December 2012

Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Michael D. Quart
Vice Provost and Director
Extension’s Program Guidance Comes From You

The University of Missouri Extension council and staff would like to thank the Lawrence County commissioners for their support and funding for programs during this past year. In turn, 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.

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 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 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." Both the University of Missouri and Lincoln are Missouri’s two land-grant universities, charged by federal acts of Congress to deliver extension programs.

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 Lawrence County.

Submitted by,

Melissa Kleiboeker
Council Secretary

Ed Dingman
Council Chairman

Eldon Cole
Livestock Specialist/
County Program Director

University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran in employment or programs.
Lawrence County Extension Council

Chairman
Ed Dingman       IV 2014

Vice Chairman
Steve Ruscha            V 2014

Secretary
Melissa Kleiboeker      II 2014

Treasurer
Annette Owens           III 2013

Other Members:
Name          District  Term
Linda McCann   I         2014
Anna Bowles    I         2013
Nate Everts    II        2013
Carol Durbin   II        2013
Harold Lampe   II        2014
Richard Crawford III       2013
Kristy Sivils  III       2014
Louis Woody    III       2014
Bobby Garoutte IV        2013
Janet McQuery  IV        2013
Kay Lynn Pennell IV       2014
Patty Osterloh V        2013
Glenn Callison  V         2013
Barbara Miller  V         2014
Sam Goodman    App      2014
Marty Blevins  App      2014
Doyle Ferguson App      2014

Council officers left to right, Melissa Kleiboeker, Steve Ruscha and Annette Owens. Ed Dingman was not available.

Unique partnership

Lawrence 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.
Lawrence County’s
University of Missouri Extension Center

Office is located at:
Courthouse, P.O. Box 388
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
Tel: (417) 466-3102
Fax: (417-466-7299
Email: lawrence@missouri.edu
http://muextension.missouri.edu

Office hours:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to Noon
1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Lawrence County Staff—2012

Eldon Cole
Livestock Specialist/County Program Director

Karla Deaver
4-H Youth Development Specialist

Heather Halterman
Nutrition Program Associate

Janet Adams
Administrative Assistant
The University of Missouri Extension Center was a busy place during the summer and early fall time frame. The extended, dry and hot weather prompted many of the questions. Several bottles of sulfuric acid—diphenylamine solution were used testing forages for nitrates.

Johnsongrass is of most concern for prussic acid (cyanide) toxicity. Several cases of death loss from johnsongrass were reported but considering the large amount present in pastures, that death loss was not too bad. Specialists took advantage of the opportunities to encourage laboratory analysis on samples that were running high or even borderline on nitrates. Fortunately, we’ve not heard of any serious nitrate poisoning problems that resulted in death. It’s hard to tell if the lower level of nitrate forage may have resulted in abortions.

Many fall calving females, especially first-calf heifers had their calves up to 30 days before their due date. A number of the calves died. The blame was a combination of heat and fescue toxicity.

A booth for Mt. Vernon’s Business Expo was set up. It was manned by Heather Halterman and Eldon Cole with help from council member Annette Owens. The focus was on program opportunities from extension.

Only one farm received the Missouri Century Farm recognition in 2012. Gary Harshaw, Sarcoxie was the recipient and was not able to be at the usual Apple Butter Makin’ Days presentation. Lawrence county now has 76 Century Farms. The program is sponsored by the University of Missouri College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources and the Missouri Farm Bureau. A 360 page book has been prepared that includes farm stories from Lawrence County as well as all across Missouri. For more information on the Century Farm program check out the website at http://extension.missour.edu/centuryfarm/

The 2012 Twilight Horticulture Tour was in the Aurora area on May 31. Attendance numbered 62 which was down from most recent years. The tour showcased two homes with marked differences in landscape design. The homes toured were Jacqueline Schutte’s and Jerry Summers. Patrick Byers and Doyle Ferguson led the tour and discussed the various aspects of each.

Rodney Barnes, Mt. Vernon and Murray Bishoff, Pierce City were added to the University of Extension Leaders Honor Roll in 2012.

Exact numbers are not available for Lawrence county’s participation in other University of Missouri training such as Fire and Rescue Training, Law Enforcement Training, the University of Missouri, Nursing Outreach and Missouri Training Institute. The latter does include business consulting services for business, educational institutions, public and non profit organizations. Statewide data shows that all counties in the state had enrollment in these programs.
The Missouri State Fair Farm Family, as selected by the council, was Jay and Chi-Chi Steele and sons Landon and Austin of La Russell. They have been active in both 4-H and FFA and have a small farm with beef cattle. Jay works for the Missouri Department of Conservation at Talbot and Chi-Chi is a drivers examiner for the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Eldon and Karla each attended their national agricultural or 4-H conference in 2012. The ag conference was held in Charleston, South Carolina in July. Karla’s 4-H Youth Conference was in Orlando, Florida in October.

At the August council meeting, members made suggestions for program ideas in 2013 and beyond. The focus was on global food systems and community, economic, business and workforce development.

The August Extension Council meeting discussed the annual program review with Tim Schnakenberg serving as facilitator.
University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 4,081 low-income participants with nutrition education in Lawrence County during 2012. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness.

Nutrition education for youth provides information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. Education for adults includes nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and food resource management.

Programs offered in Lawrence County during 2012 included:

- **Eating Smart, Being Active**: an eight lesson nutrition curriculum for adults
- **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 clients from the Harvest Fellowship Food Pantry, OACAC, Lawrence County Food Stamp Office, and St. Susanne Catholic Church.
- **Show Me Nutrition in-classroom education** is nutrition education with a separate curriculum for each age group -- pre-k through eighth grade. Trained educators teach students about nutrition and physical activity at local schools using the grade-specific curriculum and hands-on learning. The program allows kids to taste healthy foods, is developmentally appropriate, supports schools' local wellness policies, helps teachers and students adopt healthy behaviors, and increases student’s nutrition knowledge. The Curriculum has been shown to enhance the school’s review for the Missouri School Improvement program. This program was implemented in the following schools and agencies: Pate Early Childhood Center, Mt. Vernon Intermediate, Marionville Elementary, Mt. Vernon Elementary, Mt. Vernon 2 Head Start, Miller Little Cards Preschool, Verona Elementary, Miller Elementary, Robinson Intermediate, and Aurora 2 Head Start.

**Food Power Adventure**: an interactive exhibit that takes children to the farm to learn where food comes from, and into the human body to learn how it gives them energy to grow and play. Food Power was held at Miller, Pate, Aurora, Mt. Vernon Intermediate and Mt. Vernon Elementary.

During 2012: 2,569 clients were direct contacts, attending FNEP classes. The goal of direct teaching in FNEP is to conduct an average of six classes with each client, to promote behavioral change. 1,512 clients received teaching through indirect methods, such as a Health Fair, Food Pantry, etc. Clients were served through Lawrence County schools, community groups and agencies.

**Heather Halterman, Nutrition Program Associate**: “The week following our grain lesson a little girl came up to me from one of my classes and told me she had just gone to the grocery store with her mom. She said she asked if they could buy unsalted pretzels we had tried in a nutrition class as a snack. The mother bought the pretzels for the little girl, and she now brings them as snacks. It is wonderful to hear about a parent backing up the information her daughter had learned in my class. This proves FNEP is reaching adults through educating their children with our program. This is where the real change begins!”

In summary, it has been a successful year in Lawrence County for FNEP. We look forward to 2013, and the opportunity to continue promoting lifelong health and fitness in SW Missouri.
The Lawrence County 4-H club community included 120 members and 55 volunteer leaders in seven 4-H clubs. Those clubs are: Blazing Arrows, Blazing Saddles, Jolly Ranchers, Kountry Kids, Miller Champs, Mt. Comfort, and Pierce City Pilgrims. One out of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2012, learning leadership, citizenship and life-skills. 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 Connects Kids to College and a Higher Quality of Life
Missouri 4-H Members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. MU is by far the campus most frequently visited and 4-H is the second most reported reason to be on the MU Campus (Lerner, 2008). In 2011, MU Extension 4-H connected 8,500 young people age 8 to 18 to University of Missouri campuses and faculty. Being on a campus is a predictor of youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006)

24 Lawrence County 4-H members ages 5-18 participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus
These students are more likely to go to college and enjoy
- increased financial success for themselves and their offspring
- be better consumers
- improve quality of life through more opportunities for leisure and hobbies
- improve health for themselves and their children (Porter, 2003)
- more likely to vote as adults
- more likely to contribute to their community (Lerner, 2009; Zaff et al, 2003)

Youth who earn their earn bachelor’s degree, increase annual earnings by $2.01 million over their lifetime (Porter, 2003). If 70% of the Lawrence County members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go onto earning their Bachelors, 4-H would help young people earn $33.77 million more of lifetime earnings.

Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at $18.80 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Lawrence County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $103,400 in 2012! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into healthy adulthood, priceless.

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 two most popular 4-H school programs in Lawrence County are Hatching Chicks in the Classroom, a program the Lawrence County Farm Bureau sponsored in 2012; and Character Critters. Five hundred school age children participated in school enrichment programs in Lawrence County during 2012.

Following is a sampling of some of the 4-H activities for 2012.

4-H Offers Opportunities Grow and Learn
Lawrence County 4-H members participated in camp, State 4-H Congress, state judging contests and other statewide competitions, providing them with opportunities to grow individually, learn more about their project areas, make new friends and practice leadership skills. This year several Lawrence County 4-H members have gone on to have valuable experiences at the national level as well.

The year started out with three members of Lawrence County 4-H attending State Teen Conference, held in Columbia on March 24-25. Attending from the county were: Dallas Kleiboeker, Donnell Kleiboeker, Shawn Pennell.

Lawrence County was well represented on the annual RATT Trip (Regional Action-Packed Trip for Teens) on March 17. Teens visited the Moon Marble Factory in Bonner Springs, KS and the Kansas City Zoo. Attending from the county were Joel Adams, Hayden Fisher, Tristan Howerton and Megan Pratt.
Six Lawrence County 4-H members attended the annual Missouri Dairy Cow Camp, held in Springfield at Robthom Farm May 29-31. Campers work in pairs under the direction of adults and take part in workshops to learn about judging dairy animals, dairy management, animal care ethics and showmanship. Persons working in the dairy industry visited with campers about careers in the dairy industry as well. Attending from Lawrence County were Kelsey Grimm, Bailey Groves, Brittany Groves, Grant Groves, Rebecca Reed and Serena Stewart of Kountry Kids 4-H, seen at left with Betty Thompson, first runner-up Miss America who spoke at the camp.

Lawrence County Youth Fair and Achievement Day saw forty-six members from six county 4-H clubs exhibit 117 projects at Lawrence County 4-H Achievement Day. Clubs represented were: Aurora Blazing Arrows, Jolly Ranchers, Kountry Kids, Miller Champs, Mt. Comfort 4-H, and Pierce City Pilgrims. Exhibits were up 17 percent from 2011, and have grown 33% over the past two years. The Lawrence County 4-H Council also held a very successful silent auction. Clubs donated gift baskets, which were bid on throughout Achievement Day activities, generating $760 to benefit the county 4-H program.

Fifty-two members exhibited livestock at Lawrence County Youth Fair. Nearly every club in the county was represented, with members from Aurora Blazing Arrows, Jolly Ranchers, Kountry Kids, Miller Champs, Mt. Comfort, Pierce City Pilgrims and exhibiting beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, horses, rabbits and poultry during the two day event held June 2-4 at the Freistatt Lions Club Grounds. “While our goal is 100% participation in this county event, the local 4-H Council was very pleased with the overall participation in Achievement Day and the Youth Fair,” said Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist. “Participation in this combined event is on the increase, and we hope to continue that trend in the next few years.”

4-H Camp- Safari! was this year’s camp theme. Twenty-six Lawrence County 4-H members camped at Camp Smokey in Roaring River State Park this summer. “We were very pleased at the enrollment in our camping program this year,” said Deaver. Three teens served as counselors for member camps. Camps are offered for Clover Kids, members and teens. Those serving as camp counselors this year were Joel Adams, Michael Adams, and Katie Pennell. There were also two 4-H alumni from the county who served as camp staff this year. Aaron and Caleb Adams assisted with camp management and provided a great deal of support.

Joel Adams of Pierce City Pilgrims and Hayden Fisher and Katie Pennell of Mt. Comfort 4-H attended State 4-H Congress in Columbia during June. “State congress is a mixture of selecting new leaders, learning about leadership and the importance of community involvement, and having fun,” said Joyce Taylor, MU youth specialist and program coordinator of the week’s events. Members stay on the MU campus and experience college life for the week. Katie was recognized for serving as Regional Representative the past year and she and Joel were elected as Regional Representatives and will represent the 16 county southwest region on the State 4-H Council for the coming year. “It has been some time since Lawrence County has had two members serving on State 4-H Council,” said Karla Deaver. Deaver is also serving as an advisor to the State 4-H Council this year.

Lawrence County participated at Regional Achievement Day, held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Springfield on July 16. Lawrence County was very well represented at this regional event, with fifteen members from three clubs competed
in events such as Fashion Revue, Personal Appearance, Demonstrations, and Member Judging. Members competing from Pierce City Pilgrims were: **Joel Adams, Hannah Adams and Michael Adams, Jessica Spencer, Melissa Spencer and Suzanna Velten.** Competing from Mt. Comfort 4-H was **Rachel Callison and Rebekah Callison.** Competing from Jolly Ranchers were **Brenden Kleiboeker, Dallas Kleiboeker, Donnell Kleiboeker, Jackson Kleiboeker, Kaitlin Kleiboeker, Aiden Kleinman and Sydney Rice.**

Nine members from Lawrence County also competed at the **Regional Shooting Sports** contest, held at Bois D’Arc in July. The regional shoot helps prepare members to go on to state competition. Members competing were: **Hannah Adams, Joel Adams, Michael Adams, Cody Childress, Lee Davis, Tristen Howerton, Derek Keeton, Aiden Kleinman and Devin Paynter.**

“The Lawrence County 4-H Council is very supportive of our members attending regional and state events,” says Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist. “Many of our members are getting the opportunity to travel out of state to compete, adding another dimension to their overall 4-H experience. Our activity level has increased at all levels – county, regional, state and national– and our goal is to encourage more and more kids to take advantage of all the opportunities 4-H has to offer.”

**Lawrence County 4-H’ers Excel at State Contests**

Many State 4-H contests are held in the fall, and Lawrence County was well represented at these competitive events. Beginning with the State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, held at the Missouri State Fair August 18, Lawrence County 4-H members competed and achieved tremendous results. **Brittany, Grant and Bailey Groves** were high individuals in the senior, intermediate and junior divisions respectively of the Missouri State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest held August 18th at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. Also competing from Lawrence County were **Kelsie Grimm,** who placed second in the junior division. All are members of the Kountry Kids 4-H club.

“We believe this is a first in the history of our contest,” said Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist. “Having all three division winners coming from the same family is certainly unique, and we know the family is very proud of their accomplishment.”

The Livestock Judging Team of **Tori Armstrong, C.J. Banker, Rebekah Callison and Hayden Fisher placed third at the MO 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held September 8 in Columbia. Callison was fourth high individual and Banker was seventh high individual in the senior division. In the Junior Division of the contest, Colton Spencer was 9th high individual. All are members of Mt. Comfort 4-H. The Livestock Judging program is coached by Jim Spencer, Jr.

At State Fashion Revue held September 8 in Columbia, **Hannah Adams placed second in the crochet division, and Katie Pennell placed second in the senior cotton division of the contest. Both Hannah and Katie also participated in a community service project while they completed making weighted blankets for autistic children. Hannah is a member of the Pierce**
City Pilgrims and Katie is a member of Mt. Comfort 4-H.

At the State Public Speaking Contest held September 22 in Columbia, Jackson Kleiboeker placed first in the junior division and Dallas Kleiboeker placed first in the intermediate division of the technology assisted division. Both are members of Jolly Ranchers 4-H.

Lawrence County members Joel Adams, Michael Adams, Derek Keeton and Devin Paynter competed in the State Shooting Sports Contest held September 15 in Columbia. Joel and Michael are members of Pierce City Pilgrims and Derek and Devin are members of the Jolly Ranchers.

Lawrence County 4-H’ers Compete at Ozark Empire and Missouri State Fair
Lawrence County was well represented at this summer’s Ozark Empire Fair and Missouri State Fair, according to Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist.

“Our level of participation as a county was up in both the exhibit buildings and in livestock project areas,” Deaver said. “Our members have embraced regional and state activities, and have benefitted from having these experiences.”

Lawrence County sent 81 exhibits from 30 members to Ozark Empire Fair for the 4-H Exhibit Building. Exhibits from the county were up over 40 percent from 2011. Sixty-one of those exhibits received blue ribbons and twelve were chosen Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion of their divisions. Champions from Lawrence County include Michael Adams, reserve champion in foods; Rebekah Callison, division grand champion in cake decorating and reserve overall; Lee Davis, grand champion in dairy goats; Laura Hunt, Grand Champion in Woodworking II and the overall Grand Champion and Mechanical Arts award; Kendall Meyer, grand champion in Geospatial; Katie Pennell, division reserve champion in cake decorating; Megan Pratt, division grand champion in cake decorating; Colton Spencer, division reserve champion in cake decorating; Courtney Spencer, division grand champion and overall Grand in Cake Decorating III; Mary Spencer, division grand champion in arts and crafts; Olivia Spencer, two division reserve champions in arts and crafts.

Members who sent exhibits were Hannah Adams, Joel Adams, Michael Adams, Clay Allen, Bailey Andrews, Rachel Callison, Rebekah Callison, Lee Davis, Hayden Fisher, Shelby Freiburger, Denae Hunt, Laura Hunt, Addison Jackson, Ellen Jackson, Kendall Meyer, Katie Pennell, Shawn Pennell, Megan Pratt, Jordann Pugh, Colton Spencer, Courtney Spencer, Jessica Spencer, Mary Spencer, Melissa Spencer, Olivia Spencer, Melissa Tate, Jason Thompson, Suzanna Velten, Stacie Waters and Garrett Wright.

In livestock shows, 21 members competed in beef cattle, broilers, hams, barrows, lambs and rabbits at Ozark Empire Fair and the Gold Buckle Extravaganza. Several members received champion honors and showmanship recognition. Members exhibiting livestock were Jonathon Bellis, Rachel Callison, Rebekah Callison, Carson Dake, Hayden Fisher, Addison Jackson, Ellen Jackson, Brenden Kleiboeker, Kaitlin Kleiboeker, Aiden Kleinman, Sydney Rice, Blane Schnake, Samantha Schnake, Cade Shepherd, Colton Spencer, Courtney Spencer, Olivia Spencer, Mary Spencer, Sam Wallace and Ty Whittaker.

Thirty members sent forty-two exhibits to Missouri State Fair for display at the 4-H Building. Members sending exhibits were Joel Adams, Hannah Adams, Michael Adams, Clay Allen, Bailey Andrews, Rachel Callison, Rebekah Calli-
son, Lee Davis, Hayden Fisher, Shelby Freiburger, Denae Hunt, Laura Hunt, Addison Jackson, Ellen Jackson, Kendall Meyer, Katie Pennell, Shawn Pennell, Megan Pratt, Jordann Pugh, Colton Spencer, Courtney Spencer, Jessica Spencer, Mary Spencer, Melissa Spencer, Olivia Spencer, Melissa Tate, Jason Thompson, Suzanna Velten, Stacie Waters and Garrett Wright. Two members also gave a demonstration in the 4-H building – Hannah Adams and Rachel Callison.

Twenty-three members exhibited beef, dairy cattle, rabbits, and swine at this year’s state fair. Exhibiting were Jonathan Bellis, Rachel Callison, Rebekah Callison, Carson Dake, Hayden Fisher, Gunnar Fisher, Bailey Groves, Brittany Groves, Grant Groves, Kelsie Grimm, Addison Jackson, Ellen Jackson, Dallas Kleiboeker, Donell Kleiboeker, Jackson Kleiboeker, Jordan Kleiboeker, Aidan Kleinman, Atley Kleinman, Cade Shepherd, Colton Spencer, Courtney Spencer, Sam Wallace and Ty Whittaker.

Complete results for Ozark Empire Fair can be found at http://www.ozarkempirefair.com/fair/livestock/livestock-results. Results for Missouri State Fair are at http://www.mostatefair.com/competition-results.

Several members also competed with their livestock at regional and national events in conjunction with their respective breed associations.

**Groves and Missouri 4-H Dairy Judging Team Top Brown Swiss Team**

Brittany Groves, Kountry Kids 4-H member, and the Missouri 4-H Dairy Judging Team were the first place Brown Swiss team at the 2012 National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. Groves was 5th high individual in the breed. Teammate Bryce Romaine was 9th high individual in the breed. Groves was also 13th high individual in Guernseys.

**Lawrence County 4-H Members Adams and Pennell Elected to State Council**

Lawrence County 4-H members Joel Adams and Katie Pennell were elected as Southwest Region Representatives to the State 4-H Council at State Congress, held May 30 – June 1 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Adams, the son of Ronnie and Janet Adams of Stotts City, begins serving his first term and Pennell, the daughter of Gary and KayLynn Pennell of Aurora, begins her second term on the council.

Serving on State Council is an important responsibility and a great leadership opportunity, according to Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist. “Although we have had members from Lawrence County serve on State Council in previous years, we think this may be the first time we have had two members serving on State Council at the same time,” Deaver said. “This proves our members are getting quality leadership practice at the club, county and regional level.”

State Council members meet several times per year, and plan annual events such as State Teen Conference and State Congress. Adams and Pennell are joined by Cady Littlefield of Newton County and Emily Paul of McDonald County as representatives for the Southwest Region.

Michael Adams of Lawrence County also received a college scholarship from the Missouri 4-H Foundation. Adams received a $500 scholarship from 4-H Day with the St. Louis Cardinals.
Spencer Named Brougher Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Courtney Spencer, daughter of Jim and Janella Spencer of Aurora, has been named the 2012 Lawrence County 4-H Council Brougher Memorial Scholarship recipient.

The award, in the amount of $500, is made in memory of Charles and Marilyn Brougher. Brother and sister Charles and Marilyn Brougher were extremely active 4-H members in Lawrence County during the 1940’s and 1950’s who were tragically killed in an auto accident traveling home from the University of Missouri in December 1954. Marilyn was a 10 year member who excelled in many projects and was a delegate to the national Congress in Chicago in 1952. Charles was an 8 year member and completed 42 projects, being a state winner in recreation and rural arts in 1954. These outstanding members, who were taken much too young, were so beloved that a memorial fund was established in their honor. The Brougher siblings were also named to the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame in 2010.

Courtney’s selection was based upon her involvement in 4-H at the club, county, regional and state level. Spencer has been extremely active in the county beef and livestock judging program, and has represented Lawrence County at three national contests. She has served as Clover Kids project leader in her club, and has served as the President of the County Teen Council.

Spencer was officially recognized at the Lawrence County 4-H Recognition Day in November. She currently attends University of Missouri-Columbia, majoring in Animal Science.

Ronnie and Janet Adams Honored at Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame
Making the best better for generations of Missouri 4-H’ers, Ronnie and Janet Adams of Stotts City joined the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame, held August 18 at State Fair Community College.

“Ronnie and Janet Adams have provided rock-solid leadership to the 4-H program in Lawrence County for more than 20 years. Their entire family has been committed to the program. Whether the local need be for project leaders, club leaders, or certified shooting sports and sport-fishing leaders, the Adams have volunteered their time and effort for the members of Lawrence County. Their dedication to 4-H continues as their children are now serving as 4-H volunteers,” according to Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist.

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 leaders have made exceptional contributions to the lives of Missouri 4-H members,” said Missouri 4-H Foundation Executive Director Cheryl Reams.

Hall of Fame inductees from 43 counties established a legacy totaling 1,625 years of service to 4-H. Family members and friends attended the sixth annual event.

Lawrence County 4-H 5K Run for Health a Success
Dalton Paynter of Freistatt and Mikayla Peterson of Walnut Grove were the top overall male and female in the first Lawrence County 4-H 5K Run for Health, held Saturday, November 17, in Aurora.

Paynter, age 15, finished in a time of 18:59 and Peterson, age 11, finished in 27:06. Both received medals, gift certificates from RoadID and a Missouri 4-H t-shirt.

According to Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, the run was a success on several levels. “We had participation from 7 of our 8 existing 4-H clubs in Lawrence County, we had non-4-H participation, and we had 4-H members and volunteers from other counties who joined us for the race. We raised money for the local 4-H program, and enjoyed a healthy and fun activity together,” Deaver said.
The 40 participants ranged from age 6 to age 51, and award medals were given in several age divisions. In the 10 and under division, first place went to Hannah Adams with a time of 35:30, second place went to Caleb Ayer with a time of 40:06, and third place went to Olivia Ayer with a time of 43:03. In the 11-13 division, first place went to Jackson Kleiboeker with a time of 24:41, second place went to Mikayla Peterson with a time of 27:06, and third place went to Donell Kleiboeker with a time of 28:11. In the 14-19 division, first place was overall winner Dalton Paynter, second with a time of 23:16 was Shawn Penell, and third was Kelsie Raucher with a time of 28:34. In the adult divisions, first place in the 20-29 division went to Jake Adams with a time of 21:17, the second best time in the race. Second went to Casey Andrews with a time of 44:01. In the 30-39 division, first place went to Heather Ayer with a time of 43:37, and second went to Kenna Freiburger with 44:05. In the 40-49 division, first place went to Greg Peterson with 27:06, second went to Amy Reed with 36:20, and third went to Candy Dake with a time of 39:21. In the 50 and over division, first place went to Janet Adams with a time of 44:03.

The Lawrence County 4-H Council would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters who helped make their first 5K run a success: Missouri Beef Industry Council, Southwest Missouri Cattlemen’s Association, Adrenaline Apparel in Aurora, Aurora Greenhouse, RoadID, and the Aurora Police Department.

Lawrence County 4-H Teen Council Experiences Service Learning

For more than 70 years Community Service has been an important part of 4-H. So has hands-on, learning-by-doing, now known as experiential learning. When you put those two ideas together appropriately, the result goes beyond a "feel good" experience: service activities that impact both the provider and the recipient.

This past holiday season, the Lawrence County 4-H Teen Council and adult volunteers participated in a service learning opportunity that not only impacted others, but impacted the 4-H members and volunteers as well.

“My involvement in this project has taught me the virtue of giving back to my community. I have learned not to take things in my life for granted because there are people out there that constantly have to worry about the basic necessities of life on a regular basis. I have been truly blessed and take pride in making an impact in others lives.”

That is just one of the reflections after a day spent at Lafayette House in Joplin. The Lawrence County 4-H Teen Council collaborated with local businesses and organizations in a Christmas project to provide a full slate of holiday activities for the residents of Lafayette House the Sunday before Christmas. This is the fourth year for the project.

The Lawrence County 4-H teen council worked with a number of local businesses and organizations to provide craft activities for the children, makeovers for the adult women, holiday photo with framed 8 X 10 portrait, gifts for all residents and a complete holiday dinner. Teen Council members lead the children in craft activities, including making a fleece blanket. Many of the kids commented they didn’t have their own blanket, and this added a great deal to the experience. Other craft projects included personalizing mini stockings, a wreath ornament and decorated picture frame. There was also an edible Christmas tree craft pro-
4-H Youth Development

ject that was a big hit! Teen Council members headed a toy drive and donated craft materials and their time to the project. This project provided another opportunity for the 4-H teens to feel the impact of community service. Teens and 4-H volunteers were asked about the most memorable, or meaningful thing about that day for them. Some of their responses were as follows: “As 4-H members, we are presented with many community service opportunities. Even if you are experiencing hard times yourself, 4-H offers many opportunities for you to make a difference and share your experiences with others.” “I enjoyed helping the kids make crafts and blankets, because some do not have any blankets. It makes me realize how fortunate I am and that there are people out there that do not have everyday objects that I do.” “This is by far one of the best and most memorable 4-H experiences I have ever taken part in. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to help with this project and make a difference in other’s lives.”

One volunteer had this observation: “I realize that we really need to be more appreciative of what we have and not be so materialistic. There are more hurting people "out there" than we know about and we should be reaching out more often to them.”

According to Karla Deaver, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, this service learning opportunity had more impact because the 4-H members were interacting directly with the benefitting from their efforts. “In the past, we have worked on community service projects that, while they were worthwhile, did not give the 4-H'ers a chance to meet or interact with those on the receiving end. This project, as well as another project done earlier in the year, gave our members an opportunity to see first hand how meaningful their efforts were.”

In addition to their time, the Teen Council contributed over $1300 to the project, and received a Community Service Grant from the Missouri 4-H Foundation to contribute to the project. Lafayette House is a private, not-for-profit organization where women, children and families in southwest Missouri can find help for problems related to domestic violence, drug or alcohol addiction, or rape. Lafayette House has been providing quality services to southwest Missouri families since 1978. They are committed to providing safety, offering encouragement, and promoting recovery for the more than 1,500 people served each year. Demands for their services has been increased by 30% due to the recovery from the Joplin tornado in 2011.

Character Being Taught to Pre-School Children

Character or moral education has been identified as a key need for our citizens in America. Many believe that providing character education for all our children at home, in school and in our communities can help our nation. Teaching about character is an investment in tomorrow. Research indicates the early years of a child's life are the best window of opportunity for laying the foundations for character development in children.

Character Critters features stories for very young children with a message about six key elements of character development - responsibility, caring, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship and respect. The stories are offered at school and in child care settings. The program is designed to increase young children's understanding of character issues, increase parents' understanding of character issues, and increase parents' involvement in developing their children's character.

The program features six characters and two corresponding stories about each character. A stuffed animal representing the character is introduced prior to the reading of the story. Children then complete a follow-up activity. The activities are either suggested by the Character Critters curriculum, or are from Terrific Teachable Moments, a publication from University of Illinois Extension that addresses character education. Once the twelve modules are completed, students "graduate" and receive a certificate and prize, such as a 4-H ruler and pencil.

Completing the program in Lawrence County in 2012 were students at the Lawrence County Early Childhood Cooperative. These students have developmental, learning or physical disabilities that require more intensive therapy than is available in traditional pre-school programs. In addition, forty students at Miller Little Cards pre-school, and 60 children in Mt. Vernon Head Start also participated.

The children have remembered the characters and their character trait much more than anticipated, indicating a good retention of the take-home messages. Students seem to look forward to hearing the stories each session. The children real-
Overall, the University of Missouri’s Business Development Programs (BDP) served 22,350 people and their businesses state-wide. The total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

* New jobs: 6,531
* Sales increases: $237,046,646
* Government contracts: $198.2M
* New businesses: 303
* Jobs retained: 2,784
* Loans and investments in business: $245,575,470
* Acquired assets: $32,205,965
* Investment in commercialization: $19,417,970 in SBIR/STTR or research proposals submitted with $7,494,246 awards received
* Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 8,452
* Business training attendees and conference participants: 22,981

In Lawrence County, the Business Development Program results are:

* Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 2
* Business training attendees and conference participants: 13

The business development faculty contributing to these business successes are from the programs identified above. These staff have regional and statewide assignments and work with businesses in all counties across the state.
DAIRY SPECIALIST - Tony Rickard

2012 was a very trying year for the counties dairy producers from several fronts. Drought, lower milk prices and significantly higher feed costs all had major contributions to a very disappointing year. Average milk prices for the area declined $2.88 from 2011 to $17.71 per hundredweight. In a typical year this would have been a very respectful price, but for most of the year grain prices exceeded $20.00 per hundredweight which made profitability almost impossible. Compounding the issue was a drought similar to that experienced in 2011, significantly reducing pasturing and limiting the harvest of high quality forages. It will take several years for producers to recover from climatic and economic issues faced during the past two years.

Drought Strategies Workshop – Thirty-eight producers attended a workshop in early June to discuss how they would be managing their dairies as the lack of moisture had already affected pasture growth rates. Unfortunately crabgrass availability was severely limited and only those that had ordered early in the year were able to obtain seed. Several attendees had planted sorghum-sudan or millet, but the continuing drought prevented any growth. Producers also discussed the use of shades and misting as means of cooling cows during the heat to abate heat stress.

Timed AI Workshop – Several producers adopted the timed AI program developed jointly by the Animal and Veterinary Science Departments at the University of Missouri. Producers reported conception rates of 54 to 68% using this procedure, followed by clean-up bulls. Total breeding efficiency ranged up to 88% by utilizing both procedures.

Irrigation of Pastures – A workshop was held in August with 18 dairy producers to discuss pasture irrigation at the Rawlins dairy. A traveling gun was being used to irrigate both Bermuda grass and Caucasian Bluestem and was very successful. However, as attendees calculated the economics of installing an irrigation system, most agreed it was only marginally economical.

Turnips and rye as a fall planting – Twenty producers attended a workshop in September to evaluate the use of turnips and rye on the Van Dalfsen Dairy. Turnips can furnish up to 3 ton of dry matter per acre approximately 60 days after planting in the fall but will not survive winter. Thus, incorporating rye with them will result in forage to graze in the spring.

Forage program options – The purpose of this workshop at the Fletcher and Patton dairy was to evaluate their forage program and the inclusion of alfalfa. The thirty producers observed a forage program consisting of novel endophyte fescue, KY-31, alfalfa and orchard grass. Even though the orchard grass did not survive long-term it was a pasture that resulted in high quality forage. Furthermore, they related how the deep-rooted alfalfa filled in a void as experienced during the drought the past two years. Several in attendance indicated they were going to include alfalfa in their forage program.

Fescue variety trial at the MU SW Research Center –
Twenty-eight producers attended a workshop at the SW Center to discuss a research trial comparing six varieties of novel endophyte fescue, KY-31 and fungus free KY-31. The plots were established in the fall and data will be collected starting in the spring of 2013. Each plot has been replicated four times and the data will be used to evaluate production of each variety, quality, persistency and cattle preference.

Dairy Meetings and Forums –
Other programs attended by county producers included the Monett Dairy Day, MU Dairy Profit Seminar and the Missouri Dairy Forum.
LIVESTOCK REPORT – Eldon Cole

The dry, hot weather was the big agricultural concern in 2012. Numerous questions were handled on the phone, over email, farm and office visits concerning drought-forage management for beef cattle. Many of the questions dealt with nitrates in forages, alternative feeds such as corn hay, corn stalks, soybean hay, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) hay and mystery hay trucked in from southern states that was subject to fire ant infestation.

One of the best attended gatherings was a “tour” at Weaver Forest’s farm in the Pleasant Ridge Community in northern Barry County. An estimated 225 persons many from Lawrence county turned out for a late afternoon/evening event in mid-August. Weaver, along with extension specialists, discussed management strategies that should spare the forage supply. This included fall seeding of annual ryegrass, small grains, turnips, fertilizing fescue, limit feeding hay, sorting cows on actual production needs, buying hay based on a lab test and body condition scoring cows and bulls.

Timely rains in September made many of the above practices a great success. There remains a shortage of forage and below normal stock water amounts. However, most farmers now feel they should be okay with their feed and water supply if it is a normal rainfall year in 2013. Reduction in cow inventory has also been a big factor in coping with the dry weather. Beef cattle prices should favor herd expansion in the next 3 or so years.

The 43rd Annual Monett Beef Cattlemen’s Conference attracted the usual audience of about 150 cattle producers. Topics included how to get started in the beef business, using social media, beef outlook, USDA grade standards and their effect on the market and low-stress cattle handling. These topics gave cattlemen an insight to the big picture of what it takes to compete in the beef business in the future.

Genetic improvement is an ongoing endeavor in the beef industry. The extension programs that focus on this are the performance evaluation program, tested bull sale, Show-Me-Select Heifers, Missouri Steer Feedout and the newly introduced Quality Beef – by the numbers program.

Participants in the testing and bull sale program were: Jack and Pat White, Jim Bellis, Kenneth and Ken Gillig, Gary Gardner of Aurora and John Lomas, Mt. Vernon and Harold Francis, Pierce City. Farmers who purchased bulls in the tested sale included: Roger Baldwin, Miller, Sidney Kerans, Billings, James Nivens, LaRussell, Charles Johnson, Verona, Flehmer Angus, Pierce City, Kleiboeker Farms and John Stow both of Wentworth.

The total quality management, Show-Me-Select program has been a very good investment for participants in recent years. Farmers involved in it are: John & Janet Massey, Aurora, Quinton Bauer, Verona, John Wheeler, Marionville, Ray Dean Hutter, LaRussell, Kleiboeker Farms, Wentworth and the University of Missouri Southwest Research Center,
Mt. Vernon. Buyers of SMS heifers were: Randy Probsfield, Verona, Levi Shirley, Aurora, Vince Weatherly, Aurora, Jason Miller, Miller, Emory Brafford, Mt. Vernon and Jerry Crownover, Everton. Those selling in the sale conservatively made $400 per head for their effort in adding value to the weaned heifer.

Farmers continue to turn out for tours and on-farm show and tell events. In April, 48 persons attended a late afternoon tour to Mark Harmon’s west of Stotts City to look at his cow herd and their fall calves. Mark had the herd split based on sires, either by proven AI bulls or half were out of a cleanup bull. There was quite a contrast in appearance and size favoring the calves from the AI bull. Also Mark showed the group his annual ryegrass and turnip pasture and explained how he’d managed it. The combination of excellent winter pasture, top genetics and good management made an eye-opening experience for those attending.

The only Lawrence County Steer Feedout participants during 2012 were Darrel Franson, Mt. Vernon and Jeff Kaal, Verona. The feedout program gives participants a chance to evaluate the performance of their steers post-weaning all the way through the carcass phase. The program allows owners to do this on a relatively low risk basis since they can feed out as few as 5 head.

The Dake Veterinary Clinic, Miller and Countryside Animal Clinic, Aurora each hosted bull breeding soundness clinics in March and October. Although we anticipated the hot summer weather might lower bull fertility, it did not seem to have an effect. The unsatisfactory rate remained right at 10% in both seasons. A total of 65 bulls from Lawrence county were checked for 17 different owners. The BSE clinics serve as an insurance policy to help improve the likelihood of a well-bunched calf crop in 2013. This enhances the market value of a set of feeder cattle as earlier born calves are heavier and more uniform in size thus will attract higher bids.

In 2012, John Kleiboeker, Stotts City led a 4-H Steer project which like the feedout, gave the six members a chance to feed out a steer from March through July and see it on the rail. Cloud’s Meats, Carthage cooperated with the slaughtering and processing of the carcasses. Each youth was responsible for disposing of the beef. Profits would have been hard to come by for all the steers except they were able to sell at the premium sale at the Lawrence County Youth Fair.

The tour is a joint effort between the University of Missouri Extension Commercial Agriculture program and the Southwest Missouri Cattlemen’s Association. It helps showcase beef cattle production and innovative ideas in the area where the tour is.
held that year.

The big event of the summer was the Missouri Beef Tour held in the Mt. Vernon area on August 25. Hosts were Darrel Franson, Jackie Moore, the Southwest Center, Mt. Vernon and Dustin and Scynthia Schnake and Clif and Alice Harrington, Stotts City. The best estimate on attendance was around 250. Topics presented included: management intensive grazing, branding, developing young calves for a stocker program, assisting young farmers entering the beef cow business, by-product feeding, managing health issues in a stocker program and treating corn stover with calcium hydroxide.

The Southwest Missouri Cattlemen’s Association is made up of around 225 members from Lawrence, Barry and Dade counties primarily. They conduct monthly, educational meetings from September through May. The meeting topics vary from University faculty to commercial feed, pharmaceutical and facility talks. Extension helps in this effort and has a spot at each meeting to promote coming events and items of interest.

The association helps out in a number of ways in promoting beef, grilling beef, providing college scholarship and the past year has sponsored the weekend food pack program for several schools in the three counties. Much of the funds are from Mt. Vernon Apple Butter Makin’ Days ribeye steak sales.

The Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute’s beginning and mature beef cow-calf panels for Lawrence county met early in 2012 to share with Dr. Peter Zimmel their input costs for the last year in their farming operations. The numbers help FAPRI make more accurate predictions about the financial health of the beef cow enterprise for the next 10 or so years. The Lawrence county farmers who have participated for several years include: Nolan Kleiboeker, Rod Lewis, Ben and Jeff Kaal, Steve Parker, Seth Seitz, Jim Demster, Scott Hill and Matt Oehlschlager.

Beef cattle production is a big business in the county. In the 2007 census over 1100 farms in the county sold beef cattle and calves for a gross value of $36,182,000. In 2012 the number of head was lower than in 2007, but the value per head was perhaps $200 more. It’s likely then in 2012, the gross sales of cattle and calves exceeded $40 million in the county.

Cattlemen in the county have numerous opportunities to access educational opportunities, they include; University of Missouri Southwest Research Center Field Day, Hay School, Grazing School, Spring Forage Conference, KOMA Beef Conference, Carthage, Farm Fest and Monett Beef Cattlemen’s Conference.

A monthly Beef Newsletter is sent out, weekly programs are made over KKOW radio, articles are submitted through the Southwest Regional News Service which receive wide coverage and periodic TV and radio appearances are made.
Consultations Provide An Opportunity To Do Some Direct Teaching Regarding Farm And Garden Problems

The community has come to depend on extension to provide answers to both common and uncommon issues that arise. Farmers and gardeners telephone and visit the Extension Center often requesting information. We serve as a window to University of Missouri agricultural research. Residents frequently call extension specialists to their farm or home if they have a specific problem to be addressed. This year issues related to at least a second year of drought were the primary need by farmers. Also addressed were weed control in pastures and row crops, soil fertility, planting practices and pest control. A steady number of random garden questions were addressed season-long.

Soils & Crops Conference Held At Mt. Vernon

In early January, the 88th annual Lawrence County Soils and Crops Conference was held at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon with 95 farmers in attendance. Dr. Michael Collins, Interim Southwest Center Superintendent, discussed how to improve forage harvesting when using baleage. A farmer panel consisting of Darrel Franson and Curtis Schlacht was a very popular item on the agenda, discussing how they manage the fescue endophyte problem. Recovery from the 2011 drought was still fresh on the minds of producers. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist, presented strategies for bringing forages back on the farm that had died out from the drought. This program is the result of a planning committee made up of Darrel Franson, Rod Lewis, Matt Massie, Roger Schnake, Eldon Cole and Tim Schnakenberg. The program was sponsored by the Mid-Missouri Bank, Ozark Electric Cooperative, SW Missouri Cattlemen’s Association and the Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce. In the evaluation, 98% of the respondents claimed the program met or exceeded their expectations. Sixty-three percent of the participants gave the program an A rating. Twenty-nine percent of the participants gave the program a B rating.

Pesticide Environmental And Safety Training

Consumers demand pest free food, however, society continues to want more control of pesticides. People are made more aware of pesticide uses and possible problems as the result of increased news media coverage in a number of areas including chemicals and water quality. One national poll of farmers conducted by the Gallup Organization shows water quality is considered the top farm environmental problem nationally and “safer” pesticide applications are seen as part of solving the problem.

In March, fifteen pesticide applicators were certified at a Private Applicators Training held in Mt. Vernon by Tim Schnakenberg. Others were train in the local office individually. This process is something they must be retrained on.
Agriculture and Environmental Quality

Every five years in order to maintain a pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

Farm Producers Improve Their Management Skills During The Regional Hay School
In April, twenty-one livestock and hay producers attended the first regional hay school held in Lawrence County. The two-day class was at the Southwest Center in Mt. Vernon. Regional Specialists from around the Ozarks taught for six hours during this non-credit course, covering all aspects of hay production. Topics included forages for southwest Missouri hay, quality issues, hay testing, fertility, economics of hay production, hay day management, baleage, hay storage and feeding management and cattle and horse nutrition. The workshop was specifically designed for livestock producers who already own hay equipment or have hay custom harvested on their land. Based on the evaluation results, 100 percent of the participants reported the program met or exceeded their expectations. When asked if the school was worth their time and money, 100 percent said “yes”.

Grazing Schools Teach Farmers How To Be More Efficient Graziers
MU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have worked together since 1991 to offer grazing schools around the state. In 2012 a school was held at the Southwest Center. The three day school allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. Thirty-eight farmers participated at the school held in September.

Soil Fertility And Plant Nutrient Management
With increased prices of fertilizer today, farmers continue to need information based on unbiased fertility testing and research such as that provided by University of Missouri Extension. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist signed each report and made additional remarks on them as needed. This year there were 630 soil tests submitted through the Lawrence County Extension Center. There is a trend of farmers and homeowners who are increasing their dependence on soil tests to base nutrient management decisions.

Services Address Special Needs On The Farm
The Lawrence County Extension Center is a place for homeowners and farmers to receive services such as plant disease identification, hay testing and manure analysis through University of Missouri and private labs. Residents also receive order forms from our office for conservation tree plantings each year through the Missouri Department of Conservation. Regional agronomists trap insects that could cause major issues in area crops. These trap counts are posted on the university’s IPM Pest Monitoring Network at http://ipm.missouri.edu/. Farmers can subscribe to the network and receive pest alerts when the trap counts reach high levels, alerting them to scout their crops closely.

Farmers Learn Tips On Rebuilding The Forage Base
Thirty-four members of the Pierce City FFA Ag Alumni came to the Pierce City FFA classroom in November to hear a program on rebuilding the forage base. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist, lead a discussion on how farm producers can get their forage base back on track. He focused on how to insure a grass stand for 2013, how to reduce the amount of hay to feed using seasonal extension methods, weed control in pastures and how to offset the effects of fescue endophyte.
Over 200 Attend The Drought Survival Tour In Pleasant Ridge

The summer of 2012 was exceptional in Missouri. Records show that the May-August average statewide rainfall total was 8.23 inches, nearly 9 inches below the long-term normal. Across the state of Missouri, it was the 3rd driest and warmest May-July period on record and the driest and warmest May-July period since 1936. For Lawrence County, these conditions resulted in short forage inventories, weakened stands, thin pastures and the concern for weeds in these thin stands next year.

A “Drought Survival Tour” was offered for farmers on August 14 at the Forest Family Farms at Pleasant Ridge and over 200 people attended this popular event. Many Lawrence County producers attended this tour. Highlighted at the tour was fall forage alternatives and stand renovation, using annual ryegrass to renovate pastures, stretching hay supplies, supplementing pasture and hay, ammoniation of low quality hay and precautions with nitrates and prussic acid. Eldon Cole, Livestock Specialist, and Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist, led the discussion.

Cattlemen Learn Tips On Using Wrapped Baleage And The Economics Of Forage Harvesting

About ninety members of the Southwest Cattlemen’s Association gathered in Monett in February to hear presentations by extension specialists on forage harvest tips and economics. Due to increased interest in wrapped baleage, the cattlemen learned how to properly harvest, bale and preserve forages as baleage, presented by Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist. Wesley Tucker, Ag Business Specialist, addressed the economics side of forage harvest, specifically comparing hay versus silage economics.
Horticulture, Patrick Byers

Horticulture activities in Lawrence county included 8 farm visits to commercial clientele by Patrick Byers. He cooperated with Lincoln University on three producer workshops dealing with irrigation, Integrated Pest Management for beginning farmers and an end of season forum.

Patrick assisted the Southwest Research Center and Lincoln faculty on watermelon cultivar evaluation and vine crop pest management.

There were 84 horticulture soil tests evaluation and recommendations made on them.

One high tunnel construction workshop was held also in cooperation with Lincoln University.

The Annual Twilight Tour began with Patrick Byers, giving the basics of lawn landscaping.

Tour visitors view Jacqueline Schutte’s unique vegetable garden.

Doyle Ferguson points out features of the Jerry Sumner landscape.
## State, Federal and County Funding for Extension

University of Missouri Extension programs in Lawrence County are funded by Lawrence County, state and federal appropriations. Local funding for support of the Lawrence County Extension Center is provided by the Lawrence County Commission. They provide office space, funds for office expenses, clerical salaries and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Lawrence County.

## University of Missouri’s Contribution to County Extension Programs

University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for two professional and two para-professional staff members headquartered in Lawrence County.

The University provides in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for staff, postage for staff communications and matching funds for computer equipment costs and maintenance.

### Annual Financial Report - 2012

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