missouri agriculture. The Meat Identification and Judging Contest encourages 4-H members to develop skills and abilities needed to enter and advance in careers in the meat industry. These activities are designed to encourage the development of broader analytical skills, critical thinking, the use and understanding of appropriate meat terminology, and the evaluation of meat animal products to optimize economic returns not only to them as producers, but as consumers as well. Jasper County 4-H members who competed in the contest, hosted by MU Extension, included junior team—Luke Anibal, Brett Rockers and Grady Weaver. Senior team members were Sam Anibal, Matthew Beatty and Levi Hale.

**State Horse Judging**
The difference between 4-H and many other horse-related opportunities is that the various competitions available focus first on youth development and “winning” a distant second goal. Team members included: Mackenzie Bell, Emilee Block, Lannah Cassatt, Tannah Cassatt, Isaiah Chandler, Mikayla East, Katherine Macy, Jerry Watson, Jessy Watson, and Grady Weaver.

**State 4-H Congress**
This event was held in Columbia on the MU campus. Members participated in a variety of leadership, project and career workshops. Attending from Jasper County were Sam Anibal, Emilee Block, Isaiah Chandler, Hannah Miller, Sadie Ramirez, Lydia Rockers, and Hannah Rockers.

**State 4-H Teen Council**
Council members represent over 20,000 youth who participate in Missouri 4-H clubs. They play a major role in statewide 4-H event planning, advise on policy issues and help coordinate two major youth leadership conferences each year. State council members must be elected as representatives from their regions. Sam Anibal served the southwest region on the state council.

**State Poultry Day**
This is a youth training and skills demonstration event, a fun poultry quiz bowl and a production judging contest, including egg and carcass grading and laying hens placing. Jasper County 4-H members attending were Kaleb Bell and Mackenzie Bell.
State Teen Conference
4-H members ages 11-13 took part in leadership, communication, and community service workshops, and toured the MU campus. Luke Anibal, Sam Anibal, Korbin Fast, Aubri Fisher, Savanna Fisher, Nathaniel Hudson, Luke Lage, and Brett Rockers attended from Jasper County.

State 4-H Foundation Scholarships
These scholarships are for high school seniors and current college students who are or have been 4-H members. There are over twenty $500 and $2,500 scholarships administered by the Missouri 4-H Foundation. Emphasis is on leadership and community service. One of these $1,000 scholarships is funded by Jasper County 4-H and was awarded to Anne Marie Anibal. Alyssa Rockers was awarded a $500 St. Louis Cardinals scholarship.

Missouri 4-H Foundation Frank Graham Volunteer Leadership Award
In recognition of Frank Graham, past director of Missouri 4-H Youth Programs, local volunteers can be recognized for their dedication to Missouri’s youth. Each county may honor one or two outstanding 4-H volunteers annually. Sherry Block was recognized as this year’s recipient.

Sherry has been involved in the Jasper County 4-H program for 30 years and as a club leader for several years. She serves as a project leader for clothing. She served several years on the Jasper County 4-H Parents’ Association. Sherry has helped with numerous other activities such as the county livestock judging contest during the fair, achievement days and conference judging. She even helped with costumes and skits for the Share the Fun. She now, as time permits, helps out the grandkids by working in the concession stand or monitoring the small exhibit building during the fair and is always an avid spectator watching the children at the county fair. She also served several years on the Jasper County Youth Fair Board, helping with the BBQ.

Missouri Extension 4-H Hall of Fame
“Making the best better” for generations of Missouri 4-H club members, Charles and Debbie Youngblood were inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame on Aug. 13 at State Fair Community College in Sedalia.

For well over 40 years, Charles and Debbie have contributed to the positive development of youth in Jasper County. They have served tirelessly supporting the Jasper County Youth Fair as well as many other local and county fairs. Charles and Debbie are very devoted and encouraging mentors and volunteers.

The Missouri 4-H Foundation recognizes individuals who have created a legacy of service to 4-H by honoring them with membership in the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame.

“These volunteers have played a vital role in helping our youth develop essential life skills that will empower them to become strong leaders in the 21st-century workforce,” said Rachel Augustine, associate director of development for the Missouri 4-H Foundations. “We are proud to honor their legacy of service to Missouri 4-H.”

The annual event is sponsored by FCS Financial and the Missouri State Fair in partnership with the Missouri 4-H Foundation.
First-Time Homebuyers Can Save Thousands of Dollars by Attending Workshops

Homebuyer education classes are a requirement to qualify for a special low income, first-time homebuyer loan program through USDA Rural Development. University of Missouri Extension serves as a provider for these classes. Two, two-hour workshops were presented in Carthage during 2016 to help first-time homebuyers meet this requirement. In addition, two, two-hour workshops were presented for customers of Lamar Bank and Trust to meet the requirements of a special grant program they had to assist low-income residents. Included in these workshops was information on what to consider before buying a home, the home buying process, managing personal finances, choosing a home, making a purchase, caring for the home after purchase, and record keeping. Seven adults, representing four households from Jasper, Barton, and McDonald counties, participated in these workshops.

Conservative calculations indicate that these four families will save more than $11,000 each over the life of their loans as a result of attending the homebuyer education workshops provided in Carthage by University of Missouri Extension. This is due to a lower interest rate than they could qualify for at other financial institutions, plus the savings from not having to pay points or purchase private mortgage insurance. These loans resulted in approximately $240,000 of economic activity in southwest Missouri, of which, $120,000 was in Jasper County.

Thrifty Estate Planning

A program titled "Thrifty Estate Planning" was presented in Joplin as a part of a retirement seminar for Empire District Electric Company employees and spouses. There were 45 participants. Included was information on the basics of estate planning, such as tips for transferring property (both titled and untitled), strategies for reducing conflict, health care directives and durable power of attorney for health care. Participants in estate planning programs are better prepared to reduce conflict within families over the distribution of estate property. This can provide for more time and cost efficient distribution of assets, as well as easing stress on overburdened probate courts.

Health Insurance Education Initiative

The Health Insurance Education Initiative is designed to provide education about the Affordable Care Act as it relates to health insurance in an effort to prepare Missourians to make informed health insurance decisions. Two curricula were developed at the state level to provide factual, unbiased information to Missourians. One focuses on individuals and families and the other targets employers and businesses. Regional specialists used these curricula to present educational workshops across the state. Two workshops were presented in Jasper County (Carl Junction and Carthage) in 2016, with nine participants. These workshops were co-sponsored by University of Missouri Extension, the Carl Junction Chamber of Commerce, Freeman Health System of Joplin and Mercy Hospital, Joplin. An end-of-session evaluation was completed by seven participants. All seven either agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the workshop, the decisions they make about health insurance would be affected, that they would recommend this program to others and that the program was worth their time. More people having adequate health insurance coverage benefits local communities by reducing the amount of debt discharged in bankruptcy, which is often caused by financial problems related to large health care expenses. This leads to increased financial stabilities of communities.

Making a difference

Through MU Extension's Human Environmental Sciences programs, participants develop skills to select and prepare healthy, delicious meals and snacks; spend, save and borrow more responsibly; become more engaged and effective in parenting and child care; and provide safe, affordable housing for themselves and their families. This benefits others by fewer resources being spent on food, health care, housing, etc., which can maximize household resources; having a healthier labor force; providing increased access to safe, healthy and nurturing environments for children and families; and a more stable tax base.

Janet LaFon
Family Financial Education Specialist/County Program Director
Small Steps to Health and Wealth
This curriculum was developed by extension professionals at Rutgers Cooperative Extension in New Jersey. They recognized that health and wealth issues typically impact each other. The curriculum consists of 25 simple strategies for making small changes that can improve one’s health and financial status.

The curriculum was used to develop two, three-week courses that were presented in June and July at Feeding, Inc. in Carthage. The sessions were team-taught by Janet LaFon and Lindsey Stevenson. One course was taught in English, and one in Spanish with the assistance of an interpreter. There were 18 participants in the English course and 21 participants in the Spanish course.

On end-of-session evaluations, the majority of the participants reported that they planned to set one or more specific written health or financial goals, decrease portion sizes of foods eaten, decrease discretionary household spending, track current eating and/or spending habits, increase daily exercise, to better control intake and outgo of food and/or money, and periodically monitor progress toward health or finance goals.

Making Money Count!

Circles Joplin
Two workshops were presented for participants in the Circles program in Joplin. This is a program offered locally through the United Way of SW Missouri and SE Kansas. According to their website, "Circles creates a framework for people to build intentional relationships across class and race lines with the goal of ending poverty."

The first workshop was presented in June and provided information on credit for 21 participants. The participants asked for additional information, so a second workshop was presented in August, with 15 participants. The participants were very engaged, asked several questions and expressed plans to make changes in their use of credit as a result of the workshops.

Carthage Technical Center Nursing Students
Two, one-hour workshops were presented for nursing students and faculty at the Carthage Technical Center. The first workshop was presented in May and focused on basic money management, with 25 in attendance. Twenty-one of the participants completed a follow-up evaluation. Eighteen of the 21 respondents stated that they planned to increase the amount they were saving, with amounts ranging from $10 to $100 per month.

The second workshop focusing on credit was presented in October for 23 participants. As a result of the workshop, half or more of the respondents planned to accomplish the following actions within the next three months: review my credit reports from all three credit bureaus, learn what my FICO credit score is, and take steps to rebuild my credit.

Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity
Two, one-hour sessions on credit were presented for a total of 18 participants and staff in the Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity program. The sessions included basic information about credit, credit reports, credit scores, and building or rebuilding credit. On an end-of-session evaluation, the participants were asked to check action items they planned to accomplish within the next three months. At least half or more of the respondents stated that they would "Review my credit reports from all three credit bureaus," "Learn what my FICO score is," "Calculate my family's total debt load," "Take steps to raise my credit score," and "Take steps to rebuild my credit."
Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft
Two programs focusing on preventing identity theft were presented in 2016. One was for 12 students and faculty members involved with Project Stay at Missouri Southern State University. The other was presented for 14 members of the Joplin area National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. Included was information on warning signs of identity theft, tips for reducing your risk, what do to if you are a victim, and some basic strategies for using credit effectively.

Human Development

Focus on Kids (FOK)
Focus on Kids is a 2 ½-hour face-to-face program provided by University of Missouri Extension in collaboration with the circuit court system.

The purpose of Focus on Kids is to help parents learn how to nurture and support their children during and after separation and divorce. Specific goals include the following:

- Avoid putting children in the middle of parental disputes by encouraging divorcing parents to discuss differences and problem areas in a respectful manner or when children are not present.
- Encourage both parents to remain actively involved in the life of their child following divorce/separation (if it is healthy for the child).
- Provide research-informed suggestions of helpful parental behaviors related to transitions between households and discussing financial issues.
- Provide information on how divorce often affects children’s socio-emotional adjustment, and potential developmental differences based on children’s age and understanding.
- Provide research-based information and community resources related to human service agencies and other organizations that may be helpful to children and parents as they attempt to adjust to the process of divorce.

Each parent receives a take-home packet of information, including publications, book lists, websites, and a directory of parent resources. Twenty-seven parents attended FOK in Jasper County during 2016.

Some comments given in past classes were:

- “Wish I would’ve known this information when I first separated. I think I would’ve been able to help my son adjust easier.”
- “I liked the program. It helped me find ways to say things to my ex-spouse without causing a fight.”
- “This is a good program and it helped me realize how important the divorce is to the child, to be very patient with my child and to help him understand what’s going on.”
Nutrition

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy
When you support MU Extension’s Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program, you help participants 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 $56,758 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. Eight students graduated from a session held in Carthage.

Home Food Preservation Workshops
MU Extension’s Quality for Keeps—Home Food Preservation program, helps participants learn safe, research-based practices and techniques, as well as enhance their access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food. This leads to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health costs in check and our communities viable. Four sessions were held in Carthage and Webb City with 21 participants. They canned green beans, salsa, jams and jellies. For the holidays, participants took part in Gifts from the Home and Heart workshop and learned to make fruit leathers and sweet spreads.

Cooking Matters
Cooking Matters is a six-week course for adults, teens and children who want to make healthy meals on a budget. They learn to shop smarter; use nutrition information to make healthier choices; cook delicious, affordable meals; and safe food handling practices. The course combines hands-on cooking experience with nutrition education. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions throughout a person’s life span, as well as reducing food waste and cost for a family or individual’s budget. Three sessions were held in Joplin with 15 graduates.

Cooking Matters at the Store
Twenty participants learned to shop smarter, giving them skills to compare foods for cost and nutrition. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions throughout a person’s life span, as well as reducing food waste and cost for a family or individual’s budget. The class was held in Joplin.

Chronic Disease Self-Management
Participants with chronic conditions learn proven, effective interventions. These interventions can reduce symptoms, give participants the confidence to manage their condition, improve their quality of life, and reduce health care costs. Two sessions were held in Joplin with 11 graduates.
Family Nutrition Education Program

In 2016, the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought $8,582,289 in federal funds to the State of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 951,652 food stamp recipients and food stamp eligible citizens of Missouri. Thirty-nine thousand twenty-one of these participants reside in Jasper County. It also funds two full-time positions with quality benefits plus expenses for making the program available to qualified schools and agencies in Jasper County.

Participants in FNP become more aware of nutrition, make healthier meal and snack choices, eat breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity and in general make healthier food choices. Those 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.

During 2016, 3,336 youth and 35,685 adults in Jasper County were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in the county:

- **Eating Smart, Being Active**: an eight-lesson nutrition curriculum for adults. This program was offered at Lovin’Grace, Independent Living Center, Jasper County Economic Security Corporation (ESC), Jasper County Food Stamp Office, Community Support Services of Missouri, Lafayette House, City Health Department and We Care of the 4 States in Joplin.

- **Show-Me Nutrition Education Program**: a six-lesson program for pre-school through eighth grade. Topics included food safety, My Plate, physical activity, and food tasting. These classes were offered at North Joplin Head Start and Pumpkin Patch Daycare Center in Joplin; Sarcoxie Head Start; Webb City Head Start; Carterville Elementary; Carl Junction Primary 2-3 and Head Start in Carl Junction; and in Carthage at Fairview Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, Steadley Elementary, Pleasant Valley Elementary, Columbian Elementary, Carthage Middle School, and Head Start. Classes were also offered at Central Elementary in Pierce City; and Central Elementary in Miller.

- **Show-Me Nutrition Education Displays** incorporate nutrition messages around a variety of relevant topics (such as Supersizing of America, Healthy Eating on the Run, Childhood Obesity, Nutrition and Learning, Facts on Fats, etc.). There are 20 distinct displays that are used along with a corresponding handout to educate adult audiences. These displays were utilized with audiences at St. Peter’s Outreach House, Community Clinic, Forest Park Baptist Church, Harp’s Food Stores, and City Health Department in Joplin; Helping Hands Ministries, Carl Junction; Freedom Fellowship Church Outreach Food Pantry, Sarcoxie; Webb City Farmers Market; and Salvation Army, Crosslines, Fair Acres Family Y and Senior Expo in Carthage.
• Healthy Change workshop: a six-lesson nutrition curriculum. These are 20-30 minute lessons for food pantries that focus on label reading, changing to healthy habits, food safety, planning, changing shopping habits, and healthy celebrations. These workshops were offered at Harp’s Food Store and We Care of the 4 States in Joplin and Crosslines in Carthage.

• Getting Healthy through Gardening: provides nutrition and gardening activities to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. This workshop was held at Jasper County Food Stamp Office in Joplin.

• Recipe cards with healthy living tips are mailed monthly to over 1,200 clients of Soul’s Harbor, Forest Park Baptist Church, Ozark Center Turnaround Ranch, Community Support Services, Salvation Army, St. Peter’s Outreach, Stone Village Children’s Center, We Care of the 4 States, Independent Living Center, Lafayette House, Crosslines, and Boys and Girls Club in Joplin; River Street Food Pantry, Salvation Army and Crosslines, Carthage; Brothers in Need, Oronogo; Freedom Christian Fellowship, Sarcoxie; Helping Hands Ministries, Carl Junction; and The House and Samaritan’s Basket in Webb City.

• Summer school, 2016: Students made the “Food Group Funny Face” which uses foods from all five food groups. The recipe is from the curriculum Kids in the Kitchen which is designed for after-school programs and summer school. Students learn to make healthy snacks on their own.

In addition to the numbers, Nutrition Program Associates, Mary Ann Pennington and Gayle Fahrenbruch, shared these success stories demonstrating local impact:

A sixth grade girl, who said she had been in my Kids in the Kitchen class over a year ago, approached me after class. She said that she had shown her family how to make Ants on a Log. Her little brother “really liked it” and her mother said, “Good. We need to eat healthy snacks.” Her mom bought the ingredients for the recipe and the family continues to eat peanut butter stuffed celery with raisins. They also eat baby carrots for snacks which I talked about in class. The student said that her brother is trying new foods and has found some that he likes. (Gayle Fahrenbruch)

I have been doing a series of classes at a rehab and abused women’s center for some time now. I really like to take a taste test in with me for each of the classes I provide. This seems to really make them want to attend. I was teaching the fruit and vegetable lesson and thought I would make homemade applesauce and let them compare it to store bought. I put the samples in snack bags and marked them A and B. Most could tell the difference. They really thought the homemade had a much better taste than the store bought. Then when I told them how simple it was to make your own they were really impressed. Most said they would try and make their own. They really liked the taste and the idea that it was homemade and really didn’t need any fancy equipment to make it. (Mary Ann Pennington)

In summary, it has been a successful year in Jasper County for FNP. We look forward in 2017 to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.
Missouri’s small businesses are an increasingly diverse group that continue to boost the state’s productivity. There are 507,712 small businesses in Missouri. This is the equivalent of 97.5 percent of all Missouri businesses. Missouri small businesses employ more than 47 percent of the private workforce. In assisting the owners and managers of these businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county’s economic development through growth in jobs, sales, innovation, technology development and commercialization, and community growth.

In Jasper County during fiscal year 2016, the MU Extension Business Development Program (BDP) served 716 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners in Jasper County reported the following economic impact and activity resulting from services provided by the MU Extension BDP:

- Government contracts: $40,540.00
- Sales increase: $8,556,214.00
- Jobs created/retained: 166
- New business starts: 7
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 160
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 556

MU Extension Business Development Program (BDP) serves people and their businesses statewide. The fiscal year 2016 total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

- New businesses: 226
- New jobs: 1,751
- Jobs retained: 1,811
- Sales increases: $157,306,765.87
- Government contracts: $341,603,813.00
- $205,000.00 in MoFAST Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) or research proposals submitted with $944,865.00 awards received
- Loans and investments in business: $111,296,123.42
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 2,723
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 7,617

Business development faculty and staff who contribute to these business successes have regional and statewide assignments. The BDP serves all counties across the state.
The Business Development Program Delivery Network
Business Development Specialists are headquartered at University of Missouri Extension centers; centers located on the University of Missouri campuses at Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla; and centers at most of the state universities across Missouri, including Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. The programs delivered through this network include:

- Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC)
- Technology Development and Commercialization
- Economic Gardening
- International Trade Center
- Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)
- Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center
- Missouri Environmental Program
- BDP Workforce Program
- Local Centers
Jasper County, Missouri

The County at a Glance

- UM Students: 186
- UM Alumni: 1,147
- UM Employees: 21
- Population: 116,996
- UM Salary & Retirement Income: $1,214,068
- UM State Tax Revenue: $38,945
- UM Federal Tax Revenue: $169,734

UM Students from the County in 2016
- 186 students
  - 98 - MU
  - 42 - UMKC
  - 41 - Missouri S&T
  - 5 - UMSL
  - 145 - Undergraduates
  - 41 - Graduates

UM Alumni Residing in the County in 2016
- 1,147 alumni
  - 690 - MU
  - 232 - UMKC
  - 192 - Missouri S&T
  - 33 - UMSL
  - 616 Selected School Alumni
    - 39 - Medicine
    - 77 - Nursing
    - 26 - Health Professions
    - 40 - Dentistry
    - 25 - Pharmacy
    - 6 - Optometry
    - 19 - Veterinary Medicine
    - 102 - Agriculture
    - 205 - Engineering
    - 77 - Law

UM Employees and Retirees Residing in the County in 2016
- 21 people employed by UM
  - 15 - MU
  - 1 - Missouri S&T
  - 1 - UMSL
  - 4 - UM Health Care
- 24 UM Retirees and Beneficiaries

UM Services Received in the County in 2016
- 1,057 patients seen at UM Health Care, with $131,565 of uncompensated care.
- 1 patient seen at the UMSL Center for Eye Care with an average of $52 per patient in uncompensated care.
- 33 patients seen at the UMKC School of Dentistry with an average of $54 per patient in uncompensated care.
- 113,633 contacts with MU Extension through MU Extension events held in district counties.

UM Construction Projects involving Vendors located in the County in 2016
- 1 vendor involved with 1 project, for $20 thousand.

UM Alumni Teaching K-12 in the County in 2016
- 35 teachers
- 3% of all county teachers
- 6 principals and administrators
- 8% of all county principals and administrators

UM Footprint in the County
Jasper County MU Extension Center
Unique partnership

Jasper County’s University of Missouri Extension Council is a full partner with Missouri's land-grant universities to deliver high-quality education and research-based information that helps people solve real-world problems and take advantage of opportunities.

Council members

- work with extension specialists to provide the county with quality educational programs,
- manage finances of local extension operations,
- provide personnel to carry out extension activities, and
- elect and organize the local extension council.
University of Missouri Extension programs in Jasper County are funded by Jasper County, state and federal appropriations. Local funding for support of the Jasper County Extension Center is provided by the Jasper County Commission. The commission provides office space, funds for office expenses, clerical salaries, and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Jasper County.

**University of Missouri’s Contribution to County Extension Program**

The University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for four professional and two paraprofessional staff members headquartered in Jasper County. The university provides in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for faculty and staff, communications, and funds for computer equipment costs and maintenance.

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**MU Extension budgeted sources of funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State and University allocation</td>
<td>$27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and Contracts</td>
<td>$21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $79,492,870

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**Statewide Extension Budgeted Sources of Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State and University allocation</td>
<td>$27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and Contracts</td>
<td>$21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $79,492,870

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**University of Missouri Extension Jasper County Annual Financial Report Year Ending 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0100</td>
<td>Student Fees</td>
<td>$8,374.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0210</td>
<td>County Appropriations</td>
<td>$57,619.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0220</td>
<td>4-H United Way Appropriation</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0300</td>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>42.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0400</td>
<td>Gift/Grants/Contracts</td>
<td>$8,192.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900</td>
<td>Resales/Educational Services Fees</td>
<td>$5,261.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Income*</td>
<td>$24,863.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>University Program funds</td>
<td>$8,350.00</td>
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</table>

Total Revenue: $118,702.29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (in millions)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2700</td>
<td>Personnel Services - Wages</td>
<td>$31,181.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>2800</td>
<td>Payroll Expenses</td>
<td>9,003.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>3100</td>
<td>Travel</td>
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<td>3600</td>
<td>Postage</td>
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<td>3800</td>
<td>Telephone Service</td>
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<td>3900</td>
<td>Advertising</td>
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<tr>
<td>4300</td>
<td>Rent/Lease Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>5100</td>
<td>Supplies/Services</td>
<td>18,803.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>5600</td>
<td>Professional Services</td>
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<td>6400</td>
<td>Other Contract Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>6800</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>7000</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses*</td>
<td>22,497.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>7010</td>
<td>Extension Council Election Expenses</td>
<td>93.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7100</td>
<td>Test Services Expenses</td>
<td>3,479.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>7200</td>
<td>Publications for Resale</td>
<td>1,098.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>7300</td>
<td>Repairs/Maintenance</td>
<td>2,163.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7700</td>
<td>Furniture/equipment</td>
<td>5,625.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7999</td>
<td>Fee Generation Distribution</td>
<td>2,280.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Expense: $112,952.53

Revenue less Expense: $78,766.07

*Miscellaneous income and expenses reflect Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and 4-H activities, account transfers, copies, publishing and printing.
Faculty and Staff

Headquartered in Jasper County

Janet LaFon
Family Financial Education Specialist
and Jasper County Program Director

Bob McNary
4-H Youth Specialist

Robert Balek
Horticulture Specialist

Dr. Phyllis Behrens
Business Development Specialist

PTAC

Mary Ann Pennington
Nutrition Program Associate

Gayle Fahrenbruch
Nutrition Program Associate

Virginia Bryan
Administrative Assistant

Other Regional Faculty Serving Jasper County

Jay Chism
Regional Director

Jeff Barber
Housing and Environmental Design Specialist

Reagan Bluel
Dairy Specialist

David Burton
Civic Communications Specialist

Eldon Cole
Livestock Specialist

Terri Fossett
Family Nutrition Program Project Director

Jennifer Lutes
Ag Business Specialist

Kathy Macomber
Community Development Specialist

Jill Scheidt
Agronomy Specialist

Bob Schultheis
Natural Resource Engineering Specialist

Lindsey Stevenson
Nutrition and Health Education Specialist

Dr. Jim Wirth
Human Development Specialist

Lincoln University
Randy Garrett
Farm Outreach Worker

In addition to our regional Extension faculty, local individuals and businesses can receive assistance through the Small Business and Technology Development Center located on the Missouri Southern State University campus. The Director is Lisa Robinson.

Courthouse Basement, 302 S. Main
Carthage, MO 64836
Phone: 417-358-2158
Web site: extension.missouri.edu/jasper/