Jefferson County University of Missouri Extension Council

Annual Report
For the year 2010
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 NewVenture** 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

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

*EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS*
Dear Friend of the Extension

The Jefferson County Extension Center provides a window for county residents to access the resources of the University of Missouri System. In 2010, the extension center provided over 85,519 contacts to clients through short courses, meetings, newsletters, telephone consultations, and personal instruction. Extension programs meet needs identified in the local community. Program emphasis includes agriculture, business and economic development, community development, strengthening families, enhancing health and nutrition, protecting the environment, and youth development.

The Jefferson County Extension Center is located at 301 3rd Street in Hillsboro, Missouri. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Administration of the center is overseen by the Jefferson County Extension Council. Council members are elected to represent the respective voting districts of the county.

This report highlights the 2010 programming efforts. The Jefferson County Extension Council wishes to express its thanks to the council members, professional staff, office staff, and the Jefferson County Council for their support and hard work. We look forward to working together to meet the needs of Jefferson Countians in 2011.

Sincerely,

Paul Klossner    Casey Donahue
Paul Klossner, Chairman    Casey Donahue, Secretary

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Mission

The mission of University of Missouri Extension—a partnership of the University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, the people of Missouri through county extension councils, and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—is to:

“Serve Missouri by extending the 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.”
AG Extension Helps You Get Growing

It’s no secret that Jefferson County is rapidly becoming more suburban and less rural. However, the change certainly hasn’t decreased the need for agricultural and horticultural information. Jefferson County residents know that for the latest tips on gardening, lawn care, new seeding on construction sites, landscape planting, or home pest problems, the extension center is the source. Agriculture in all forms is still an important component of the Jefferson County economy. Commercial farming accounts for over $12 million dollars of sales; however, untold millions are spent each year on lawn care, gardening, landscaping, and erosion control. Farmers, landowners, gardeners, and homeowners depend on the extension center for a wide range of services. Over 700 people called or visited the extension center each month for information on growing things. Over 400 soil tests were analyzed for Jefferson County growers last year as well as 40,000 pieces of educational materials were handed out to folks interested in agriculture!

The diverse interest of Jefferson County residents makes filling those requests challenging. To help get to the basis of a problem, ag specialists can enlist a number of services such as soil testing, plant disease analysis, weed and insect identification, and feed and forage analysis. Lead soil testing continued to be a concern in 2010. Although EPA will test soil for lead for free, the confidentiality of the lead test from Extension makes testing popular with landscapers, contractors, and homeowners. There was also an increase in forage tests. Farmers who are formulating rations for their livestock as well as selling hay use the forage testing service. The De Soto Farmers Market featured soil testing at one of the growers workshops and many growers took advantage of that service.

For unbiased, down to earth, practical, one-on-one agricultural or horticultural information, contact the extension center.
Workshops Give DeSoto Farmers Market Growers Production and Marketing Tips

University of Missouri Extension, the Jefferson County Health Department, Get Healthy De Soto, and the De Soto Farmers Market have teamed up to provide growers workshops for those who are selling at the market. Sessions have been held on regulations for selling at the market, weights and measures including scale certification, tools for marketing and pricing products, soil testing, growing blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries, and growing apples and peaches. Attendance at these events has ranged from 20 to over 60 growers per workshop. Evaluations filled out by participants suggest that the workshops have helped producers prepare for the growing and marketing season. In fact, a large number are planning to begin growing berries for sale at the market. Others shared that the pricing and marketing session had helped them become better marketers.

Dean,

As predicted, 2010 was indeed a great year. We had the largest Level I class in our seven year history, graduating 32 new Master Gardeners. We added 2 subdivision entrances, a grade school, a community garden, a Post Office and one more rehab building in Jefferson Barracks bringing the total to 4. The most ambitious project that we have taken on is the Fisher House also at Jefferson Barracks. In August we agreed to take on the landscaping around the House until the end of September, when they planned a formal dedication of the facilities. Later we agreed to continue to support the Fisher House as long as needed (for more info: [www.fisherhouseinstl.org](http://www.fisherhouseinstl.org)). We continue to make inroads in the horticulture community and institutions. The growth and activities of our Program is not going unnoticed. This past year the MO Botanical Gardens (MG’s) offered more training, speakers and specialized tours of the Gardens for our program than in the past. We continually grow our relationship with Meramec College, Mineral Area College, Shaw’s Nature Preserve and Extension Specialists. Recently I met with the President of Jefferson College and he extended an invitation to join the college's Adult Education Program with our Level I classes, which we readily accepted. As we continue to evolve, I see nothing but growth and an ever greater role for the MG Program. The focus of our program has been volunteering and MG education. In 2011 much of our energies will be centered on developing a viable speaker’s program. I believe that 2011 will be another year of exceptional growth.

Ron Patrick, President
Master Gardener Program
Jefferson County
On-Site Septic Installers and Plumbers Attend EMSO Trade Show in 2010

Over 150 on-site septic installers and plumbers attended the 2010 Eastern Missouri Small Flows Organization Trade Show on October 20th. The Annual Trade Show highlights new products and services for septic installers and plumbers and gives them the opportunity to attend various educational events to receive credit toward maintaining their county licenses. It is held at the Hillsboro Civic Center.

Over 20 vendors displayed products from septic tanks, timers, pumps, to backhoes, high lifts, and trucks. Vendor contributions were used to sponsor a noon meal. Participants were given ample time to visit with vendors and learn about the newest products.

Educational sessions included “Time Dosing Panels and Troubleshooting”, “Lasers and GPS”, “Selecting On-Site Products”, “Delta Faucets”, Installing Wirsbo Pex Pipe”, and “Water Hammer Arrestors”. Additional sessions focused on understanding the new Jefferson County Charter government, learning about Jefferson County’s new watershed planning efforts, and hearing how each company could be equipped to take credit cards in the field.

The Center for Distance and Independent Study provides high-quality, self-paced, online courses for independent learners at every level - elementary grades through graduate study. CDIS registered a total of 475 enrollments from the East Central Region. Jefferson County Enrollments totaled 18.

For more information see www.cdis.missouri.edu.

Our extension office continues to help individuals, couples, and families understand their finances. This year we received calls and emails with questions about credit, insurance, budgeting, estate planning, and numerous additional topics. This year we also began answering “Ask an Expert” questions through www.eXtension.org.

We’re always happy to help!
Food Preservation Workshops in De Soto

A common theme among people today is becoming more self-sufficient, growing or buying local foods, and providing healthy nutrition for families. To that end, fifty-one Jefferson County residents learned to can and freeze food in two Food Preservation Workshops held in De Soto. Sessions were held on Pressure Canning and Jams and Jellies taught by Mary Schroepfer, Food and Nutrition Specialist.

Before attending the class 40% of participants knew a lot or a great deal about preparing jams and jellies. After attending the session, 96% of participants said they now knew a lot or a great deal about preparing and preserving jams and jellies. In addition, 60% said they now have better knowledge how to safely preserve food.

When asked at the end of the course 88% plan to preserve food. 60% plan to purchase or update equipment, 92% plan to use tested recipes from a reliable source, and 68% plan to share food preservation information with other people.

Some of the quotes for the class are as follows:
- “My husband’s aunt, who passed away last November, was the jelly maker in our family. Since she passed away, I have missed homemade jellies and jams. After taking this class I feel inspired to try to make a batch. Vivian may be gone, but if I make my own jelly, I will feel closer to her and her passion – canning!”
- “The program was great I look forward to getting a chance to give this a try on my own.”
- “This class helped to encourage me to do canning. I’ve always been afraid of making someone sick!”
- “My grandma used to can and I would help. However, I didn’t pay attention too much.”

Mary Schroepfer, E-mail: schroepferm@missouri.edu
FNEP Program Report

The Family Nutrition Education Program (FNEP) provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. In 2010, FNEP reached 6,547 participants in Jefferson County schools, local agencies, and community events.

When a child participates in the Family Nutrition Education Program one of the things they learn is to increase their fruit and vegetable intake. It is estimated that this single behavior change can prevent 1% of the children from becoming overweight adults. Furthermore, those who practice healthy eating and activity behaviors are more likely to enjoy a higher quality of life as an adult and into old age.

Additionally, this important programming effort serves to reduce healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime. This, in turn, saves taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Did you know?

Diseases attributable to being overweight or obese cost Missourians over $1.6 billion dollars a year! That translates into a cost of $4,793 per overweight person living in Missouri or $293 for each Missourian.

For more information please call the Family Nutrition Education Program staff at 636-797-5391.
Community Development Programs

Jefferson County Citizen Corps

The Jefferson County Citizen Corps Council (JCCCC) has revitalized itself and created new programs to include many of the community organizations and individuals who are interested in issues concerning emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation. This action will create a committee in JCCCC where organization representatives can work together to organize the effort in Jefferson County. Everyone will then know what everyone else is doing and will lead to greater cooperation and utilization of resources. This would include the Faith Based community, pet sheltering, special needs population, long term recovery, as well as the first responders and their volunteer organizations, such as VIPS, SAVE, CERT, Med Corps, and Fire Corps. BJ is an officer of the JCCCC Board and has been working with all these groups over time. It is now an opportune time to move forward with a greater county effort toward cooperation in preparation & mitigation of future disasters.

Jefferson County Emergency Exercises Design Team

A very successful Emergency Tabletop Exercise was held in Jefferson County because of the efforts of the Design Team and excellent cooperation of the participants. There were a few things brought to light that need work in different disciplines, but the old nemesis, “communication” was not one of them. Individual agency plans fit together well enough that the ability to work across disciplines and jurisdictions was very evident. The exercise itself was well received and participants took it seriously and they had a good time. The exercise design team was congratulated on a job well-done and the reports to Homeland Security were created and sent on time. It was a good experience all around. The Public Service Commission sponsored this experience and has expressed a desire to participate directly in writing the next exercise with the design team. There will be at least three more major exercises done in the next two years; each one building in complexity on the one before. We also plan to participate in the state/national exercises coming in the next couple of years.
Working with Municipalities in Jefferson County

BJ is very actively working with several municipalities in Jefferson County as they work to implement their Master Plans. Following are details of their progress in 2010.

**Arnold** - My report for Arnold in 2009 was something like this: “Arnold’s Hometown Association is totally committed to making the Master Plan they worked so hard on come to fruition. They meet monthly as a Board and the issue teams meet more frequently to do more research and to get people involved who will be able to make things happen. They are focusing initially on Highway 67 which runs through the target area; working with MoDOT concerning changes that will be needed. They have architects, developers, builders, contractors, business people and individuals working on plans for the area. The Hometown Association is an organization of all volunteers, who use their professional experience to benefit Arnold’s Hometown.”

The City of Arnold leaders were so impressed with the Master Plan work done by the Hometown Association that they decided to review and rewrite the plan for the City of Arnold, including as a basis for it, the plan written by the Hometown Association. This process has begun, which means that the plan developed by the Hometown Association for the old north end of Arnold will be carried forth to the rest of the city. The neglected, rundown, historic north end of Arnold will now be developed and maintained as an equal part of the city. This is a tremendously positive result of the tireless hard work and passion shown by those resident volunteers.

**Herculaneum** is always actively working on the implementation of their Master Plan and they review it annually. Herculaneum is growing quickly as new businesses and homes are being established on the I-55 corridor. The community is closer these days than they have been in many years. The year-long Bicentennial celebration did a lot to bring the town back together and to bring it back into the county. The idea of a port on the Mississippi River was a far-reaching dream that some thought was too much to even dream of when the Master Plan was written in 2006. However, we included it as part of the plan for Herculaneum’s future. Today, the future seems closer than ever expected. The Jefferson County Port Authority has completed the phase two of the plan for the multi-faceted port on the Mississippi River and the first section will be built at Herculaneum. County leaders are working with the City of Herculaneum to keep Doe Run here, since they now have a way to process the lead in a less harmful way. Doe Run is trying to determine whether to stay in Herculaneum, where the old smelter will be demolished, or move to another location. This determination will be made soon. The Port Authority is working with Doe Run to purchase the land and river access for the future port. The fire department has consistently been very active in the community. They spearhead many projects on a regular basis, such as CERT training, Master Plan updates, Bicentennial committee, library and historic preservation, parks & recreation committees. In addition, the fire chief has been elected the new Mayor. These are but a few of the progressive improvements the people of Herculaneum are making as a result of their vision in the Master Plan.

**Hillsboro** – The Master Plan streets, sidewalks, lighting, banners, signs and beautification project is complete and has made a drastic difference in the ambiance of the city. Residents are very proud of the results and visitors find the new look pleasant and welcoming. There are more people walking in Hillsboro now, which will create a much healthier Hillsboro. The new sidewalks have linked the city and parks together for greater access to a healthy lifestyle.

The collaboration between the City of Hillsboro, Jefferson County, and Monticello First (a non-profit Historic Preservation organization) is still in progress and the historic house to be renovated is still in a state of negotiation. BJ has written the NAP (Neighborhood Assistance Program) application and will mail it when the property status is determined. This Tax-Credit program will allow the group the ability to offer tax-credits to businesses that donate money toward the creation of a Historic Village in the area of the Governor Fletcher Home. They will buy the Rankin House, which is across the street from the Fletcher House, and renovate it as part of the Historic Village. This house will be used for a historic museum, a meeting space for groups, and educational programs will be scheduled in this place. Tourism will increase and the economy will prosper with this new village in historic Hillsboro.
Margaret Mead said: “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The all-volunteer Jefferson County Entrepreneurial Advisory Team (JCEAT) prepared itself well while VISTA, Melissa McAlpine was here to guide them, so that in 2010, when her time with us was over, they took on the job of spearheading these activities without missing a beat. The projects are working very well and progress is being made on a regular basis.

The entrepreneurial development program in Jefferson County was designed to do five things:

1. Shift the focus of economic development from recruitment of businesses to development of entrepreneurs.
2. Encourage citizens and businesses to become patrons of their local businesses.
3. Encourage youth entrepreneurship by partnering with the local schools.
4. Assist other organizations with their economic development efforts.
5. Evaluate and then expand the entrepreneurial readiness of communities.

The community development process was used in creating these programs, so each of these projects is now in the hands of the community. It is their job to continue the projects and programs that were developed. Since they took part in the planning of the program, they realize the importance of each aspect. They also understand the value, strengths, and weaknesses because they were part of the evaluation of the program.

This model also has an immediate economic effect on the citizens that decide to start businesses because they are supported at the local level. The University of Missouri Jefferson County Extension Council, was the sponsoring organization for this program. Their mission is to provide Missourians with unbiased, research-based information and access to the knowledge base of the University of Missouri System.

The projects currently underway are:

1) A pilot ACE (Active Community Entrepreneurs) Team was created early in the project. This pilot group was to be for one year, but they decided to stay together for the support they get from each other and periodic presentations. The business owners on the ACE Team place great value with this program and concept. They attribute, in part, their ability to remain a growing and viable business throughout this recession to the support and collegial safety net they received from being a member of the ACE Team.

JCEAT was planning to create another ACE Team in the spring of 2010, but after conferring with the Pilot ACE Team, they decided to add more members to the original team with the goal being to create an organization that will make a difference in Jefferson County for entrepreneurs. They wish to reach out to other small business owners that are looking to grow their business and they want to be a resource for everyone, and not just a membership based organization. The Mission Statement for this new organization is: “To offer training and a peer network, while pairing small business owners with coaches/mentors in support of them creating and achieving their business goals.” The ACE Team has elected officers for the organization and plan to continue meeting on a monthly basis. Primarily, they want to be a safe place where new business owners can find help and support and in turn, help others.

(continued on page 11)
Entrepreneurial Support Project

(continued from page 12)

2) The Entrepreneurial Support Project involved developing young entrepreneurs in the community. Approximately 100 students, ages 16-18 have taken part in day-long entrepreneurial workshops. After participating in the “Be All You Can Dream” workshop, many of the students have decided that building a business is exactly what they want to do with their lives, and after college, they want to return to Jefferson County to do it. This is good news in the face of the typical “brain drain” felt in many communities when the young people do not return. The workshops cost just over $2000 to facilitate, and are completed once in the spring and then again in the fall. All supplies are donated and volunteers facilitate, judge, and organize the workshop under the direction of JCEAT. This program has grown to including DeSoto High School as well as Hillsboro High School and has become the capstone program for the business classes at both schools. The goal is to eventually include all the county high schools in the program. Each time the “Be All You Can Dream” workshop is done, over $1,500 worth of goods are donated. There are over 50 participants in each workshop, since there are now two schools involved. About 40 volunteers donate at least 15 hours of their time at each event.

3) The “Buy Local” campaign and entrepreneurship support web presence continues in cooperation with the Jefferson County Growth & Development Association (JCGDA) and the Jefferson County On-line Information - Network (JOIN-N). With the implementation of the new county council and the new county charter, these things will continue to be major components of the local effort to support business of any size in Jefferson County.

Thanks to JCEAT and the many community volunteers who continue to donate time, ideas, effort and material goods, the programs have continued and are growing. These community volunteers recognize the importance of training and supporting entrepreneurs for the economic and social future of Jefferson County and are willing to give their personal and professional best to make the project successful.

Margaret Mead said: “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” The JCEAT is such a group.

JOIN-N a Player in High Speed Broadband Access for Jefferson County

High speed broadband access should no longer be considered a luxury. Instead, Jefferson County residents need significantly improved broadband access in order to have an equal quality of life (education, telemedicine, e-commerce, communication, and economic development) compared to other communities in our region. This was the message stated repeatedly by those who attended the recent “Need for High Speed” community broadband forum sponsored by Jefferson College.

In conjunction with the event, a “Need for High Speed” community broadband web page was launched as part of the JOIN-N (Jefferson County Online Information Network) web site, enabling residents to view a common definition of broadband, check their residential connection speed, view service providers, and join the campaign to improve broadband service in Jefferson County by leaving comments for area legislators. This link can be accessed through: http://www.jeffersoncountyonline.org and click on the “Jefferson County Broadband Initiative” link.

JOIN-N is a non-profit 501c3 organization that began as an MU Extension program and has been maintained through volunteers for well over a decade. It is a community development project that has proved to be a tremendous asset for the community.
Family Financial Education Programs

Home Ownership Education for Successful New Homeowners
Our “Home Ownership Made Easier” or HOME program helps first-time homeowners. The class covers the financial responsibilities as well as the ongoing maintenance required to enjoy the benefits of home ownership. In 2010 the Jefferson County Extension Center offered this course to Forty-Six individuals and couples achieving their dream and becoming homeowners for the first time!

Financial Education for Employed Youth
University of Missouri Extension provided personal finance and career building workshops for youth working summer jobs with the Missouri Career Centers. Building the knowledge and skills to manage finances and seek successful careers is especially important to successful and prosperous careers and lifelong habits for these youth that are already earning their own way.

Financial Fitness
In these tough economic times, UM Extension partnered with Jefferson College Continuing Education to offer financial classes throughout Jefferson County. These classes provided tips on budgeting, credit, retirement planning and other money-related topics when our citizens needed them most.

Taking Control of Your Finances – Surviving an Income Drop
The Missouri Career Centers and University of Missouri Extension worked together to offer monthly workshops for dislocated workers. Workshops help those searching for employment to manage their household budgets, credit, retirement plans, and other financial issues until they find new employment. These workshops are offered in the Arnold office and provide support in a time of need.

“Jefferson County Extension’s financial workshops have helped our organization by building financial management skills of our new homeowners.” 
David Crump, President, Jefferson County Missouri Habitat for Humanity.

“The high value knowledge from UM Extension is a great asset to our youth and building the workforce in our Missouri.” 
Shirley Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Job Training Programs, Jefferson/Franklin Counties, Inc.

“These workshops are a great benefit to our customers. They help families manage their finances so they can focus on their future employment” Alan Turner
Small Business and Technology Development

The majority of my time over the past year has been spent working individually with businesses in the region. SBTDC one-on-one counseling services are in high demand and we’re focusing on existing businesses trying to grow. Area small businesses are still reeling from the impact the shutdown of the Fenton Chrysler plant has had. The impact the closure had on suppliers, vendors, convenience stores, restaurants, hotels, and the towns where the former employees live, etc… continues to be felt and has spread throughout the region with a ripple effect.

Many businesses conduct adequate planning and look to the SBTDC for periodic check-ups and evaluation. Many, however, wait until they get behind on taxes or amass credit card debt before seeking assistance, making the job very difficult. We encourage all businesses to take advantage of our services before difficulties strike. SBTDC Counselors offer several tools to Jefferson County’s small businesses including financial analysis and projections as well as cash flow analysis to help determine factors that may be impacting cash flow. Market research and other data is often beneficial as well as assistance with preparing for seeking financial assistance. We work as a team based on our individual experiences and specialties.

Assistance for those who aspire to be entrepreneurs and start their own business is always available. We begin working with would-be business owners through our educational seminars offered through Jefferson College, the Missouri Career Development Centers, UMSL, St. Louis County EDC, St. Louis City, and the St. Charles EDC. We offer the training in several formats, from 2 hour afternoon seminars, to 5-Day Bootcamp style classes. Online training, research tools, sample business plans, and business plan templates are also available. When some semblance of a plan is developed, then we begin the one-on-one counseling services.

SBTDC Counselors also work with several banks and lenders and constantly search for loan programs to help benefit Jefferson County’s small businesses. We’re a technical assistance provider for Governor Nixon’s loan for small businesses, administered through the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The maximum loan amount currently stands at $50,000.

The Small Business and Technology Development Centers provide many services to Jefferson County’s small businesses. According to the Kauffman Foundation, young firms account for nearly all of the net new job creation. This message seems to be finally hitting home with many throughout Missouri. While business attraction is important, supporting and keeping the businesses we have is a primary role of the SBTDC.

Safeguard Your Savings

Protecting our financial resources has become a major priority for individuals and families. The Jefferson County Library System has hosted local Safeguard Your Savings courses focusing on the long-term financial goals of saving, investing, and retirement planning while avoiding investment fraud.

In partnership with Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan’s office and the Investor Protection Trust, University of Missouri Extension continues to offer free, local programming in this area.

For one-on-one counseling assistance either call for an appointment or email your plan.
2010 4-H Youth Development Program in Jefferson County

From short-term classroom programs to 4-H Club with opportunities for members and leaders that last a lifetime, 4-H programs provide youth with opportunities to master learning in a variety of topics; find belonging with groups of peers and caring adults; become successful independent leaders and decision makers in their communities; and practice generosity towards others.

Hatching Chicks in the Classroom

Jefferson County 4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. These programs are led by teachers or MU Extension staff. During the Hatching Chicks in the Classroom program youth get to experience the growth and development of eggs and care for baby chicks. Over 3200 youth participated in the Jefferson County Hatching Chicks in the Classroom during the spring of 2010. Over 150 School Educators make the Hatching Chicks in the Classroom successful. Educators reported: “This program peaked children's interest in animals and how they grow.” “After the program, children show concern for the well being and health of the chicks – they have become more responsible.” “Children gain knowledge about the life cycle of various animals, scientific process, science skills such as using a thermometer, and making observations.”

4-H Clubs in Jefferson County

The Jefferson County 4-H club program offers long-term educational experiences for members to learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. In 2010, 127 members worked with the guidance of over 50 adult volunteers, who led projects ranging from art and robotics to shooting sports and veterinary science.

4-H’ers are on a Path to Success

Recent studies suggest a link between certain youth programs such as 4-H and positive outcomes for youth. Special opportunities that these programs offer go beyond simple extracurricular activities and include (Lerner, 2004; Blum, 2003; Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2003):

1. Positive and long term relationships between youth and adults
2. Activities that build important life skills
3. Opportunities for youth to engage as both participants and leaders in community activities.

Youth in programs with these features, compared to youth in other youth programs, are more likely to have high “Positive Youth Development” (PYD). A person with high PYD has competence, confidence, positive connections to others, good character, and caring (Lerner et al, 2009). The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, sponsored by National 4-H Council collected surveys assessing PYD from over 6,000 adolescents from 34 states including Missouri. The ground-breaking national study confirmed: Kids who are active 4-H members have more caring adults in their lives, are more likely to engage in science programs and excel in leadership and volunteer service.
Jefferson County 4-H members discover and excel in science. 2009 the Jefferson County 4-H Robotics program was launched, over 35 youth participated in various Robotics programs including the Soils and Crops Conference, Jefferson County Fair, and project meetings.

4-H’ers Give Community Leadership and Service

Community service is integral to positive youth development programs. Missouri 4-H’ers report significantly more leadership experiences and higher scores on understanding the value of service than their non-4-H peers. (Figure 2) The annual Jefferson County Achievement Program is the system used to recognize 4-H members for their contributions. In 2010, 6 youth were recognized as Top Award winners. In addition to spending countless hours in regular 4-H Club activities these youth provided over 160 hours of community service by:

- Teaching equine science programs to youth outside of regular 4-H club work,
- Cleaning parking lots,
- Gardening at Good Shepherd School,
- Writing thank you letters and
- Volunteering in a variety of ways at Rainbow Rescue Ranch, Jefferson County Fair, Soils and Crops Conference, Jefferson County Cattlemen Events, nursing homes, and Choices Achievement Days for the St. Louis Special School District.

For a full report and references go to: Lener, Richard M., Lerner, Jacqueline V., and Phelps, Erin. (2009) Waves of the Future: The first five years of the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development. Available at: www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/
4-H’ers Connect with Caring Adults

Over 50 adult volunteers built relationships with youth while they managed 4-H Clubs, taught projects, helped keep kids safe and provided support to the 4-H program. Positive relationships between youth and caring adults can be seen in the letters that youth write to their volunteers, such as this letter written by Audrey Hammerstone (age 9) for the Letters to Leaders Contest.

4-H’ers Develop Mastery in Science

Life skills are the skills that youth learn that will help them not just with their project work but also in all areas of life including school, relationships, health and future careers. 4-H, in recent years, has given special attention to youth interests, attitudes and engagement in science, engineering and computer technology.

Research shows that active 4-H members spend almost ten times more of their out-of-school time engaged in science-based activities than their non 4-H peers. Project work builds important life skills. (Figure 1) Popular science projects in Jefferson County are Equine Science, Robotics, Agriculture Science, and veterinary sciences.

Members of the Missouri State Senior Horse Bowl Champion Team, Rebekah Redman, Katheryn Miller, Emma Knickmeyer, and Ashleigh Redman are visiting Churchill Downs in Kentucky with future senior horse bowl camps Hannah Redman and Casey Miller. The group made this stop as part of their trip to the National Horse Bowl contest where the team won 5th place and Ashleigh Redman was 2nd highest individual.
University Extension is a cooperative effort funded by federal, state, and local funds. The University of Missouri receives monies from the federal and state governments along with revenue from grants and contracts. These funds are used to support extension staff salaries and benefits and to provide program support, training, and materials. Local funding through the Jefferson County Commission, pays the operating expenses of the local office, including the salaries of the secretarial staff. Those funds are administered by the Extension Council. Above please find the final accounting for 2010.