

Maries County University of Missouri Extension 2006 Annual Report

Our Mission...

To serve Maries County by extending research-based knowledge and top quality educational programs to address high priority needs to citizens at the local level. University of Missouri Extension faculty help individuals and organizations turn knowledge into action, thus improving the quality of life for all.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension



Maries County Extension

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Monday through Friday

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension

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

**Maries County University of Missouri
Extension Council**

AGRICULTURE

University of Missouri Outreach and Extension programs are designed by an elected council of citizens, representing a broad spectrum of occupations, interests, locations, race and creed within Maries County. Also, MFA, Farm Bureau, and the Maries County Commission each have one appointment to the council.

2006 COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

- CHAIR Larry Kampeter—Vienna
- VICE: Aronald Steinman-Vienna
- SECRETARY: Lowell Tonding – Vichy
- TREASURER: Louis Hendricks-Brinktown

2006 COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Clifford Wagner *Glenn Dresendofer
- *John Schulte *George Davis
- David Tipton Ronnie Terrill
- Verner Burhlen (* appointed members)

Extension Council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Courthouse Conference Room.

2006 Financial Summary

Funding from county, gifts, grants, state and Federal monies make University Outreach & Extension unique. Maries County funds support Local office costs, State/Federal dollars are used for specialists salaries, training and postage.

Expenditures	County/Local	State/Fed.
Faculty wages/benefits	\$ 2,793.00	\$ 120,000.00
Secretarial wages/benefits	\$ 20,082.00	
Travel	\$ 3,330.00	\$ 750.00
Supplies/Equipment	\$5,073.00	\$ 7,000.00
Marketing		\$ 100.00
Prof. Development		\$ 6,000.00
Computer Maint.		\$ 1,500.00
Communications	\$ 1,406.00	\$ 180.00
Tour Expenses	\$ 12,215.00	
Postage		\$1,688.40
In-Kind Office Space	10,000.00	
TOTAL:	\$ 54,899	\$137,218.40

Area Cattlemen’s Tour: 26 area beef producers attended the 2006 Area Cattlemen’s Tour. This year’s tour included stops at The University of Missouri’s Southwest Center, Joplin Regional Stockyards, The National Tall Grass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska OK, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, The Bill Cornelson ranch near Cleo Springs, The Selman ranch near Buffalo, Creekstone Farms LLC Processing Plant in Arkansas City and Ratcliff Farms near Vinita OK.

Sho-Me Livestock : Sho-Me Livestock of Belle. Currently the business has 29 employees and is manufacturing several varieties of fruit pies, meat pies, hamburgers, sausages, chicken gizzards and livers, hash browns and more. Sho-Me has 130 members from 12 Missouri counties. University Extension continues to work with this new growth oriented cooperative to develop new markets and attain adequate funding.

Regional Forage And Beef Conference: Approximately 200 area forage and beef producers attended the Regional Forage and Beef Conference in Cuba on February 27, 2006 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Those in attendance heard discussions regarding: Management and Health of Beef Cattle, Water Sources in Grazing Systems, and insights from a panel of local livestock producers. This years keynote speaker was Dan Dorn, Manager of Supply Development at Decatur County Feed Yard, Oberlin, Kansas, who discussed “Opportunities to Capture Value”.

Regional Grazing Schools: Approximately 90 area Beef producers attended Grazing Schools in Phelps, Crawford, Osage and Maries counties in 2006. The producers were given a wide array of information including Grazing Management, Evaluation of Farm Resources, Soil Fertility, Forage Growth, Animal Nutrition, Grazing System Layout and Design, Grazing Economics, Watering Systems, Fencing and Evaluation of Pasture Condition. With the help of our NRCS partners the beef cattle producers who participate in Grazing Schools become eligible for cost share assistance through the local soil and water conservation districts. 88 Maries County farmers have participated in the grazing schools with 58 of them implementing grazing systems.

Wurdack FFA Field: Nearly 1000 youth attended the 2006 Wurdack FFA Field Day in October. Regional Extension Specialists from throughout the region made presentations on a variety of subjects including Water Quality, Farm Safety, Livestock Nutrition, Body Condition Scoring of Beef Cattle and Rumen Function in Beef Cattle. The University’s Wurdack Farm is a 1200 acre research and demonstration farm which emphasizes beef cattle, agro-forestry and natural resource conservation.



State 4-H Livestock Judging Team – Wesley Moore, Nick Mertz, Nathan Mertz and Zach Robertson placed 1st in the 2006 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. They represented Missouri at the National Livestock Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.

4-H Family Handbook -4-H is the youth development program of the University Extension Service intended for youth of all income levels, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and abilities and belongs to all the people of Missouri.

4-H uses the knowledge and resources of the University of Missouri System and Lincoln University, USDA and other resources to respond to the local people's analyzed and expressed needs for youth programming.

To conduct a program of such breadth, we must be governed by a set of policies, regulations, and guidelines. A 4-H Family handbook was created to provide information about the policies that guide the 4-H program throughout the year.

Maries County 4-H Expansion and Review Committee - The Maries County 4-H Expansion and Review committee met on Thursday evening, December 7, 2006 in the Methodist Church in Belle. Those in attendance were Will Moore, Zach Robertson, Carole Moore, Shirley Byrd, Misty Lange, Sam Jones, Abby Jones, and Patty Jones. Donna Clavin Mistler, 4-H Youth Specialist started the Expansion and Review committee meeting at 7:30 pm with a PowerPoint program explaining the purpose and the need for the committee. The program also presented data about Maries County population and the current Maries County 4-H enrollment. The types and ways to get involved with 4-H was reviewed. After the presentation, a process of identifying barriers to 4-H membership happened.

The committee identified the major barriers to 4-H membership as not enough time; parents having to work outside the home and community; sports activities and teen's needing to get jobs. The Committee also listed lack of knowledge and not enough communications about 4-H as being a barrier.

Next, the committee was to consider the most effective ways increase membership in Maries County. The types of membership were reviewed. These are: 4-H Community Clubs, 4-H Single Project Clubs, 4-H Family Clubs, 4-H Independent/Individual Membership, 4-H After School, 4-H School Enrichment, 4-H Special Interest, and 4-H Clover Kids Clubs.

Participants were asked to write down the 3 most effective ways to reach families in Maries County and to increase membership. The results of this process indicated that they felt the promotion and development of Single Project Clubs would help to increase 4-H membership in Maries County.

Other organizations

Maries County Extension personnel serve in advisory capacity:

Maries County Extension Council

Maries County 4-H Council

Maries County Fair Livestock Committee

Belle Fair Livestock Committee

Maries County Soil & Water District

UMC Wurdack Farm Advisory Committee

Missouri Citizen Workshop

Miller County Soil & Water District

Phelps County Vo-Ag Advisory Group

Maries County R-1 Vo-Ag Advisory Group

Maries County Livestock Association

Maries-Osage Cattlemen's Association

Sho-Me Livestock Cooperative

Program Focused Area's

Based on the needs in our county, Maries County University of Missouri Extension will focus programming on the following areas.

AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY

Livestock Production
Intensive Grazing
Forage and Pasture Management
Natural Resource Management

Value Added Agriculture

COMMUNITY VIABILITY

Leadership Development
Partnerships and Coalitions
Workforce Preparation

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Community 4-H Clubs
Volunteer Leadership Development

FAMILY STRENGTHS

Family Nutrition Program
Family Finances
Parenting Skills

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Development
Home Based Business Development
Workforce Development

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Water Quality
Waste Management
Water Resource Education

In Summary

The Maries County Extension office serves as a resource for farmers and landowners through soil testing, plant identification, and grazing schools. Families receive educational programming through Family Nutrition Education and 4-H to learn how to live better for themselves and their family. Consumers benefit through the research based education provided to them through programs that enable them to apply what was learned in their everyday life.

Dear Members of the County Commission and Community:

Thank you! Your financial support to our land-grant university partnership makes it possible for University of Missouri Extension to deliver high-quality educational programs where Missourians live, work and experience quality of life.

More than 1 million Missourians annually turn to MU Extension for help in improving businesses, farms and communities and strengthening their families. Your partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State of Missouri, and local organizations and businesses enhances the state's economy and brings unique opportunities to families and individuals.

In fact, MU Extension partners with more than 100 entities across the state. Those partnerships enable us to extend our educational reach without duplicating services. In FY2007, MU Extension will leverage \$39 million in federal and state funding resources into more than \$81 million in educational programming to serve Missourians.

In 2006, dollars allocated by county commissions to support extension at the local level amounted to 17 percent of the total dollars for extension funding statewide. These local dollars were leveraged to provide more programs to more people. Additionally, our local partners across the state (county commissioners and councils) provided significant in-kind contributions in the forms of office space and meeting space. Grants, fees and contract dollars account for almost 23 percent of extension funding. Combined with state and federal funds, every local tax dollar is matched with an average return of \$10.37. We use these funds very efficiently. In FY2007, just four percent of the budget is going toward administration, compared with 12 percent for most non-profits and government agencies. The return on your investment in MU Extension for your community is great: businesses become and remain profitable -- creating and retaining jobs. Improved agricultural yields add to producers' bottom line, and citizens enjoy a safer environment.

Towns and cities use research-based resources to make better decisions about their future. Young people are more likely to stay in school and increase their lifetime earnings. Professionals and other workers stay on the cutting edge of career requirements through continuing education.

Adults and young people live healthier lifestyles and suffer fewer medical costs.

Your local extension faculty and staff, campus faculty, county extension council members, 4-H volunteers, Master Gardeners and other program supporters look forward to a continued fruitful partnership in 2007. If you have suggestions for how University of Missouri Extension can better serve your needs, please contact me or your local extension center.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart

Vice Provost and Director

cc: Brian Foster, Provost

Beverly Coberly, Director, Off-Campus Operations

Extension Regional Directors

Extension County Program Directors

VICE PROVOST'S OFFICE

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Columbia, MO 65211



4-H Youth

Aerospace Camp – 2 young people attended the 2006 Aerospace Camp on the University of Missouri-Rolla campus and increased their math and science knowledge.

County Government Day - Approximately 60 high school sophomores attended the Maries County Government Day(s) held in Vienna. Approximately 30 county officials, courthouse employees, legislatures and local business people presented information about citizenship to the students.

After a brief overview of how and why we have county government, the students experienced county government in a “hands-on” approach by spending the morning in the circuit court and participating in a “mock” trial. In the afternoon, other offices of county clerk, county commission, collector, recorder of deeds, sheriff’s department, and assessment office was visited.

4-H Community Clubs – Three 4-H Clubs involving 103 youth between the ages of 6 and 18 years. 18 caring adult volunteered more than 10 hours to assist young people in learning about their communities. 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

4-H Volunteer Leaders Screened - Missouri’s 4-H Youth Development Programs ARE committed to offering the highest-quality educational experiences available to young people. Volunteers dedicate their time, talents, and personal resources to work with Missouri youths. Because these recognized volunteers contribute in so many ways to the work of 4-H as a part of University of Missouri Outreach and Extension, the University’s Defense and Protection Policy cover them. This process includes annual screening of every 4-H volunteer applicant to determine if the applicant has any substantiated charges of child abuse or neglect or criminal convictions relevant to his or her service as a 4-H volunteer was started to protect the children of Maries County.

4-H₂O Club - In late January of 2006, students from the Vienna third and fourth grade classes had an opportunity to enroll in the new program offered by the Maries County 4-H program, the Maries County Extension Council and the Missouri Watershed Information Network. To provide opportunities for youth after school hours and to help youth to understand the importance of water as a natural resource, Donna Clavin Mistler, University of Missouri Extension 4-H Youth Specialist met with the school personnel and local volunteer leaders to design an after school program. Funding for this program came through DNR in the form of EPA Grant 319 to the Missouri Watershed Information Network (MoWIN) and MU Extension water quality project. MoWIN is partnership of state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, local government, business, industry, individuals, citizen-based watershed and natural resource interest groups working together to facilitate in locating and accessing information relative to Missouri watersheds.

FAMILY & CONSUMER ECONOMICS



Serving The Community

Family Nutrition Program: The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is a federally funded program designed to bring the latest nutrition information to youths and the adults who care for them. FNP funds come from USDA, Food and Nutrition Services, through Missouri’s food stamp program to University of Missouri Extension for the benefit of low-income Missourians.

The focus of FNP is to help young people learn how to make wise choices for the benefit of their health, and to develop sound eating and exercise habits leading to optimal nutrition, and overall improved health for their lifetime. The target audience for FNP is youth and pregnant and parenting teens in a public school setting.

Mendy James, Nutrition Program Associate for Maries County, visits students on a weekly basis for up to 16 lessons. Lessons cover food safety, nutrition, physical activity and food marketing, as it relates to wise food choices. Students enjoy hands-on activities and taste-testing foods. Parents receive take-home newsletters.

During 2006, Mendy James, NPA, worked with 1482 participants in Maries R-I School in Vienna, and Maries R-II Schools in Belle and Bland, and MOCA in Maries County.

Grazing School Evaluation

PURPOSE

Completion of a regional grazing school has been a requirement for participation in many Department of Natural Resources (DNR) soil and water cost share programs for several years. Some of the basic intents of the grazing school are to give the participant the tools to improve the stand of forages on his/her farm; to expand the varieties of grass species on a given farm; to decrease the erosion of soil on the place; and to expand the stocking capacity of the farm, whatever the animal species, by instituting a management intensive grazing program. This study has been a systematic effort to review the economic results of those practices established across the South Central Extension Region.

DATA ANALYSIS

Economic Impact of Purchases

Of the 1,010 surveys that were mailed out, 111 were returned. Of these 111 responses, 12 (10.8%) indicated that management intensive grazing practices had not been implemented, for reasons varying from "too expensive" to "no longer farming" to "my husband is deceased." Following is an overview of cost data provided by the 99 respondents that indicated that management intensive grazing practices had been implemented.

A handful of respondents that indicated they had implemented MIG practices as a result of participation in a grazing school also indicated that they had done this with no additional costs (ten in total). The remaining 89 indicated that the total cost of implementing a system on their farm was \$1,165,300. Of this total, \$955,125, or 81.96%, was estimated to have been spent locally with vendors of fencing, watering systems, earth-moving, seed, fertilizer, etc. This, in turn, equates to an average expenditure of \$11,770.71 per farm on the 99 farms that implemented MIG practices, of which \$9,647.73 took the form of products and services purchased locally. Assuming that the averages derived from the data in this sample can be applied to the total population of 1,010 farms, the following economic projections can be made.

Total farms

1,010 Farm owners implementing MIG practices 901

Total expenditures to implement practices \$10,605,409

Total purchased from local vendors \$ 8,692,193 Applying to the estimated total expenditures an economic multiplier of 1.64¹ yields a total economic benefit to the communities in the SC region of \$14,255,196, even leaving aside the issue of increased stocking on the farms in question.

¹ "Policy Issues in Rural Land Use," Department of Agricultural, Resource and Managerial Economics, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Vol. 9, No. 2, December 1996 Increased Stocking Capacity

Reports from the 99 farms that had implemented a grazing system contained revealing information about the increased capacity of those farms to carry animals. The table below gives total numbers for pre- and post-participation in the schools.

	Pre-	Post-	Change	%
Number of background calves	1,352	1,436	84	6.2
Number of beef cows	3,838	4,731	893	23.3
Number of lactating dairy cows	427	461	34	8
Number of sheep	0	21	21	##
Goats	220	725	505	230
Horses	150	180	30	20

Using these figures means the stocking rate on the farms in question increased from 5,669 animal unit equivalents pre-participation to 6,804 animal unit equivalents post-participation. This equates to a 20% increase in stocking on the responding farms that indicated management intensive grazing practices had been implemented. Dividing these figures by the 99 respondents yields an average number of animal units per farm of roughly 57 animal units pre-participation, and almost 69 animal units post-participation. Applying these averages to the 901 farms projected to have implemented MIG practices results in an increase overall from 51,593 AU's to 62,923 AU's.

Use of Inputs

Inquiries regarding changes in the use of inputs (specifically fertilizer, pesticides and supplemental feed) provided some interesting information.

Summing up inputs data:

- More than 68% of the respondents indicated they either kept fertilizer use constant, or in fact increased it.
- In excess of 80% of respondents answered that their herbicide use either remained constant, or increased.

Fifty-eight percent of the farms responding indicated that their supplemental feeding pre- and post-participation decreased over that time. Another 35.5% were able to keep their supplemental feeding constant

Length of Grazing Season

Of the respondents implementing a grazing system the length of their grazing period was 245.5 days prior to implementing their system, and 290.7 days after implementation. This equates to an 18% longer grazing season each year, on average. Adding 45 days to the grazing season at a savings of \$.28 per cow/day on the average farm decreases cost per cow by \$12.60. The average farm in the survey had 48 beef cows; this would generate average annual savings of \$604.80 on the beef herd alone.

Profitability Improvement In responding to this question on the survey, no estimation of profitability improvement pre- and post-participation was requested of the respondents. However, this question might be the most revealing of all those asked of the producers. Ninety-three of the ninety-nine respondents (94%) that indicated they had implemented a grazing system also indicated that they believed that participation in a grazing school had enhanced the overall profitability of their farming operation.

Summary

Participation in a grazing school, and subsequent implementation of management intensive grazing practices, clearly is an economic boon—both to the individual farmers who participate, and to the communities in which they live. The benefit to the participating farmers takes the form of increased stocking capacity on the farm, as well as decreased direct animal costs in the form of lower supplemental feeding and an extended grazing season. While both these will have the effect of lowering purchases in the community (from grain and hay vendors, etc.) these will be more than offset by the fact that more animals are being sold annually, and upfront costs for lime, fertilizer, fencing, etc. will be made from many of the same vendors as the decreased inputs were being purchased from.